

Communication officer(s)

Some of the interviewed RIs have a communication team with each member having their special skills and specified roles. Others might only have one person working partly in the communication activities. The competences and background of the RI's communication officers varies from a scientist who is interested on communication, but doesn't have any communication education nor background to professional communicator with no background in science. This just shows that depending on the RI and its structure, the skill requirements of its communication officer(s) differ. Some RIs are using external companies for technical support and graphical design.

Few examples of competences that communication officer should have based on RIs communication officers:

- Understanding of stakeholders (decision makers, industry, citizen, data users, researchers etc)
- Understanding of the different working environments and time scales of RI's stakeholders/target audiences (Universities, Governmental bodies, general public),
- Education or at least experiences on communication
- Scientific background can be useful or even necessary
- IT/coding skills (updating website, making interfaces/portals)
- Capability to understand complex science and turn it into simple message that can be sold to general public and decisions makers.
- Personal skills:
 - Open mind
 - Eager to learn more
 - Be oneself on face-to-face contacts
 - Friendly and flexible
 - Consistent

Examples for RIs communication staff

TERN: Used to have three communication officers, but currently only one titled as communications and engagement manager. He is a scientist without any communication education or training. All the three officers that they have had, have been excellent science communicators, and their strong science background mixed with excellent communications skills made them particularly effective at communicating with a range of stakeholders. - Ben Sparrow, TERN

EISCAT: Part time science officer with scientific background working approximately 1.5 day/month with RI's communication, except Twitter. They have another persons taking care of the Twitter account.

ICOS: Communication team of three persons, who all have background and education on communication.

Euro-Argo: They have a small ERIC with 4 employers from which one is a science officer in charge of communication. She doesn't have a communication background but is interested on communication and planning to participate on training courses on subject. She has found the ENVRI community and its activities helpful in developing Euro-Argo's communication .

ACTRIS: One full time employ for communication (updating website, making newsletter, flyer, brochure) and another person taking care of the twitter account