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RISIS



NEWSLETTER

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IN A NUTSHELL

RISIS (Research Infrastructure for Science and Innovation policy Studies) is a project under Horizon 2020 programme. It gathers 18 partners aiming to transform the field of STI studies into an advanced research community.

RISIS datasets cover five critical dimensions: ERA dynamics, firm innovation dynamics, public sector research, research careers and a repository on research and innovation policy evaluations.

RISIS newsletter is scheduled every six months, and is an opportunity to talk about RISIS research topics, outputs and publications focusing on last RISIS results, events which involved our team.

We are proud RISIS activity is growing:
Have fun reading!



RISIS AIMS AND PLANS:

INTERVIEW WITH PHILIPPE LAREDO, PROJECT COORDINATOR

It has been a few months since the beginning of RISIS2 project, major research infrastructure with the aim of studying and developing Science, Technology and innovation indicators. 13 tested dataset, 4 on site and a research infrastructure through which is possible to have open access to all resources. A decidedly multidisciplinary approach: “RISIS is a research infrastructure, meaning that it serves first and foremost the research communities associated with research and innovation policies and studies, covering a number of disciplines: sociology, management, political sciences, economics and geography mainly”, said Philippe Laredo, RISIS coordinator.

Professor Laredo, what kind of innovation RISIS wants to promote?

“RISIS provides its communities with access to curated, maintained and updated databases that are central to these topics, and access to services that are not commonly available, in particular for ontologies (helping to build tailored datasets from open sources), for semantic analysis and for geocoding and geoanalysis. It helps to produce new analyses and new indicators helping scholars and policymakers, to better understand knowledge dynamics, both for science and for innovation”.

What is RISIS focus?

“It focuses on four main domains: Science and Technology production, through both outputs and projects, firm innovation dynamics, policy learning, through specific datasets on policy evaluations and programme funding and careers. During RISIS, new datasets will be incorporated in particular dealing with social innovation. One important new development for the next four years lie on the creation of a core facility that will provide systematic distant access for researchers and the ability to integrate the different datasets along three core dimensions: actors, place and themes”.

What about the relationship between RISIS and the world of open science?

“RISIS is dedicated to open science. All the results and underlying data arrived at through the use of RISIS databases and RISIS services need to be archived in the RISIS ZENODO community, thus being available to the whole research community”.

What do you expect from RISIS development?

“The field was for a long time limited to aggregated financial information on R&D expenditures produced by statistical offices. This forbade any ‘micro’ analysis at the level of individual organisations and at the level of metropolitan areas, where most activities take place. Our ambition is to offer researchers both datasets, including older ones dealing with scientific articles or patents, and new platforms that help them explore open data to build relevant datasets for their topics and operate new forms of text analysis”.



“

RISIS Core facility will provide the ability to integrate the different datasets along three core dimensions: actors, place and themes”.

ORGREG: THE ID OF PUBLIC RESEARCH

How many and which European Research Organizations are involved in Research and Innovation? How are distributed and interlinked each other? OrgReg, the first Register of Public-Sector Organizations, is a set towards answering to this question, which is increasingly important given the role attributed to research organizations by new managerial paradigms in science and higher education policies.

"OrgReg is a facility developed within RISIS to provide a reference list of research organizations and higher education institutions belonging to public sector above a minimal threshold of research output", says Benedetto Lepori, professor of Science Communication at USI (Università della Svizzera italiana), RISIS partner and one of OrgReg creator.



"While European registers have a long tradition in the private sector, for instance Eurostat, used as statistical and research instrument, no similar tradition in the public sector is observed. Only recently, registers started to emerge with the European Tertiary Education Register, ETER for what concerns Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)".

Built on ETER, OrgReg has extended the coverage to all non-market oriented organizations with a sizeable research output, including specifically Public Research Organizations (PROs) and Research Hospitals (RH), as well as Private Non-Profit research Organizations (PNP) and, in the next release, Research Funding Organizations.

With 5,505 entities and 39 countries covered, OrgReg provides a perfect identity document of Public Research: every entity is associated with an identifier stable over time and complemented with

demographic information, including foundation, closure year and tracking demographic events. Legal and English name are included, as a set of characteristic of entities: website, country of establishment, entity type and level (group, organizations, and component). Finally, we can find geographical locations of each entity, including postcode, city name, and geographical coordinates.

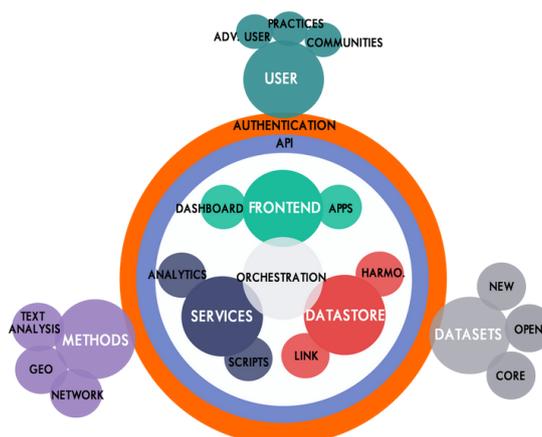
RISIS CORE FACILITY, THE RISIS HEART

Even datasets have a heart. In particular, RISIS heart is called RISIS Core Facility (RFC).

The objective of RCF is to offer a ground-breaking infrastructure for Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) studies. In order to get a functional core, the infrastructure must provide a unique entry point online, with which RISIS user can access a monitored and secured workspace.

This workspace will be designed to give services to user interested in jointly exploiting different RISIS datasets and various Linked Open Data resources with the goal to explore, retrieve and visualise results of data analysis for their research purposes. Users oriented actions through a dedicated platform.

A service where users can supply and find information linked to their experiences, results, problems deriving from the use of the infrastructure, free spaces for exchanges and interactions, and for building collaborative efforts. We are significantly extending the type of research activities supported by RCF, through the integration of new data analytics tools and services, specifically by enabling flexible geographical analysis and multilingual content analytics.





RISIS DATASETS PORTAL IS OPEN

A first version of the new RISIS Datasets Portal has been opened.

This is an initial version that will be extended and improved over the coming weeks.

The Portal is embedded in the Risis Core Facility (RCF) environment that will be extended with a part on public data and services, and also with the possibility to access major parts of the data directly in RCF.

Access to RISIS datasets is free of charge and is offered through a two-step process:

Accreditation: researchers need to register and agree on the conditions of use (good use of data, authorship, mentions to the RISIS project, agreement of posting results and aggregated datasets produced on RISIS website) via signing the RISIS Code of Conduct.

Selection: researchers need to propose a project based upon the mobilisation of one or more datasets. Projects are reviewed both by the dataset producers and by the RISIS project review board that will give the agreement for access.

All datasets can be accessed via the distant, or by physical visit to the location of the dataset owner, with costs covered by RISIS.

ZENODO, SAFE PLACE FOR RISIS RESULTS

“Knowledge is the currency of the new economy”: with this sentence, that marks the beginning of a document released by the European Commission in 2012, is started a flow of policy reports focusing on open access to the results of research.

Recently, also RISIS has gained a relevant step towards open access world, to reduce asymmetries in actors who produce new knowledge, in the places where knowledge is generated, and in the issues addressed. From now, RISIS has a place in Zenodo-community space.

The RISIS-Zenodo community space is used as repository for RISIS research activities and outcomes, and is directly embedded in OpenAIRE. Its efficient search functionalities enabling not only to browse and download specific document types, but also to search for them in relation to our focus on the organisations, geography and themes.



“

“Knowledge is the currency of the new economy”



RISIS PRESENTED TO THE CZECH EXPERT COMMUNITY

RISIS was presented for the first time to the Czech research community and policy-makers during the national conference on STI statistics and analyses, held on 26 April 2019. This annual conference has been organized jointly by the Technology Centre of the Czech Academy of Sciences (CAS) and the Czech Statistical Office since 2010.

The audience traditionally consists of leading research and innovation policy makers from various Czech ministries, agencies, and other governmental bodies, as well as of researchers active in research and innovation policy studies, and statisticians.

RISIS project was entirely new to the Czech STI community and arouses a considerable interest of the audience. In the first part, Michal Pazour, Head of Department of Strategic Studies of CAS, presented the basic concept of the RISIS infrastructure based on developing new datasets, interlinking existing datasets and opening access to the infrastructure to the broad users' community.



WORKSHOP ON LATENT CLASS ANALYSIS

The Workshop aimed at providing a more systematic introduction to this class of methods, some examples and to discuss with participants opportunities for the usage in different areas related to RISIS (like firms, individual-level bibliometric). The event was held on 17 May, 2019 at Politecnico of Milan in Bovisa.

After an introduction to Latent Class Modelling, Barbara Antonioli and Benedetto Lepori have explored its applications in Research Policy and Higher Education.

Finally, there was a group discussion on the application of Latent Class Modelling to specific case studies.

The Workshop was an important occasion to discuss about the actual opportunities and the critical issues of this statistical tool.



BIG DATA AND RI: A RISIS POSTER AT OPENAIRE WORKSHOP

RISIS was in Ghent, on 27 and 28 May 2019, with a poster presentation for the workshop "Research policy monitoring in the era of open science and big data".

The two-day workshop, coorganised by OpenAIRE, has explored mechanisms for research policy monitoring and indicators, and how to link these to infrastructure and services.

As EU e-Infrastructure, RISIS responds to need for monitoring of research aspect by embedding and developing monitoring tools to provide evidence-based data, while at the same time promoting interoperability of information outputs, shareable across networks.

RISIS AT ISSI, 17TH CONFERENCE ON SCIENTOMETRICS & INFOMETRICS

RISIS will present a poster on September 3 and 4, in occasion of ISSI Conference, the 17th International conference on Scientometrics & Infometrics.

The Conference, hosted by Sapienza University of Rome, will provide an international forum for scientists, research managers and administrators, as well as information and communication related professionals to share research and debate the advancements of informetric and scientometric theory and applications.

During the conference, there will be a Special STI Indicators Conference Track on Challenges to the assessment of STI, organised by the European Network of Indicator Designers (ENID).

POLICY MEETING: A FOCUS ON RISIS KEY RESULTS

They are a kind of awareness rising events specially organized to involve policy makers on specific issues, also adopting a new approach to aggregated data circulation, in particular towards policy analysts and policymakers.

These events are also devoted to shape other communications tools with a learning attitude: what is the novelty and what type of use is expected (learning from the audience and observing how they understand what we do).

RISIS Policy meetings will take in place in Brussels, every trimester for a half-day presentation and discussion around one key result from RISIS. This will be the occasion to present all the material developed around RISIS results.



EU-SPRI2019: RISIS AND KNOWMAK MEET USERS

On June 6th, there was the first awareness event organised within RISIS. Particularly, there was a special panel in plenary session during Eu-SPRI conference, one of most relevant event in the field of R&I policy studies.

The conference was hosted by Research Institute on Sustainable Economic Growth of Italian National Research Council (Cnr-Ircres) and has been focused on actors, instruments, practices, and policies for research and innovation to pursuing sustainable development goals using the problem-solving approach.

According to Emanuela Reale, Cnr-Ircres research director and RISIS WP2 coordinator, "RISIS panel was

The focus of the meetings will be datasets as new resources; we will discuss features of the datasets and potential for addressing key research questions. Major results will be presented, as well as consequence of the exploration of new research avenues by using RISIS resources. Finally, we will give space to new results not yet developed and on future directions.



First POLICY MEETING is scheduled
on October 24 and WILL
BE DEDICATED TO Cheetah



WHAT ABOUT?

Cheetah is a unique source of data that offers to researchers new opportunities to study the growth dynamics of a relevant category of firms (i.e. mid-sized firms), which however has been almost neglected by the current academic literature on firm growth. The European dimension of Cheetah makes the data infrastructure well suited to address research questions concerning the institutional determinants of firm growth and geographical agglomeration effects.

precisely directed to make scholars in the field of Research and Innovation policy studies aware of what RISIS infrastructure can provide, in terms of datasets, in terms of training and in terms of capability to have tools and methods for improving the research and building new concept and new research questions".



Training provides basic and advanced knowledge on RISIS contents and infrastructure and how to use it, and the methodologies to effort the datasets for research aimed to produce evidences relevant for policy making.



ONGOING COURSE

RISIS Summer School on Data Science for Studying Science, Technology and Innovation. It take place in Strathclyde Business School in Glasgow, UK , from 24 to 28 June 2019.

The School bring together leading experts in data science and the next generation of science, technology and innovation scholars. The aim is to equip the latter with both the methodological and conceptual knowledge as well as cutting edge data science tools and techniques.

UPCOMING COURSE

RISIS Methodological course on Application of Latent Class Modelling to research policy and higher education studies will take place in Lugano, Switzerland, from 9 to 10 September 2019.

The course will introduce basic concepts and rationales of Latent Class Modelling.

CALL for participation STILL OPEN!
DEADLINE: 30 June 2019

Its general goals are:

- To understand applicability of the method, specifically to datasets in research policy and higher education studies.
- To know and practice the basic steps for conducting analysis with statistical software.
- To develop competence in interpreting results and driving implications for analysis and policy.

WHAT ABOUT?

RISIS offers training courses aim at developing skills in using the RISIS datasets and platforms, and we will further develop online tools, tutorials and courses to support users and stakeholders remotely.



No fees to be paid by European Participants, and venue of the trainees for on sites courses will be covered in case of researchers, early researchers and PhDs coming from European countries.



Training activities include the following type of course: Applied Courses on datasets, Methodological Courses and Summer Schools.

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