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Information Day on European Funding Opportunities for Research Infrastructures
15th September 2011
In 2004, the European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures (ESFRI) decided to prepare a roadmap for large-scale research infrastructures. The ESFRI Roadmap provided an overview of the needs for research infrastructures of pan-European interest. This was used to facilitate decision-making by member states and by the European Commission.

The proposal for a research infrastructure dedicated to the arts and humanities was formulated in 2005. This was named DARIAH, for Digital Research Infrastructure for the Arts and Humanities. Following the ESFRI call for proposals for large-scale European research infrastructures, four data centers from the UK, Germany, France and the Netherlands jointly submitted a proposal for DARIAH.
• 2006

On the 19th of October 2006, ESFRI presented Europe's first roadmap for research infrastructures. The roadmap included 35 projects of pan-European interest and scientific excellence. In total, six social sciences and/or humanities projects were on the roadmap. Five of these moved forward and started work to prepare for their actual construction: CLARIN, CESSDA, ESS, SHARE and DARIAH.

Not long after the publication of the ESFRI Roadmap, the new Research Framework Programme (FP7) was launched. The first series of FP7 calls included a call for proposals for preparatory work for ESFRI Roadmap projects. This call was part of the “Capacities” specific programme, under “Research Infrastructures”.

• 2007

A proposal called “Preparing DARIAH” was submitted under that call in early May 2007. The proposal was developed by the DARIAH consortium, which by this time had grown from the initial 4 partners from 4 countries to 13 partners from 10 countries.

During the summer of 2007 the proposal was evaluated by international experts. The results of this evaluation were positive, and this set the stage for the commencement of contract negotiations.
The European Commission (EC) invited the partners of the Preparing DARIAH proposal to meet to discuss contract negotiations in early 2008. The invitation also included some suggestions for improvement of the project. These suggestions are taken into account in the preparation of the “Description of Work”, the official document that became part of the EC-DARIAH grant agreement.

That same year saw the addition of another partner to the consortium, bringing the total to 14 partners from 10 countries. In September 2008, the official "Preparing DARIAH" phase of the project began, with work set to continue for two years. The overall objective of the preparatory phase of the project is to move the initiative forward and be ready for the construction of DARIAH by late 2010. The preparatory stage was intended to set up the physical, strategic and human elements of the research infrastructure, and to ensure it is on a firm legal and financial footing.

In early 2009, the duration of the preparatory phase was extended by six months from the original 24. This pushed the conclusion of the "Preparing DARIAH" phase back to the end of February 2011.
The mission of DARIAH is to enhance and support digitally-enabled research across the humanities and arts.

DARIAH aims to develop and maintain an infrastructure in support of ICT-based research practices.

DARIAH is working with communities of practice to:

- **Explore and apply ICT-based methods and tools** to enable new research questions to be asked and old questions to be posed in new ways
- **Improve research opportunities and outcomes** through linking distributed digital source materials of many kinds
- **Exchange knowledge, expertise, methodologies and practices** across domains and disciplines
DARIAH will provide a coordinated technical infrastructure for supporting the preservation of cultural heritage in Europe, and will enable dramatically improved access to research material for the humanities.
key processes

Bringing together the best efforts at national, organisational and individual level in order to launch enhanced Europe-wide actions, initiatives and services.

Developing national services and digitisation programs, particularly in countries where these are non-existent at present.

Bringing together research, education, cultural heritage and “memory” institutions and organisations in the commercial sector.

Enhancing digital scholarship in the humanities and arts across Europe.
Benefits of DARIAH

1. Promotion of the preservation, exchange and reuse of research data.

2. Facilitation of collaboration between researchers on a pan-European level.

3. Ensuring a consistently high level of source data quality.

4. Bringing within reach new and novel approaches to research.

5. Providing an environment for the development and exchange of new research tools and methods.
• Following the successful completion of the DARIAH preparatory phase project in February 2011, DARIAH has moved into the transition phase. During the transition phase, DARIAH will submit an application to the European Commission to establish a European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC). This legal framework will facilitate the long-term sustainability of DARIAH.

• To prepare for submitting the ERIC application, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), which enables countries to formally express interest in participating in DARIAH, had been signed by many countries by the end of the preparatory phase (Austria, Croatia, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, The Netherlands, Slovenia and Switzerland).
EGI signed Letter of Intent with DARIAH and CLARIN

While there is a wide range of research using the European grid, the arts and humanities are currently under represented but both DARIAH and CLARIN aim to remedy this.

CLARIN (Common Language Resources and Technology Infrastructure) is focussed on creating tools and resources for the language community while DARIAH (Digital Research Infrastructure for the Arts and Humanities) supports the wider humanities and arts community. The two projects are part of the European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures (ESFRI) programme. This initiative helps to support a coherent approach to policy-making on research infrastructures in Europe so that researchers get the resources/technologies they need.
TRANSITION-CONSTRUCTION PHASE

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Following the successful ERIC application, the DARIAH construction phase will begin in January 2012
Thank you for your attention!

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