IRIS, Institutional Research Information System, is the new CRIS solution developed by Cineca. After the merge with the other 2 Italian Consortia, the so-called “Cineca 2.0” decided to get the best out of the different Research Information Systems already in place (U-GOV, SURplus) to create a unique solution.

The process that brought Cineca to develop this new system witnessed the collaboration of several Italian universities that contributed value to the solution. IRIS is indeed the result of a collaborative way of working. This innovative best-of-breed solution has been designed to fulfill the needs of academic and research institutions: IRIS is an IT platform that makes it easy to collect and manage data on research activities and outputs within an organization. Researchers, administrators, and evaluators are given all the tools needed to monitor research results, enhance visibility, and efficiently allocate available resources.

Cineca’s IRIS is a CRIS, a Current Research Information System. It is compliant with the European standard CERIF and it is based on open-source technologies that the Consortium contributes to develop and maintain.
Access to international scientific networks

The modular nature of the system and the flexibility of its data model facilitate processing, organizing and transmitting information in accordance with the international CERIF standard (Common European Research Information Format). At the same time IRIS provides the chance to easily shape local and national requirements. The compliance with CERIF offers several advantages to a CRIS: it strengthens relations among research entities (people, resources, activities, publications, etc.); it supports evaluation activities and dissemination; it helps the exchange of information among different CERIF compliant Research Systems at national and international level.

Modules are natively integrated with the IT infrastructure of the organization, both with legacy systems (such as HR, accounting databases) and external systems (regional, national and international databases) so that Return on Investment – ROI – is always maximised.

Organise Research with IRIS’ core services

1) Institutional Repository/Open Archive Module (IR/OA)

The repository of the University’s Research Products allows the storage, consultation and enhancement of outputs reflecting its various activities. With this tool, the University has a unique and interoperable system, able to communicate with the central national and international databases for the management and dissemination of publications. The module complies with the requirements of the Ministry of Education and the European Commission for Open Access (OpenAIRE).

2) Evaluation & Review Module (ER)

The ER Module supports the process of research and scientific evaluation based on data analysis and performance indicators. It allows the management of internal evaluation cycles and supports evaluation initiatives promoted by the Ministry (e.g. REF).

3) Resource Management Module (RM)

This module collects all data that populate the “world” of institutional research: people, groups, skills, organizational structures, internal and external laboratories, instrumentation, scientific committees, etc.

4) Expertise & Skills Module (ES)

It is the solution available to ILOs (Industrial Liaison Offices), TTOs (Technology Transfer Offices) to enhance and promote the University’s competences and characteristics. This module is open to the public for consultation and it allows institutions to promote cooperation and exchange with industry and other partners.

Open-source Technologies

The adoption of open-source components allows the Consortium to offer a system that on the one hand benefits from the work and expertise of the entire Community of experts, on the other hand allows the customization and enhancement of the source code according to the Universities and Institutions’ needs.

DSpace, the most important open-source software for managing repositories, is one of the key components of IRIS, making it an international solution. There are in fact more than 1000 institutions around the world that have chosen and adopted DSpace. Another fundamental technology used by IRIS is DSpace-CRIS, a module developed by Cineca and released to the Community on 2012.

Cineca is continuously engaged with the international community to make advanced CRIS technologies available worldwide at sustainable costs and in a collaborative environment.