



Council of the European Union
General Secretariat

Brussels, 06 June 2017

WK 6199/2017 INIT

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WORKING PAPER

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From: ERAC Secretariat
To: ERAC (European Research Area and Innovation Committee)

Subject: ERAC plenary 16 June 2017 - agenda item 5 (Standing Information Point)
Follow-up on the ERA National Action Plans

ERAC Members will find attached the SIP Note (Follow-up on the ERA national action plans) relating to item 5 of the agenda of the ERAC plenary on 16 June 2017 in Brussels.

**ERAC - Standing Information Point
Follow-up on the ERA national action plans**

34th plenary meeting
Agenda item 5
Brussels, 16 June 2017

Background:

One of the main conclusions from the workshop in Malta 15 March was that there are differences in the delivery of the ERA Priority 1 because the situation varies in different Member States. Both in the workshop and in ERAC it was agreed that delegations would send their input on how best to plan and use future workshops dedicated to the follow-up of the ERA national action plans.

Proposals were sent by DK, CZ, NO, FI, CY, SI, AT, ES and HR.

Delegations pointed out that organising the discussions in plenary as in the last two workshops made it difficult to discuss the issues in depth and it was suggested to organise smaller groups in break-out sessions to discuss more specific, though related issues. This has also been suggested by some of the incoming proposals.

The proposals are focusing on: funding and synergies between the various funding (other EU funding and private funding), the complementarity of the funding at EU and national levels, how the implementation of the National Action Plans is carried out, the link between Priority 1 and Priority 3, measures to contrast the widening of the excellence gap in Europe.

The SB agreed that such a workshop on ERA NAPs will be organized back-to-back to the ERAC plenary in Tartu, Estonia on 21-22 September 2017. There will be three break-out sessions (in smaller subgroups of around 10-15 persons).

Proposal for the next workshop:

It is proposed that the overarching subject of the workshop will be "An increased focus on how the implementation of the national action plans is carried out. How can a strong focus on national reforms be maintained in order to promote a more even allocation of framework programme funds and further develop a coherent and high performing ERA?"

On the basis of the incoming proposals it is suggested to split up into three more specific subjects:

1) **Excellence:** Share experiences about the implementation of reforms aimed at creating effective national research and innovation systems that provide a solid foundation for an excellence based approach with a focus on for example institutional autonomy, structural reforms and increased peer review.

2) **Funding:** Share experiences with ensuring well-functioning and efficient funding systems - in particular with regard to the move to more competitive funding in national research

systems as well as how best to encourage increased private funding in research and innovation.

3) **Complementarity**: Strategic aspects of bringing individual sectorial policies at EU and national level closer together in terms of their mutual complementarity (objectives as well as administrative rules). Good practices on improving policy coherence at strategic in relation to the top action of the ERA Roadmap priority 1 "Seeking complementarities between, and rationalisation of, instruments at EU and national level".¹

The groups should be organised on beforehand and it is proposed that each subgroup would be chaired by a country delegate. Countries can then express their interest for the subgroup they wish to attend. The chair and the participants would ideally get in touch on beforehand to discuss the actual issues they want to discuss and preferably a short note on the basis of these discussions will be prepared by the chair.

The agenda of the meeting would be a short introduction in plenary of the three groups and then break-out sessions. In the breakout sessions the discussion would start with the input from the chair. The workshop ends with reporting back into plenary by the chair or a rapporteur and discussion of the possible next steps. This will be reported back to the ERAC meeting by one of the chairs. A written summary will also be provided to the ERAC secretariat following the workshop.

The link between priority 1 and 3 will be discussed at a later stage.

¹ Synergies and complementarity of funding mechanisms will not be targeted in this workshop as a Mutual Learning Exercise under the Policy Support Facility on the same subject is taking place in parallel. The request for the MLE was launched through ERAC as well as the call for interest. The MLE consists of 15 countries.