

EUROPEAN UNION
EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA
AND INNOVATION COMMITTEE

– ERAC –
Secretariat

Brussels, 4 May 2016
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ERAC 1206/16

NOTE

From: ERAC Secretariat
To: ERAC delegations

Subject: Mandate of the Standing Working Group on *Open Science and Innovation* of the European Research Area and Innovation Committee (ERAC)

Delegations will find annexed to this Note the Mandate of the Standing Working Group on *Open Science and Innovation* of the European Research Area and Innovation Committee (ERAC) as adopted by ERAC by written procedure.

MANDATE**OF THE STANDING WORKING GROUP ON *OPEN SCIENCE AND INNOVATION* OF
THE EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA AND INNOVATION COMMITTEE (ERAC)**

1. The overall objective of the Working Group on Open Science and Innovation (hereafter referred to as the Working Group) is to advise, in the context of open science and open innovation, on the development and implementation of policies and initiatives to enhance access to scientific information, and the circulation and use of knowledge for research and innovation for the benefit of scientists, research institutions, education, businesses, citizens and society at large, with the issues being considered primarily from the perspective of these end-users.

Main activities

2. With respect to this mission, the Working Group shall:
 - Promote the top action priority 5 of the ERA Roadmap 2015-2020: implementing open access and knowledge transfer policies at national level in order to maximize the dissemination, uptake and exploitation of scientific results;
 - Promote the implementation of the agreed top action priorities in the ERA Communication (COM (2012)392 final) and its related Roadmap 2015-2020;
 - Provide forward looking policy advice to ERAC on knowledge circulation in Europe, including the framework conditions and regulatory issues affecting knowledge circulation in Europe, and address emerging issues linked to knowledge circulation, especially when identified by ERAC;
 - Share good practices across Member States and Associated Countries on how to ensure and foster optimal knowledge circulation and suggest EU-level relevant initiatives;

- Consider and recommend ways to overcome significant legal, economic, political and technical or other barriers associated with knowledge circulation to increase the economic and social/societal impact of the scientific results and research data generated and develop recommendations for international principles;
- Provide advice to ERAC on any other topic related to digital and open science and innovation that ERAC may consider of interest.

Given the emerging challenges in this dynamic policy field, the Working Group shall closely cooperate with the Commission services and other ERA-related groups taking into account information on the work done by expert groups and stakeholder platforms working in this area, with the aim of developing initial recommendations to ERAC by mid-2017 and subsequently updating them according to ERAC's needs. It should also take account of the work already carried out by the ERAC Task Force on Open Research Data as well as global developments and initiatives in this area.

Organisation

3. The Working Group shall meet regularly, up to four times per year. The meetings will normally be held in Brussels.
4. The Working Group shall be attended by, where appropriate, up to two representatives at an appropriate level and competence from each Member State, Associated Country and the Commission.¹
5. The Working Group may invite representatives of countries associated to the EU Framework Programme to participate in its meetings as observers.

¹ A good balance should be ensured between Open Access/Open Science experts on the one hand, and Open Innovation experts on the other hand.

6. The Chair (and Vice-Chair if applicable) of the Working Group shall be elected from among the representatives of Member States on the Group by a majority of its component Members for a period of three years. In so doing, they shall have due regard to gender balance and other aspects of diversity.
7. Delegates of Member States and Associated Countries are present in the Working Group as formal representatives of their country, not as individual experts, and should ensure appropriate co-ordination with national representatives in other ERA-related groups.
8. The Secretariat for the Working Group is provided by the General Secretariat of the Council.
9. The primary role of the Secretariat is to assist the Working Group in its operation. In particular, it assists the Chair in the preparation, conduct and follow-up of meetings, including the circulation of provisional agendas and of related documents, and the drafting of summary conclusions of meetings
10. The Commission shall support the work of this Working Group within the remit of its competence.
11. The Working Group may set up sub-groups to deal with questions relevant to its mandate. These must have a clear purpose and mandate and be of limited duration.
12. In agreement with the ERAC Steering Board, the Working Group shall draw up rules of procedure that are coherent with those of the other ERA-related Groups. The requirement for coherence in rules of procedure does not include any voting rules, which are solely a matter for the Working Group.

ERA coordination

13. The Working Group shall develop its own work programme, draw up its agenda, carry out its activities and produce its deliverables according to its mandate and the ERA Roadmap. The relevant aspects of the draft work programme, including the timing of work, the scheduling of meetings and the planning of communication with the Council, shall be discussed within the ERAC Steering Board and comments by the ERAC Steering Board shall be taken into account. The Chair of the Working Group shall ensure the substance of these discussions is systematically reported back to the group.

To ensure overall coherence among the ERA-related Groups and to avoid gaps or duplication in the coverage of ERA priorities, the Working Group's work programme shall be discussed within the ERAC Steering Board and a report of these discussions presented to ERAC before the adoption of the work programme by the Working Group. Within this framework, the Working Group takes sole responsibility for the content of the advice it provides.

14. The Chair of the Working Group will serve on the ERAC Steering Board along with the Chairs of the other ERA-related Groups.
15. The Working Group's mandate shall be assessed when necessary, but at least every three years, by ERAC in line with ERAC's agreed procedure for this exercise, and recommendations shall be made to the Council on whether the mandate needs to be revised or repealed in order to reflect progress in the implementation or updates of ERA Priorities.

Reporting

16. The Working Group shall submit a concise annual report to ERAC, providing a timely strategic and operational overview of research and innovation issues that are relevant to the development of the ERA Priority 5 for which it is responsible and on the impact of its activities on the achievement of that Priority.

This shall be provided in good time for ERAC to prepare its own annual report to the Council. It shall also ensure more generally, through the Steering Board or otherwise, that other ERA-related groups are aware of developments in its area that are relevant to the wider work of ERA.