Brussels, 18 December 2019

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LIMITE

ERAC-SFIC

WORKING PAPER

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Delegations will find attached the PowerPoint presentation concerning the item 6 of the SFIC plenary agenda of 18 December 2019.
International dimension of ERA
Exchange of views between SFIC and ERA Stakeholders – Science Europe Contribution

Maud Evrard, Head of Policy Affairs, Science Europe

18 December 2019, Brussels
Science Europe in a nutshell

- Association of major public research organisations in Europe: Research Funding Organisations (RFO) and Research Performing Organisations (RPO) with a public mission

- Policy organisation, no funding or operational role

- Mission:
  - Advocacy and interest representation
  - Influencing European science policy making, legislations
  - Collaboration platform for members
  - Gradual alignment of policies and practices
37 member organisations from 28 countries;

Combined R&D investment: € 18bn / annum
International dimension of ERA

Global networks:
- Dominant form of organisation in research
- Knowledge creation

International collaboration
- Key component to scientific research
- Access to ideas, knowledge, technologies, etc.; Time savings; Cost-sharing for large scale projects

Enhanced international collaboration policies to contribute to:
- Supporting borderless science – using different funding sources, fostering mobility of researchers, developing lighter admin procedures for researchers;
- Promoting Open Science, putting knowledge creation, circulation, use at the core;
- Promoting shared values (e.g. academic freedom)
- Tackling global challenges, ensuring concerted scientific contributions.
International cooperation in Horizon Europe

- Indispensable to meet the FP objectives:
  - HEU focus on global challenges (SDGs, Missions) call for global participation and global impact

- Opportunity to:
  - stimulate new collaborations
  - facilitate co-funding with third countries

- However, international collaboration comes with some challenges:
  - Reconciliation of national interests and investments, with global concerns
  - Reciprocity (access to national programmes, Open Science, etc.)
  - Different legal frameworks
  - Competition vs Collaboration
SFIC current priorities: Cooperation with China

Bilateral cooperation with Chinese institutions

- **Partners selection**
  - In Europe: *e.g.* FWF (Austria), FWO (Belgium), ANR (France), Germany (DFG), NWO (the Netherlands), RCN (Norway), SNSF (Switzerland), UKRI (UK)...
  - In China: *e.g.* MOST, CAS, CAMS, CASS, **NSFC**, and regional entities

- **Formats**
  - Memoranda of Understanding for joint calls for research project – scientific excellence, common needs, shared funding, etc.
  - Permanent office in China (e.g. UKRI) - strategic insight and advice
  - Joint research centers (e.g. Sino-German Center for Research Promotion)

- **Issues**
  - Ethics
  - IPRs
  - Academic freedom
  - Use of intermediaries
SFIC current priorities: Cooperation with China

Belt and Road SDG Funding Framework

- Part of Chinese political agenda, Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)
- Led by National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC)
- Platform to cooperate with global funders and international organisations along the Belt & Road and beyond
- Initial NSFC budget: ca. 29 million dollars for 5 successive multilateral calls in 5 years
- Formal letter from NSFC President (June 2019) inviting (European) Funding Agencies to join the platform

Interest and caution:
- Political dimension
- Will it replace/jeopardize well established bilateral cooperation and programmes between NSFC and European Funding Agencies
- Who is defining the conditions?
Science Diplomacy

At organisation / national level

- **NWO Science Diplomacy Fund** as per 1 January 2020.
  - Annual budget of 250k€ for matchmaking activities (seminars/workshops)
  - Targeted countries: Russia, Turkey, Brazil, China and South Africa with which NL wishes to intensify its diplomatic relations.
  - Close collaboration with NL Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

- **RCN**
  - Role in National Action Plan for international cooperation
  - Increased on focus on Science Diplomacy.
  - Science diplomacy engagements informed by the SFIC work on the matter.
Science Diplomacy

At the global level


- Principles:
  - Safeguarding scientific values
  - Fostering openness
  - Building trust and relationship

- Approaches, including:
  - Developing a shared understanding of science diplomacy and one’s role in it
  - Supporting science on science diplomacy

At Science Europe’s level:

- Area to be explored on period 2020-2025
- Interest in exploring potential for collaboration with SFIC on the matter
Further Information

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