

ERAC 1212/16

NOTE

From: ERAC Secretariat
To: Delegations
Subject: Updated ERAC Work Programme 2016-2017

Delegations will find attached the updated ERAC Work Programme 2016-2017, as adopted by written procedure.

ERAC Work Programme 2016-2017

Introduction

The work programme will cover the next period of policy development in the areas of research and innovation and closely related policies.

Following the adoption of the Council conclusions on the review of the European Research Area advisory structure in December 2015, ERAC can move into a new phase of activity, focussing on more strategic issues, with timely, open debates that are better aligned to the incoming Presidency's priorities, and with clear deliverables that can add value to the challenges facing EU and national research and innovation systems.

Working methods for ERAC

Article 2 of ERAC's mandate states that: "The Committee's principal mission is to provide timely strategic input to the Council, the Commission and Member States on the ongoing implementation of the ERA in Member States and Associated Countries and on other strategic research and innovation policy issues. The Committee shall do this on its own initiative or at the request of the Council or the Commission."

ERAC's work programme will need to take a more flexible, proactive approach to ensure ERAC can contribute in a speedy and timely manner, as appropriate, to emerging and evolving issues. ERAC will consider three or four 'big ticket' issues each year. Such topics will give ERAC an opportunity, for example:

- to give strategic advice at an early stage in developing R&I policy;
- to consider the impact of other policies on the R&I agenda and advise on the appropriate actions; and
- to advise on the implementation of R&I policies and propose specific actions to support these policies.

It is important that ERAC considers carefully what outcomes and impacts it hopes to achieve. ERAC is reminded that it does not have to reach consensus on topics and outside speakers may be invited to stimulate discussions. It is proposed that during the ERAC plenaries hosted by the Presidency country, the 2nd day could be devoted for DGs to discuss such strategic issues.

ERAC will improve the dialogue with the incoming Presidencies, undertaking the necessary preparatory work to contribute policy options for debates in Council. Presidencies will be invited to present their indicative priorities and planning to ERAC well in advance of their term. ERAC will also liaise with the current/outgoing Presidency to provide advice regarding the follow-up and implementation of Council conclusions.

ERAC will continue to work on its 'regular' strands, in particular ensuring the momentum is maintained on the initiatives to deliver tangible results. The significant milestone reached in 2016 was when Member States delivered their national ERA action plans and strategies.

Prioritisation and willingness to actively participate in the process, from both Commission and Member State representatives, will be the key factors in meeting the demands during this period.

The quality in preparations for each strategic debate is decisive. ERAC and the Steering Board will have to make use of seminars, *ad hoc* working groups and rapporteurs so that the issues at stake can reach the Plenary sufficiently mature for debate and/or adoption, e.g. in the form of a written opinion.

In order to have adequate time for strategic debate in ERAC Plenary, summary information will continue to be given to members of ERAC in writing in advance of the meetings (under Standing Information Points), with new important developments being taken up orally by the co-Chairs or Presidency.

Strategic topics for 2017

The proposed strategic topics for consideration by ERAC in 2017 are:

- Research, science and innovation in the EU budget and the mid-term review of the Multi-annual Financial Framework (MFF);
- The innovation/ research divide (both within the EU and with the rest of the world);
- Horizon 2020 interim evaluation, orientations for the next Framework programme;
- Digitalisation in the context of the societal challenges;
- European Open Science Cloud
- European Innovation Council;
- Better regulation for innovation - the Innovation Principle and Innovation Deals;
- Foresight (e.g. The Knowledge Future: intelligent policy choices for Europe 2050).

Presidency's priorities

This particular part of the work programme will develop in line with the priorities for the Presidencies as they become more mature.

- Measures to support young researchers - attractiveness of scientific career, support of mobility (SK);
- Implementation of key changes in the business sector in order to boost economic growth at national and European level (SK);
- Widening participation in Horizon 2020 (SK);
- Streamlining the R&I Monitoring and Reporting Landscape (MT);
- Maximizing the impact of excellent research (EE);
- Increased effectiveness and openness of Horizon 2020 joint initiatives (EE).

Regular strands

These strands include:

- ERA - implementation and monitoring the ERA Roadmap, including Member States' national ERA action plans and strategies, ERA conference and the future orientation and development of ERA;
- European Semester – Annual Growth survey priorities for the Semester; dialogue on the R&I elements of the country reports and follow-up on R&I country-specific recommendations;
- Horizon 2020 Policy Support Facility - demand-driven, responding to requests made by Member States and Associated Countries for its three main services: Peer Reviews of national R&I systems; specific support to the design, implementation and evaluation of policy reforms; and mutual learning exercises in relation to the policy issues raised;
- ERA governance - implementation of Council conclusions, including the coordination of ERAC and the ERA-related groups through the ERAC Steering Board with the objective of knowledge sharing and greater alignment of activities; streamlining ERA-related groups and other expert groups; preparing the annual report to the Council on the progress and impact against the ERA Roadmap.

WORK PROGRAMME 2016-2017

Update December 2016

<u>Regular strands</u>	15-16 September 31 st meeting Bratislava	2 December 32 nd meeting Brussels	16-17 March 2017 33 rd meeting St Julian's	16 June 2017 34 th meeting Brussels	21-22 September 2017 35 th meeting Tartu	36 th meeting Brussels
ERA - implementation and monitoring the ERA Roadmap, national action plans and strategies	<p>Outcome and follow-up of Ministerial Lunch</p> <p>Initial discussion on streamlining the R&I Monitoring and Reporting Landscape</p> <p>ERAC's response to Council Conclusions on the ERA Roadmap 2015-2020</p> <p>Presentation of R&I policy in Slovakia</p>	<p>Discussion on the draft ERAC Opinion on streamlining the R&I Monitoring and Reporting Landscape</p> <p>National ERA Action Plans</p>	<p>Presentation of R&I policy in Malta</p> <p>ERAC's response to Council Conclusions on the ERA Roadmap 2015-2020/</p> <p>National ERA Action Plans</p>	<p>National ERA Action Plans</p>	<p>Presentation of R&I policy in Estonia</p> <p>ERAC's response to Council Conclusions on the ERA Roadmap 2015-2020/</p> <p>National ERA Action Plans</p>	<p>National ERA Action Plans</p>
H2020 interim evaluation and FP9 preparation			<p>ERAC's role in the interim evaluation of H2020 and contribution to preparations for the next FP</p>		<p>ERAC's role in the interim evaluation of H2020 and contribution to preparations for the next FP</p>	

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European Semester	2016 European Semester	Launch of 2017 European Semester, AGS ESTAT presentation and discussion on indicators for research and innovation.		Outcome of 2017 European Semester (country reports and CSR package 2017)		2017/18 European Semester
Horizon 2020 Policy Support Facility	3rd expression of interest for the H2020 RSF services	Lessons learnt and discussion on the 2016 PSF country-specific activities		Update on the H2020 Policy Support Facility		Update on the H2020 Policy Support Facility

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ERA governance	<p>Implementation of Council conclusions (Dec. 2015) on ERA governance</p> <p>Update from ERAC SWG on Open Science and Innovation</p> <p>Update from the ERAC ad-hoc WG on Measuring the impact of EU Framework Programmes for R&I at National level</p> <p>Draft ERAC Opinion on streamlining the expert groups set up by the Commission</p>	<p>Implementation of Council conclusions on ERA governance</p> <p>Update of ERAC Work Programme</p> <p>Discussion on the status of the Helsinki Group and the SGHRM</p> <p>Update from ERAC SWG on Open Science and Innovation</p> <p>Update from the ERAC ad-hoc WG on Measuring the impact of EU Framework Programmes for R&I at National level</p>	<p>Implementation of Council conclusions on ERA governance</p> <p>Update from ERAC SWG on Open Science and Innovation</p> <p>Final report from the ERAC ad-hoc WG on Measuring the impact of EU Framework Programmes for R&I at National level</p>	<p>Implementation of Council conclusions on ERA governance</p> <p>Update from ERAC SWG on Open Science and Innovation</p>	<p>Implementation of Council conclusions on ERA governance</p> <p>Update from ERAC SWG on Open Science and Innovation</p>	<p>Implementation of Council conclusions on ERA governance</p> <p>Update from ERAC SWG on Open Science and Innovation</p>

Major events and milestones

January 2016	February 2016	March 2016	April 2016	May 2016	June 2016
Informal meeting of Ministers responsible for research (27 January, Amsterdam, NL)				Competitiveness Council (27 May) Ministerial lunch on ERA	
July 2016	August 2016	September 2016	October 2016	November 2016	December 2016
Informal meeting of Ministers responsible for research (18-19 July, Bratislava, SK)				Competitiveness Council (29 November)	ERAC plenary (2 December, Brussels)
January 2017	February 2017	March 2017	April 2017	May 2017	June 2017
		ERAC plenary (16-17 March, Malta)		Informal meeting of Ministers responsible for research (3 May, Malta) Competitiveness Council (30 May, Brussels)	ERAC plenary (16 June, Brussels)

Major events and milestones

July 2017	August 2016	September 2017	October 2017	November 2017	December 2017
Informal meeting of Ministers responsible for research (24-25 July, Estonia)		ERAC plenary (21-22 September, Estonia)			
