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LIMITE

RECH

WORKING PAPER

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WORKING DOCUMENT

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

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

CORE VALUES for EUROPE

SECTORAL POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

MULTILEVEL OWNERSHIP

SCOPE ON KNOWLEDGE

STRATEGY FIRST

INCLUSIVENESS

EMPOWERMENT

ENABLING

ENABLING

FREE CIRCULATION

GLOBAL DIMENSION

EVIDENCE BASED POLICY MAKING

SUSTAINABILITY/SDGS

We wish an ERASMUS + for R&I…

SMART DIRECTIONALITY

A really no-no so far…

LINK ERA WITH EHEA

RECOGNITION

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 pursed, should they be structural only, or should they also be thematic?**