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**WORKING DOCUMENT**

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From:	ERAC Secretariat
To:	ERAC (European Research Area and Innovation Committee)
Subject:	The future of ERA, by the ERAC Ad-hoc WG on the future of the ERA

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Dear ERAC delegates,

Please find attached the following presentation of the agenda of the ERAC plenary on 2 October 2019:  
item 4.1: The future of ERA, by the ERAC Ad-hoc WG on the future of the ERA

# The Future of ERA

ERAC Ad-hoc WG

2 October 2019  
ERAC Plenary Helsinki

# Deliverable A (by 15 Sept)

## 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;
- draw lessons from the experience since 2000;
- outline possible options for a new narrative/paradigm on the future of the ERA.

# Future actions

**After options for the new paradigm are agreed, the WG shall prepare (for the ERAC December meeting) its Deliverable B:**

- **A narrative for the new paradigm**
- **A set of priorities**

# 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 realise the ERA.*

**Consensus:**

**ERA did not achieve ALL its objectives**

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

# CONCLUSIONS

- **Progress on ERA implementation has been slowing down since 2015**
- **There are still major disparities between countries and regions, some of which are even diverging rather than converging**
- **There is an unhealthy level of concentration of R&I excellence pockets across Europe.**
- **Many national R&I policies miss an European dimension, hindering joint multi-level action that is essential for a fully functioning ERA**

# 20 RECOMMENDATIONS ... (in reality, 19+1)

## **OVERALL OBJECTIVES:**

Strengthen R&I contribution to achieve Europe's wider policy goals.

Make ERA more responsive to society.

Promote the adoption of ambitious knowledge policies, targeting researchers, innovators, R&I organisations and citizens

Broaden the outreach of ERA related initiatives.

# RECOMMENDATIONS

OVERCOME BARRIERS BEYOND THE R&I RAULM

education, research and innovation

POLITICAL RESPONSIBILITY AND OWNERSHIP

MULTILEVEL OWNERSHIP

EMPOWERMENT

SECTORAL POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

## SCOPE ON KNOWLEDGE

ENABLING

GLOBAL DIMENSION

## FREE CIRCULATION

SUSTAINABILITY/SDGS

LINK ERA WITH EHEA

SMART DIRECTIONALITY

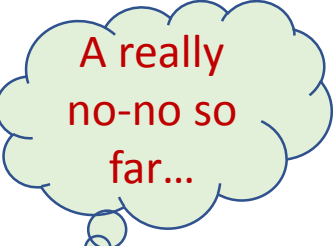
RECOGNITION

CORE VALUES for EUROPE

STRATEGY FIRST INCLUSIVENESS

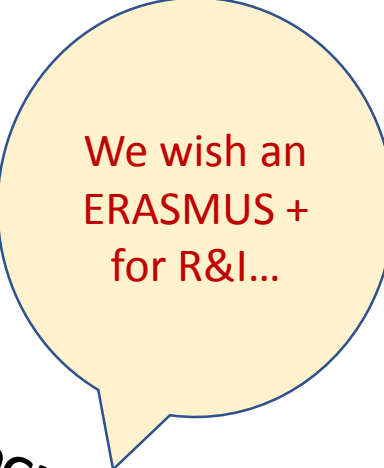
ENABLING

EVIDENCE BASED POLICY MAKING



REGULATORY MEASURES

SECTORAL POLICY IMPLEMENTATION





# RECOMMENDATIONS IN A NUTSHELL

A convincing/modern **new narrative focusing on some policy objectives**

AND

a focus on implementation that will **improve relevance, impacts and visibility of ERA policies** at EU and national/regional level.

# Lighthouses

## Objectives:

- To achieve a **faster and more tangible ERA implementation.**
- To focus on **common interests and seize opportunities of joint action.**
- To achieve **effective cooperation/coordination with sectoral policies.**

## What are they?:

- **Not a funding instrument!**
- **Not “missions” nor “improved JTIs”.**
- **They will connect existing measures and actions into a coherent multi-level framework, focused on delivery and impact.**
- **They will be tailor-made to their intended objectives/goals.**

# Lighthouses

- The design should be driven first by R&I policy makers
- Then bring in sectoral policy and broader societal actors
- Co-implementation by R&I and sectoral policy

## Two possible types of lighthouses:

- Structural “ERA” issues
- Thematic “challenges” issues

Two examples in paper to illustrate the concept (they are not proposed topics for lighthouses):

- **Knowledge for sustainable growth: Science-industry links** (structural)
- **Knowledge against Forest Fires** (thematic)

# Questions for discussion

- 1. Do you agree with the conclusions and recommendations as the basis for the elaboration of a broadly agreed new ERA narrative?**
  
- 2. In which way the concept of “lighthouses” should be pursued in the context of implementation of the new ERA priorities?**
  - a) Should the concept of “ERA lighthouse” be pursued or dropped?**
  - b) And, if they are to be pursued, should they be structural only, or should they also be thematic?**