



Memorandum of Understanding

Purpose

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is to establish and promote a strategic and cooperative partnership between EARMA and euroCRIS.

euroCRIS is a not-for-profit, statutory association (<https://www.eurocris.org/>) established in 2002, governed by Dutch law and dedicated to the development and implementation of efficient and effective institutional, national and international research information systems and their interoperability, based on CERIF (Common European Research Information Format). One of euroCRIS's main objectives is the promotion of cooperation and exchange of expertise between stakeholders in the research information domain, in particular by setting up Strategic Partnerships with international organisations in the field of Research Information.

EARMA is a not-for-profit, statutory association (<https://www.earma.org/>) established in 1994, governed by Belgium law and dedicated to enable our members to support excellent research and to promote the profession through:

- Building and sustaining communities of practice to exchange knowledge & experience;
- Supporting career growth through continued professional development;
- Driving engagement with key stakeholders and partners;
- Growing a sustainable organisation that is inclusive and diverse.

Motivation

Both EARMA and euroCRIS share a vision of realising an optimal availability of and access to information on research, for the benefit and support of all stakeholders involved in research in general and research managers and administrators in particular. In this respect Current Research Information Systems (CRISs) are key resources as they offer a rich set of interlinked metadata on research, connecting a.o.t. research publications and datasets to the projects they stem from and to the researchers, institutions, funders and funding involved in the research. CRISs thus hold a broad and vital set of information, of use for the monitoring, reporting, evaluation as well as profiling of research and as such they are important tools for (the work of) both research managers and administrators.

Given the valuable possible role of CRISs for the research management and administration (RMA) professions a close cooperation between euroCRIS, the organisation representing the CRIS community and expertise, and EARMA representing the RMA community and expertise would be highly advantageous for both communities and professions.

Objectives and Mechanisms

The strategic partners express their intention:

(a) To inform and demonstrate to the RMA-community (about) the possible use and potential of (information stored in) CRISs.

Mechanisms:

Jointly organising

- a dedicated research information track at EARMA conferences, including concrete use cases demonstrating the value of CRISs for the RMA professions;
- a dedicated Research Managers and Administrators track at euroCRIS Conferences;
- webinars about this subject;
- projects to showcase the value and possible use of research information in general and CRISs in particular in the daily RMA-work environment.

(b) To participate in/contribute to each other's trainings and courses.

Mechanisms:

- As EARMA to participate and organize RMA-sections in the courses and training programmes set up by euroCRIS.
- As euroCRIS to participate and organize Research Information and CRIS parts/sections in EARMA's training programmes and courses.

(c) To promote the optimal availability and accessibility of research information of use for the RMA professions.

Mechanisms:

- As EARMA: promoting the adequate formulation of research information requirements/needs by the RMA profession and the communication of these requirements to the CRIS (developers) community.
- As euroCRIS:
 - Promoting with its members the completeness and up-to-dateness of information in the CRISs.
 - Promoting the optimal use of CRISs by stakeholders of relevance for the RMA-community, such as national funding organisations and the EU.
 - Creating and managing a complete and up-to-date Directory of Research Information Systems (DRIS).

(d) To promote the implementation of optimal research information policies and practices in/by research institutions/institutes, funders and other relevant stakeholders on a local, national and international level.

Mechanisms:

- Jointly formulate a strategic vision c.q. position statement on the relevance and value of research information for RMA and on the steps/policies to formulate and implement in order to optimally realise this relevance on a local (eg. universities, research institutes), national (eg funders, university consortia) and international level (eg EU).

(e) To make known and communicate each other's activities and accomplishments with their stakeholders and members and at each other's events.

Mechanisms:

- Up to two representatives of EARMA shall be invited, on a waived fee basis, to conferences and membership meetings organised by euroCRIS and given a time slot to present developments going on within the EARMA organisation and domain.
- Up to two representatives of euroCRIS shall be invited, on a waived fee basis, to conferences and membership meetings organized by EARMA and given a time slot to present relevant developments going on within the euroCRIS organisation and domain.
- EARMA agrees to participate in appropriate euroCRIS Task or Working Groups when relevant for the RMA community.
- euroCRIS agrees to participate in appropriate EARMA Working Groups when relevant for the CRIS community.
- Both organisations will regularly offer information on activities for the other partner to disseminate via their respective communication channels.
- For reasons of efficiency in time and costs, communication will be through teleconference or webinar when appropriate.

Publicity

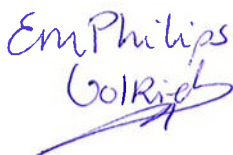
The logo of both strategic partners will be placed on each other's website under the respective heading with a hyperlink to the homepage of the strategic partner. Both parties shall approve any public announcement regarding this MoU. Each party may suggest that its logo be used in accordance with provided guidelines.

Liabilities and Termination

This agreement does not define a financial relationship between the strategic partners, but does not exclude that such relationships could be negotiated. The agreement does not restrict the rights and responsibilities of each partner nor increase them. This agreement remains in force until terminated in writing by each party. Upon termination, both parties will remove the logo and hyperlink of the other party from their websites.

Signed in Nijmegen, the Netherlands, on 26 of June 2020,

For EARMA



Esther Philips
EARMA Chair

For euroCRIS



Ed Simons
euroCRIS President



Pablo de Castro
euroCRIS Secretary

