

ECRI 2007[★]


★ *european conference on research infrastructures*

Research Infrastructures in Framework Programme 7 (FP7)

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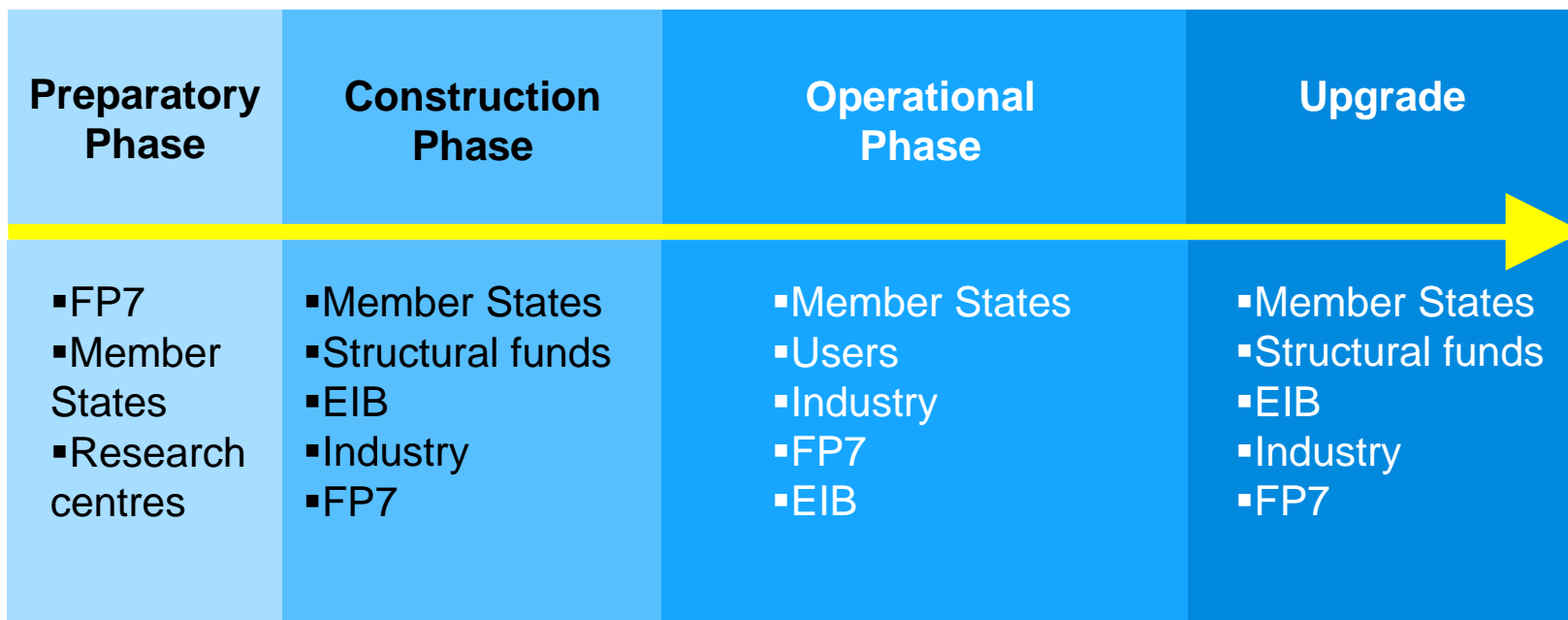
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Research Infrastructures in the European Research Area (ERA) - Objectives of the FP7 actions

- Optimising the use and development of the best ***existing*** research infrastructures in Europe
- Helping to construct ***new*** research infrastructures of pan-European interest in all fields of S&T
- Supporting programme implementation and policy development

Life-cycle of a Research Infrastructure



Depending on the scientific field and infrastructure type, some phases may overlap and their relative importance in budget and duration may vary

The preparatory phase

- Strong support from FP7
 - Conceptual design for new facilities (or major upgrades) of clear European dimension and interest
 - Design Studies (bottom-up approach)
 - Preparatory phase of new infrastructures or major upgrades (based on the work carried out by ESFRI)
 - Legal, governance, logistical, strategic, financial and finalising technical work
 - To conclude an “agreement” between the funding parties and other partners involved allowing the project to move forward
- Strong support from Member States

The construction phase

- Mainly based on the financial support of Member States
- FP7 contribution limited to cases where there is a critical need for support
- Use of the Risk-Sharing Finance Facility (RSFF)
- Use of the Structural Funds
- Involvement of industry

Challenges

- Integrating various sources of funding (Member States, FP7, Structural Funds, EIB, industry, participation of Foundations...)
- Triggering private investments

The operational phase

- Strong financial support of Member States and users
- FP7 support through:
 - ICT based e-infrastructures for scientific research
 - Integrating Activities to promote the coherent use and development of research infrastructures in a given field
 - In one single grant agreement :
 - Networking activities
 - Transnational access and/or service activities
 - Joint research activities

Challenges

- Optimising the use of the infrastructures
- Encouraging the adoption of e-infrastructures by the scientific communities
- Having in place funding mechanisms that allow long term perspectives
- Convincing politicians that the operational phase is as important as the construction phase

Useful links

- FP7 and Capacities Specific Programme

<http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/>

- Research Infrastructures on CORDIS

<http://cordis.europa.eu/infrastructures/>

<http://cordis.europa.eu/ist/rn/>