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WORKING DOCUMENT

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	ERAC (European Research Area and Innovation Committee)
Subject:	Draft ERAC Work Programme 2022-2023

Delegations will find attached a revised draft of the ERAC Work Programme 2022-2023 with a view to the ERAC meeting on 12-13 April 2022.

The changes as compared to the previous version are indicated in **bold underlined** for additions and strikethrough for deletions

<u>ERAC WORK PROGRAMME 2022-2023</u>

<u>INTRODUCTION</u>

ERAC in its renewed form was established by the Council Conclusions of 26 November 2021 on the future governance of the new ERA and the subsequent Council Decision of 13 December 2021 on the composition and the mandate of ERAC. On XX.XX 2022 ERAC adopted its procedural arrangements ~~by written procedure~~, replacing the former ERAC rules of procedure. On 24 January 2022, ERAC elected Ms Barbara Weitgruber from Austria as its MS co-Chair for a period of three years.

Due to the fundamental changes in its composition and its role in the ERA, though there is a legal continuity from the "old" ERAC, it was decided to restart the work of ERAC ~~with~~ in its new composition with adopted working methods. This document is the first ERAC work programme in the new era of ERAC.

<u>STRUCTURE AND PROCEDURE OF THE PROGRAMMING OF ERAC'S WORK</u>

At each regular ERAC Meeting (once per semester), there will be a standing agenda item "Update of the ERAC Work Programme". The Work Programme will cover the oncoming three semesters (not counting the current) and as relevant will also address longer term projects and work streams beyond the three semester period.

ERAC will plan ahead the meetings, topics, strategic discussions and work streams for the next three semesters. The incoming presidencies of these three semesters will have the possibility to propose topics in connection with their ~~(provisional)~~ presidency agendas. To this end, presidencies are encouraged to share their planning with ERAC at an early stage. The Commission work programme and other foreseeable developments will be taken into account. Furthermore, ERAC members will have the possibility to propose topics including taking the lead in the preparation.

For the preparation of strategic discussions, the following is foreseen:

- **One or more volunteers (a Rapporteur, an ad-hoc Task Force) prepare a draft for a background document in collaboration with the Commission**

- **The document is put forward to the ERAC SB for discussion/amendment/adoption**

- **The document is then sent to the ERAC Members at least two weeks before the meeting**

- **In the background document, the follow-up of the discussion must be clearly described. Each ERAC discussion should have a clear outcome, which could be an ERAC opinion, Council Conclusions, an initiative taken by the Commission, the setting up of an ERAC Task Force for further elaboration of the subject, etc.**

In addition to the **planning for the next 18 months**, ERAC will briefly discuss the indicative agenda of the next ERAC meeting on the basis of a proposal from the ERAC Steering Board. The ERAC SB will then further prepare the meeting taking into account the input from the ERAC Members.

ERAC's work programme will take a flexible, proactive approach to ensure ERAC can contribute in a speedy and timely manner, as appropriate, to emerging and evolving issues.

It is important that ERAC considers carefully what outcomes and ~~e~~affects it aims to achieve. Every topic discussed in ERAC shall have a clear perspective on the pursued impact and the concrete follow-up.

<u>ERAC'S TASKS</u>

The ERAC mandate describes the tasks of ERAC as follows:

1. to advise on strategic policy orientation and future trends that require the refinement of Union and national, including regional, R&I policies, including on the current and the next Union R&I Framework Programme and other relevant R&I-driven Union initiatives

2. to initiate updates of the ERA policy agenda, by providing early strategic advice informed, among other things, by consideration of the progress made in ongoing ERA actions

3. to reflect and provide advice on new policy demands which fulfil the ERA policy agenda criteria, throughout the implementation of the ERA policy agenda

4. to interact with governance and coordination structures at a similar level in other relevant policy areas, such as higher education and industry

These four points determine on one side a few mandatory tasks for ERAC and leave on the other side enough leeway and flexibility for ERAC to select topics that appear the most pertinent and topical.

<u>ERAC's role in the design, adaptation and implementation of the ERA Policy Agenda</u>

In the new ERA governance and the new policy coordination approach, the ERA Policy Agenda is the central document for the advancement of the ERA. It is therefore also a very important subject for the work of ERAC. Based on the Pact for R&I in Europe and the Council Conclusions on the future governance of the ERA the following can be determined for the work of ERAC in the context of the ERA Policy Agenda:

1. The Council adopts an ERA Policy Agenda every three years with the possibility to amend it if this seems necessary.

2. For the first ERA Policy Agenda ERAC was invited to provide its view (till April 2022) ~~on the ERA policy agenda~~ due to the improvised

procedure leading to its adoption.

3. ERAC observes the implementation of the ERA actions. To this end ERAC is regularly informed by the Co-chairs of the ERA Forum.

4. ERAC initiates the update of the ERA Policy Agenda that is due at the end of the three years period. To this end, ERAC starts a discussion process in time so that it can deliver its strategic advice at the latest one year before the end of the 3-year cycle. For its deliberations ERAC will, among other sources of information, ~~base~~**take into account** the mid-term review ~~of the ERA policy agenda on the review~~ of the implementation of the ERA Policy Agenda that the Commission prepares every 18 months.

5. ERAC reflects on new policy demands that fulfil the criteria for the ERA Policy Agenda. To that end, all ERAC Members can propose relevant topics to be discussed by ERAC in view of providing advice for possible new ERA Actions.

6. ERAC may be invited to provide advice on any other matter in the context of the ERA Policy Agenda.

<u>The preparation of the next Framework Programme</u>

ERAC is supposed to give early strategic orientations for the next Framework Programme. For the timing of ERACs work it has to be considered that, the Commission starts drafting the proposals for the legislative documents about 3 ½ years ahead of its starting date. This would be the time when ~~the~~ ERAC**'s** early strategic orientations should already be finalised. For the 10th Framework Programme this means that ERAC must start its discussion process by mid-2023.

<u>Interaction with other policy areas</u>

Research Policy is closely connected to education and industrial policy. R&I Policy meets education policy especially when addressing Higher Education Institutions. Since HEIs play such an important role for our knowledge societies, it is of great importance to have an integrated policy addressing HEIs and their four missions. Close interconnection between R&I and Education policy is therefore a necessity. On the other side of the R&I spectrum, close interaction and creating synergies with industrial policy is also an obligation in order to maximise the impact of R&I on the EUs

competitiveness. Not less important is close collaboration with sectoral policies in the context of challenge- and mission oriented R&I.

Due to its nature at the interface between European and national R&I policy, ERAC can play an important role in enabling and enhancing the interaction with other policies. It can do this through its strategic advice, the involvement of stakeholders, "ERAC ambassadors" for sectoral policies or even joint meetings with other fora.

Other issues of strategic relevance

ERAC is supposed to give advice on strategic policy orientation and future trends. In essence, ERAC can select for discussion any other topic that appears pertinent and topical. Topics may be proposed by the ERAC Members.

ERAC STRATEGIC TOPICS FOR 2022-2023

2022

Proposed topics for the ERAC Meeting in September 2022:

- The advancement of a European research **and technology** infrastructure ecosystem (Czech proposal)
- Synergies (Czech proposal)
- Making it work: Advancing European missions through an efficient multilevel governance (that could feed into the expected review of the missions expected by 2023) – September 2022 (French proposal)
- **Setting the scene for the midterm evaluation: Preliminary discussion on process, themes and focus of the midterm evaluation of Horizon Europe (Danish proposal)**

2023

Proposed topics for the ERAC meeting first semester 2023:

- Ensuring more diverse and attractive research careers in Europe, including through an assessment of the impact of the pandemic on young researchers (French proposal)

Proposed topics for the ERAC meeting second semester 2023:

- The use of RRF and the impact of reforms and investments in RDI national policies (Spanish proposal)

Recurring topics:

- Initial strategic discussion on the 10th FP
- Discussion on the update of the ERA policy agenda

Further topics proposed for discussion:

- **The twin transitions and ERAC's role in achieving it (Finnish proposal)**
- **Thematic discussion on the current change in the field of Europe's RDI cooperation with third countries – strategies and possible opportunities? (Finnish and Dutch proposal)**
- **How to support a diverse and inclusive research and science community (Dutch proposal)**
- **The role of research and science in and for society as a whole (Dutch proposal)**
- **How to strengthen research and science cooperation with the outermost regions and the overseas countries and territories**

Table with Major events and milestones will be added.

Major events and milestones

January 2022	February 2022	March 2022	April 2022	May 2022	June 2022
			ERAC Plenary (12-13 April, Strasbourg)		Competitiveness Council (Research) (10 June)
July 2022	**August 2022**	**September 2022**	**October 2022**	**November 2022**	**December 2022**
Informal meeting of Ministers for Competitiveness (Research) (22 July)		ERAC Plenary (13-14 September, Prague) *(TBC)* Competitiveness Council (Research) (30 September)			Competitiveness Council (Research) (2 December)
January 2023	**February 2023**	**March 2023**	**April 2023**	**May 2023**	**June 2023**
July 2023	**August 2023**	**September 2023**	**October 2023**	**November 2023**	**December 2023**