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**LIMITE**

**ERAC-SFIC**

**WORKING PAPER**

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From:	SFIC Secretariat
To:	ERAC (SFIC)
Subject:	International dimension of ERA : Exchange of views between SFIC and ERA Stakeholders – Science Europe Contribution

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Delegations will find attached the PowerPoint presentation concerning the item 6 of the SFIC plenary agenda of 18 December 2019.



SCIENCE  
**EUROPE**

Shaping the future of research

A large, light blue, stylized floral logo is positioned on the left side of the slide. It features a central flower-like shape with multiple petals, each containing a smaller, darker blue flower-like pattern. The overall design is intricate and symmetrical.

# 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



UK Research  
and Innovation



# 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

- ▶ **GRC Working Document (2018) “The Role of Research Councils and the Global Research Council”**
- ▶ 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

**Science Europe**

**Rue de la Science 14**

**1040 Brussels**

**Belgium**

[www.scienceeurope.org](http://www.scienceeurope.org)



[@scienceeurope](https://twitter.com/scienceeurope)

Maud Evrard – Head of Policy Affairs

[maud.evrard@scienceeurope.org](mailto:maud.evrard@scienceeurope.org)

+ 32 (2) 226 0309