Brussels, 28 May 2019

WK 6702/2019 INIT

LIMITE

RECH

WORKING PAPER

This is a paper intended for a specific community of recipients. Handling and further distribution are under the sole responsibility of community members.

MEETING DOCUMENT

From:	ERAC Secretariat
To:	ERAC (European Research Area and Innovation Committee)
Subject:	ERAC Plenary in Brussels on 6 June 2019 - Item 5.2 (Updates from the ERA-related Groups)

In view of item 5.2 of the agenda of the ERAC plenary on 6 June, delegations will find attached the "Updates from the ERA-related Groups."

UPDATES FROM THE ERA-RELATED GROUPS

(since the last ERAC plenary on 21-22 March 2019)

ESFRI

2021 Roadmap methodology – work ongoing, adoption foreseen in September, main elements:

- Streamlining the criteria (minimal requirements for different stages of the RI lifecycle)
- Simplified submission and monitoring – dedicated IT system will be set up
- Increased transparency – new measures to ensure relevant high-level expertise and consistence of the use of external experts across all Working Groups and evaluation panels
- More time to prepare proposals – launch of the update in June, public Info Day on 25/09, deadline in spring (tbc)

Future of ESFRI discussion - work started during a dedicated workshop 1.2. 2019 is ongoing. It led to an ESFRI none-session in Liblice and will be continued during the meetings in Brussels (6.7. 2019) and in Helsinki (tbc).

EOSC – CC of 29/05 and 30/11 calling for effective coordination between ESFRI and EOSC

- Workshop on 30/01 – conclusions will be published in coming days
- establishing ESFRI Task Force to follow-up EOSC development, build relationships with different EOSC bodies and coordinate ESFRI inputs to the activities related to EOSC

Follow-up of CC of 29/05 on Knowledge circulation (part on LTS of RIs) – three dedicated action lines launched

- WG on Monitoring – I will recall purpose and progress, stressing an open approach in cooperation with RIs and stakeholders – workshop in Milano (outcomes published), consultation with RIs on their current practices, planned validation workshop on 3 July
- Exchange of experience on national roadmaps and budget line practices
- Transnational access to RIs – analysis of operational and funding models, barriers

Work Plan 2019-2021 – first formal, comprehensive work plan developed by ESFRI, to be adopted before the summer

Informal meeting with the OSI WG. The ESFRI EB representation will meet with the OSI WG representation for an informal exchange on Open science related topics on 19.6. 2019 in Brussels.

GPC

There was no GPC meeting since the last ERAC plenary meeting. The work in progress on main ongoing affairs in view of the next GPC meeting on June 4 is as follows:

- The working group on Joint Programming is preparing a template to be presented to the GPC in June which will serve as a basis for a questionnaire to be sent to all GPC delegations with the objective of documenting in an extensive manner the impact of JP at national level (in view of the report that the GPC will produce in 2020).
- The working group on the new activity (openness and transparency of networks) is preparing some more concrete elements for the meeting in June so as to be more specific on what the GPC can do regarding this issue.
- GPC delegates were invited to update the NAP monitoring tool (the deadline being 2 May).

SFIC

The next SFIC plenary will be on 12th June.

The agenda will be quite rich and will deal with:

- Revision of the SFIC mandate: validation of the SFIC statement on proposals for a future update of the mandate. One idea could be to specify SFIC's activities around the 3 following axes:
    - SFIC between MS/AC: priorisation, sharing good pratices, recommendations/advice, benchmarking, joint actions
    - SFIC within ERAC: link with other ERA-groups, advice and sharing
    - SFIC with COM: INCO tools, science diplomacy, international cooperation, sharing good practices, future orientation/advice
- SFIC work programme 2019-2020: discussion for validation on the final version which is submitted for ERAC validation during the June plenary
- SFIC impact: approval of SFIC insight to ERAC on the question of impacts. This could be feed for thought to the WG dealing with future of ERA
- ERAC monitoring process : follow-up on contributions
- China: question of the creation of a task force on recent Chinese regulation on cybersecurity
- Science diplomacy: update from the task force (a document is ready to be discussed during plenary)
- Updates on the work of the benchmarking WG and the MLE process
- The day before the plenary, organization of a SFIC/EC Workshop on "National and EU Strategy for International R&I Cooperation - focus on R&I on climate, energy and mobility".

ERAC SWG on Gender in Research and Innovation (GRI)

The 4th meeting of the SWG GRI took place on 10 April 2019. The following main actions are under way:

- **"Support to address policy challenges related to gender in R&I: Analysis on sexual harassment and sexual assault in academia, with a focus on international mobility":** A sub-group has been constituted with Carl Jacobsson (SE) as the rapporteur; the sub-group mandate has been adopted. The work schedule and plan of activities has been presented to delegations at the 4th meeting. A questionnaire survey has been developed by the sub-group and sent to the delegations for comment, with a view to launching the survey in June 2019.

- **Policy brief on gender and innovation:** An adoption-stage draft of the document will be presented to ERAC at the meeting. A draft was prepared by a small group and was circulated to the SWG GRI for comment. The brief will be adopted at the beginning of June and provided to ERAC delegations after the ERAC meeting.

- **Cooperation with EU PRES:** SWG GRI is cooperating with the upcoming FI PRES on the preparation of the EU-funded FI PRES conference to commemorate the 20th anniversary of EU activities to support gender equality in research. Several delegations act as members of the conference steering committee and the Scientific Committee.

- **Cooperation with other ERA related groups:** SWG GRI is planning to liaise with SWG HRM regarding the work of the subgroup on sexual and gender-based harassment in the second half of the year. SWG GRI and SFIC are planning a follow-up exchange in view of the work carried out by GENDERACTION project towards the end of the year.

- **Implementation of NAPS:** Prior to the 4th meeting SWG GRI delegations were requested to provide an update on the NAPS implementation using the adapted GPC tool and to provide additional information regarding examples of good practice and major developments. SWG GRI invited Dr Angela Wroblewski (Institute of Advanced Studies, Vienna) to deliver a presentation at the 4th meeting of the analysis of NAPS implementation carried out within the GENDERACTION project. To complement the SWG GRI's NAPS implementation monitoring, members of SWG GRI participated in a GENDERACTION mutual learning workshop on indicators for the monitoring of NAPS implementation, held on 7 and 8 March 2019 in Vienna. Members exchanged on the ways indicators are used as steering instruments and the ways different levels of monitoring may be used to strengthen the implementation of national gender equality policies.

- **Work Programme update:** SWG GRI prepared an updated Work Programme 2019-2020 and submitted it to ERAC SB for comment.

- **ERAC Annual Report 2018**: A draft report from SWG GRI was circulated for comment; input was requested from delegations to report on dissemination and impact of 2018 outputs at national level.

ERAC SWG on Human Resources and Mobility (HRM)

The last meeting of the group took place on **May 8, 2019** as scheduled.

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

- **Synergies between ERA (priority 3) and EHEA (task force).** The group has prepared a document with some first reflections about how the European Research Area (ERA) and the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) could strengthen their collaboration and common goals. The document is to support the discussions to happen among the European Research Area Committee (ERAC) and the Directorate General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture (DGEAC). It will be **submitted to the next ERAC SB meeting (July 2)**.

- **Contribution to the Horizon Europe (task force).** The group has prepared a document to provide a consensus position on issues concerning human resources in Horizon Europe. The document outlines the need to further develop issues concerning: (i) mobility of researchers; (ii) promotion of international cooperation of researchers (iii) improvement of open science-related skills; and (iv) Charter and Code for researchers and the HRS4R. Following active discussion, the task force will take into considerations, the reflections, comments and input received to elaborate a revised version to be approved by the next meeting of the group.

- The SWG HRM Chair will participate and input will be provided to the **MSCA Conference of the Romania Presidency** concerning the Open Science& Human Resources session. Following recommendation to provide information to ERA related stakeholders as indicated in the **ERAC Action Plan**, the session will be used dialogue with these stakeholders the issues concerning: Synergy between ERA and EHEA, the Human Resources Strategy for Researchers (HRS4R) and strengthening human capital and skills development throughout ERA.

- **Review of ERA Roadmap NAPs for Priority 3.** The Chair is finalizing the progress report for Priority 3 - *"An open labour market for researchers"* based on the input received from the countries.

ERAC SWG on Open Science and Innovation (OSI)

- The ERAC SWG OSI contribution to the ERAC Annual Report 2018 has been adopted by written procedure.
- The acting chair has established and proposed to OSI delegates a draft Work Programme 2019-2020. The WP has then been amended according to the received written comments and was presented to the ERAC Steering Board on 7 May. It will be sent to ERAC in view of the plenary meeting on 6 June.
- 2 OSI taskforces have been pursuing their work:
  - The Task Force on mapping of OSI groups with a supra-national relevance started filling in the table and will request input from OSI delegates in due course;
  - The Task Force on monitoring ERA NAPs (Priority 5) has completed the quantitative and qualitative analysis of the completed forms it has received from several (but not all) delegations. In-depth discussion about the monitoring of Open Science policies and OS impact on science and society, and Open Science related quantitative and qualitative indicators has been planned for the OSI meeting on 5 June. A dedicated taskforce should be launched with as an aim the production of an OSI opinion on the monitoring of Open Science for the end of 2019.
- A non-formal meeting will happen between some OSI and ESFRI delegates for exchanging views on the EOSC, and more generally for fostering the collaboration between our 2 groups in regard to Open Science related infrastructures, on 19 June in Brussels.
- Elections for chairmanship and vice-chairmanship of OSI have been planned for the OSI meeting on 5 June.

———————————————