



THOR: Connecting People, Places, and Things

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For the THOR consortium



Technical and Human infrastructure for Open Research

Establish seamless integration between articles, data, and researchers across the research lifecycle

Make persistent identifier (PID) use for people and research artifacts *the default*

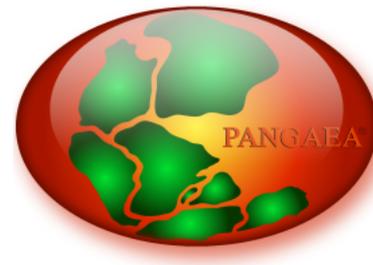
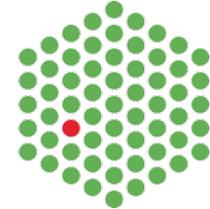
Must include technical **and** a human component

<http://project-thor.eu>



ORCID

EMBL-EBI



THOR basics

- 2.5 years
- Horizon 2020 – European Commission
- THOR enhances and connects established tools
- Building integrations in four early adopter communities
 - Biomedical (EMBL-EBI)
 - Earth sciences (Pangaea)
 - High energy physics (CERN)
 - Humanities and social sciences (BL plus)
- Shaped by the needs of the global research community – our goal is seamless interoperability

Overlapping activities

- **R and D** - Deciding what needs to be done
- **Integrate and build services** - Doing what needs to be done
- **Train and communicate** - Getting others involved
- **Evaluate and sustain** - Making sure it works, and it lasts

Research and development

Activity: develop a deep understanding of current workflows and communities of practice

- Investigate and harmonize existing metadata schemas
- Incorporate new concepts into metadata schemas
- Link PIDs across platforms
- Share information on the use and adoption of PIDs by researchers and the community at large
- Identify gaps and develop solutions

Build and integrate services

Activity: provide identifiers, capture existing PIDs across the research lifecycle and workflows, and improve connections

- Implement services
- Integrate services
- Make things useful, usable, and sustainable

Training and outreach

Activity: promote the uptake of PID infrastructure and best practices, and help promote and share new services and tools

- Work with PID service providers and researchers on “how to” solutions – lower the barriers to adoption
- Webinars, seminars, online tutorials, ...
- Ambassador Program

Evaluate and Sustain

Activity: measure uptake analyze stakeholder feedback to shape service design and evolution

- establish metrics to assess development of a PID infrastructure
- measure adoption of PID-based services
- compare business plans of existing pieces of the federated PID e-infrastructures and new business opportunities

Community-wide challenges

We have found gaps in shared infrastructures used to connect people, places and things. (Some are well known, some via our work on ODIN.) **These require wider solutions than the THOR partners can deliver on their own.**

THOR will support the development of solutions from the wider-community

- We will provide use-cases, prototypes,
- We will draw together a network of experts to help to find consensus
- We will help to put solutions on a sustainable footing

Challenge: Organizations

“The use of persistent identifiers for organizations lags behind the use of... identifiers for research outputs and people, and more work is needed”

- We **need** organizational Identifiers to deliver our promise of connecting people, places and things
- Many initiatives are tackling parts of the problem
- There is no community-backed entity at the moment who is drawing together all these initiatives to find a shared, scalable solution

Challenge: Projects

“Existing PID infrastructures support artefacts, contributors and organizations, but there isn’t first-class PID support for projects”

- In CERIF, projects are first class entities
- Projects can be represented as a collection of PIDs and relations
- Projects are a great example of what we mean when we say “connect people, places and things”

The THOR approach

THOR is, above all else, a network, a community of practitioners: we collaborate to achieve bigger goals.

- Our network is open to you
- We will work with as many of the other organizations and initiatives in this space (RDA, Force, other EC-funded projects...) as possible
- Each challenge we face requires a different group of stakeholders - we need input, advice and support from the entire community

Early achievements

- <http://search.labs.datacite.org/>
 - ORCID
 - Funding information

- Check out our first R&D reports on Zenodo!

- Evaluation tool (“dashboard”) to observe global PID developments to inform support and policy actions
 - Available as a first prototype
 - Open source
 - Flexible

Next steps

- Start to explore the challenges that are already emerging from our research (Project IDs, schema harmonization...)
- Integrate PIDs into more workflows and systems
- Gather best practice, guidance, and improve documentation. Package all this information into guides, case studies, publications
- Run workshops, training camps, webinars, events...

Get involved!

- Join our ambassador program, come to our training sessions, webinars etc.
- Contact us, give feedback and connect your resource or service
- Inform our next steps and overall THOR plans and ideas
- Help us connect the right information resources and partners
- Help us find pieces of the puzzle and use cases we haven't thought about (yet...)

Thanks for your attention – any questions?