

ERAC 1211/17

**NOTE**

---

From: ERAC Secretariat  
To: ERAC Delegations

---

Subject: Mandate of the Ad-hoc Working Group on Partnerships of the European Research Area and Innovation Committee (ERAC)

---

Delegations will find in annex the Mandate of the Ad-hoc Working Group on Partnerships of the European Research Area and Innovation Committee (ERAC), as adopted by ERAC at the plenary on 5 December 2017.

MANDATE

OF THE AD-HOC WORKING GROUP ON PARTNERSHIPS OF THE EUROPEAN  
RESEARCH AND INNOVATION COMMITTEE (ERAC)

**1. Objectives and deliverables of the ERAC ad-hoc Working Group on Partnerships**

EU Research and Innovation Partnerships have been used since FP6 to optimise the contribution of public and private players in achieving sustainable growth and competitiveness and addressing societal challenges and to ensure that national policies and Union policy are mutually consistent. The discussions at the Informal Council of July 2017 resulted in a general recognition by the Member States of the continued relevance of Partnerships and called for a reformed approach tackling the complexity of the landscape and ensuring its coherence and optimal coordination.

The findings of Horizon 2020 interim evaluation<sup>1</sup> confirm the observations of the Informal Council meeting. The Lamy Report recommends taking forward Partnerships in as far as they mobilise joint investment in Framework Programme priorities, especially in the context of missions. It stresses the additionality of other sources of funding and the potential to mobilise a broad array of partners and stakeholders.

The Council conclusions “From the Interim Evaluation of Horizon 2020 towards the ninth Framework Programme” adopted on 1 December 2017 specifically address the question of partnerships and request the establishment of an ERAC Ad-hoc Working Group to address this issue.

Against this background, the ERAC Ad-hoc Working Group on Partnerships (WG on Partnerships) is established to contribute to the discussion on rationalising the R&I funding landscape so as to realise the full potential of partnerships for R&I policy in Europe and to create a transparent and accessible partnership landscape for all parties involved.

The Ad-hoc Working Group on Partnerships is expected to advise on the future use of EU R&I partnerships<sup>2</sup>, in particular to:

- Propose criteria for selecting EU-R&I partnerships and, as applicable, Member State, industry and other stakeholder (e.g. foundations) participation in those partnership initiatives;
- Identify options for rationalising the current EU R&I partnership landscape and for optimising the coherence between partnerships within the EU R&I policy framework;

---

<sup>1</sup> Including the SWDs on Article 185 and Article 187 initiatives, the EIT and its KICs, as well as the expert group reports on contractual PPPs and FET Flagships.

<sup>2</sup> This includes partnership initiatives based on different types of partnership approaches, such as Joint Programming Initiatives, Initiatives under Articles 185 and 187 of the TFEU, contractual PPPs, EIT KICs, ERA-NET Cofunds, European Joint Programme Cofunds and FET Flagships, taking into account their different legal basis.

- Advise on the design of a long-term strategic coordinating process for the selection, governance, monitoring and phasing out from FP co-funding of EU R&I partnership initiatives;
- Identify measures to increase the efficiency of partnerships' implementation.

Taking forward the Council conclusions of 1 December 2017, the Ad-hoc Working Group will concentrate on the following aspects, taking into account the findings of the Horizon 2020 interim evaluation:

#### A. Criteria for selecting, implementing, monitoring and phasing out EU R&I partnership initiatives

The WG on Partnerships will propose guiding principles and criteria for selecting, implementing, monitoring and phasing out EU R&I partnership initiatives and the participation, as applicable, of Member States, industry and other stakeholder (e.g. foundations) in these. It will provide guidance on the future role of Member States in EU R&I partnerships.

#### B. Rationalising the EU R&I partnership landscape and optimising its coherence

The WG on Partnerships will examine the possibilities to simplify and rationalise the current partnership landscape which is characterised in particular for P2Ps by a large number of actions under the different instruments, notably by addressing the following aspects:

- Identification of options and best practices to apply a life-cycle approach for selecting, managing, monitoring and phasing out partnership initiatives and related key performance indicators;
- Identification of options and best practices to ensure delivery by partnership initiatives of Framework Programme objectives and priorities, as well as improved coherence and coordination between partnership initiatives and their articulation with national objectives and priorities.

#### C. Strategic coordinating process for EU R&I partnerships

The WG on Partnerships will provide advice on the objectives, set-up and implementation of a long-term strategic coordinating process for selecting, managing, monitoring and phasing out of EU R&I partnerships with the goal of meeting the guiding principles included in the Council conclusions of 1 December.

#### D. Increasing the efficiency of implementation of partnerships

The WG on Partnerships will advise on possibilities for improving the efficiency of implementation and reducing the administrative burden, notably examining measures such as:

- Broader use of a single set, or fewer sets, of rules (proposals, evaluations, funding);
- Removing entrance barriers for newcomers and smaller R&I players;
- Single/fewer implementation structure approaches;
- More centralised use of services (call set-up proposal submission and evaluation, grant management);
- Integration of project data in eCorda and Cordis.

## **Deliverables**

The WG on Partnerships will submit the following deliverables to ERAC:

1. Recommendations on conditions and criteria for selecting partnership initiatives as well as Member State, industry and/or other stakeholder participation in partnership initiatives (May 2018);
2. Recommendations for rationalising the EU R&I partnership landscape (September 2018);
3. Recommendations on the strategic coordinating process for selecting, implementing, monitoring and phasing out EU R&I partnership initiatives (May 2018);
4. for increasing the efficiency of implementation of partnerships (September 2018);
5. Final report of the working group (December 2018).

A draft for deliverables 1 and 3 will be prepared for the ERAC meeting on 15/16 March, and a draft for deliverables 2 and 4 for the ERAC meeting on 17 May.

## **2. Duration and organisation of the work**

The Ad-hoc Working Group is set up for a period of 13 months, commencing in December 2017. If considered necessary in order for the Ad-hoc Working Group to achieve its objectives and submit its deliverables, ERAC may decide to extend the duration of the Ad-hoc Working Group. Membership is open to ERAC delegations and nominated national experts<sup>3</sup>. The Ad-hoc Working Group may organise its work internally between delegates along the main areas of its activity or specific issues that will be addressed. It may invite outside experts if appropriate.

## **3. Chairperson**

The ad-hoc Working Group is chaired by a representative or an alternate representative of a Member State or of an Associated Country. The ad-hoc Working Group shall meet at the invitation of the Chair.

## **4. Secretariat and support**

The secretariat of the Ad-hoc Working Group shall be provided by the General Secretariat of the Council (ERAC Secretariat). The secretariat is limited to keeping membership lists, ensuring correspondence and circulation of documents, as well as providing procedural advice concerning the documents that will be circulated. The Ad-hoc Working Group shall be actively supported by the Commission services within the remit of its competence and take into account ongoing activities of e.g. ERA-LEARN or the Policy Support Facility.

---

<sup>3</sup> Nominated national experts are present as formal representatives of their country, not as individual experts (para. 11, ERAC Mandate, doc. 14875/15).