



Council of the European Union
General Secretariat

Brussels, 26 September 2017

WK 10321/2017 INIT

LIMITE

ERAC

WORKING PAPER

WORKING DOCUMENT

From:	ERAC Secretariat
To:	ERAC (European Research Area and Innovation Committee)
Subject:	Outcome of the workshop ERA national action plans 20 September 2017 (agenda item 5.2)

Delegations will find attached the Powerpoint presentation made on agenda item 5.2 during the ERAC meeting in Tartu on 21-22 September 2017.

Outcome of the workshop
ERA national action plans
20 September 2017

Excellence group

- Ensure that research is not only being defined by the financial possibilities, ensuring the right mixture of the employed staff. Need to look at these new challenges
- External evaluation and performance contracts are some example of ways to ensure the efficient balance
- Discussion on how structural reforms are defined showed that they are based on the national needs and the ERA national action plans only play a minor role in the definition of reforms
- Discussion on peer review concluded that the PSF tool could be considered also in later stages of the reforms and by more countries than those starting from a lower baseline.
- The sub-group setting proved to be more productive than the plenary setting

Funding group

- Find a reasonable balance between institutional and competitive funding (both allocated on performance basis)
- Find a reasonable balance between permanent and fixed-term researchers' positions
- Ex-ante evaluation for funding is adequate in most countries, often involving international peer review; the same does not apply for ex-post evaluation (impact assessment); there is room for improvement and need (and opportunity) for MLE
- To achieve effective synergies between funds for research coming from National and EU sources, there is a need for harmonisation of regulations among the different EU 'pockets' (FP, ESIF, Health, Agriculture...) and for compatibility with National rules (SoE is a good/bad example... state aid rules)
- Stability of funding (both direct and incentives) over the years is essential to achieve a strengthening of the National Research Systems (even if there are multi-annual framework strategies, budgets are allocated on a yearly basis and they can experience unforeseen cuts)
- Research is overall under-funded; need to raise interest/will of the society (particularly of the private sector) to invest (more) in research; a stronger link between research and education, a stronger relationship with territorial specialisations, an improved communication of research results can be measures to boost investment
- The sub-group considers the ERA Roadmap and the National Roadmaps useful for structuring the National research systems; therefore these workshops are useful, and the sub-group approach is very productive

Complementarity group

- Main reason for participation is transnational collaboration/excellence/critical mass
- Optimal balance between national and EU funding
- Complementarity is best addressed at the programming level
- 1 Lack of strategy at EU level/lack of information – long term – to align your national strategy with European level strategies
- 2 Total landscape is very complex – how to coordinate with limited (human & financial) resources? Capacity building at national level
- How to get more efficient complementarity
- Annual follow-up & decision making where to participate and contribute with funding including definition of criteria for setting and terminating initiatives and definition of the responsibilities for each partnership

Complementarity cont.

How best to ensure continued follow-up of ERA National Action Plans

- Build on the existing ERA national action plans to explore new topics of common concern

Topics for future workshops

- More hands on – in concrete areas - on implementation (eg. Seal of excellence, infrastructure, use of European level facilities)
- The Mission oriented approach and the role of PPPs, P2Ps and Joint Programming in that context and the involvement of the stakeholders and MS in the European programming
- To select the topics in close relation with the priorities of the Council
- How to design European research policy to cover INNOVATION?

Overall conclusion

- Further workshop proposed
- The subject needs to be discussed
- Commission to send proposal on the basis of the outcome of the workshop yesterday and decide on the basis of a „vote“