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From: ERAC Secretariat  
To: ERAC (European Research Area and Innovation Committee)  
Subject: ERAC Plenary 17 May - agenda item 4.2 (Updates from the ERA-related Groups)

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In view of item 4.2 of the agenda of the ERAC plenary on 17 May, delegations will find attached the updates from the ERA-related Groups.

Delegations are informed that at its meeting on 24 April, the ERAC Steering Board decided that the written contributions by the ERA-related groups for each Plenary would be accompanied by a cover note highlighting the key issues that the discussions at the ERAC Plenary on this specific item should focus on.

The key issues for the ERAC Plenary on 17 May will be the following:

- a) the monitoring tool created by GPC for analysing the parts relating to Priority 2a in the National ERA Action Plans;
- b) the priority setting process on open innovation (Standing Working Group on Open Science and Innovation);
- c) stakeholder initiative concerning gender in FP9 (Standing Working Group for Gender in R&I).

Delegations are kindly asked to refer to the written contributions of the above-mentioned ERA-related groups for information on these key issues.

## UPDATES FROM THE ERA-RELATED GROUPS

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## ESFRI

Since the 37<sup>th</sup> ERAC meeting in March 2018 in Sofia, ESFRI focused on the following activities:

### ESFRI Roadmap 2018

ESFRI continued the work on the 2018 update of the Roadmap. In particular, ESFRI working groups fully updated the landscape analysis indicating synergies and complementarities among the Landmarks and the Projects, and finalised the progress assessment of the Projects that were admitted to the Roadmap in 2008. Based on the outcomes of this evaluation, the ESFRI Plenary Forum decided to award ESFRI Landmark status to eight new European Research Infrastructures, which will enter into force when the 2018 Roadmap is formally adopted:

- **CTA** – Cherenkov Telescope Array
- **ECCSEL** – European Carbon Dioxide Capture and Storage Laboratory Infrastructure
- **EISCAT\_3D** – Next Generation European Incoherent Scatter Radar System
- **EMBRC** – European Marine Biological Resource Centre
- **EPOS** – European Plate Observing System
- **ERINHA** – European Research Infrastructure on Highly Pathogenic Agents
- **EU-OPENSREEN** – European Infrastructure of Open Screening Platforms for Chemical Biology
- **Euro-Bioimaging** - European Research Infrastructure for Imaging Technologies in Biological and Biomedical Sciences

The ESFRI working groups also finished the evaluation of 12 new proposals received for the Roadmap. Extensive work is also currently ongoing on the text of all parts of the Roadmap, including the strategic chapter, the landscape analysis and the Research Infrastructure information cards. The decision on which new projects will be admitted to the Roadmap as well as the adoption of the entire document is foreseen for the 65<sup>th</sup> Forum meeting on 28-29 June. The ESFRI Roadmap 2018 will be publicly launched under the Austrian Presidency on the 11<sup>th</sup> of September in Vienna.

### Long-term sustainability of Research Infrastructures

ESFRI also exchanged information about the national positions on the priority actions for the Action Plan on Long-term Sustainability of Research Infrastructures, which has a direct relevance for making progress on the ERA Priority 2b. The main topics discussed included:

- the extent of needed alignment and synchronisation of national decision making processes and investment decisions,
- fostering greater coherence and synergies of the different funding instruments available for investments in Research Infrastructures,
- organisation of an effective and robust monitoring system for the ESFRI Research Infrastructures,
- the need for development of a methodology to be more transparent on costs,
- enhancing the benefits and impact of Research Infrastructures on industry and society.

## GPC

The work of the GPC, since the ERAC meeting in March 2018, includes activities related to:

### **Measuring the Progress and Implementation of Priority 2a of the ERA Roadmap:**

The final Report of the Task Force “**ERA NAPs and Strategies Analysis for Priority 2a**” and a monitoring mechanism were adopted by the GPC early this year. The output of the first monitoring exercise, as well as best practises on implemented national measures in Norway were presented and discussed during the GPC meeting in March 2018.

A more detailed note is attached and a short presentation will be given at the ERAC meeting.

### **Working Group on Long Term Strategy of Joint Programming**

During the GPC meeting in March 2018, the TF presented the deliverables and the work concluded so far. As a follow up, the GPC delegations raised the following 3 main points: (i) there is a need to ensure that the report is drafted in a way which foresees repeatability and comparability for the future, (ii) the IG3 criteria could be taken into consideration and (iii) the GPC could consider at a later stage discussing the alignment between the JPIs and the missions-oriented approach.

Draft LTS analysis report is foreseen for the following GPC meeting in June.

### **Contribution to the ERAC ad-hoc WG on Partnerships**

During its last meeting in March 2018, the GPC organised a discussion on the output of the Group work. The GPC delegates expressed their support for the need for rationalisation of the partnerships landscape. In addition, the main points raised by GPC delegations were related to the need for: (i) an overall governance for different partnerships, (ii) a life cycle and/or an exit strategy for partnerships (iii) increased synergies between different initiatives, (iv) strong link between the public and the private (v) alignment in general terms and (vi) clear lines of the division of the work between the Member States and the EC.

### **Input on the Review of the ERA Advisory Structure**

Mr Christian NACZINSKY, ERAC Member States co-Chair, attended the last GPC meeting and presented the latest developments concerning the review of the ERA advisory structure.

The documents relevant to the work of the GPC and the GPC self-assessment report were submitted to the ERAC Rapporteur.

### **Mutual learning Exercise (MLE) on Alignment and Interoperability**

The GPC decided to organise a session during the next GPC meeting in June for discussing the follow-up of the Mutual Learning Exercise (MLE) on alignment and interoperability that took place between 2016-2017 and was originally initiated by the GPC.

The GPC delegates were asked to provide feedback on the national follow-up actions and the former chair of the MLE, Jana KOLAR has been invited to chair the discussion.

## GPC Task Force on ERA national action plans (NAPs) and strategies – Analysis of Priority 2a

### 1. Text Analysis

Text analysis was based on 28<sup>1</sup> NAPs and strategies, of 23 Member States (MS) and 5 Associated Countries (AC) with more than 90 actions announced in the view of strengthening Joint Programming Process and jointly addressing grand societal challenges.

The word clouds showed that words European, national, research and participation are most common in the NAPs and strategies, both in objectives and actions description.

Joint programming initiatives or JPIs are specifically mentioned in only 10 NAPs' and strategies' actions, mainly in connection to additional funding, budget commitment and mapping. Other NAPs and strategies used the term joint programming in general, including also ERA-NETs and Art. 185.

Similarities were seen between objectives and actions in the use of words, and in links between words, where one of the strongest links is research-innovation in both cases. Difference can be seen in addressing national and European level where in listed objectives research is strongly connected to term national, differently to actions where word research has a strong link with adjective European.

### 2. Classification of Actions

Further analysis was made comparing the actions written in 23<sup>2</sup> NAPs and Strategies of 20 MSs and 3 ACs. Four typical areas can be easily grouped, addressing:

- ↳ **governance issues** (47%)
- ↳ **communication and information** (20%)
- ↳ **funding measures** (20%)
- ↳ **monitoring** (13%)

### 3. Monitoring Process

The GPC decided to create a mechanism in order to monitor, in an annual basis, the implementation of Priority 2a actions written in NAPs and Strategies.

For this purpose, an Excel Progress tool was developed where delegates answered questions that lead them to final answer which is further marked in progress sheet on progress scale:

FINISHED // ON TRACK // ON-GOING WITH DELAY // POSTPONED // TERMINATED // CANCELLED.

The idea is to show how the entire Priority 2a is progressing and not to compare countries on individual actions.

(1) Has any activity for this action, item... taken place?	YES				NO			
(2) Was the activity delayed?	YES		NO		YES		NO	
(3) Is the activity stopped?	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO
	TERMINATED	ON-GOING WITH DELAY	FINISHED	ON TRACK	CANCELLED	POSTPONED TILL	CANCELLED	SCHEDULED FOR

### 4. Results

Out of 93 actions, 52 were described according to the progress tool with response rate of MSs/ACs being 70'8%. 41 description of actions are still missing (CH, LT, LV, ME, MT, NL, RO).

Some actions are already finished (6), mostly on track – 37 actions (71%) . If those on track will be finished – we would have 4/5 (79%) of actions implemented.

Some actions are ongoing with delay, and some postponed, representing 17% of actions

4 actions are even terminated or canceled.

<sup>1</sup> AT, BE, BG, BA, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, EL, ES, FI, FR, IE, IT, LT, LU, LV, ME, MT, NL, NO, PT, RO, SI, SK, UK

<sup>2</sup> AT, BE, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, EL, ES, FI, FR, IE, IT, LT, LV, ME, MT, NL, NO, PT, RO, SI

## SFIC

Since the 37<sup>th</sup> ERAC meeting in March 2018 in Sofia, SFIC focused on the following activities:

### **Future SFIC working groups**

An important part of the last plenary was dedicated to discussion around the future SFIC working groups. A large majority of delegations agreed on the usefulness of setting up working groups related to specific geographical areas or countries in addition to working groups dedicated to thematic issues. Delegations also emphasized that any working groups should be set up with a clear scope and time frame, with limited and precise objectives and deliverables. It could be settled only if a minimum number of delegations are ready to actively participate.

In conclusion, SFIC's delegations agreed on the establishment of a **working group on international research and innovation strategies**. To date, 9 MS/AC are interesting to participate to the group. The work shall be supported by a MLE.

Others ideas of WG were discussed, a discussion group will be set up for prioritisation.

Following the same idea, **the working group on toolbox** was prolonged in order to establish a transition with the RIO. The SFIC idea is to include international criteria in the RIO report.

### **Participation of associated countries in the next FP**

Concerning the participation of associated countries in the next FP, SFIC has delegated its wish to receive further information from the Commission on the association of third countries (contribution, participation, financial rules, ...). The Commission will come back during the next plenary.

## SWG GRI

### **Sub-group on the implementation of Council Conclusions of 1 Dec 2015 on advancing gender equality in the ERA**

- A questionnaire has been drafted by the sub-group for a survey among SWG GRI members on the implementation of Council Conclusions of 1 Dec 2015 on advancing gender equality in the ERA and discussed at the second meeting of the SWG GRI on 19 April. The questionnaire was revised in line with member comments.
- The survey will be launched at the beginning of May, with deadline on 31 May 2018 for delegations to complete.
- The analysis is planned for completion at the end of August and should be presented to ERAC no later than at the December ERAC Plenary.
- Under negotiation with FI PRES is the presentation of the results at the FI PRES conference to commemorate 20 years of European activities to support gender equality in research.

### **Mutual learning**

- At its second meeting on 19 April 2018, the topic for mutual learning was implicit gender bias. Background document was circulated to delegations with guiding questions, and two country presentations (UK, SE) were delivered. SWG GRI position paper will be drafted after the meeting and delivered to ERAC.

### **ERA review**

- At its second meeting on 19 April 2018, members discussed input for the self-assessment report submitted on 20 April 2018; the chair provided an update on the process.

### **Stakeholder initiative concerning gender in Framework Programme 9**

- On 16 April 2018 the chair of SWG GRI was contacted by Professor Liisa Husu, Örebro University, Sweden, and Professor Eileen Drew, Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland, the convenors of the 10<sup>th</sup> European Conference on Gender Equality in Higher Education held in August 2018 with a petition Gender equality in EU's next research funding programme, which calls on stakeholders including the Commission, Member States, ERAC and SWG GRI to ensure that gender equality and gender mainstreaming is a self-standing objective in the next FP and to maintain the current three priorities (gender balance in decision making, gender balance in research teams, gender dimension in research and innovation). They also call on preserving funding for cultural and institutional changes as an important instrument for advancing gender equality as well as European values more generally, and caution about the current backlash against gender equality.
- **The initiative has so far garnered the support of more than 1,700 signatories from over 45 countries.**
- We continue to see major differences in gender equality as well as in the policies and actions taken to support gender equality across MS, and the framework programme has been a vital instrument to advance gender equality and instigate changes in Research Funding and Performing Organizations. SWG GRI holds that gender equality must continue to play an important role in the next FP in order to advance further toward the objectives of the European Research Area as well as Responsible Research and Innovation.



- In view of the immense support received by the petition since its launch on 12 April, the SWG GRI invites Member States to:
  - o Make gender equality a priority in FP9
  - o Consider gender in their national positions on FP9
  - o Retain and reinforce the three objectives of H2020 to promote gender equality and the gender dimension in R&I
  - o Continue the support for institutional changes through gender equality plans
  - o Integrate gender equality and the gender dimension in the new FP9 structure, and include it in all Missions

#### **Reporting from H2020 project GENDERACTION to the SWG GRI**

- SWG GRI received an update on the work done by H2020 project GENDERACTION at the second meeting on 19 April 2018 and exchanged views on the upcoming tasks. Specifically, members contributed to the discussion of the design of the mutual learning actions (including visits, one-to-one and group coaching and other types of support actions) to be provided by the project to national representatives. Mentors and coaches will be identified among SWG GRI members. The objective is to build capacity and exchange good practices across Europe.

## SWG HRM

Recent results of the SWG HRM work since the last ERAC Plenary in March:

- **Work program for 2018 – 2019** for the Standing Working Group on Human Resources and Mobility has been elaborated and finalized. It was presented to ERAC Steering Board and approved at last meeting of the group held on April 25, 2018 in Brussels. The final work program includes the following lines of action and thematic priorities:
  - Contribution to the next Framework program (FP9) in the areas of the group's work and mission.
  - Promotion and development of research careers and inter-sectoral mobility of researchers.
  - Synergies between ERA and EHEA and issues related to higher education, training, researchers careers, and the knowledge triangle (education, research and innovation).
  - Synergies with the Open Science agenda, and follow-up on open science skills & education, as well as rewards and recognition in collaboration with SWI OS/OI as well as synergies with gender equality and the integration of gender dimensions in the research and innovation content; specifically related to human resources policies in research in collaboration with SWG GI
  - Follow-up on ERA priority 3 national action plans.
- **Researchers' career and mobility.** At the last meeting, presentations on programs, initiatives and activities relations de career development and researchers mobility were given by Norway, Austria and Belgium.
- **Initial discussions** were made on what would be the means to provide suggestions/recommendations for FP9 regarding human resources and mobility and how to further advance on the review/progress of Priority 3 - *"An open labour market for researchers.*

## SWG OSI

Since the Plovdiv meeting of the ERAC on 15 and 16 March 2018, the SWG OSI has continued its work on the preparation of its first set of recommendations to the ERAC on Open Science and Innovation. Last meeting was held in Brussels the 6<sup>th</sup> of February and next meeting of the ERAC SWG OSI will take place the 16<sup>th</sup> of May.

### **Summary of activities carry on by the ERAC SWG OSI**

#### ▪ **Recommendations to ERAC on Open Science and Innovation**

A taskforce within the SWG OSI has been charged to draft the first set of SWG OSI recommendations to ERAC on Open Science and Innovation. The draft will circulate among delegates the 10<sup>th</sup> of May, at the latest. Comments and main conclusions will be discussed during the coming SWG OSI meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2018. The aim is to provide ERAC with a concise and practical set of recommendations based on recent trends and policy actions on open science and innovation.

#### ▪ **Open Science and the European Open Science Cloud**

The SWG OSI followed closely the drafting of the EC staff working document on the implementation plan for the EOSC. The opinion of the SWG on EOSC governance was completed early February, before the EC issued its final version on the implementation plan for the EOSC (March 2018).

The SWG OSI supports the six main action lines to implement EOSC, the federated architecture upon which EOSC is based, and the two stages governance approach (phase 1 & 2). The SWG OSI stresses the role of Member States and Associated Countries together with the European Commission as funders and top decision making body, and considers that in the process of implementation further analysis and clarification of different roles and functions will be needed, and in particular and in depth analysis of the underlying business model that will ensure long term sustainability of EOSC.

The final version of the SWG OSI opinion on this matter will be provided after our next meeting (16<sup>th</sup> of May), taking into consideration the final proposal of the European Commission.

#### ▪ **Monitoring the 5th ERA Priority**

At the occasion of its next meeting (16<sup>th</sup> of May) the SWG OSI will discuss how to improve the systematic monitoring of the 5<sup>th</sup> ERA priority together with the Open Science and Open Innovation dimensions of the ERA roadmap, according to the suggestion made by the co-Chair of the ERAC during the Plovdiv meeting.

- **Innovation**

At the February meeting delegates were asked to provide the Chair and Vice-Chair inputs about the more relevant questions on innovation policies to be specifically addressed by the SWG OSI. In the absence of comments from delegations, during the meeting of 16<sup>th</sup> of May we will agreed upon the future work to be conducted during this year in the light of current debates and perspectives on innovation policies at EU, national and regional levels. In such context, Council Conclusions from the Bulgarian Presidency on knowledge co-creation and transfer will be taken into account.

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