

Press Release

SLICES-PP kick-off meeting to build the European Large Scale Research Infrastructure for ICT Research

Date: September 13, 2022

The European research project SLICES-PP had its official kick-off on September 6th 2022 with an event hosted physically by INRIA in Lille, France. SLICES is the future European large scale research infrastructure for information and communication technologies. It aims to make a fundamental contribution to research and innovation in digital sciences and infrastructures, future Internet technologies, future smart networks and services by providing high quality experimentation services with emerging technologies around the area of digital sciences. SLICES-PP is in charge of completing the preparatory phase, including for instance the governance structure of the future infrastructure.

SLICES-PP is a Horizon Europe research project, funded under the Grand Agreement No. 101079774 and gathers 25 partners of the SLICES-RI. The overall objective of SLICES-PP ('Preparatory Phase') is to tackle all key questions concerning legal, financial and technical issues leading to the establishment of the new SLICES research infrastructure and ensuring commitment of Member States/Associated Countries to its long-term operation and use in all fields of science.

The meeting was opened by the SLICES-PP project coordinator, Nathalie Mitton from INRIA. Representatives from all the institutions participating in the project were present, physically or remotely, and highlighted the importance of this scientific initiative, renewing their commitment and enthusiastic support to continue the SLICES journey and deliver tangible results.

'SLICES is a unique initiative in digital sciences', said Serge Fdida, SLICES coordinator from Sorbonne University. 'It aims at providing a large-scale scientific instrument to support the discovery process for the design of digital infrastructures. We entered the ESFRI roadmap a year ago, successfully transitioning from the design to the preparation phase. Most importantly, our vibrant community is expanding, attracting a growing interest and support from the main stakeholders in research and industry.'

The main focus of the one-day event was the presentation of the activities that the partners will carry out during the 4-year programme of this project. Presentations were delivered by the coordination team and the work package leaders. They aimed at providing a basis for the establishment of the legal framework, the business plan and the preparation of all different aspects of the RI that make it sustainable and useful for the community.

'It was a real pleasure to host this kick off meeting and welcome all partners in Lille', says Nathalie Mitton, the Coordinator of SLICES-PP. 'It is an honour to coordinate SLICES-PP, an important component in the setup of the SLICES-RI ESFRI infrastructure and we take a great pride of it. This kick-off meeting was rich of interesting discussions and interactions, demonstrating the synergy between partners that will definitely contribute to the success of SLICES.'



Participants to the SLICES-PP Kickoff meeting in Lille

SLICES Website

- <https://slices-ri.eu/>

Contact Information

- Dr Sébastien Ziegler, Director of Mandat International sziegler@mandint.org
- Anna Brekine, Communication Officer IoT Lab abrekine@iotlab.com