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From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	ERAC Standing Working Group on Gender in Research and Innovation
Subject:	Summary conclusions of the 1st meeting of the ERAC SWG GRI, held on 18 October in Brussels

Delegations will find attached the Summary conclusions of the 1st meeting of the ERAC SWG on Gender in Research and Innovation, held on 18 October 2017 in Brussels, as approved by written procedure.

ERAC STANDING WORKING GROUP
ON GENDER IN RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Summary conclusions

- Meeting:** 18 October 2017
- Chair:** Mariann SAALISTE (EE Presidency) - 1st part of the meeting (until item 4 included)
Marcela LINKOVA (elected Chair)
- Vice-Chair:** Benjamin MONNOYE (elected Vice-Chair)
- Secretariat:** General Secretariat of the Council
- Present¹:** Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, European Commission, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom (23)

1. Welcome and adoption of the provisional agenda

Mariann Saaliste (EE Presidency) welcomed participants and explained that she was chairing the meeting until the election of the Chair of the Standing Working Group (SWG) was held. The agenda was adopted.

2. Presentation of Mandate and Rules of Procedure of the ERAC SWG on Gender in Research and Innovation

The Chair pointed out that the mandate had been approved by ERAC in May 2017 and had been circulated to delegates ahead of the meeting. The group would refer to the Mandate in the context of the discussion on the Work Programme.

The Chair asked the Secretariat to explain the background to the draft Rules of Procedure (RoP). The RoP were drafted on the basis of the SWG's Mandate and the ERAC RoP.

No major concerns were expressed by Delegations.

The Chair concluded by asking delegations to send their comments by the following week, 25 October COB. A revised draft will be subsequently sent for approval by written procedure.

¹ The list of delegations present at the meeting is based on the List of Participants that was circulated during the meeting for completion by delegates.

3. Introduction of Members of the Group

A tour de table was done for delegates to introduce themselves.

4. Election of the Chair and Vice-Chair

Marcela Linkova (CZ) and Benjamin Monnoye (BE) were elected as Chair and Vice-Chair respectively. No formal vote was needed, as they were the only candidates and all delegations attending the meeting supported them without exception.

5. Input for the SWG GRI Work Programme

I. General discussion

The draft Work Programme was discussed on the basis of the mandate of the SWG. The Chair introduced the topic and the activities foreseen in the Mandate and the need to adopt new WP in line with the transition of the GRI under the Council.

Two main analytical topics were clearly outlined:

- 1) in 2018: Analysis of the implementation of the CC of 1 Dec 2015 on advancing gender equality in the ERA with a view to working on follow-up Council Conclusions in 2019 (FI PRES);
- 2) in 2019: Sexual harassment and sexual assault in international mobility – analysis of actions and measures taken at national and institutional level. Delegations were asked to send their comments by 25/10.

Many delegations pointed out the importance of working on how to support Gender Dimension and how to prepare the next Framework Programme – gender dimension in research.

Working methods for Members' presentation were discussed: three to five presentations (15 minutes each) focused on a selected topic, questions to all members following this discussion in the meeting and overview. In this way, each meeting can generate lessons learnt on specific topics and preliminary recommendations that Members will agree upon. This will feed the updates on the work done by the SWG GRI for each of the ERAC Plenaries. Topics to be presented:

- a. Gender dimension in research and innovation: Actions taken by RFOs, including evaluation of new programmes and actions taken
- b. Gender bias: actions taken to combat gender bias in rewards and peer review, hiring and evaluation
- c. Gender and innovation
- d. Gender pay gap and salaries.

Other suggested topics for the Work Programme were: continuation of sharing good practices and exchanges, including at university and institutional bodies, at national and EU level; Members' best practices on interlinks between structural funds and FP and how gender is addressed; focus on hard sciences and emerging technologies and innovation.

The Chair and Vice-Chair will work on prioritising issues on the basis of the feedback received in order to develop the group's Work Programme. The WP will be drafted in time to be sent to GRI delegations for information, presented to ERAC SB on 7 November, to ERAC on 5 December and formally approved by GRI afterwards.

II. Helsinki Group's previous work on the joint Guidelines of SFIC and HG

Rapporteurs Jacqueline Barbara and Ursula Konecnik presented the work done so far. GRI decided to continue the work started under the Helsinki Group on the joint Guidelines. Deadline for comments to be sent by SWG GRI is 31 October 2017. The Vice-chair will liaise with SFIC chair/representative at the ERAC SB meeting on 7 November 2017. Expected adoption of guidelines by GRI at the beginning of December 2017, to be specified by rapporteurs.

III. Helsinki Group's previous work on the Guidance on gender balance in decision-making and feedback from the ERA Stakeholder Platform

The Chair presented the Helsinki Group's previous work on the Guidance on gender balance in decision-making and feedback from the ERA Stakeholder Platform. This report is no longer in the remit of the GRI. However, the Commission asked members to check the information provided in the guidance on concrete country examples. The deadline for checking the guidance is 31 October. Comments will be sent directly to Marcela Linkova and copy to the functional email of the Commission. It was agreed that a follow-up task will be included in the 2019 WP to assess how the situation has changed, in view of possible follow-up CC on gender equality in the ERA.

6. Possible appointment of subgroups

It was agreed that Sub-groups on gender balance in decision-making, ERA governance, cooperation with other ERA-related groups and cooperation with EU Presidency would not be established. GRI decided to establish a sub-group to assess the implementation of the Council Conclusion (CC) of 1 December 2015 on advancing gender equality in the ERA. It was suggested that the subgroup should have the future EU presidencies as members, in order to coordinate the follow-up to the CC.

7. Update from the Commission on Gender in Research and Innovation

The Commission made an update on Gender in Research and Innovation regarding the Expert group on interim evaluation and on a tender for Statistics (She figures) to be launched in 2018. The Commission called on Members to provide a statistical correspondent as was done in the past.

8. H2020 GENDERACTION

a) *Introduction of the H2020 GENDERACTION project and upcoming tasks and events and discussion of modes of cooperation with the SWG GRI*

Marcela Linkova, the coordinator of GENDERACTION, briefly introduced the project, its objectives, consortium, and main actions; she invited countries not represented in the consortium or among Associate Partners to contact her, in order to explore the possibility of joining the project. She stated that several events and actions are planned which are intended for national authorities and their representatives responsible for GE in R&I, including trainings and mutual learning workshops.

b) *Presentation and discussion of draft Report on Gender in Open Science and Open Innovation prepared within the framework of the GENDERACTION Project*

The procedure was clarified at the meeting that presentations of concrete outputs and/or deliverables of the project can occur only by invitation of the Commission as the project is within the remit of the Commission. SWG GRI members were invited to the workshop held on 19 October on gender in open access and open innovation.

9. Any other business

The Chair informed delegations that depending on the outcome of the discussions in ERAC SB on 7 November, the next meeting will either be held in February 2018 or April 2018.

As regards the premises, the Chair thanked BE for hosting the meeting. The Chair explained the discussions and action taken in ERAC SB to resolve the issue of the meeting premises and called for Members to volunteer to host a meeting. Delegations voiced their concern about the meetings not being held in the Council's premises and considered the possibility of holding them outside Brussels. The issue of the premises will be raised again at the next ERAC SB. SWG GRI representative will raise the option of holding meetings outside Brussels, which many delegations said would be easier for them to arrange.
