

**INTERIM EVALUATION OF HORIZON 2020 AND PREPARATIONS
FOR THE NEXT FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME FOR RESEARCH AND
INNOVATION**

NOTE TO ERAC

32nd plenary meeting of ERAC
Agenda point 4.1
Brussels, 2 December 2016

ERAC could consider preparing a single opinion on the interim evaluation and the preparation of FP9.

ERAC could consider organising its involvement in function of the three building blocks the Commission has identified for preparing the ground for the next FP:

- Foresight (the thematic dimension);
- Interim evaluation (in light of the evidence presented in the staff working document – implementation dimension);
- the economic case for R&I investment: the macroeconomic case

It is proposed to work in three steps:

1. Presentation and endorsement of the approach & timeline by the ERAC Plenary meeting on 2 December. At this meeting, the ERA-related groups will be invited to prepare an input on the interim evaluation in their area of activity. A rapporteur to draft the ERAC Opinion will be nominated and tasked to communicate closely with the ERA-related groups during the whole preparation period of the ERAC Opinion.
Deadline: the Plenary meeting of 16-17 March 2017.
2. At the ERAC Plenary of 16-17 March 2017 in Malta, the Chairs of the ERA-related groups will present their input, and the Commission will make a presentation covering Foresight and the Economic case. On this occasion, the Commission could also present the preliminary findings from the interim evaluation (draft staff working document). Following the presentations, there will be a discussion with delegations, which will serve as input to the Rapporteur to prepare the ERAC Opinion.
3. At the ERAC Plenary of 16 June 2017, ERAC adopts the Opinion (or the opinion is discussed and adopted by written procedure shortly after). This Opinion should be based on the interim evaluation of the ERA-related groups, as well as on the interim evaluation as presented in the Commission Staff Working Document, (scheduled for publication in May 2017) and the Foresight and economic case building exercises. The adopted ERAC opinion will be submitted to the Estonian Presidency in view of the Informal Competitiveness Council on 24-25 July 2017.

ERAC delegates should encourage their national stakeholders to participate in the Commission's public stakeholder consultations on both the interim evaluation of Horizon 2020 (launched since 20 October 2016 and open till 15 January 2017) and for the impact assessment of FP9.