WORKING PAPER

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From:	ERAC Secretariat
To:	ERAC (European Research Area and Innovation Committee)
Subject:	ERAC Plenary in Salzburg (Austria) on 17-18 September 2018 - Item 4.2 (Updates from the ERA-related Groups)

In view of item 4.2 of the agenda of the ERAC plenary on 17-18 September, delegations will find attached the "Updates from the ERA-related Groups."

Delegations are informed that the key issue on which the discussions at the ERAC Plenary on 17-18 September on this specific item should focus will be the **ESFRI Roadmap 2018.**

Delegations are kindly asked to refer to the written contribution from ESFRI for information on this key issue.

UPDATES FROM THE ERA-RELATED GROUPS

(Alphabetical order of appearance)

ESFRI

Since the 38th ERAC meeting in May 2018, ESFRI finalised the work on the 2018 update of Roadmap and formally adopted the text for publication.

The Roadmap now consists of 18 'ESFRI Projects', which are new initiatives in development phase requiring around €2,9 billion of investments in the coming years, and 37 'ESFRI Landmarks', identifying key research infrastructures that are being implemented or have been completed, representing an overall capital value of around €14,4 billion.

In particular, ESFRI included 6 new Projects in the following areas:

- Energy

  - **IFMIF-DONES**: International Fusion Materials Irradiation Facility - DEMO Oriented NEutron Source (coordinated by Spain) – a facility for testing, validation and qualification of the materials to be used in a fusion reactor.

- Environment

  - **DiSSCo**: Distributed System of Scientific Collections (coordinated by The Netherlands) – an infrastructure integrating natural history collections of major European institutions

  - **eLTER**: Long-Term Ecosystem Research in Europe (coordinated by Germany) – an infrastructure integrating ecosystem research sites across Europe

- Health and Food

  - **EU-IBISBA**: Industrial Biotechnology Innovation and Synthetic Biology Accelerator (coordinated by France) – a multidisciplinary research and innovation infrastructure for industrial biotechnology

  - **METROFOOD-RI**: Infrastructure for promoting Metrology in Food and Nutrition (coordinated by Italy) – an infrastructure for metrology services in food and nutrition throughout the value chain

- Social and cultural innovation

  - **EHRI**: European Holocaust Research Infrastructure (coordinated by The Netherlands) – an infrastructure for research on Holocaust

The new Roadmap also identified two areas with high potential for the development of new research infrastructures: religious studies and transition to open science. A central role in the Roadmap is also played by a comprehensive Landscape Analysis of the research infrastructure ecosystem in Europe, providing a deep insight into the world-class facilities available to European scientists, enterprises and innovators and into the ways in which they can form a coherent system enabling interdisciplinary research therefore contributing to addressing societal challenges.

In addition, it highlights the increasing role of research infrastructures in the rapid development of data-driven research and growing focus on enabling innovation. It also underlines the need for a comprehensive strategy to ensure the long-term sustainability of the European research infrastructure ecosystem.

The Roadmap was publically launched during a dedicated Presidency event on 11 September in Vienna, gathering around 250 participants.

GPC

Updates from the of the High-Level Group for Joint programming (GPC)

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

1.   Future of Joint Programming

During the GPC meeting in June 2018, the GPC decided to prolong the work of the WG on the Future of Joint Programming in order to further develop and elaborate the GPC opinion, taking into account the recent developments in the area of the Joint Programming Process.

2.   Contribution to the ERAC ad-hoc WG on Partnerships

The GPC continued the discussion on the output of the Group work. Delegations in their comments discussed the following main issues:

- possibilities of finding convergence between the existing and the new initiatives;

- role and place of the Art. 185 initiatives;

- various aspects and their possible advantages and limitations as regards the strategic planning phase for the partnerships;

- many delegations welcomed a shift towards a more strategic approach;

- financing of the new initiatives;

- roles of the JPIs in the future framework programme.

3.   Long Term Strategy of Joint Programming Initiatives

During the GPC meeting in June 2018, The GPC discussed the draft report prepared by the Task Force on the analysis of the Long Term Strategies of the Joint Programming Initiatives. The draft report was welcomed by the GPC with some delegations asking for a clearer structure for the presentation of methodology and conclusions.

The final report is foreseen for the incoming GPC meeting in Sep. 2018. The Chapter 6 of the report is suggested to set the scene for a political discussion as anticipated at the previous GPC meeting.

4.   Input on the Review of the ERA Advisory Structure

The documents relevant to the work of the GPC and the GPC the self-assessment report and the on-line survey were submitted to the ERAC Rapporteur.

5.   **Measuring the Progress and Implementation of Priority 2a of the ERA Roadmap**

The Rapporteur of the Priority 2a TF presented the progress concerning Priority 2a. The analysis was based on 28 NAPs, of 23 MS and 5 AC with more than 90 actions announced in the view of strengthening Joint Programming Process and jointly addressing grand societal challenges. According to the report most (71%) of the actions are on track and 17% are ongoing with delay. 6 actions have already finished and 4 actions are postponed or terminated / canceled.

Delegations who have not yet provided the assessment of their national progress concerning Priority 2a have been invited to do so by the end of June 2018.

6.   **Mutual learning Exercise (MLE) on Alignment and Interoperability - follow-up**

During the GPC meeting in June 2018, the MLE Chair, presented the main learnings from the MLE on Alignment and Interoperability and their follow-up one year after the exercise. EE and SI delegations, presented their respective countries' experiences as regards the MLE results.

7.   **Future Planning for GPC**

The GPC Work Programme 2018-19 was prepared and submitted to ERAC SB.

SFIC

Since last ERAC plenary SFIC has met once in a formal plenary setting (6th June).

The continuing objective is to further the usefulness of SFIC to delegations in developing their international cooperation strategy by improving the active information exchange. For this purpose SFIC meetings nowadays start with a 'tour de table' where delegations present the most important developments and event that have taken place in their country or with their participation in the field of scientific and technological international cooperation. Following feedback from delegations, this successful format will be further improved in the next year by distributing further information in written form.

The Commission has established a Service Facility to provide services that support the policy development, priority setting, follow-up and implementation of the strategy for international cooperation in research and innovation. SFIC has established a process and working method with the Commission to identify and approve requests of SFIC for such services. In close exchange and collaboration, SFIC identified several requests that were accepted by the Commission. The discussion on further proposals is ongoing.

SFIC decided to launch a new ad hoc working group dedicated to strategies and roadmaps for international cooperation in R&I. The mandate is going to be validated in the September plenary for a beginning of the work at the same time. The idea is to prepare a potential MLE next year on the topic

To fill its role as a forum for exchange and information, SFIC has invited representatives of the European Network of Research and Innovation Centres and Hubs (ENRICH) in Brazil, China and the US and a representative of COST. SFIC will follow up on this presentation in a year's time to review ENRICH activities and the involvement of MS/AC organisations as beneficiaries or partners of ENRICH. SFIC also have a presentation of the joint research and innovation programme PRIMA by its Chair person.

The ongoing work on the toolbox for international cooperation was linked to the Commission's work on the RIO Policy Support Facility (PSF) website. SFIC and the Commission agreed to study the feasibility of the possible inclusion of international criteria from the toolbox in the RIO website and discuss working methods for keeping them up to date. From June's discussions, several contacts between Com services and SFIC members happened to move forward on the topic.

Last but not least, the SFIC delegates expressed to the Commission their wish to be part of the discussions around the participation of third countries in the FP9.

ERAC SWG on Gender in Research and Innovation (GRI)

a) **Sub-group on the implementation of Council Conclusions of 1 Dec 2015 on advancing gender equality in the ERA**

An analysis of the implementation based on a survey response is underway. A draft report with findings and recommendations will be circulated by the subgroup to delegates at the beginning of September 2018 for comment. The report will be discussed at the third meeting of the SWG GRI on 17 October. The report will be delivered to ERAC at the December meeting.

b) **Policy brief on implicit gender bias in research evaluation**

A policy brief was drafted by the chair on implicit gender bias, the topic of the mutual learning exchange at the second meeting of SWG GRI. Delegations were invited to comment by 27 August 2018. The brief was adopted on 3 September 2018 and will be submitted to ERAC with recommendations after the Plenary meeting on 17-18 September.

c) **ERA review**

- Survey: The chair consulted delegates on input for the survey carried out as part of the ERA review; delegates' input was reflected in the SWG GRI's chair response to the survey. Delegates liaised with their national ERAC delegates to contribute to their respective national responses.

- Report: The chair sent a message to SWG GRI delegates informing them about recommendations concerning SWG GRI contained in the Report on the 2018 review of the ERA advisory structure, and called on them to engage with their national ERAC delegates in formulating national responses.

d) **Reporting from H2020 project GENDERACTION to the SWG GRI**

Training will be organized for members of the SWG GRI and/or other national representatives in Priority 4 on Policy Evaluation and Monitoring on 16 October 2018, back-to-back with the SWG GRI meeting in Brussels.

GENDERACTION drafted a policy brief on Implementation of ERA Priority 4 gender equality and gender mainstreaming in Research and Innovation, with recommendations. It will be circulated to ERAC after the Plenary meeting on 17-18 September 2018 for information.

e)   SWG GRI position on the planned ban of gender studies programmes at universities by the Hungarian government

The Hungarian government moved to ban gender studies programmes from universities. The SWG GRI considers this an attack on academic freedom, one of the foundational values of European societies. SWG GRI also considers this an attack on one of the priorities of the European Research Area. Gender studies is a valid academic discipline which is vital for understanding social inequality in society as well as for advancing knowledge in various areas of research that include human beings or where the results of such research are intended for use by human beings. Gender is one of the pillars of Responsible Research and Innovation; Gendered Innovations and the gender dimension in research and curricula are among Priority 4 gender equality and gender mainstreaming objectives. Therefore, SWG GRI calls on ERAC to join other ERA Stakeholders in condemning this planned ban.[1]

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[1] Poland does not support this position on the ban of gender studies programmes.

ERAC SWG on Human Resources and Mobility (HRM)

Subject: *Recent results of the Standing Working Group on Human Resources and Mobility (SWG HRM) since last ERAC plenary.*

- No meetings of the group have taken place since the last ERAC plenary meeting in May, as the group planned three meetings this year (January, April and October). The next and final meeting scheduled for 2018 will be held on **October 18, 2018 in Brussels**.

- **Work Programme for 2018 – 2019.** The Work Programme (WP) of the group was elaborated and submitted to the ERAC Steering Board in April and the ERAC plenary was informed at the May meeting (written contribution). As a reminder, the WP includes the following lines of action and thematic priorities:

  - Contribution to the next Framework Programme (FP9) in the areas of the group's work and mission.

  - Promotion and development of research careers and inter-sectoral mobility of researchers.

  - Synergies between ERA and EHEA and issues related to higher education, training, researchers careers, and the knowledge triangle (education, research and innovation).

  - Synergies with the Open Science agenda, and follow-up on open science skills & education, as well as rewards and recognition in collaboration with the SWG OSI as well as synergies with gender equality and the integration of gender dimensions in the research and innovation content; specifically related to human resources policies in research in collaboration with the SWG GRI.

  - Follow-up on ERA priority 3 national action plans.

- **Review of the ERA advisory structure. The contribution to the online survey for the review was completed by the Chair.** In order to provide the single response of the whole group, a copy of the survey questions was distributed to all the delegates of the HRM group. The delegations were asked to provide input and responses to the Chair and include comments and/or observations. In general, there was a high consensus in the responses among those who provided input. Prior to this procedure, and in addition to the survey, an interview between the Chair of the SWG HRM and the Rapporteur for the review process was also held in May in order to complement the information gathering process and self-assessment phases.

During the period between meetings, the delegates have been working on their suggestions and recommendations for Horizon Europe regarding human resources and mobility. Each delegate is also working on further advancing on the review and progress of Priority 3 - *"An open labour market for researchers"* following the methodology presented at the last ERAC Plenary. These issues will be discussed at the next meeting in October.

ERAC SWG on Open Science and Innovation (OSI)

a) ERA review

The result of the survey will be discussed at the next meeting of the SWG OSI on 25 September. It should be noted that one of the main comments has been duly addressed since then, considering that the SWG OSI has launched a dedicated sub-group on Open Innovation (see infra c.), and that the Draft recommendation to ERAC on Open Science and Open Innovation has been produced in an holistic perspective which addresses the whole ecosystem of Open Science and (Open) Innovation (see infra b.)

b) Draft Recommendations to ERAC on Open Science and Open innovation

Following the SWG's Mandate, a dedicated Task Force has drafted recommendations to ERAC on Open Science and Open Innovation. The draft has already been through 3 rounds of comments and will be adopted at the next meeting of the SWG OSI on 25 September. The document aims at addressing topics that, while crucial for removing barriers and promoting the entire Open Science and Innovation ecosystem, either haven't been addressed sufficiently in other policy documents or persistently remain to be solved. Holistic at heart, it includes a graph depicting which stakeholders the proposed recommendations mostly act upon, as well as whether they have already been properly addressed or not before.

c) Sub-group on Open Innovation

A sub-group has been created and is being coordinated by Thomas Lichtenwöhrer (AT). The objective is to present a first draft of recommendations on Open Innovation at the next meeting of the SWG OSI on 25 September. The taskforce can already count on the participation of delegates from BG, CH, FI, HU, IT, NL, NO and SE.

d) EOSC

The exchange of information with the Commission in regards to the EOSC governance continued in the summer. In particular, the CHAIR assured the proper dissemination within the SWG of the Decision establishing the expert group that would function as the EOSC Executive Board. This Decision follows closely SWG OSI advice as well as the Council Conclusions on the matter.

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