



Council of the European Union  
General Secretariat

**Brussels, 15 December 2022**

**WK 17664/2022 INIT**

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From: General Secretariat of the Council  
To: ERAC (European Research Area and Innovation Committee)

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Subject: National implementation of the ERA Policy Agenda 2022-2024: State of play with regard to national policy vehicles

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ERAC delegations will find in the Annex the document "National implementation of the ERA Policy Agenda 2022-2024: State of play with regard to national policy vehicles", proposed by the DE Delegation, with a view to the ERAC meeting on 14 February 2023.

## Background Note for the ERAC Plenary on 14 February 2023

### National Policy Vehicles for the Implementation of the European Research Area

(Draft, 7 Dec 2022)

The success of the European Research Area (ERA) relies on the co-creation and – implementation among the different levels, EU, national and regional. Besides the work in the ERA Forum, each Member State is encouraged to foster the implementation of common goals at national level through national processes or policy vehicles (see Pact for R&I in Europe, ERA Policy Agenda 2022-2024/ERA Action 18<sup>1</sup>).

In the light of this “tailor-made” approach for national implementation of ERA, the Council left it open to Member States and Associated Countries to decide if a dedicated process or policy vehicle is put in place and, if yes, what type of policy vehicle to choose. This could be a national action plan, a roadmap or any other approach identifying ongoing or planned measures at national or regional level which contribute to implementing the ERA policy agenda and other priority areas for joint action.

Those different strategic options open up a wide field of possibilities. For some countries it might be beneficial to set up a dedicated national action plan that is supported by an agreement at government level. Others might prefer to include ERA priorities and measures into existing or upcoming general national research and innovation strategies or other cross-sectoral strategic frameworks. Implementation could also be approached with coordination mechanisms, stakeholder discussions and communication efforts. However, any form of national implementation of ERA will face some common challenges. At some point all countries will have to deal with cross-cutting questions on how to involve national stakeholders, how to coordinate actions across different policy areas and how to organise the monitoring process, etc.

ERAC is the appropriate platform to discuss the strategic approach to implementation of ERA; whereas the ERA Forum looks at the operative side of national implementation in light of ERA Action 16 and 20. An overview of national implementation modalities can foster the exchange between countries on different approaches, common challenges and good practice. It is an initial step to put the national implementation of ERA on the agenda and discuss the merits of different national policy vehicles with respect to the value-based, excellence and impact-driven approach of the ERA.

This note proposes a short questionnaire directed to the national/regional levels that focusses on the main points regarding the organization of national implementation of ERA (see annex below). The results of this questionnaire will inform on the range of options, possible trends and common challenges among Member States and Associated Countries. The goal is to enable mutual learning and an effective implementation at national level. The results of the questionnaire will be analysed and discussed at the ERAC plenary meeting in June 2023 in Lund.

As a follow-up to the debate in June, ERAC will be invited to prepare an opinion building on good practice and remaining challenges for national implementation of ERA. This ERAC opinion could serve as a guideline for current and future approaches to effectively include the implementation of ERA at national level. These exercises may also help to identify upcoming policy demands with a view to the next ERA Policy Agenda.

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<sup>1</sup> Council Recommendation on a Pact for R&I in Europe ([13701/21, VI pt. 7](#)); Council Conclusions on the future governance of the European Research Area (ERA); Annex ([14308/21](#)), both Nov 28, 2021.

## Proposed timeline

<b>Feb 14</b>	<b>ERAC briefing on planned survey on national implementation of ERA</b>
Feb 21	Deadline for MS feedback on survey questions
Mar 1	Launch of survey
Mar 24	Deadline for MS reactions to survey
<b>Jun 20</b>	<b>ERA Plenary in Lund, discussion of survey results and outline of ERAC Opinion</b>
Jul 15	Circulation of first draft of ERA Opinion for MS comments Adoption by written procedure

## Question for the discussion

1. Do you agree with the timeline and the questions proposed for the survey on ERA national policy vehicles?

## Annex: Draft questionnaire

1. Do you have or plan to set up a concrete national process or policy vehicle in order to implement ERA policy goals in your country? If so, please indicate the timeline, type (strategy, roadmap, action plan, coordination mechanism or other) and status (level of political support, i.e. government, several ministries, one ministry, sub-governmental).
2. What key challenges do you face or do you expect in developing and implementing your national policy vehicle? For example:
  - a. Limited buy in from national funding agencies
  - b. Balance between EU priorities (ERA policy agenda) and national policy priorities
  - c. Limited buy in from sectorial ministries
  - d. Lack of staff & resources
  - e. Lack of funding to incentivize Europeanisation
  - f. Other
3. Which governance instruments are you (planning to) use to support the implementation of ERA policy goals and ERA actions?
  - a. Will there be structures and regular meetings at administrative level?
  - b. How do you coordinate the working processes between different ministries?
  - c. How are national stakeholder organisations involved?
  - d. If relevant, how is the regional level involved?
  - e. Do you plan to involve the national parliament?
4. Do you consider to introduce key performance indicators or targets e.g. on R&I funding?