Brussels, 18 December 2019

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LIMITE

ERAC-SFIC

WORKING PAPER

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WORKING DOCUMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>From:</th>
<th>SFIC Secretariat</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To:</td>
<td>ERAC (SFIC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subject:</td>
<td>LERU : Pushing the frontiers of innovative research</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

PUSHING THE FRONTIERS OF INNOVATIVE RESEARCH
University of Amsterdam

Universitat de Barcelona - University of Cambridge

University of Copenhagen - Trinity College Dublin - University of Edinburgh

University of Freiburg - Université de Genève - Universität Heidelberg

University of Helsinki - Universiteit Leiden

KU Leuven - Imperial College London - University College London

Lund University - University of Milan - Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München

University of Oxford - Sorbonne University

Université Paris-Sud - University of Strasbourg - Utrecht University

University of Zurich
Who we are (I)

• An association of European research-intensive universities;
• Committed to the values of high quality teaching;
• Within an environment of internationally competitive research.
Who we are (II)

- Non-profit organisation
- Founded in 2002
- 23 members
Purpose

• Influence policy at European Union and Member State level
  - EU: Commission, Parliament, Council, ERC, EIT, JRC, ERAC,…
  - MS: prime ministers, ministers of research, ministers of finance

• Develop best practices
  - Between 23 members
  - Institutional reflection, exchange of experience, collaborative actions

• Relevance for all Research-Intensive Universities
  - Europe
  - Global
Members (I)

- Based in 12 European countries
- Membership only upon invitation
- Research-Intensive, Comprehensive
 Members (II)

LERU members:
University of Amsterdam
Universitat de Barcelona
University of Cambridge
University of Copenhagen
Trinity College Dublin
University of Edinburgh
University of Freiburg
Université de Genève
Universität Heidelberg
University of Helsinki
Universiteit Leiden
KU Leuven
Imperial College London
University College London
Lund University
University of Milan
Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München
University of Oxford
Sorbonne University
Université Paris-Sud
University of Strasbourg
Utrecht University
University of Zurich
Members (III)

| Belgium     | KU Leuven | Netherlands | University of Amsterdam  
|            |          |            | Leiden University  
|            |          |            | Utrecht University  
| Denmark     | University of Copenhagen | Spain | Universitat de Barcelona  
| Finland     | University of Helsinki | Sweden | Lund University  
| France      | Sorbonne University  
|            | Université Paris-Sud  
|            | University of Strasbourg | Switzerland | Université de Genève  
|            |          |            | University of Zurich  
| Germany     | University of Freiburg  
|            | Universität Heidelberg  
|            | LMU München | United Kingdom | University of Cambridge  
| Ireland     | Trinity College Dublin |            | University of Edinburgh  
| Italy       | University of Milan |            | Imperial College London  
|            |          |            | University College London  
<p>|            |          |            | University of Oxford  |</p>
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<td>Charles University Prague</td>
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<td>Eötvös Loránd University</td>
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<td>University of Zagreb</td>
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Collaboration with other stakeholders & institutions

- ERA Platform
  - EARTO, EUA, Science Europe, CESAER, EU Life, TAFTIE, EIRMA, ERF, ERRIN, Eli

- Other associations of European universities, including EUA, Coimbra Group, the Guild, Yerun, etc.
International collaboration (I)

- Global council of research-intensive university networks
  - Australia, Go8
  - Canada, U15
  - China, C9
  - East Asia, AEARU
  - Europe, LERU
  - Germany, U15
  - Hong Kong 3
  - Japan, RU11
  - UK, Russell Group
  - US, AAU

- Yearly meetings, hosted by one of the networks
- Discussion on issues of common interest such as open science, academic freedom, importance of SSH, etc.
International collaboration (II)

- United Nations
  - Consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council
  - Member of the UN Academic Impact
1. Cooperation with countries outside EU 28 and Associated countries

- International collaboration is very important to LERU members:
  - They collaborate with institutions across the globe
  - They attract students from across the globe
  - Some have campuses in other parts of the world

- LERU:
  - Global council of research-intensive university networks
  - United Nations

- In general: ERA priorities are important priorities for all global research players: important to be aware of what others do policy-wise and to align where possible.
2. International cooperation in Horizon Europe:
   • Association to Horizon Europe:
     o In favour of widening association to non-European countries such as Canada or Japan
     o First focus on countries that are in or closely linked to the ERA but not (yet) Associated
   • Addressing societal and industrial challenges requires international collaboration → align Horizon Europe with SDGs and stimulate 3rd country participation
   • Some practical recommendations:
     o Stimulate the inclusion of 3rd countries in ‘normal’ collaborative projects
     o Access to funding for research should be reciprocal (except in cases of specific strategic relevance)
     o Flagging of topics is helpful
3. Cooperation with China, cooperation with Africa and Science Diplomacy

China:
• LERU members cooperate extensively with China
• No plans to change this, but increased awareness of potential problems

Africa
• African Research Universities Alliance
• KU Leuven study on cooperation between LERU members and African universities
• UK Global Challenges Research Fund

Science diplomacy
• Important tool in international relations
Contact

League of European Research Universities (LERU)
Minderbroedersstraat 8
3000 Leuven
BELGIUM

www.leru.org
Info@leru.org