



FNH-RI Newsletter

Edition 3 | August 2020

The European Commission has postponed the final submission date for the ESFRI Roadmap applications until September 2020. To keep our partners of the FNH-RI community and everyone else involved in the project informed and connected during the interlude from May till the 9th of September 2020, the initiative has been taken to edit this newsletter containing news and information about FNH-RI and the PROSPECT-proposal. This temporary newsletter will contain all the latest news from the FNH-RI Board, keeps you updated about the community building activities which are still ongoing, and will inform you in more detail about the next phase(s) in the process. In addition, each of the four monthly issues of this newsletter will highlight a specific subject of the proposal.

On behalf of the FNH-RI coordination team we wish you all the best in these difficult times and hope to meet you again in good health after the summer period.

FNH-RI NEWS

FNH-RI BOARD

A next Board meeting is scheduled on the 9th of September ([for a list of board members, see the first edition of this newsletter](#)). In this meeting the focus will be on the next (preparatory) phase of the project – assuming the proposal is granted - and on how to organize the participation of all of the at least 140 participating institutes.

FNH-RI COMMUNITY

In the previous newsletter it was announced that talks were underway for the participation of Poland, the Czech Republic and Montenegro. We are pleased to announce that all three countries will participate in FNH-RI. In fact, Montenegro has received both political and financial support in a very short time. The Czech focal point is seeking political support before filing, while Poland will participate at the institutional level.

OTHER DEVELOPMENTS

On the 9th of September the ESFRI proposal FNH-RI will be submitted to the EU. After this date all partners will be informed and the submitted documents (Part A, B and C) - including the signed MoU's - will be distributed by email. As soon a date is set for the EU hearings you will be informed likewise.

INTRODUCING A NATIONAL NODE



FOOD DATA FOR GOOD

- A snapshot of the Danish preparations for a digital and research infrastructure driven future.

(by Bent Egberg Mikkelsen)

The Danish process of gaining political and financial commitment for participating in the FNHRI has been going on since 2018 as a part of the Danish participation in the RICHFIELDS design study. As a country where the food sector plays an important part of the economy Danish food research has ambitious goals and takes place at several universities. At the same time, there is broad political support for the idea that food research should be coordinated across universities and that use of equipment and labs should be shared as much as possible to make the most of limited resources. The national Danish food research infrastructure FoodHay has already been established as a cooperation between the universities with significant food research activities.



An important component of the Danish preparations has been to explore the digital and data science aspects of food data. In particular the exploitation of food consumption data has played a major role as a use case for a research infrastructure. It has showed that trustful cooperation between researchers, data brokers and retailers can lead to significant progress when it comes to use of Big Food Consumption Data. Under the umbrella of the Digital Foodscape lab a Donate Your Food Data cooperation has been established between data scientists and food & health researchers from University of Copenhagen, representatives from major retailers and GS1. At present AI and machine experts and data scientists are looking deeper into two cases with data sourced from loyalty and bankcards while others are looking into the security and privacy aspects. The idea is to be able to develop a framework for Smart Urban Food Data and the hope is that this technology can contribute to the FNHR consumer data part.

In particular over the spring we have learnt that there is an increased support for the idea of Food Data For Good and that actors of the food value chain needs to be more open when it comes to sharing of data that could be used to strengthen the resilience and sustainability of the food system and its supply chains. In particular, there is an increased interest in creating easy access to food waste data – an interest that is supported by the recent EU commission decision on food waste data collection.

Besides establishing the cross university cooperation in Denmark, the Department of Geosciences & Natural Resource Management UCPH has taken the initiative to establish a regional cooperation between the Nordic countries. In this cooperation UCPH along with University of Iceland (IS), University of Oslo (NO), Örebro University (SE) and University of Helsinki (FIN) has joined forces to exchange experiences and to coordinate efforts when it comes to taking advantage of the potentials of research infrastructures in the food, nutrition and health domain.

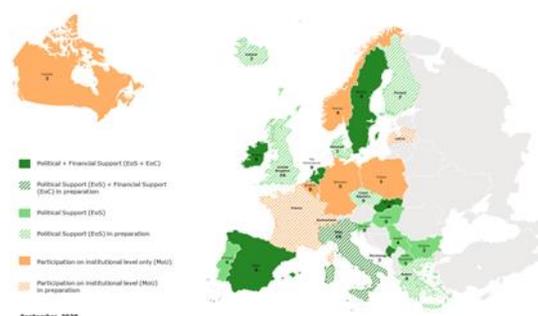
A particular track of the Danish research infrastructure preparation efforts has developed around the involvement of education and citizen science. The Young Minds Food Lab concept has matured over the past years as a way both of stimulating young people's interest in the "scientification" and digitalization of the food area as well as a way to create pop up "street science" events where researchers can crowd sourced data and reach out to citizens and young minds at the same time.

HIGHLIGHTED: BUILDING THE FNH-RI COMMUNITY

(by Karin Zimmermann)

In August 2020, FNH-RI created a community of at least 140 institutes that have signed a Memorandum of

Understanding stating that they will participate in the FNH-Research Infrastructure. The community represents 24 nodes (in different stages of development) in 17 EU, 5 Associated and 2 Third Countries. Six nodes (5 Member States and 1 Associated Country) will financially support FNH-RI by 2025 and signed an Expression of Commitment, and another seven nodes will do so conditionally on achievement of the ERIC status. Twelve nodes have signed the Expression of Support by their Ministries. This results in the following map of participating countries (the number of participating institutes are also shown).



September, 2020
The FNH-RI Community ([click to enlarge](#))

This is an enormous achievement for all of us, but not least of the Head of Nodes who have organized and coordinated all the requested information in a smooth way. The main driver is that all partners agreed with the vision that FNH-RI enables the research community to achieve breakthroughs and innovations that lead to healthy and sustainable food for 21st-century citizens.

Since 2010, the FHH-RI community has been involved to create and design FNH-RI through the EuroDISH and RICHFIELDS project and scientific/stakeholder workshops. From 2015 the formation of national nodes in several countries has already been underway, in Europe and beyond. The Board of the Foundation of FNH-RI has supported the extension of the nodes intensively.

As FNH-RI is a scientific organisation and scientists are the users, national nodes' scientists and scientific organisations join FNH-RI. The nodes are national collaborative groups that organise and represent their own country (EU Member States, Associated Countries and Third Countries) with a link to the FNH-RI hub. The nodes can have members from outside universities and public research institutes such as private research institutes, research labs from food companies or service organisations and research funders (like ministries, funding agencies, patient organisations). However, their head of nodes, like the board members of FNH-RI should not be employed by companies or NGO's.

The nodes also need to be recognized by their own government as a node. In principle the node should be on the roadmap for research infrastructures of its own country



to be (or become) a recognised research infrastructure. In absence of a national roadmap, the recognition of a relevant ministry is sufficient for FNH-RI to take part in the decision making. In legal terms, the nodes organize themselves in a way that best suits their own organization. The nodes might be formal organisations, as a group of research institutes united in a foundation or a scientific society. They might also be an informal group of research organizations that are loosely coupled for the purpose of being involved in FNH-RI. The node appoints a Head of node and a person who represents the node in the FNH-RI foundation .

By fulfilling these requirements, the nodes are allowed to be involved as members of the Board of the Foundation and thus become involved in the decision making of FNH-RI.

This newsletter is also available online: (www.FNHRI.eu)

Contact: FNH-RI@wur.nl

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