

# European Research Infrastructures Network of National Contact Points

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## **First year of the EuroRisNet Project (European Research Infrastructures Network of National Contact Points)**

The EuroRisNet project, funded by the European Commission under the FP7 Capacities Programme (theme: Research Infrastructures), reported its results at the **Annual Meeting** held in Athens on October 21, 2008, where 28 partners from EU Member States, Associated countries and Russia, and Sought Africa were present. The project objectives and the achievements of the 1<sup>st</sup> project year were reported and key challenges and next steps were identified. The most important results are the following:

- Project web site: [www.euroris-net.eu](http://www.euroris-net.eu) is available as a co-ordination mechanism for stimulating closer cooperation among NCPs and for the provision of a high-quality NCP service across Europe;
- Twinning schemes for training and workshop topics are defined in order to increase the knowledge of the NCPs (based on the finalised analysis of the level of experience of the RI-NCPs);
- The Virtual helpdesk service is currently being tested for query services to allow both the RI NCPs and researchers/programme users to solve their problems in the every day work and will be available for use, in the partners' area of the website, at the beginning of 2009 ;
- Dissemination activities are provided through the project web site, e-newsletter, project leaflet, project poster, first press-release. The structure of a short video that is under preparation was presented as well.

The 1<sup>st</sup> European Workshop was organized within the framework of the EuroRisNet project and held in Paris on December 12, 2008 at the CNRS HQs, where the relevant actors (EC representatives, NCPs for RIs, other NCP network coordinators, ESFRI members, Programme Committee members, RI project coordinator representatives) were presented. The current role of the NCPs in FP7 and their future role towards FP8 and ERA were discussed and conclusions were drawn.

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Any updated information on the project development and the 1<sup>st</sup> European workshop can be found on the project web site: [www.euroris-net.eu](http://www.euroris-net.eu) (see Project Events tab for the 1<sup>st</sup> European Workshop). Follow the EuroRis-Net e-newsletter <http://www.euroris-net.eu/enewsletter/> for project activities and news related to the European Research Infrastructures.

