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**LIMITE**

**ERAC-SFIC**

**WORKING PAPER**

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**WORKING DOCUMENT**

From:	SFIC Secretariat
To:	ERAC (SFIC)
Subject:	COVID-19 related impact on international STI activities May 2020

Delegations will find attached PPT presentation given during the informal videoconference of the members of SFIC on 27 May 2020.

# Strategic Forum for International S&T Cooperation (SFIC)

COVID-19 related impact on  
international STI activities  
May 2020



**With view to COVID-19 related impacts we have asked delegations what impacts they have experienced so far**

**1) Have you experienced delays of calls/  
start of projects etc.?**

**2) Have you experienced any complete cancellation of  
activities?**

**3) What kind of work-arounds / new communication and  
collaboration mechanisms have emerged?**

**4) Do you already see any longer-term changes emerging  
in your approach to international cooperation?**

# Why are we doing this?



COVID-19 is a challenge for INCO activities

We need international cooperation but

- Travel restrictions
- Race for vaccine and business
- Div. approaches



Share experiences and best practises

How can we best cope with the situation and adapt schemes as necessary?



Monitor the development in general and with view to countries /regions

Respond together as necessary

## 1) Have you experienced delays of calls/ start of projects etc.?

Based on the feedback of 12 countries:

- All but one have experienced delays in some form
- Delays have / will affect the whole programme/project cycle:

Delays in the publication of Calls

Prolongation of submission deadlines of calls

Delays in / postponement of evaluations

Delays in starting the projects

Delays in the project implementation

Necessary prolongation of project durations

Partly higher budgets needed (personnel, cancellations etc.)

Distortion of the financial cycle in public administration, (plans for reinvestments 2021 etc.)

- Greater impact on mobility related schemes & programmes

## **2) Have you experienced any complete cancellation of activities?**

- **Some complete cancellation of activities reported, basically all of them related to mobility issues:**

**Less / NO incoming and outgoing delegations / researchers /students**

**Cancellation of courses / seminars / events /**

- **Tendency to keep as many of the bilateral activities running as possible - postponement of meetings etc.**

### 3) What kind of work-arounds / new communication and collaboration mechanisms have emerged?

- Huge increase in ICT-supported working methods  
Virtual meetings / Online trainings
- Hybrid activities combining virtual and (reduced) physical presence
- Flexibility in the conditions for project funding
- COVID-19 specific research activities funded bi- and multi laterally

Single feedbacks but interesting:

- more interest in synergetic cooperation in domains of global challenges with local impact
- more explicit expression of the need for pooling of resources and of knowledge
- Data access issues
- Shared sanitary rules

#### 4) Do you see already see any longer-term changes emerging in your approach to international cooperation?

Basically too early to assess

- Reduced travelling and hybrid events (remote and direct participation) could become more common in the future
- Mobility of students may still be reduced in the fall semester
  - development of blended mobility schemes

Single feedbacks but interesting:

- Lessons learned with view to effectively running meetings
- Enhancement of joint calls and multi-lateral research cooperation might be more explicitly recommended
- changes may be related to lifestyle at global level rather than on the international cooperation niche only
- integrating priorities of combating effects of pandemics into future public calls and bilateral activities