

EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
RESEARCH DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Directorate B - Structuring the European Research Area  
The Acting Director

Brussels, 09 December 2004  
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## NOTE TO RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE STAKEHOLDERS

**Subject:** *Survey of European Research Infrastructures*

Dear Stakeholder,

To develop a strategic approach for Research Infrastructures at European level, comprehensive and up-to-date information about the current pattern of Research Infrastructures in Europe is essential. In order to obtain an up-to-date picture, the Research Infrastructures Programme Management is undertaking a **Survey of European Research Infrastructures** supported by an **online Questionnaire**.

This Survey addresses **existing** Research Infrastructures as well as Research Infrastructures **under construction within the next two years** that are fulfilling the following criteria:

1. The term **Research Infrastructures** refers to facilities and resources that provide, to the scientific community, essential services needed for the performance of leading edge research in both an academic and/or an industrial environment. Research Infrastructures should be open to researchers, i.e. provide access (through Transnational Access contracts or any other bilateral and/or multilateral agreements).
2. Research Infrastructures should have a clear **European dimension**, i.e. they should:
  - be of pan-European relevance and top-level in their respective field and thus, be considered as "European key infrastructures";
  - be working in international networks/collaborations;
  - be recognised at international level (even if national) as organisations facilitating excellence in research (also compared to Japan and the US).
3. The **whole range of scientific and technological fields** is covered. Research Infrastructures may be "single-sited" (single resource at a single location), "distributed" (a network of distributed resources, including infrastructures based on Grid-type architectures), or "virtual" (the service being provided electronically).
4. Research Infrastructures should represent a **total cumulative investment** (for the construction of the Research Infrastructure) of normally >20 Mio € (today's equivalent).

The first round of the **Survey of European Research Infrastructures** is currently being launched. Deadline for this first round is **21 January 2005**. Further iterations of the Survey

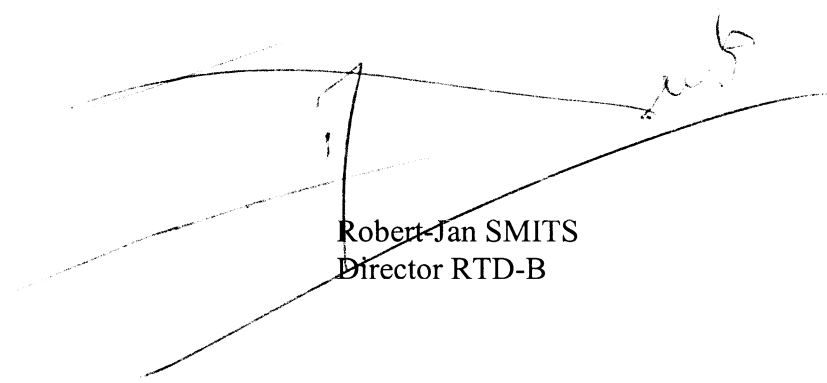
are foreseen in the coming years allowing further information and/or resolution to be added to the obtained “picture”. The results will be made publicly available.

The **online Questionnaire** can be accessed via a link on the Research Infrastructures’ CORDIS web site (<http://www.cordis.lu/infrastructures/>). Further information and guidelines on how to complete the Questionnaire as well as a contact point are available on the Questionnaire web site. Completing the online Questionnaire should not take more than 15-20 minutes.

In the light of the above, I would very much appreciate, if you, as a major stakeholder in the field of Research Infrastructures, would support and promote the Survey of European Research Infrastructures and, whenever possible, circulate the address of the Questionnaire web site to Research Infrastructures within your field or to the relevant community.

In case of general questions regarding the Survey, please do not hesitate to contact Gerburg Larsen (email: [gerburg.larsen@cec.eu.int](mailto:gerburg.larsen@cec.eu.int)).

I would like to thank you very much for your support of the Survey of European Research Infrastructures.



Robert-Jan SMITS  
Director RTD-B