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WORKING PAPER

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MEETING DOCUMENT

From:	ERAC Secretariat
To:	ERAC (European Research Area and Innovation Committee)
Subject:	ERAC videoconference on 10 September 2020 - Item 3.3 - Opinion of the MS representatives in the Transitional Forum for Partnerships on the Commission proposal concerning the strategic coordinating process (Deliverable 5)

Dear ERAC delegates,

Please find enclosed the Opinion of the MS representatives in the Transitional Forum for Partnerships on the Commission proposal concerning the strategic coordinating process (Deliverable 5), with a view to the ERAC videoconference on Thursday 10 September (agenda item 3.3).

Best regards,

ERAC Secretariat

Opinion of the MS representatives in the Transitional Forum for Partnerships on the COM proposal concerning the strategic coordinating process (Deliverable 5)

FINAL: 3 September 2020

Introduction

The deliverable of the transitional forum on the set-up of the strategic coordinating process (SCP) constitutes the 'core' for future actions by COM and MS to ensure a proper implementation of the new policy approach on European Partnerships under Horizon Europe and partnerships where MS/AC cooperate that are not supported by HEU, e.g. the EIT KICs and the JPIs. Consequently, the transitional forum devoted a substantive amount of its working time and discussions on the design of strategic coordinating process.

Opinion

We believe that the document reflects very well the intention of the legislator on establishing the specific programme implementing Horizon Europe and the discussions within the transitional forum. It is broadly supported by the country representatives of the Transitional Forum.

The group wants to highlight the following issues:

1. A proper **set-up of the strategic coordinating process in all its elements** constitutes an important prerequisite for achieving the policy objectives linked to the new policy approach on partnerships. We particularly welcome the efforts to ensure more systematic evidence on the impacts and added value of the partnership approach, thereby allowing more visibility, informed decisions and strategic discussions on the partnership policy approach and collective progress. The involvement of national authorities including sectorial ministries is important for political commitment – and success - on all levels. We also stress the importance of advancing the mutual learning and community building activities, which have been essential for strengthening inclusive pan-European collaboration on common challenges;
2. The success of the strategic coordinating process will depend on the political buy-in, commitment and resources dedicated to this process by all sides. Consequently, the further development of the SCP should ensure a **proper involvement of the Council**;

3. We see an element of **urgency to swiftly establish all necessary elements of the SCP**, which is largely independent from the emerging final landscape of European partnerships and despite the many uncertainties still existing. In this context, we as Member States need to ensure the set-up of an efficient and effective national coordination processes, and appropriate financial and in-kind commitments to partnerships. The Commission, as the overall facilitator, needs to prepare swiftly the ground for the establishment of the different elements of the SCP in dialogue with the MS/AC;
4. In view of the preparation of the first wave of partnerships under Horizon Europe, we call on the **Commission to ensure that the different elements of the SCP are in place by mid-2021**, not at least to prepare the first partnership report. Member States should be regularly updated on the progress and involved in decision making where appropriate. As the SCP is composed of different elements, particular attention should be given to ensure effective and efficient coordination between the different elements;
5. Due to the relevance of the SCP for the success of the partnership policy approach, the **Horizon Europe, supported by COM and Member States, will need to provide sufficient resources** to support the implementation of SCP elements. DG RTD should ensure a proper staffing of the partnership secretariat and MS/AC themselves should be ready to provide sufficient national resources;
6. Concerning the proposed 'partnership knowledge hub', we see the clear need to have a **configuration within the hub that is composed by COM and MS/AC representatives only** in order to allow for strategic discussions that should not involve partnership representatives. The hub requires clear mandate and rules of procedures, so that the different views of the potential participants can interact in a transparent manner.
7. While the **SCP will constitute a core element of the future ERA governance**, we reckon that the elements and activities proposed for the SCP are flexible, so that they can be adapted to the future ERA governance that probably will be decided towards the end of 2021. Bearing in mind the important role of the strategic discussion between the Commission and MS/AC in the Strategic Coordination Process, a dedicated mechanism shall be established in the frame of and in line with the future ERA-Governance. The mechanism will represent the substantial role of coordinating EU and national R&I-

policies and programmes and it will guide the strategic coordinating process for European Partnerships.