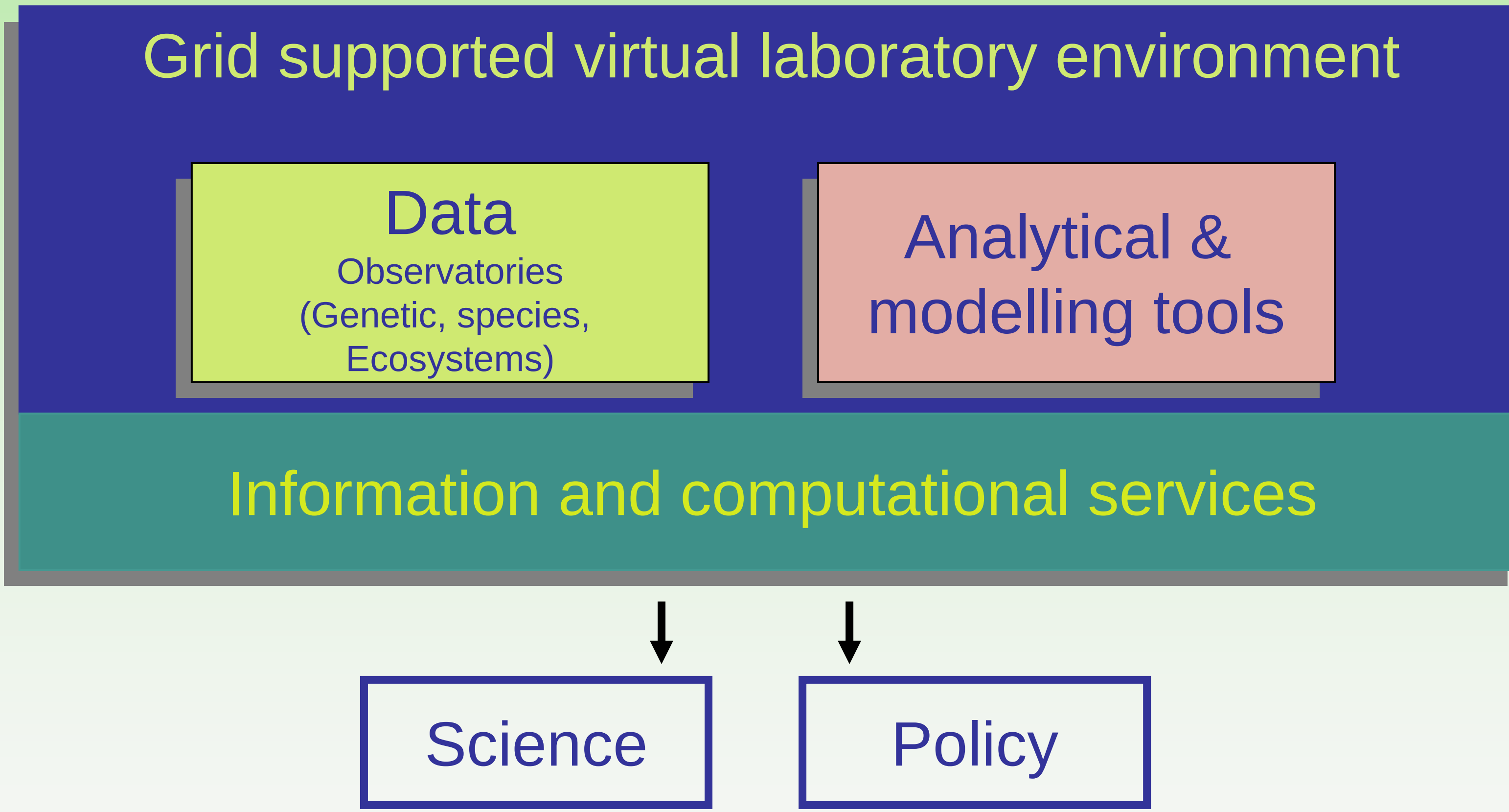
LIFEWATCH

e-Science and Technology Infrastructure
for biodiversity data and observatories

Infrastructure components



Main achievements (to date)

- Outline plan selected as potential European research infrastructure in the ESFRI Roadmap.

- FP7 preparatory project approved.
    - Expected to start on 1 February 2008
    - should result in:
        - the construction planning
        - agreement of a coalition of countries to invest in the construction

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- Cooperation of 8 scientific networks and 14 interested countries.

AlterNET	Belgium	Poland
BioCASE	Denmark	Romania
EDIT	Finland	Slovakia
ENBI	France	Slovenia
EurOceans	Italy	Spain
MARBEF	Netherlands	Sweden
Marine Genomics	Norway	United Kingdom
Synthesys		

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- Cooperation of 8 scientific networks and 14 interested countries.

- Strategic relations with stakeholders, user communities and related infrastructures in development.

Contributions to structuring and integrating the research community

The Life Watch infrastructure is expected to:

- allow for integrated studies on the complexity of life's diversity with very large data sets (different from the reductionist approach based on limited or estimated data sets).
- open opportunities for large-scale projects.
- result in priorities for large-scale data generation (link scientific and societal questions to structured and harmonised data capture at different scales by observatories / monitoring networks).

The infrastructure development is an incentive to structure the research community

Considerations for a European research agenda on marine biodiversity

- Common research programmes (and data generation protocols) will shape the development of Life Watch.
- Attention for the analysis and modelling (algorithms) of large data sets.
- Which policy-supporting services can subsequently be developed?

- Some parts of the heritage of the current Networks of Excellence might be sustained in the framework of Life Watch.
- Other parts are probably better served in different kinds of networks.