



Council of the European Union
General Secretariat

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LIMITE

RECH

WORKING PAPER

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MEETING DOCUMENT

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| From: | ERAC Secretariat |
| To: | ERAC (European Research Area and Innovation Committee) |
| Subject: | ERAC videoconference on 16 December 2020 - PPT Presentations |

Dear ERAC delegates,

Please find attached the PPT presentations given during the ERAC videoconference on Wednesday, 16 December 2020.

Best regards,

ERAC Secretariat



European
Research Area

ERA Advisory Structure Action Plan

Final report - presentation to ERAC

Action Plan Help Desk

16 December 2020

Final report



- ▶ Approved by written procedure 11 December
- ▶ Note Council Conclusions on new ERA approved 1 December
 - ▶ including supplementary input from ERAC and Groups
- ▶ Successful implementation of Action Plan
 - ▶ reflects huge amount of work by all actors over several years
 - ▶ focus on outcomes and future
- ▶ Report for using, not filing
 - ▶ key achievements to carry forward into new structure
 - ▶ long-standing issues that need to be addressed ...
 - ▶ ... at design stage, otherwise too late

Key achievements to build on - actively

- ▶ Strategic perspective in debates and opinions
- ▶ Communication, visibility and impact
- ▶ Culture and habits of collaboration between Groups
- ▶ Forward-looking relationship with Presidencies
- ▶ Strong outward focus

Issues to address at design stage

- ▶ Sound administrative basis for all Groups - proper meeting facilities and support
 - ▶ all standing bodies on comparable and equitable basis
 - ▶ proper procedures for supporting *ad hoc* groups
- ▶ Updated and more flexible rules of procedure
 - ▶ address inflexibilities identified in report (standing invitations to external stakeholders, use of interpretation)
 - ▶ use COVID experience - incorporate beneficial aspects of virtual working
- ▶ Only set up standing groups MS prepared to resource properly
- ▶ Update framework for human resources work in ERA
 - ▶ Strong overlap with EHEA

“ The review of the current ERA governance structure will need intuition and sensitivity in order to preserve the energy and good will of many colleagues while at the same time to give room for renewal and change ”

Dr Christian Naczinsky, former MS Co-Chair of ERAC

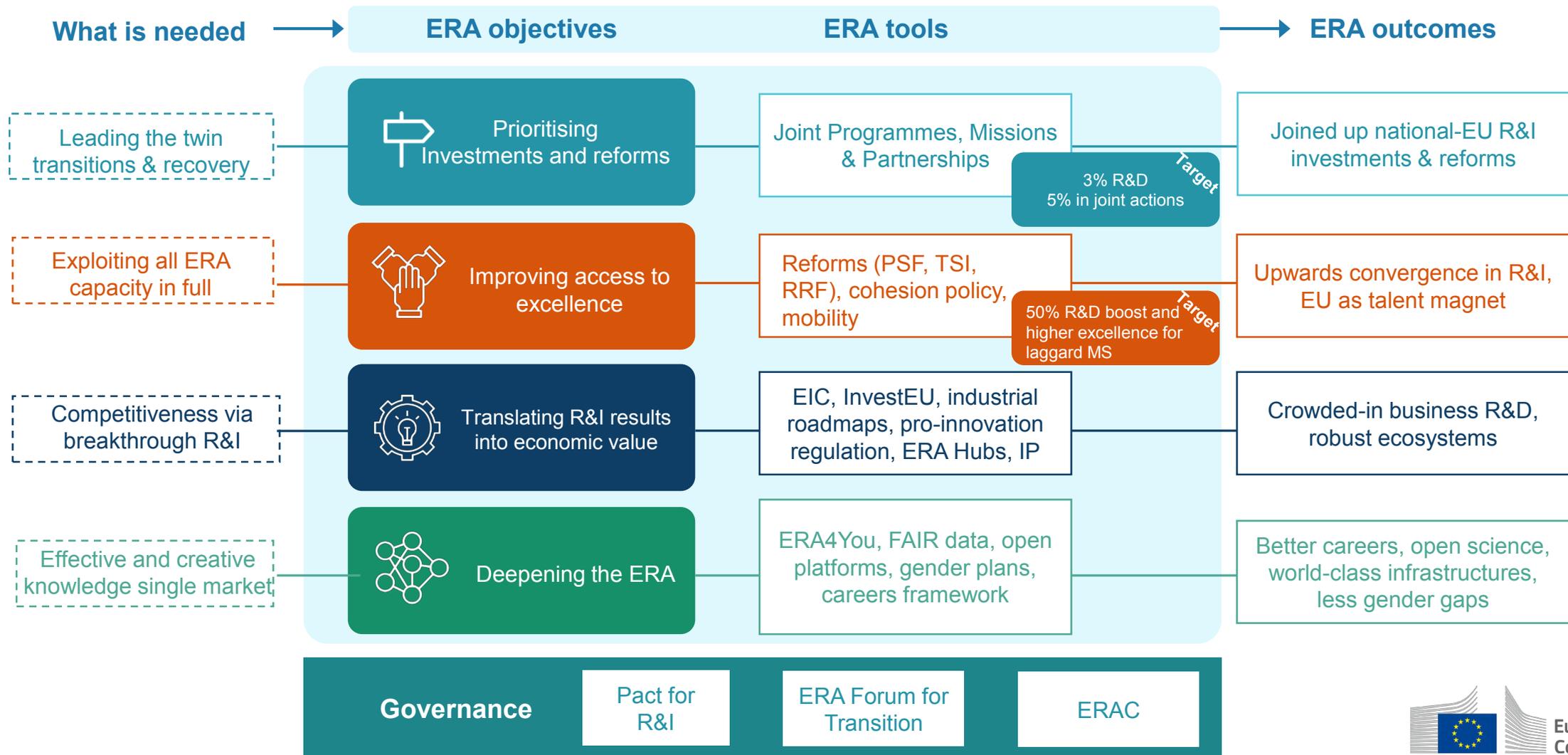
Thank you all from your Help Desk team: Fulvio Esposito, Gunhild Kiesenhofer-Widhalm, Lisa Müller (to autumn 2019) and David Wilson (from late 2019)

The new European Research Area

Roll-out of the new ERA

#ResearchImpactEU
#EUResearchArea

A stronger ERA for the future



WHAT did the COMMISSION propose – Main elements of the COMMUNICATION: actions + governance

- **ERA Roadmap** : the way ahead in 2021 & beyond
 - (re)new(ed) R&I targets: 3%, 1.25%, +50%, 5%, highly-cited publications of less performing
 - Industrial **technology** roadmaps
 - ERA hubs to network knowledge and innovation **ecosystems**
 - Knowledge **valorisation** and smart IP
 - Toolbox for **researchers** career development and mobility: competence framework, ERA4YOU
 - **Open Science** : OA publishing platform, Web of FAIR data/services
 - RIs and technological **infrastructures**
 - Transformation agendas for **universities** in synergy with EHEA
 - **Gender** equality plans
 - Participatory **citizen science** campaigns
 - EU-wide Strategic prioritisation of **investments and reforms**
- **Governance**: three new key elements
 - ERA **PACT, FORUM** and **SCOREBOARD**

HOW did the COUNCIL react in its CONCLUSIONS: areas of convergence + main additions

- **Council** supports Commission proposal for a renewed ERA, with some nuances:
 - **R&D targets:** 3% GDP R&D target retained. Questions still on other targets. Approach to Investment and Reform agendas endorsed.
 - No specific endorsement of ERA Roadmap, but support for the joint development of an **ERA Policy Agenda** setting out priority actions (largely inspired by but not limited to the roadmap proposed by Commission)
 - **4 ERA pilots** added (EOSC, Green Hydrogen, plastic pirates, ERA talent Platform) for kick-starting ERA implementation in 2021
 - **New governance model of ERA** to be further defined following 6 driving principles: Inclusiveness, Effectiveness, Coherence, Efficiency, Evidence-informed approach, Relevance

WHAT OPPORTUNITIES WILL THE NEW ERA OFFER ? 1/2

- **ERA Pact: renewed & strengthened commitment towards an EU R&I system**
(proposal mid-2021, adoption in second half of 2021)
 - Common values & principles (& targets)
 - Areas for joint/coordinated MS actions
 - (possible) principles and structure of new governance of R&I
- **ERA Policy Agenda of priority actions** (to be developed in 2021)
 - Jointly developed by Commission and MS - in a systemic and timely manner - to strengthen national ecosystems, build momentum and ensure political commitment
 - Broad scope 'starting' from Roadmap: Research Careers, Freedom of Science, European University Alliances, European Resilience, Artificial intelligence, IP management and knowledge transfer, Citizen Science campaigns, science communication, brain circulation, gender equality, science management, etc.

WHAT OPPORTUNITIES WILL THE NEW ERA OFFER ? 2/2

- **ERA Scoreboard** (to be developed in 2021)
 - Assessment of the current policy framework (study launched, results in first half of 2021)
 - definition of the ERA Scoreboard (EG in second half of 2021)
- **ERA FORUM for Transition: the place for EU/MS to discuss and co-create R&I policy (including through enhanced bilateral dialogue Commission-MS)** across the policy cycle - from policy design to policy implementation, policy monitoring and policy advice, possibly including
 - Monitoring of the Pact for R&I including targets
 - Development, implementation & monitoring of ERA policy agenda
 - Support & coordination of RRP's notably along 7 flagships
 - Widening actions to close the divide
 - Definition and monitoring of ERA scoreboard

WHAT ARE THE FIRST STEPS in 2021 ?

- **Set up an Expert Group on the ERA Forum for Transition** to:
 - feed into the process of designing a new governance framework for ERA, helping define the ERA Pact for R&I & the ERA Forum in its permanent form (1st semester 2021) and the ERA Scoreboard (2nd semester 2021)
 - kick-start the implementation of ERA priorities into concrete (EU and MS) actions
 - implement the 4 ERA Pilot Actions: EOSC, Hydrogen, Plastic Pirates and EURAXESS
 - develop and implement additional ERA Actions such as those indicated in the ERA Roadmap *such as EU-wide networking programme for science managers, European Resilience Initiative and Europe-wide AI networks of excellence*
- **Finalise the new ERA governance framework:**
 - Mid-2021: Commission proposals for a Pact and permanent Forum
 - By end 2021: Adoption of Pact, Forum and Policy agenda

Expert Group on the FORUM

- **What it will ensure:**

- true spirit of partnership between Commission and Member States
- principles put forward by the Council in its conclusions
- smooth transition from current framework (in close coordination with ERAC & ERA related groups)
- effective and consistent positioning of all governance elements, incl. ERAC, ESFRI and SCP

- **How it will function:**

- operational mid-January for a period of up to 12 month duration
- membership: EC (chair) + MS
- different work streams: policy design, policy implementation, policy monitoring etc.
- steering group (agenda setting, work stream co-chairs, reporting): current and future Trio
- ad-hoc participation of non-EU countries, experts, stakeholders)

- **What it will deliver:**

- 1st semester: report on Pact and Forum (to allow EC proposals in summer)
- 2nd semester: report on Policy agenda and Scoreboard