



Active engagement in distributed Research Infrastructures

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The management of a distributed Research Infrastructure is a challenging task. Among others, engagement and inclusion of all the actors is a core element. In this talk, we will concentrate on illustrating innovative interactive solutions that were put in place by EMSO ERIC in order to involve the Members in a participative decision making and planning process.

This work is based on the experience gained through planning the EMSO ERIC Research Infrastructure and managing the ongoing implementation projects, EMSO-Link and EMSODEV. The methods used aimed at involving all the participants in first hand, with the ultimate goal of structuring the specific activities for effective planning. Another indirect result is to foster team building.

These methods, which were used at the beginning of EMSO implementation projects with a small group of people, will be scaled-up to engage the stakeholders in a constructive dialogue. EMSO stakeholders are scientists, entrepreneurs, policy makers and the general public.

The methodologies come from the business sector and are applied to the research domain, adapting them to its specific nature. The ones used for EMSO projects were “icebreaker” activities, the sticky notes for project planning, and cumulative voting for logo selection.

In the future, we plan to use other participative methodologies, such as the Brainwalk, the World Cafè, the Fishbowl and the Disney method.

The talk will illustrate past and future methods in order to stimulate the discussion with other project managers.