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**MEETING DOCUMENT**

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

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Subject: ERAC Plenary in Brussels on 6 December 2018 - 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 6 December, delegations will find attached the "Updates from the ERA-related Groups."

## UPDATES FROM THE ERA-RELATED GROUPS

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## ESFRI

Since the 39<sup>th</sup> ERAC meeting in September 2018, ESFRI focused on the follow-up of Competitiveness Council conclusions of 29 May 2018 on "Accelerating knowledge circulation in the EU", in which the Council:

*Para. 19. Stresses the importance of human resources and training skills as key factors in the success for Research Infrastructures and ACKNOWLEDGES the need for Research Infrastructures to strengthen a service-driven approach; INVITES Member States and the Commission within the framework of ESFRI to develop a common approach for monitoring of their performance and INVITES the Pan-European Research Infrastructures, on a voluntary basis, to include it in their governance and explore options to support this through the use of Key Performance Indicators.*

As the starting point for addressing this mandate, on 19-20 November ESFRI organised a workshop in Milan on Monitoring of RIs, Periodic Update of Landmarks and Use of KPIs. The objective of the workshop was twofold

- a) to elaborate the concept of PERIODIC UPDATE OF ESFRI LANDMARKS along the lines that emerged from Forum discussions in 2017 and 2018, based on the results of a PILOT PERIODIC REVIEW of LANDMARKS carried out in 2016;
- b) launch a new ESFRI ad hoc Working Group on Monitoring of Research Infrastructure Performance, whose main objective is to develop a common approach to monitoring, as specified in Council conclusions of 29 May.

The workshop was broadcasted live via the ESFRI YouTube channel and its integral recording can be accessed through the ESFRI.eu website, where also the slides of the presentation are available. The workshop (with an attendance of 80) was effective in addressing the issues with a constructive dialogue between the Landmarks and ESFRI, with concrete conclusions on the way forward, which will be specified and operationalised by the new WG:

- The update of Landmarks will be built on accumulation of evidence and current practices at RIs with respect to all advisory, review, assessment exercises that are typically done by the owners and asked by the management of the RIs. This will be supported with dedicated e-tools.
- Periodically, ESFRI will address the ensemble of the results and agree with the Landmark on the most appropriate update format, involving when relevant site visits, a dedicated workshop or other suitable means of summarizing and updating the state of play of the Landmark.
- The update cycle will have to be sustainable for both the RIs and ESFRI, and adequate to maintain a good knowledge of the evolution of the Landmark through its lifecycle.
  
- A common approach to methodology for monitoring, applicable to all RIs, as requested by the Council, will be built on the special case of ESFRI Landmarks, generalizing and taking into account the further specificities of national or international RIs of non-ESFRI format.

After the end of the Workshop, on 20 November, the first meeting of the Working Group took place. The report of the Group is expected to be delivered to ESFRI by the summer of 2019.

## GPC

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

### **1. Future Planning for GPC**

Following the ERA Governance Review Report and the recommendations about the future role and responsibilities / mandate of the GPC, the GPC is planning to focus its next steps on how to implement the Council Conclusions (30/11/2018).

The first discussion on possible practical ways to implement the decisions is foreseen during the next GPC meeting (07 Dec. 2018). The ERAC Co-Chair Christian Naczinsky has been invited and will attend the GPC meeting for this discussion.

### **2. GPC Work Programme 2018-19**

Following the ERAC meeting in Salzburg, the GPC Work Programme 2018-19 was adopted by written procedure.

### **3. Collaboration with ERA – Related Groups**

The GPC Vice – Chair attended the last SFIC meeting (26/09/2018) and presented the GPC's Monitoring Tool and the international dimension of P2Ps. On this occasion, possible ways of cooperation between the two groups were discussed.

A follow-up discussion is foreseen for the next GPC meeting.

### **4. 10 Years of Joint Programming**

The conference "*10 Years Joint Programming - Achievements and the Way Forward*" was organised in Vienna, under the Austrian Presidency of the Council of the EU on 19 and 20 Sep. 2018.

During the conference, a joint JPI Chairs declaration named "*Driving research and innovation to address global challenges*" was presented. The declaration summarises the JPIs' views and ambitions for their future development and impact and sets as common aim to strength Europe's pioneering role in achieving the UN Agenda 2030. The declaration was handed over to the Chair of the GPC and will be discussed during the next GPC meeting in Dec 2018.

### **5. Long Term Strategy of Joint Programming Initiatives**

The final report on the analysis of the Long Term Strategies of the Joint Programming Initiatives was adopted by the GPC in Sep. 2018.

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

The final monitoring report on the "Progress and Implementation of Priority 2a of the ERA Roadmap" was adopted by the GPC in Sep. 2018.

The analysis was based on 29 NAPs, of 24 MS and 5 AC including 97 actions. According to the report most (71%) of the actions are on track and few are ongoing with delay and only 4 actions are postponed or cancelled.

## **SFIC**

### **1. SFIC role in strategic orientations**

During the last plenary (26th September 2018), SFIC delegates held an exchange of views with the Director-General Jean-Eric PAQUET on international cooperation in Horizon Europe.

DG Paquet indicated that Horizon Europe should continue its general opening for third country participation and launch targeted actions to pursue strategic international cooperation in line with EU priorities and the core principles of common interest and mutual benefit. Delegations concurred on the complexity of international cooperation in the domain of innovation, and emphasised the SFIC role for a longer term, strategic approach to international cooperation.

The Commission proposed a brainstorming on how SFIC could provide strategic advice on international cooperation and beyond Horizon Europe, in particular in the context of pillar 2. After the meeting, the Commission service proposed the organisation of a dedicated workshop, which should be organized early 2019.

### **2. Link with other ERA related groups**

During the September plenary, the Co-chair of GPC presented the monitoring tool that GPC developed to monitor on a voluntary basis the implementation of the actions as reflected in the national roadmaps. This open possibility for SFIC to develop a similar tool.

The second part of the exchange was focussed on the collaboration between GPC and SFIC. The GPC co-chair presented the international dimension of partnerships. This topic has to be followed carefully.

The BG and HU SFIC delegates will provide the link to ESFRI and the Open Science Standing Working Group.

### **3. State of play of SFIC working groups**

#### **Ad hoc working group on benchmarking**

SFIC approved the mandate which deals with the benchmarking of national ERA roadmaps (priority 6). 9 countries confirmed their participation and the SFIC vice-chair will take the role of rapporteur in an initial phase.

Since then, the announcement on the selection of a MLE on international cooperation fulfilled the landscape of work.

### **4. Way forward for SFIC in view of ERA review report**

The conclusions of the ERAC ERA review report were recalled and proposals for improvements of organization were proposed (strengthened steering board, introduction of 'sentinel task forces' focusing on topical issues, correspondents with other ERA related groups, new meeting format...).

The thought is still on going and a group on countries volunteered to be part of the work.

## **5. Role of SFIC in international cooperation post-2020**

SFIC unanimously agreed to prepare a contribution with strategic advice on international cooperation post-2020. The opinion should be adopted during the next plenary.

The next plenary is planned for the 4<sup>th</sup> December.

## ERAC SWG on Gender in Research and Innovation (GRI)

### Meetings

The third meeting of the SWG GRI took place on 17 October 2018.

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

- The report on the implementation of the Council Conclusions of 1 Dec 2015 on advancing gender equality in the ERA was circulated to the SWG GRI for comment through the Delegates Portal on 25 September 2018 and discussed at the third meeting. The deadline for final comments was 30 October. The report was adopted and published on 21 November 2018. The results will be presented at the upcoming 40<sup>th</sup> ERAC Plenary on 6 December 2018.

### **Cooperation with other ERA related groups**

- The third meeting of SWG GRI on 17 October 2018 was attended by Thomas Lichtenwöhrer, a representative of the ERAC SWG on Open Science and Innovation's Task Force on Open Innovation. He delivered a presentation on the ongoing work on Open Innovation, and engaged in discussion with SWG GRI members on the relevance of gender issues for Open Innovation as part of Item 7 “Mutual learning exercise on gender and innovation, with a particular focus on open innovation”. The SWG GRI formed a small group (CZ, NO, chair) to prepare a written input for the Task Force; the small group also commented on the draft text prepared by the task force. Both were submitted within the agreed deadline of 30 October 2018.
- Following this the SWG GRI agreed to prepare a **policy brief on gender in Open Innovation** by the end of the year with a view to deliver the brief and recommendations to ERAC at the beginning of 2019. A small group was formed to prepare the brief (PT, TR, chair).

### **ERA Review**

- At the third meeting the SWG GRI discussed the relevant recommendations of the ERA Review report, and their implementation.

### **Cooperation with EU PRES**

In view of the upcoming FI PRES in the second half of 2019, FI delegate Matti Kajaste prepared a discussion point to collect input for the planned FI PRES conference to commemorate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of EU activities to support gender equality in research. Delegates were also invited to submit further ideas and suggestions in writing.

## ERAC SWG on Human Resources and Mobility (HRM)

**Subject: *Recent results of the Standing Working Group on Human Resources and Mobility (SWG HRM) since last ERAC plenary in September.***

The last meeting of the group took place on October 18, 2018 as scheduled. The meeting was hosted by the Spanish Office of Science and Technology in Brussels. A total of 19 countries attended. The European Commission also attended to present updates on EURAXESS, HRS4R and Open Science.

The main issues currently being addressed by the group include the following:

- **Recommendations of the review of the ERA advisory structure.** Following the specific recommendations in the ERAC report<sup>1</sup> the group has agreed to update the mandate to specifically include reference to the ERA Priority 3 as suggested. A revised mandate has been circulated and will be approved by the end of the month of November.
- **Contribution to the Horizon Europe.** As included in the work program, the group decided to provide a common view on Horizon Europe in aspects related to human resources. After discussion, it was agreed to prepare an input on the implementation of the Charter and Code of researchers, and review how to improved/maintain/reinforce this is reflected in the current H2020 model grant agreement in article 32. Other areas where suggestions could be made are in relation to ERC and MSCA. This is currently work in progress.
- **Review of ERA Roadmap NAs for Priority 3.** Delegates are currently working on the updates and progress of Priority 3 - *"An open labour market for researchers* for their countries. Written contributions were expected in the being of November however, since only a very few countries met the deadline the Chair extended the date until the end of November.

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<sup>1</sup> ERAC Opinion on the 2018 review of the ERA advisory structure (ERAC 1209/18).



## **ERAC SWG on Open Science and Innovation (OSI)**

### **a) New SWG OSI acting Chair**

Due to changes in her professional life, the Chair has stepped down as Chair of the group. The outgoing Chair in agreement with the Vice-Chair proposed for the Vice-Chair to take on the role of acting Chair until the elections in June 2019. Delegations agreed with this approach.

### **b) WG OSI Opinion on the EOSC governance models and Strategic Implementation Plan**

The Opinion has been approved.

### **c) Draft Recommendations to ERAC on Open Science and Open innovation**

An additional round of comments greatly helped the Task Force to draft a more robust and consensual document. The final version, to be adopted by written procedure on 26 November, incorporates all the different additions, providing a balanced compromise while still playing its required role to provide forward-looking advice to ERAC.

### **d) Sub-group on Open Innovation**

The coordinator (AT) of the SWG OSI's Task Force on OI has participated in the October meeting of the SWG GRI to brief them on the work planned by the Task Force, and assure the best complementarity between both groups. Furthermore, a questionnaire has been sent to delegations in order to gather inputs about existing policies and initiatives in the field of OI, and the intersection between Open Science practices and innovation. The aim is to present a 1st draft of the Opinion, informed by the answers to the questionnaire, for the next meeting of the SWG on 11 December.

### **e) Task Force on Communication**

A Task Force has been set up to look into how to communicate better the outputs from the ERAC SWG OSI and improve the internal communication within the SWG.

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