CHARM-EU
Action Plan on Research Infrastructures

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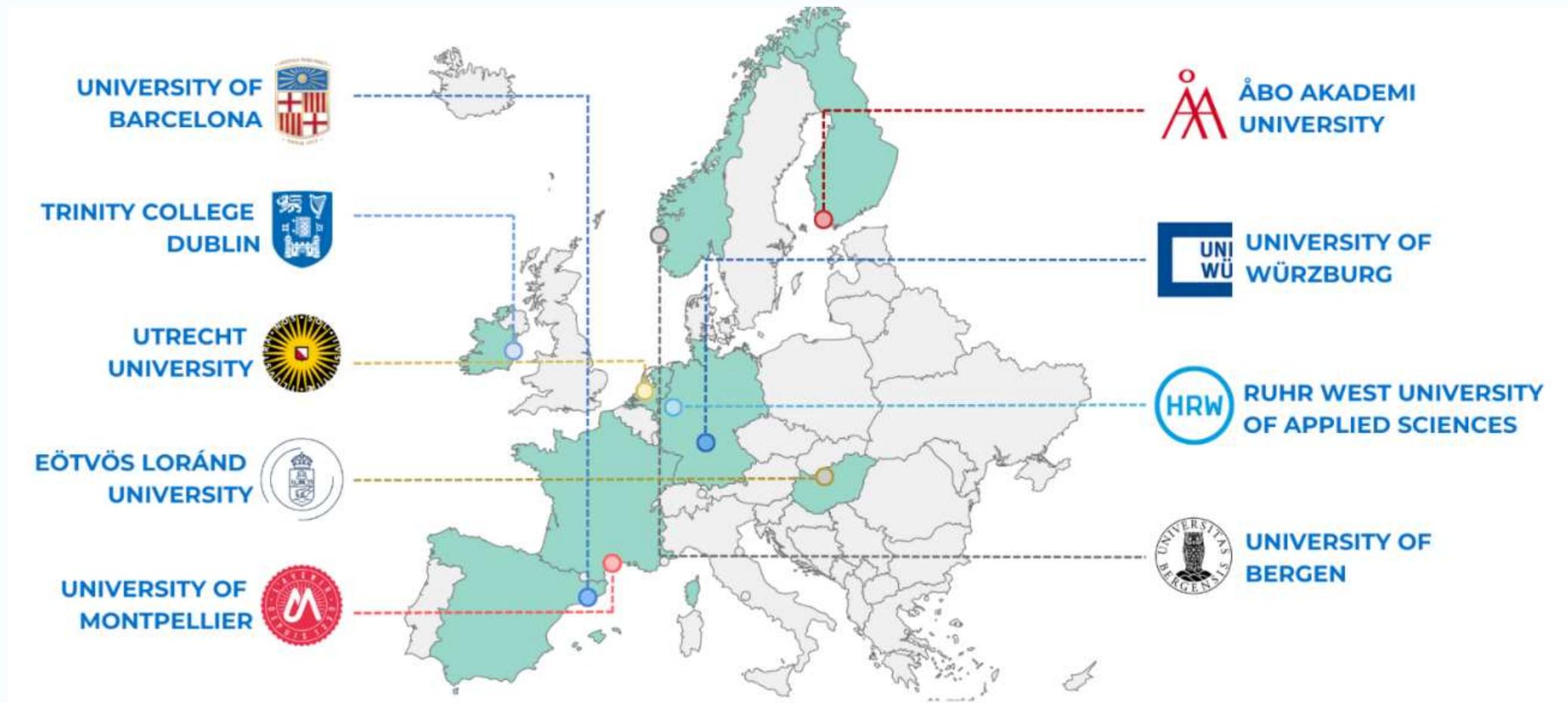**2024.09.26**

What is CHARM-EU?

CHallenge-driven, Accessible, Research-based and Mobile European University:
an alliance uniting nine higher education institutions across Europe.

What does CHARM-EU do?

At CHARM-EU we work together **to build a new university model** that:

- enables **seamless mobility** among students and staff;

- promotes **excellence** and mainstreams **inclusiveness**;

- contributes to the **development** of European higher education;

- **fosters connections** with stakeholders from business and society.

CHARM-EU is creating **challenge-driven, flexible, student-led** educational programmes focused on identifying and solving societal challenges in collaboration with the broader community.

| 9 universities | 51 associate partners | 64 faculties | 22K academics / researchers | 42K staff | 269K students |

TORCH
Transforming Open Responsible Research and Innovation through CHARM

PARTNERS

University of Barcelona
Trinity College Dublin
Utrecht University
Eötvös Loránd University
University of Montpellier

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POLICIES / STRATEGIES (Priority Areas) | **PILOTS** | **ACTION PLANS**

Working Towards Reforming Research Assessment

AP1: Alliance Manifesto on Research Assessment

Fostering Equality, Diversity and inclusivity

P1: Enhanced equality data

AP2: R&I section of the CHARM-EU Inclusivity Plan

Championing Open Science

P2: Open Science Rewards & Recognition Toolbox

P3: Citizen Science Training

P4: Open Science Training

To be included in Strategies: Institution-level linking Open Science with Equality, Diversity & Inclusivity.

Promoting Inter/Transdisciplinary Research Driven by Societal Challenges

P5: Joint Support Strategy for Research Projects

AP3: Joint Support Strategy for Research Projects

Intensifying R&I Cooperation Between Universities

P6: CHARM-EU Research & Innovation Days

P7: Virtual TTOs network

AP4: Expedited Research Ethics Approval Pathway

AP5: CHARM-EU Research Infrastructures Catalogue

The main objectives of the Action Plan (AP) are:

- **Creation of a common Research Infrastructure Catalogue (RIC)**

- **Design of protocols for common and open use of Research Infrastructures (RI)**

> **Definition of Research Infrastructure (ESFRI):**
> Facilities, resources and services that are used by the RDI communities to conduct research and foster innovation in their fields, they include major scientific equipment and knowledge-based resources.

CHARM-EU RIC

- More than a compilation of RI -> integration of **infrastructures actually available and potentially shared** for each university.
- Context analysis and barriers identification -> resources, organization, technical/scientific expertise, application fields, …
- Open to the RDI community -> to CHARM members first then to external users (companies, universities, research instit.)
- Added value of related services -> fostering the **development of internal and shared strategic research lines**

Protocols for common use of RI

- RIC exploitation through **existing and new protocols fostering common use**
- Focus on reinforcing the common CHARM research strategies
- Selected protocols to be tested in targeted **pilot actions** to have some first indicators of their efficiency

Action Plan 5 - CHARM-EU Research Infrastructure Catalogue
Expected outcomes

- **Research Infrastructure Catalogue**, which will include a selection of complementary infrastructures with different services and applications summarizing current resources and highlighting the outstanding technical & research assets and equipment from each university. Besides its short/midterm exploitation for common use, this catalogue can also serve as a planning tool in terms of programming future acquisitions and ampliations of RI aligned with shared strategic research lines.
- **Accessible offer display.** A centralized display of the services in an accessible online platform.
- **Protocols and access modes** fostering a shared use of the RI by CHARM members and the RDI community, it will define the way members benefit and foster common actions from the services within the infrastructures. It enhances shared usage of the facilities and collaborations.
- **Network creation and reinforcement** at internal (e.g., RI specialists within the alliance) and external level.
- **Open Science promotion,** through the creation the RI Catalogue, both within and outside the network.

The creation of the catalogue will impact how members of the Alliance interact with each other and other stakeholders, improving the knowledge within and improve connections and collaborations between researchers.

Action Plan 5 - CHARM-EU Research Infrastructure Catalogue
Specific success criteria

The specific criteria to assess the success of this Action Plan will strongly depend on the initial agreements for the design of the RIC. Nevertheless, the following categories of qualitative and quantitative indicators are anticipated:

- **Participation** in the design process. The number and profile of participants from the different members in the design phases (both catalogue and protocols) will be a key success factor.
- **Inclusivity and representativity** of the catalogue. The number, nature and complementarity of RI from different institutions covering different disciplines and application fields will also be a key indicator of success.
- **Accessibility and openness** of the catalogue offer. This will cover both the catalogue display (website...) and the protocols for shared access. The indicators associated are the increase in number of requested services and the increase of interactions between members of the alliance.
- **Connectivity.** The number and nature of connections with other RI networks and other key RI stakeholders that will increase the impact of the catalogue. Another indicator associated with it could be an increase of the number of Horizon Europe projects using the Research Infrastructures.

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External stakeholders

Expected guidance from other existing RI networks:

- **EU level:** European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures (ESFRI), European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC) or the LERU Research Infrastructures Group.

- **Local/national level:**
  - Spanish network of singular scientific infrastructures (ICTS)
  - Dutch digital infrastructure offering data, tools and services to support research based on language resources (CLARIN)
  - Hungarian Digital Heritage National Laboratory (DH-LAB) and National Laboratory for Social Innovation (TINLAB)
  - French University Space Center (CSU) or Vectopole Sud

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Planned activities & Timeline

ACTIVITY	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3
A1. Context analysis	███		
A1.1. Creation of surveys and check on infrastructure models	░		
A1.2. Analysis of anwers and infrastructure models	░		
A2. Construction of the catalogue and offer display	███	███	
A2.1. Gathering of information on the actual state of Research Infrastructures	░		
A2.2. Integration of the information	░		
A2.3. Offer display and difussion of the catalogue		░	
A3. Use and improvement of the catalogue and infrastructure services		███	███
A3.1. Design of the access modes		░	
A3.2. Pilot of the protocols		░	░
A3.3. Assessment and revision of the infrastructure services			░

Action Plan 5 - CHARM-EU Research Infrastructure Catalogue
Resource needs

Personnel

➢ Dedication from existing **internal staff**, especially during the first stages to analyse the context of each institution. Initial Working Groups should be composed by staff related to CHARM but also by staff directly related to RI management that can act as representatives for each institution. They will help in the search and compilation of services, infrastructures and equipment associated to each University,

➢ Dedication from **specific additional staff,** at least 1 full-time equivalent, will be needed for the coordination with different participants, the assembly of the catalogue and the execution and monitoring of the access mode pilot.

Subcontracting

➢ Catalogue display in a dedicated website

Other

➢ Organization of meetings and events (catalogue presentation, pilot access launch…)
➢ Preparation of selected infrastructures for open access
➢ Incentives for pilot access (RI operation costs, materials, travel & subsistence for users …)

Action Plan 5 - CHARM-EU Research Infrastructure Catalogue
Risk & mitigation action

	Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation Action
R1	Low interest or participation from CHARM members on the design and execution of the action plan	L	H	Coordination and configuration of an inclusive Action Plan that with working groups well-represented.
R2	Insufficient resources and funding	H	H	Include this AP in new CHARM-related proposals for funding aligned with new research challenges. Assignation of specific internal resources by members.
R3	Under-representation of some RI categories and scientific disciplines	H	M	Inclusion of representatives of different fields/disciplines since the beginning
R4	Lack of commitment from leadership (universities)	M	M	Specific reports/meetings to highlight the benefits of the RIC locally and globally
R5	Lack of commitment (CHARM-EU)	L	M	Commitment to prioritize CHARM-EU R&I activities, participating in joint projects and creating incentives.
R6	Lack of interest from researchers	M	H	Communication and strategical promotion of the RIC
R7	Reluctance from infrastructure owners (PIs and managers) to provide access to expensive RI	M	H	Training program for external RI users. Funding for maintenance and repair costs
R8	High user access charges	M	H	Funding from central or local sources to cover costs of hosting or of access

Action Plan 5 - CHARM-EU Research Infrastructure Catalogue
Links with other CHARM/TORCH results

WP4 (Common Science Agenda). Development and implementation of TORCH research challenges. Deliverables:
- D4.2 - Common Science Agenda Challenge List. Public report

WP8 (Common Policies and Strategies). Priority areas: 4. Promoting inter- and transdisciplinary research driven by societal challenges; and 5. Intensifying R&I cooperation between universities.

WP9 (Action Plans and Pilots)

WP10 (Communication and Dissemination). TORCH recommendations for policies. Deliverable:
- D10.6 - Short Policy Brief 1. Public report

Action Plan 5 - CHARM-EU Research Infrastructure Catalogue
Current status and future perspectives

- ✓ Action Plan approved by 5 universities

- ✓ Implentation of the AP endorsed by the CHARM work group for research support strategies

- ✓ Could not be included in new Erasmus+ project

  - ➤ Need to explore new funding opportunities