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

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Subject: ERAC Plenary 17 May - agenda item 6 (Standing Information Point)  
Update on the activities of the Horizon 2020 Policy Support Facility 'PSF'

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In view of the discussions under item 6 of the agenda of the ERAC plenary on 17 May, delegations will find attached an update on the activities of the Horizon 2020 Policy Support Facility 'PSF'.

**ERAC - Standing Information Point**  
**Update on the activities of the Horizon 2020 Policy Support Facility 'PSF'**

38<sup>th</sup> Plenary meeting  
Agenda Item 6  
Brussels, 17 May 2018

The attached summary lists 26 activities launched through the [Horizon 2020 Policy Support Facility](#) (PSF), since its start in 2015, and the projects planned for 2018 and 2019.

The [PSF Knowledge Centre](#) presents the main findings of all PSF activities. In addition the PSF monthly newsletter<sup>1</sup> (please subscribe [here](#)) informs about the PSF highlights and presents factsheets on each new PSF activity (e.g. [Tunisia](#)), articles summarising the findings of recently concluded activities (see [Latvia](#) or [Romania](#)) and updates on the ongoing activities (e.g. MLE on [National Practices in Widening Participation and Strengthening Synergies](#)).

The final reports from two mutual learning exercises on [performance-based funding of university research](#) and on [open science](#) have been recently published. The concept note and call for expression of interest for the forthcoming MLE on research integrity was circulated to ERAC on 23 March 2018. Other PSF activities to be launched in 2018 are PSF specific supports to Montenegro, Cyprus and Denmark; as well as peer reviews in Malta and Estonia.

In addition, a policy seminar on “*How to make the most of mutual learning for research and innovation policy*” is planned for September 2018 with representatives from all parties involved in PSF MLEs (host and participant countries, experts). It shall permit us to reflect on how to improve PSF mutual learning tools and formats, maximise effectiveness and inspire their future design under the PSF 2.0. The proposed seminar follows to the [PSF seminar on policy support to reforms of national R&I systems](#) (December 2017), on PSF country-specific activities.

Given the large interest expressed by countries as a result of the 2017 PSF call for expression of interest, the PSF pipeline foresees a number of country-specific activities for 2019, including support to Latvia, Armenia, Malta and Tunisia. Since the 2019 budget is fully committed, the Commission will not launch a call for peer reviews or specific support activities in 2018. As regards PSF mutual learning exercises, and given the committed budget and the need to give due follow up to previous MLEs, only one exercise shall be launched in 2019. The list of topics for that MLE will be circulated to ERAC in June 2018, so that members indicate their priority.

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You can subscribe here to our [PSF Newsletter](#)

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<sup>1</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/rtd/newsletter-specific-archive-issue.cfm?newsletter\\_service\\_id=545&lang=default](http://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/rtd/newsletter-specific-archive-issue.cfm?newsletter_service_id=545&lang=default)

## Summary list of the concluded, ongoing and planned PSF activities

The [Horizon 2020 Policy Support Facility](#) (PSF) provides support in the design, implementation and evaluation of research and innovation policy reforms, is demand-driven and responds to requests made by Member States and Associated Countries. Its support is either topic-specific (mutual learning exercises) or country-specific (peer reviews of national R&I systems, or specific support to a policy reform).

### **I. PSF Peer Reviews of national R&I systems**

- [Bulgaria](#) (final report published in October 2015)
- [Moldova](#) (final report published in July 2016)
- [Hungary](#) ([pre-Peer Review](#) published in October 2015; [Peer Review](#) in September 2016)
- [Ukraine](#) (final report published in December 2016)
- [Poland](#) (final report published in September 2017);
- [Malta](#) (planned for 2018)
- [Estonia](#) (planned for 2018)

### **II. PSF Specific Support to countries**

- [Malta](#) on tools to monitor the national R&I Strategy (final report published in July 2016)
- [Slovakia](#) on framework conditions for start-ups/ high growth innovative enterprises (final report published in February 2017)
- [Romania](#) on innovative entrepreneurship (final report published in January 2018)
- [Slovenia](#) on the internationalisation of science and higher education policies, and on the cooperation between the science base and businesses (under finalisation).
- [Bulgaria](#) on performance-based funding of public research and on evaluation of research institutions (under finalisation)
- [Lithuania](#) on attraction of innovation-oriented FDI and on science-business cooperation (final report published in October 2017)
- [Latvia](#) on the funding system for public research, notably its governance and organisational aspects (final report published in February 2018)
- [Georgia](#) on identification of promising research fields, science-business links and performance-based evaluation of research entities (launched in October 2017).
- [Tunisia](#) on private sector participation in R&I and methodology for defining research priorities (starting soon).
- [Cyprus](#) on the use of publicly funded infrastructures by the business sector (planned for 2018)
- [Montenegro](#) on the development of the start-up ecosystem (planned for 2018)
- [Denmark](#) (topic tbc, to be launched in 2018)
- [Malta](#) on open access (planned for 2019)
- [Latvia](#) on human resources for R&D (planned for 2019)
- [Armenia](#) (planned for 2019)

### III. PSF Mutual Learning Exercises

- **Pilot Mutual Learning Exercise on measures to stimulate business R&I**, during which the new MLE methodology was proposed (concluded in June 2015);
- **Evaluation of business R&D grant schemes (phase 2)** - launched in June 2017; with participation of AT, BE, DE, HR, ES, FR, LT, SE, SI, NO, TR, UK,;
- **Administration and monitoring of R&D tax incentives** with participation of LV, PT, BE, FR, NO, NL, UK (concluded in October 2016);
- **Evaluation of business R&D grant schemes** with participation of NO, DK, ES, SE, DE, TR, RO (concluded in November 2016);
- **Evaluation of complex public private partnerships** with participation of BE, NO, BG, SE (concluded in October 2016);
- **Alignment and Interoperability of research programmes** (national coordination) –with participation of FR, LT, DK, TK, NO, AT, PT, EE, SI, SE and RO (DE as observer), dissemination workshop on 28 June 2017 in Brussels ;
- **Performance-based funding of public research organisations** – ongoing, with participation of AT, CZ, CY, EE, ES, NO, SI, SE, PT, AM, IT, TK, HR, MD;
- **Innovation procurement** - ongoing, with participation of AT, EL, EE, LV, ES, PT, DE, SI, FR, IE, NO, TR, BE, LT, SE, NL
- **Open science** - ongoing; with participation of LT, SI, FR, BE, LV, CH, PT, HR, MD, AT, AM, SE, BG;
- **National practice in widening Participation to the EU Framework Programmes and strengthening synergies between H2020 and European Structural Investment Funds** - launched in May 2017, with participation of FR, DK, CY, FI, TK, SE, BE, HR, DE (as observer), ES, SI, PL, LV, BG and HU;
- ***Research Integrity*** (to be launched in 2018, concept note and call for expression of interest was circulated to ERAC on 23 March 2018; scoping workshop is planned for June 2018)