

**RECOMMENDATION ON HOW TO FOLLOW UP ON THE ERA  
NATIONAL ACTION PLANS**

**NOTE TO ERAC**

32nd plenary meeting of ERAC  
Agenda point 4.2  
Brussels, 2 December 2016

At the workshop on implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the ERA National Action Plans that took place in Bratislava 15 September 2016, it was agreed that the follow-up on the implementation and monitoring of the national action plans should be done as a learning exercise for the ERA countries where they can learn from each other and share best practices. The aim of such an exercise is to increase the efficiency of the research policies and actions in all ERA Countries.

The ERAC Steering Board on 18 October 2016 discussed how the proposed learning exercise/sharing of best practices could take place and recommends the following:

Such exercises should be organised on a regular basis and take place in workshops that would be organised back-to-back with the ERAC meetings. They should last maximum half a day. Ideally the workshops would take place in connection with the ERAC meetings in the countries of the Presidency. Malta has confirmed that the first workshop can take place back-to-back with the ERAC plenary on 15 March 2017 in the afternoon.

The workshops should focus on topics and not on individual countries. To start with, these workshops could cover an exchange on topics that are already dealt with by ERA-related groups such as Helsinki, SGHRM and the GPC as these groups are already assessing the national action plans for their priorities, e.g. priority 4, 3 and 2a respectively. Subsequently, the workshops could look at other topics such as priority 1 with monitoring of the roadmap as the core of this priority.

It is important to have information from the other groups on the thematic topics chosen both to have a comprehensive picture and to define other topics besides the priority 1 to be discussed and followed-up by particular workshops.

The set-up of the workshop would be the following:

- Presentation of the analysis carried out by the other ERA-related groups
- Assessment of priority 1 and other priorities not covered by ERA-related groups
- Monitoring quantified by objectives, actions, timelines and the targets
- What can we learn from this, which impact will it have and what are the next steps?

The exact procedure including the methodology for the exchange and the choice of topics could be proposed by the Presidency and the Commission in cooperation, in particular for the first workshop. The procedure can be adapted to the experience made at the first workshop.

At the ERAC meeting in December 2016, the Commission will present a quantitative analysis of the ERA National Action Plans per country and priority based on the four indicators (objective, actions, timelines and the targets).