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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 March 2021 - Overview of preliminary plans in R&I of the Presidency of the Czech Republic in 2022 - Agenda item 2

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Dear ERAC delegates,

Please find in the Annex a presentation with an overview of the preliminary plans in R&I of the Presidency of the Czech Republic in 2022, with a view to agenda item 2 of the ERAC plenary on 16 March 2021.

# Presidency of the Czech Republic in the Council of the EU in 2022



75th ESFRI Plenary Meeting, 23rd – 24th March 2021

# 1. Preliminary priorities of the research agenda – research infrastructures

- **RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURES** as a part of the European critical infrastructure and EU's preparedness instruments to address grand societal challenges and strengthen resilience of the European society
  - Essential and vital component of the **post-2020 European Research Area**
  - Enable **cutting-edge research** extending the frontiers of knowledge beyond yet known horizons
  - Facilitate development of **state-of-the-art technologies** and **breakthrough science-based innovations**
  - Mediate **unique data collections and data sets** to scientists, entrepreneurs and public administrators
  - Boost the **competitiveness of the European economy** internationally and at the worldwide level
  - Contribute to achieve the **EU's and global wider policy objectives** standing outside the R&D area
  - Strengthen the **EU's preparedness and resilience of the European society** to socioeconomic crises
  - Drive the **macro-regional development** (i.e. investments, high-skilled jobs, infrastructure, etc.)
  - Catalyse the **scientific diplomacy and international cooperation** based on problem-solving approach
  - Promote the **freedom of scientific knowledge** as they're operated as open access-based installations
- Adoption of **COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS** is envisioned to reiterate the political commitment of EU Member States to keep the public investments into research infrastructures high on the public spending agenda

## 2. Preliminary priorities of the research agenda – synergies

- **SYNERGIES** between the European Structural and Investment Funds, EU Framework Programmes for Research and Innovation, and other EU-based programmes as an instrument to maximize the potential of cooperation in research and innovation in Europe
  - Enable to **maximise the coherence in R&D funding** from different financial instruments
  - Facilitate **alignment of R&D funding approaches** at the European and EU Member State levels
  - Simplify **co-funding of the EU Framework Programme projects** where the co-funding is necessary
  - Encourage **implementation of the „Seal of Excellence“** funding approach by the EU Member States
  - Promote **participation of the so called „cohesion countries“** in the EU Framework Programmes
  - Help to **achieve the goals of the EU cohesion policy** in line with the European R&D agenda priorities
  - Contribute to **bridge the research gap and close the innovation divide** in the European Research Area
  - Increase **efficacy**, prevent from **fragmentation** and avoid **duplication** of efforts in R&D funding
- Organisation of a **FLAGSHIP CONFERENCE** on synergies is envisaged – to share good practice examples and lessons learned, identify bottlenecks preventing from capitalising on the full potential of synergies, and confirm the intentions by the European Commission and EU Member States to continue removing barriers on synergies

### 3. Indicative timetable of major events

- **Flagship Conference on the Synergies in R&D funding**
  - 7th – 8th July 2022 in Prague
- **Informal Meeting of the EU Competitiveness Council – Research (COMPET)**
  - 21st – 22nd July 2022 in Prague
- **European Research Area and Innovation Committee (ERAC)**
  - 13th – 14th September 2022 in Prague – parallel meeting to the Research Working Group session
- **Research Working Group of the Council of the EU (RWG)**
  - 13th – 14th September 2022 in Prague – with the attaché trip on the weekend before
- **European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures (ESFRI)**
  - 17th – 18th October 2022 in Brno
- **International Conference on Research Infrastructures (ICRI)**
  - 18th – 19th October 2022 in Brno, back-to-back event to the ESFRI session
- **Formal Meeting of the EU Competitiveness Council – Research (COMPET)**
  - End of September + end of November 2022 in Brussels



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# THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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