

# 'ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURES INNOVATION ROADMAP'



HORIZON-INFRA-2023-DEV-01

ENVRINNOV | GRANT No. 101131426

## MS8 First innovation training pilot completed



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## Introduction

The Horizon Europe-funded project "ENVRINNOV – ENVironment Research Infrastructures Innovation Roadmap," coordinated by The Cyprus Institute, is working towards developing a common Innovation Roadmap for the environmental research infrastructures (ENVRIs) community. To ensure a shared understanding of key concepts such as *Innovation, Technology Transfer, and Industrial Approach*, ACTRIS-FR (CNRS), as part of ENVRINNOV-WP3-T3.2 "Capacity Building strategy for Innovation", evaluated the community's needs and gaps regarding innovation.

To assess the training needs of the ENVRI community with regards to innovation, a survey was conducted mid 2024 among RI head office staff (including communication officers & ILO/ICOs) and central laboratory staff. In total, 47 answers from 14 ENVRIs were collected. The results showed interest in innovation and a need for training. To complete this online survey, a live consultation was held during ACTRIS Week 2024. It emerged that people have some knowledge of innovation, but not enough, and that they relate a lot to technology, hence there is a need for training in technology transfer and collaboration with the private sector and industry.

The detailed results of the survey are summarized in [MS3.3](#). Based on these findings, ACTRIS-FR designed and organized the first ENVRINNOV training session at [EGU 2025](#), as a splinter session on Wednesday 30th April 2025.

This session aimed to:

- Provide a general introduction to the concept of innovation in the context of ENVRIs, and how it can benefit RIs and the ecosystem.
- Demonstrate how the ENVRINNOV project can support ENVRIs in their innovation process.
- Explore ways of enhancing communication and collaboration between ENVRIs and the private sector to accelerate innovation.

## Organizational information

The first training session was held during [EGU25](#), which took place in Vienna from April 27 to May 2, 2025. The EGU hosts an annual General Assembly that brings together geo-scientists from around the world to discuss cutting-edge research. The assembly attracts over 18,000 scientists, more than half of whom are early career researchers. EGU also supports various educational and outreach activities, making the assembly a key event for the geoscience community. Members of the ENVRI community participated in this event and notably in the exhibition via a joint booth gathering RIs and related projects, as well as industries with whom they collaborate or will do in the future.

For all these reasons, the first ENVRINNOV training session took place during this event. The splinter session rooms could accommodate thirty people. To ensure that as many potentially interested people as possible were available, we reserved the date of Wednesday April 30, in the morning. This time slot did not clash with any ENVRI community-related session.

We listed the expected impacts in order to best conduct the session:

- **Practical Insights:** Provide participants with concrete examples of how integrated RIs can support innovation.
- **Network Building:** Foster connections between ENVRIs and SMEs/ private sector representatives

**Actionable Outcomes:** Shape the format and topics of the next ENVRINNOV training sessions. Several preparatory meetings between project coordination, EMSO ERIC and CNRS have been organised to better define the scope of the session. The project partners also helped shape the session, with feedback provided at the project's general meeting in January 2025 in Rome and at Steering Committee meetings. A planning was also organized including the speakers from industry to make sure their presentations were in line with our objectives.

## Agenda

Below is the agenda that was validated at the penultimate meeting on April 11.

### **1. Welcome & Introduction** (Ariane Dubost - CNRS, ACTRIS-FR).

Session overview and objectives, icebreaker with Slido questions, setting the scene: Key insights from the ENVRIfair meeting on language challenges.

### **2. The Role of Research Infrastructures (RIs) in Innovation** (Marina Papageorgiou - The Cyprus Institute)

The value of ENVRIs for industry collaboration, an introduction to innovation and technology transfer, how RIs support industry partnerships and an overview of recent ENVRINNOV developments.

### **3. Success Stories: RI & Industry Collaboration** (moderated by Sara Pero, EMSO ERIC).

Case Study Highlights: What made collaborations successful?

- Atmospheric domain: RI/Industry partnership with DTM (Adrien Danner).
- Marine domain: examples from EMSO's access industrial users (Craig SYMS, Seagrass, Marc LUCAS, CLS)

### **4. Interactive Discussion: Strengthening RI-Industry Connections** (moderated by Sara Pero, EMSO ERIC)

Open dialogue on enhancing communication and collaboration and live Q&A and reflections using an interactive tool

### **5. Closing & Next Steps** (Ariane Dubost - CNRS, ACTRIS-FR)

A summary of key takeaways and future opportunities for engagement.

## Communication

To promote the event to as many people as possible, we communicated about the event in a variety of ways.

We created a flyer and a PDF agenda<sup>1</sup> to be sent in the ENVRI, and RI-specific (ACTRIS, EMSO) newsletters. All members of these communities were able to register and were aware of our presence at EGU.

To streamline the registration process, we created an online form. Participants registered directly through it, and the form was also included in newsletters. It has also been printed on flyers and agendas, accessible via a QR code. The link was circulated to all members of the ENVRINNOV project, ACTRIS, EMSO, and ENVRI community, as well as to all those in the various newsletters and those who had responded “interested in the event” in last autumn's survey. We promoted onsite registration onsite to encourage exchange and discussions.

A short video<sup>2</sup> has been created to promote the training session. This video was displayed on a screen at ENVRINNOV's booth at EGU. It lasts approximately 1 minute and 30 seconds and aims to explain the time and location of the session. It also provides some information about the program and the topics of the training.

Social media channels (Linkedin, Bluesky) of ENVRI and RIs have also been used to spread the word. We used our promotional flyer and video to talk about the session.

We also printed flyers<sup>3</sup> that will be handed out directly to people during the first days of EGU. They provided information about the time and location of the session, the detailed program, and a QR code linking to the session page on EGU's website, with all additional information.

## Insights from the session

On Wednesday, April 30th, 17 people registered for the training at EGU. More people joined us thanks to the promotional flyers and the lunch talk. In total there were 30 people on site and 3 people online.

The agenda has been followed as scheduled:

### 1. Welcome & Introduction:

Ariane Dubost presented the session and its goals. Thanks to the icebreaker questions, we knew that most of the participants came from the RI and wider scientific community (eLTER, ICOS, EGI, AMRIT, EMSO, The Cyprus Institute), and present industry representatives came from DMT, CLS, Seagrass Blue, and Picarro. When they think of innovation, they think of new technologies, progress, sustainability, the future, new ideas.

**2. The Role of Research Infrastructures (RIs) in Innovation:** Marina Papageorgiou presented more deeply the ENVRINNOV project and the concept of innovation.

She presented the project as a win-win for ENVRI and the private sector. Innovation for RI can be to develop itself, to provide access to its infrastructure for companies or universities, to transfer technology. Investing in innovation can lead to new opportunities, financial benefits, support for competitiveness and the greening of EU industry. ENVRINNOV is about creating a common

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<sup>1</sup> Figure 1, draft agenda

<sup>2</sup> Figure 2, video snippet

<sup>3</sup> Figure 3, the flyer

roadmap for ENVRI, developing tools, policies and community. She gave an overview of the toolbox and shared a mailing list that is being set up for people interested in getting in touch, collaborating and giving feedback on the project.

### **3. Success Stories: RI & Industry Collaboration.**

Sara Pero introduced the part of the success stories between RI and industry collaboration. They presented EMSO and ACTRIS with Ariane.

Adrien Danner followed with presentation of the success story between ACTRIS and Droplet Measurement Technologies. Thanks to the Puy de Dome and ACTRIS observation platforms, his company can test its instruments in extreme weather conditions. Adrien works very regularly with ACTRIS staff and the associated laboratory.

This presentation led to several questions, and one of the most relevant was about their collaboration or cooperation. An open discussion followed with the participants and organisers about the most relevant word.

Then we had a presentation from Craig SYMS. He works for Seagrass Blue and they work hand in hand with EMSO ERIC. Other people from the private sector asked what happens with the seagrass when it has grown. Craig SYMS could explain more deeply their work and how they consider the future at Seagrass Blue.

The last speaker of this part was Marc LUCAS from CLS. CLS is based in Toulouse, they use space facilities for the environment. There are over 1300 SVO-B drifters currently in the sea heavy in plastic, not recovered after use. This is a very important issue where collaboration with scientists could lead the way.

Several questions were related to the technical aspects of the product tested at the platform. It happens that for the three examples, the testing of the prototype triggered further modifications to the instrument or product developed by the company. Besides, the users were notified about the access opportunity via the access providers.

### **4. Interactive Discussion: Strengthening RI-Industry Connections:**

To close the session, participants were invited to answer questions via Slido. We can read that the participants think that ENVRI can better promote effective and continuous communication and liaison with industry by expanding network with other stakeholders working on environmental issues, by organised direct conferences and by favouring short and hybrid format of meeting. Then, *on a scale of 1 (not at all useful) to 5 (extremely useful), thinking about the experiences you've had by accessing a Research Infrastructure, how useful overall was this access for achieving your testing objectives and advancing your research?* 33% voted 2 and 33% voted 3. When considering the potential support offered by projects like ENVRINNOV in facilitating the innovation process for Environmental Research Infrastructures (ENVRI), several specific types of support would be most valuable for private companies to foster more impactful collaborations like for example tailored communication, easy paperwork, logistic funding, greater visibility funding admin support report templates, etc.

This part of the session gave all participants the opportunity to exchange ideas with each other, either on site or online. They were also able to exchange contacts.

**5. Closing & Next Steps:** Ariane Dubost closed the discussion. Conversations between participants continued around the ENVRI booth.

Finally, to further enhance future impact, the material from this, and future, trainings will ultimately be part of the innovation section of the ENVRI Hub (currently under development at the time of this report).

## Next sessions / Conclusion

Several objectives were achieved. Firstly, the number of participants was as expected. According to the feedback received from participants and organizers, the training session was really useful for all participants (ENVRI's community and the private sector) to expand their network and share knowledge and experience. In terms of logistics, the session was easily accessible, with no issues reported in locating the room or arriving on schedule. The EGU's logistical expertise ensured the smooth execution of the event.

Newsletters, social networking sites and on-site flyer distribution all helped to recruit new people. These different ways of communicating were relevant.

We also note that future training sessions should offer more time for interaction between participants at the end of the session. Longer sessions would allow potential participation from SMEs not attending the event.

A couple of training sessions will be organised in the next few months; the exact format is still to be defined. Interested participants are welcome to join the ENVRINNOV mailing list to be aware of the next opportunities: [bit.ly/contact\\_envrinnov](https://bit.ly/contact_envrinnov)



## Annex

Figure 1: draft agenda of the training session



# ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURES AND INDUSTRY

*How can we better collaborate for innovation ?*

**SPM19 | Wednesday 30 April | 10:45 - 12:30**

As part of the project, a series of capacity-building sessions is being developed to promote collaboration and establish a shared understanding of innovation concepts and processes in the ENVRI community, including Technology Development, Technology Transfer, and Industrial Approach.

**Draft programme**

- 1. Welcome & Introduction**  
Session overview and objectives  
Icebreaker: Tour de Table with Slido questions  
Setting the scene: Key insights from the ENVRI-fair meeting on language challenges
- 2. The Role of Research Infrastructures (RIs) in Innovation**  
The value of ENVRI for industry collaboration  
Introduction to innovation and technology transfer  
How RIs support industry partnerships  
Overview of recent ENVRINNOV developments
- 3. Success Stories: RI & Industry Collaboration**  
Case Study Highlights: What made collaborations successful? Challenges & key enablers  
Atmospheric Domain: RI/Industry partnership  
Marine Domain: RI/Industry partnership
- 4. Interactive Discussion and buffet: Strengthening RI-Industry Connections**  
Open dialogue on enhancing communication and collaboration  
Live Q&A and reflections using an interactive tool
- 5. Closing & Next Steps**  
Summary of key takeaways  
Future plans and opportunities for engagement

**REGISTRATION:**



Interested? Please sign up here!  
<https://forms.office.com/e/QRgHjAci5X>



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2022 research and innovation programme under grant agreement no 101131426

Figure 2 : Promotional video



Figure 3: flyer





## ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURES AND INDUSTRY

How can we better collaborate  
for innovation?



### The ENVRINNOV Project

The Horizon Europe-funded project "ENVRINNOV- Environment Research Infrastructures Innovation Map" is working towards developing a common Innovation Roadmap for the Environmental Research Infrastructures (ENVRIs) community.

### Meet, Connect, Innovate !

As part of the project, a series of capacity-building sessions is being developed to promote collaboration and establish a shared understanding of innovation concepts and processes in the ENVRi community, including Technology Development, Technology Transfer, and Industrial Approach.

### Program



**Tour de table**  
Short introduction, Q&A and ice-breaker quiz



**Success stories**  
What made collaborations successful? Challenges & key enablers



**Presentation**  
What the Role of Research Infrastructures (RIs) in Innovation is and sharing of input from industry contacts



**Interactive Discussion**  
How to address challenges that tend to hinder collaboration, as these have been identified in previous projects

Interested? Please sign up here!  
<https://forms.office.com/e/Q8gHAc5X>



SPM19
Wednesday 30 April, 10:45-12:30
Room 2.61

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement no 101019438.