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LIMITE

ERAC

WORKING PAPER

WORKING DOCUMENT

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<th>From:</th>
<th>ERAC Secretariat</th>
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<td>To:</td>
<td>ERAC (European Research Area and Innovation Committee)</td>
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<td>Subject:</td>
<td>Outcome of the workshop ERA national action plans 20 September 2017 (agenda item 5.2)</td>
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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 (e.g. 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“