Current research information systems (CRIS): Challenges and Opportunities

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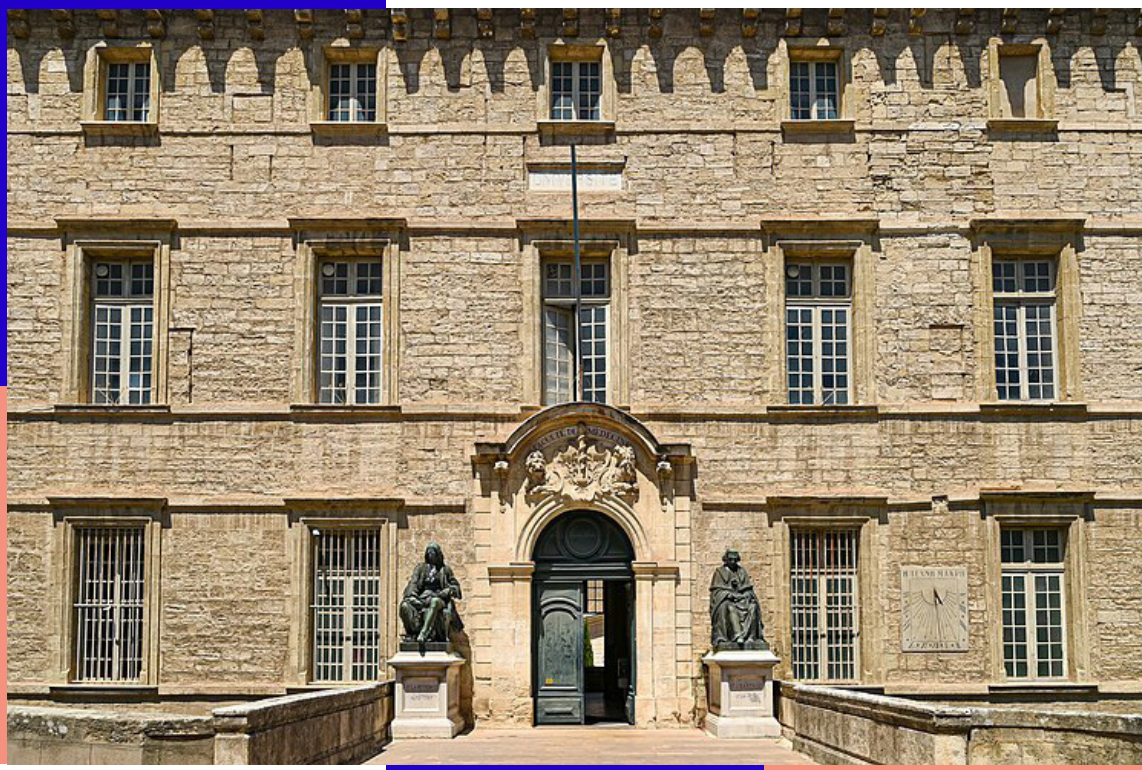

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Testimonials

authors → Scotland & France
Joachim Schöpfel, Associate professor at University of Lille, Member of the euroCRIS Board of Directors & **Pablo de Castro**, Open Access Advocacy Librarian at the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow, Technical Secretary of the euroCRIS Board of Directors

Current research information systems (CRIS): Challenges and Opportunities

The contribution of euroCRIS

↘ THE CHALLENGE

To optimally manage their research information needs, universities, research organisations and funding agencies make use of research information management systems, also called current research information systems (CRIS), which collect and process information on research, like metadata on publications, research data, funding, organisations and staff.

The main challenges are metadata harmonisation and system interoperability. CRIS are as a rule interconnected with other systems (repositories, databases, human resources, project management…), and they are often part of regional or national infrastructures.

↘ THE MISSION

euroCRIS was founded in 2002 to bring together experts on research information and CRIS. Its members are data managers, IT professionals, librarians, researchers, and policy makers, from universities, research organisations, government agencies, and private companies.

The mission of euroCRIS is to foster cooperation across the research information community, to promote interoperability through the CERIF standard (*Common European Research Information Format*), and to contribute to the worldwide uptake of CRIS systems.

For these purposes, euroCRIS holds events – workshops, seminars, membership meetings and international conferences – where the most recent developments in the domain are presented and discussed by the CRIS community.

euroCRIS also conducts surveys and takes part in research projects. All materials produced are stored in the euroCRIS repository which contains interlinked information on persons, organisations and publications, along with documentation on CERIF and other relevant standards. The euroCRIS Directory of Research Information Systems (DRIS) is coupled to the repository and lists over 1,400 instances of CRIS systems.

↘ THE VISION

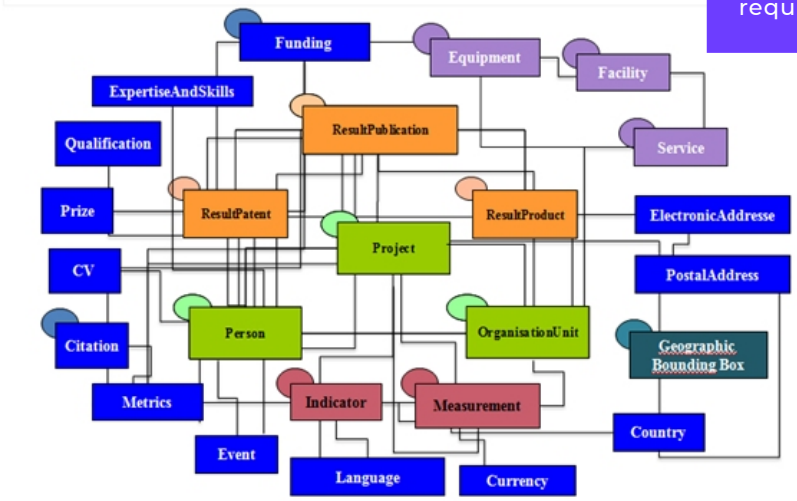
euroCRIS works to ensure that CRIS systems can integrate and operate with other systems, promoting data interoperability and reducing silos. By fostering standardisation, interoperability, and collaboration, euroCRIS contributes to the effective management and utilisation of research information, supporting the broader research and innovation ecosystem, and reducing the workload on researchers and research managers.

↘ VALUES

euroCRIS operates as a not-for-profit association, relying mainly on membership fees and project funding. euroCRIS collaborates with other organisations and initiatives, like COAR (Confederation of Open Access Repositories), OpenAIRE, EUNIS, EARMA, ORCID and CODATA, to promote open science and data sharing, and it supports the Barcelona Declaration on Open Research Information.

CERIF data model

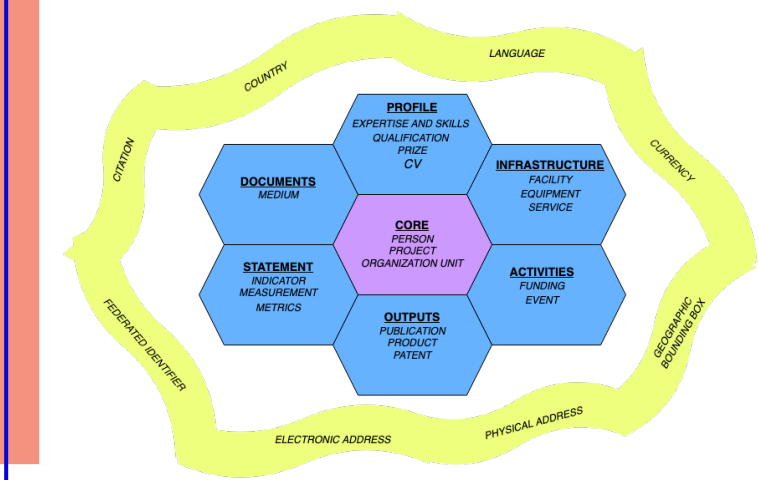
CERIF is a comprehensive data model to manage and exchange research information. Its core components are entities (person, organisation, project, publication, funding, and equipment), relationships between these entities, and attributes (titles, dates, roles, and descriptions). CERIF supports multiple languages, includes temporal aspects, and can be extended to accommodate specific needs and emerging requirements.



CERIF refactoring

CERIF refactoring

The CERIF Refactoring project focuses on revising and improving the CERIF data model to align with contemporary data management, to make it more user-friendly and efficient, and to enhance its capability for data interoperability and integration with other systems and standards.



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next collection

The August 2024 issue will be devoted to "Exploring digital uses in higher education".

If you are interested in these subjects, have an experience or point of view to share, or have a suggestion for a theme for a future issue, please contact the Amue digital team, who are always ready to listen: numerique@amue.fr

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