A large number of Research Infrastructure (RI) and Core Facilities (CF) are facilities that provide resources and services for research communities to conduct research and foster innovation. They can be used beyond research e.g., for education or public services, and they may be single-sited, distributed, or virtual. They include major scientific equipment or sets of instruments, collections, archives, scientific data, computing systems and communication networks, among other research and innovation infrastructure of a unique nature which is open to external users.

**DEFINITION**

**MAPPING ANALYSIS**

**METHODOLOGY**

Questionnaire for mapping analysis of selected cases:
- Case selection by type (RF/CF) and scientific field
- General data (country, location, type, governance structure, centralised/decentralised)
- Size, equipment, staff, and user data (staff number, equipment, services, education/training, user numbers, workload, booking system)
- Industrial collaboration (commercial/industrial partners)
- Open access and publication practice (accessibility, Open Data)

**BEST PRACTICE: UNITECH Core Facilities at the University of Milan**

The MODEL today for each UNITECH:

**RESEARCH MANAGEMENT SECTOR**

- income and expenses
- KPI sustainability & budget
- annual report

**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE**

- strategic decisions
- manage coop. resources
- register access

**COORDINATOR**

- DO
- define the services

**TECHNICAL MANAGER**

- manage technical activities
- organize coop. resources

**ADMINISTRATION**

- do
- register access
- use of the facilities

**SCIENCE**

**SUBSCRIBER DEPARTMENTS**

**FUTURE COLLABORATION GREATLY DEPENDENT ON FUNDING**

**ACTION**

- On-site best practice assessment of UNITECH at the University of Milan in March 2023
- Paper „Navigating the Frontier: Research Infrastructures, Core Facilities and the Shaping of a New Paradigm at European Universities“
- Staff category: SCIENTIFIC TECHNICAL EXPERTS
- Future DATABASE and NETWORK of RI and CF at European Universities
- Future joint research & collaboration

**LESSONS LEARNED**

- Registered Core Facilities in Life/Natural Sciences present at most Universities
- Differences in centralised/decentralised management systems
- Funding: lack of sustainability regarding operational costs, core funding and staff cost by host institutions, national & external funders and user fees
- POI: Scientific technical experts & other staff as a significant resource for future development of RI and CF