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WORKING PAPER

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WORKING DOCUMENT

From:	ERAC Secretariat
To:	ERAC (European Research Area and Innovation Committee)
Subject:	ERAC plenary on 21-22 March 2019 (Bucharest, RO) - Item 4.2 ("Updates from the ERA-related groups")

In view of item 4.2 of the agenda of the ERAC plenary on 21-22 March 2019, delegations will find attached the "Updates from the ERA-related groups".

UPDATES FROM THE ERA-RELATED GROUPS

ESFRI

Since the 40th ERAC meeting in December 2018, ESFRI held its 67th plenary meeting and organised two workshops: a large public event dedicated to Research Infrastructures and the European Open Science Cloud and an internal workshop on the future directions of ESFRI in the European Research Area.

The main outcomes of these events and the work of ESFRI in that period include:

1)   Appointment of the new ESFRI Executive Board and Working Group Chairs

As the mandate of all ESFRI governance bodies expired on 31 December 2018, the Forum appointed its new Executive Board and Working Group Chairs, who together with Mr. Jan Hrusak, the new ESFRI Chair elected already in June 2018, assumed their positions on 1 January 2019.

Executive Board	Role
Jan Hrusak (CZ)	Chair
Inmaculada Figueroa (ES)	Vice-Chair
Yannis Ioannidis (EL)	Vice-Chair
Agnieszka Zalewska (PL)	Member
Bjorn Hallerod (SE)	Member
Elisabeth Verges (FR)	Member
Gelsomina Pappalardo (IT)	Member
Laurence Lenoir (BE)	Member
Peter Wenzel-Constabel (DE)	Member
Jean-David Malo (EC)	EC Representative

Working Group	Chair
Implementation Group	Christian Chardonnet (FR)
SWG on Data, Computing and Digital Research Infrastructures	Ana Proykova (BG)
SWG on Energy	Minh Quang Tran (CH)
SWG on Environment	Marc de Jonge (NL)
SWG on Health and Food	Gabriela Pastori (UK)
SWG on Physical Science and Engineering	Jose Luis Martinez (ES)
SWG on Social and Cultural Innovation	Bente Maegaard (DK)

2) Coordination with the European Open Science Cloud

The Competitiveness Council conclusions of 30 November 2018, *called upon all involved parties to implement EOSC fully in due time, noted the important role of research infrastructures in this context and recalled the need for effective coordination between EOSC and ESFRI, including the governance level*.

In order to foster implementation of the conclusions, ESFRI organised on 30 January 2019 a workshop on ESFRI Research Infrastructures and the EOSC, which served as a platform for exchange of information on the ongoing and planned activities and for discussion on how to coordinate the different initiatives in the future in the context of the EOSC Implementation Roadmap.

The workshop brought together almost 200 participants, including all major actors on the part of ESFRI Research Infrastructures and EOSC horizontal projects and activities, as well as a number of representatives of the ESFRI Forum and the EOSC Executive Board and Governance Board.

The most important outcomes of the workshop included:
- Establishing an effective dialogue between different stakeholders from among ESFRI Research Infrastructures and EOSC;
- Identification of main challenges in connecting ESFRI RIs to the EOSC;
- Agreement on the need for intensified collaboration and coordination of the different initiatives, facilitated by ESFRI and the EOSC Secretariat.

The workshop was broadcasted live via the ESFRI YouTube channel (450 views to date) and the slides of the presentation are available on the ESFRI website www.esfri.eu.

3)   Monitoring of RI performance

ESFRI Working Group on Monitoring of RI performance continued its work over the winter, identifying the main features of a common methodology that could be applicable to all RIs. In this process, the ESFRI RIs were consulted. The work will be continued in the coming months, with a validation workshop with stakeholders planned around the summer, which will be followed by a formal report from the Group.

4)   Future role of ESFRI in the European Research Area

In the autumn of 2018, ESFRI has launched an internal reflection process on its future role in the ERA in the context of the expected new Commission Communication in 2020. On 31 January 2019, ESFRI organised an internal brainstorming workshop, in a participatory format, to reflect on a number of key questions related to the development of the Research Infrastructures landscape in Europe and the evolving role of ESFRI in this context. The reflection process will be continued throughout the year, with a formal outcome in the form of a White Paper planned for adoption in December.

GPC

The work of the GPC since the last ERAC meeting in December 2018 includes activities related to:

1. Future of the GPC and GPC Work Programme 2019-20

Following the ERA Governance Review Report and the recommendations about the future role and responsibilities / mandate of the GPC, a first discussion on possible practical ways to implement the decisions took place during the GPC meeting on 7 December 2018. The ERAC Co-Chair Christian Naczinsky attended this meeting and made a proposal regarding possible new activities for the GPC.

Following the discussion with delegations, it was decided to establish a taskforce with the aim of producing a short document on possible options regarding the future of the GPC in the short-term perspective, namely during the transition period until the end of H-2020. After a presentation of this document during the ERAC Steering Board meeting on 29 January 2019, the report as well as an updated work programme was approved during the GPC meeting on 6 March 2019.

For 2019 and 2020, the GPC will on the one hand continue and finalize its work related to the Joint Programming Process and JPIs, in view of producing a report at the end of 2020. The GPC will also closely coordinate with the transitional forum for European R&I Partnerships as it is expected that JPIs will be part of this strategic coordinating process to be fully operational at the beginning of Horizon Europe. The GPC will on the other hand start new activities related to the topic of openness and transparency of networks. Several presentations from the Commission during the GPC meeting on 6 March 2019 gave a starting point for this work.

Two groups of people have volunteered on the two topics described above and will prepare more detailed content for the two parts of the work programme in view of the next GPC meeting on 4 June 2019.

2. Measuring the Progress and Implementation of Priority 2a of the ERA roadmap

It was agreed during the GPC meeting on 6 March 2019 that all delegations will be requested to update the monitoring tool regarding implementation of national actions related to Priority 2a of the ERA roadmap. This update will be made in view of the next GPC meeting.

3. Election of the new GPC Chair and Vice-Chair

On 6 March 2019, the GPC elected Emmanuel Pasco-Viel and Petra Zagar as new GPC Chair and Vice-Chair respectively for a three-year period.

SFIC

1. Way forward for SFIC in view of ERA review report

A strategic workshop was organized the 6th March to discuss SFIC future. 22 SFIC delegates (representing 15 countries + EC) actively participated to discussions on: revision of SFIC mandate, organisation of SFIC meetings, governance of SFIC, communication/visibility and topics of interest to be part of the future work programme. The discussions were based on the results of an internal online survey launched early 2019 and took into account the ERA review recommendations. This will be summarized in a dedicated document. In addition, a task force on SFIC visibility will be created (DE, HU, RO).

During the plenary and as a follow up of the ERA review, a discussion around the SFIC impacts was organized. The conclusions of the discussion are that it is not possible to characterize impacts (and indicators) for a forum such as SFIC as it can be done for a project. The SFIC orientation is rather to talk about realisations. A one pager will be prepared.

2. Update of framework documents for SFIC

According to the current rules, the mandate should be assessed at least every 3 years. Thus, it should be done by ERAC in 2019. As this item was discussed during the strategic workshop, SFIC proposed to prepare a one-pager statement for ERAC's consideration.

Following the strategic workshop, a dedicated task force (AT, ES, BE, FR, NL) was created in order to provide a draft work program 2019-2020 for the June plenary.

3. Reporting to ERA

During the March plenary, SFIC validated its biannual activity report as well as its annual report 2018.

Concerning the ERAC monitoring process, SFIC delegates agreed to fulfil the excel file which was prepared for them on the priority 6 for each countries. A feedback from the delegates is expected under 4 weeks.

4. State of play of SFIC working group

Ad hoc working group on benchmarking

The benchmarking WG collected ERA National Action Plans (Priority 6), of which some are updated versions; agreed on the categories to compare the ERA National Action Plans (Priority 6) and drafted an online survey.

For the next steps, the WG will:

- start the comparison of the ERA National Action Plans (Priority 6);
- finalise and launch the survey (online);
- take care of coherency with the work of the MLE on 'National strategies and roadmaps for international cooperation in R&I'.

AOB

The next plenary is planned on 12th June 2019. A work shop on international cooperation will be organised with EC the day before. It will be dedicated on cluster climate/mobility/environment. The idea is to have an exchange between EC and national experts to share information and if possible identify joint topics or measures.

A dedicated session on science diplomacy will be planed during the June plenary.

Election of SFIC chair will happen next October. SFIC delegates are invited to be candidates.

ERAC SWG on Gender in Research and Innovation (GRI)

Meetings

- The fourth meeting of the SWG GRI will take place on 10 April 2019.

Cooperation with other ERA related groups

- SWG GRI provided written input and comments on draft report prepared by the Task Force on Open Innovation formed by SWG Open Science and Innovation.
- SWG GRI to liaise with SWG HRM the subgroup on gender harassment (see below).

Implementation of 2019 Work Programme

- **Policy brief on gender and innovation:** SWG GRI is in the process of preparing a policy brief on Gender in Innovation. Draft has been circulated to a small group with a deadline for comments on 8 March 2019. Draft to be circulated to the whole group with a view to adoption by end of March 2019 (no later than the 4th meeting).
- **"Support to address policy challenges related to gender in R&I: Analysis on sexual harassment and sexual assault in academia, with a focus on international mobility":** A sub-group has been constituted with Carl Jacobsson (SE) as the rapporteur; mandate has been circulated for comment and adoption.

ERA Governance

- **ERA Review:** The SWG GRI provided input and comments for the ERA review action plan table.
- **2018 ERAC Annual Report:** A draft report from SWG GRI has been circulated for comment; input has been requested from delegations to assess dissemination and impact of 2018 outputs at national level.
- **Work Plan update:** SWG GRI is updating its WP 2019-2020 with a view to submit the draft to ERAC Steering Board at its meeting on 7 May, final approval by SWG GRI and submission to ERAC for the 6 June meeting.

Cooperation with EU PRES

- SWG GRI will cooperate with upcoming FI PRES on the preparation of the planned FI PRES conference to commemorate the 20th anniversary of EU activities to support gender equality in research, following the discussion at the third meeting in October 2019.

Implementation of NAPS

- SWG GRI members will be requested to provide a report on NAPS implementation at the 4th meeting on 10 April 2019, with a dedicated slot for discussion.

To complement the group's NAPS implementation monitoring, members of SWG GRI will participate in a GENDERACTION mutual learning workshop on indicators for the monitoring of NAPS implementation, held on 7 and 8 March 2019 in Vienna. Members will exchange on the ways indicators may be used as steering instruments and the ways different levels of monitoring may be used to strengthen the implementation of national gender equality policies. The result of the workshop will be an agreed set of indicators to monitor progress in NAPS implementation.

ERAC SWG on Human Resources and Mobility (HRM)

The last meeting of the group took place on **January 30, 2019** as scheduled. The meeting was hosted by the Spanish Office of Science and Technology in Brussels.

The main issues currently being addressed by the group include the following:

- **Synergies between ERA (priority 3) and EHEA (task force).** Following discussions at the last meeting a small task force was set up to write a discussion paper to be addressed at next meeting in April.

- **Contribution to the Horizon Europe (task force).** Following discussions at the last meeting and based the input papers and presentations that were made during the meeting (on article 32 of H2020; issues concerning human resources), a task force was set up to further elaborate a position on HE the SWG HRM to be addressed at next meeting in April.

- The SWG HRM Chair will participate and input will be provided to the **MSCA Conference** of the Romania Presidency concerning the Open Science& Human Resources session. This is scheduled in June.

- **Review of ERA Roadmap NAPs for Priority 3.** Delegates are currently working on the updates and progress of Priority 3 - *"An open labour market for researchers* for their countries.

The HRM group provided input to the **ERA Action Plan** (information collected by the Chair) and was sent to rapporteur by deadline end of February.

ERAC SWG on Open Science and Innovation (OSI)

- The SWG OSI has adopted its **Opinion on Open Innovation**. Main aim is to ensure an informed and coherent position of the working group that can be presented to other relevant actors like the EC, notably in the context of the revision of the 2008 IP-Recommendation. The report provides 14 recommendations, relating to the following action areas: *The role of users*; *Limits of openness? – Open vs. closed innovation*; *Fair sharing in Open Innovation processes*; *Open Innovation and social inclusion - Making innovation more equal*; *Open Innovation in handling societal challenges and missions*; *The European perspective on Open Innovation*. The report is complemented by a large set of good practices.

- Meanings and arguments relating to **Plan S** have been exchanged between SWG OSI delegates. Although no official position on Plan S will be produced, the process has been deemed useful for stimulating positions at national level, and feed national feedbacks to the online consultation. OSI intends to interact further with Coalition S in the future.

- SWG OSI has worked via its **Communication Taskforce** on concrete propositions to be presented to the ERAC SB concerning the dissemination of SWG outputs (documents template, on line visibility and use of social media).

- The OSI **taskforce on Mapping of OS and OI groups** has produced a template for identifying and mapping the different groups with a supra-national relevance and/or outreach. The aim is twofold: 1) avoid overlap between OSI's work and work done by other OS and OI related groups; 2) facilitate the networking and complementarity between OSI and other OS and OI related groups.

- The OSI taskforce on **Monitoring of the NAPs (5ᵗʰ priority)** has produced a monitoring fiche which delegates are currently filling in at national level (deadline = 27 March). The fiche will provide the taskforce with quantitative and qualitative information relating to the 5ᵗʰ priority of the ERA Roadmap. It will also help SWG OSI to assess to what extent the current national OS and OI strategies and action plans fit with the actions mentioned in the NAPs.