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From:	ERAC Secretariat
To:	ERAC (European Research Area and Innovation Committee)
Subject:	The Future of the ERA

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Delegations will find attached the PowerPoint presentation concerning the item 4.1 of the ERAC plenary agenda of 17 December 2019.

# The Future of the ERA

- Ad-hoc WG
- Final report
- 17 Dec 2019
- ERAC Plenary

# BACKGROUND

## Mandate of the ERAC WG

- **A. Options for a new narrative/paradigm on the future of the ERA**
  - The WG will provide its assessment of the current state of play and of the factors for success or failure of the ERA policy framework so far, drawing lessons from the experience since 2000. The group will also outline possible options for a new narrative/paradigm on the future of the ERA.
- **B. Possible future ERA objectives and priorities**
  - The WG will provide a rationale for possible future ERA objectives and priorities. To this purpose, the WG might also exchange with stakeholder organisations and other outside experts, and invite them to provide feedback. This work package is first and foremost future-oriented. It should enable ERAC to contribute to the Commission's reflections in view of a possible new Communication on the ERA in 2020.

# BACKGROUND

## Schedule

- **Start (1<sup>st</sup> meeting) 24 May**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting 5 June / 2<sup>nd</sup> July (interaction with **ERA groups**)
- 4<sup>th</sup> meeting 29 July – discussion with ERA stakeholders
- 5<sup>th</sup> meeting 3-4 September (in Porto, Portugal)
- **ERAC Plenary Lighthouses) 2 Oct (endorsed deliverable A minus**
- 6<sup>th</sup> meeting 8 October
- 7<sup>th</sup> meeting stakeholders 29-30 Oct. - discussion with ERA
- 8<sup>th</sup> meeting 13 November
- 9<sup>th</sup> (Final) meeting 27 November
- **Final report delivered 4 December**
- ERAC Plenary report) 17 Dec (to adopt - maybe... - the final

# Assessment of the current state of play

*Over the last two decades, a wide range of ERA related policy reforms and initiatives have been successfully implemented, contributing towards the overarching objective to achieve a fully functioning ERA.*

**Consensus:**

**ERA is a SUCCESS!**

**ERA did not achieve ALL its objectives**

**but ERA ACHIEVED MANY MAJOR FUNDAMENTAL  
SUCCESSSES.**

# The Future of the ERA

ERA will never be completed!

We should seek ever-improved conditions for:

- research-based knowledge to be produced, shared and used;
- for its actors, researchers and institutions, to operate.

**CONCLUSION:** Revise ERA objectives and priorities on a regular basis with realistic goals!

# The new ERA Paradigm

Main premises for the new ERA Paradigm:

- The ERA is not mobilizing the whole of Europe we need full INCLUSIVENESS  
harness diversity for a stronger ERA
- The ERA must go beyond the R&I policy  
help solve societal problems, including SDGs  
contribute to Europe's competitiveness  
(Innovation)
- Few people know what ERA is!  
ERA needs VISIBILITY!

# The four Priorities

Four main broad priorities:

- Remove barriers to Research Careers
- Link R&I policy to other policy areas  
smart directionality  
(beyond the Research-Higher Education-  
Innovation policies)
- Increase Visibility of the ERA (inc. Lighthouses)
- Promote Broad Inclusiveness

## Legal measures

A bold step:

the WG recommends that, if needed to strengthen the ERA, Europe should adopt:

- soft legal measures
- regulations
- act through the European Semester

**I would like  
to express  
my sincere  
thanks to:**

- **The MS/AC and Commission, for appointing an outstanding team for the WG**
- **The dedication and high motivation of the Rapporteur**
- **The support of the Council services and the ERAC Co-Chairs**

**As well as**

- **All the ERA Groups and all 18 ERA Stakeholders for**
  - **Their excellent and frank interactions and discussions;**
  - **The valuable inputs that they provided for the final report of the WG.**

## ERAC is requested to:

- 1) Approve the Final report of the WG
- 2) Approve the revised “Lighthouses” item in Deliverable A
- 3) Discuss and approve Deliverable B : “Objectives and Priorities”

as well as:

- 4) Consider the Motto for the new ERA paradigm:

**ERA – Mobilising knowledge for a better future**