



Council of the  
European Union

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RECH 136  
COMPET 230

**NOTE**

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From:	Presidency
To:	Delegations
No. prev. doc.:	7656/18 RECH 120 COMPET 192
Subject:	Draft Council conclusions on "Accelerating knowledge circulation in the EU" - Presidency text

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Delegations will find attached a Presidency text on the Draft Council conclusions on "Accelerating knowledge circulation in the EU" with a view to the Research Working Party meeting on Monday 23 April 2018.

Explanation:

Strikeout = deletion in relation to doc. 7656/18

**Bold** = new text.

DRAFT COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

ACCELERATING KNOWLEDGE CIRCULATION IN THE EU

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

RECALLING:

- that one of the Union's objectives is strengthening its scientific and technological bases by achieving a European Research Area in which researchers, scientific knowledge and technology circulate freely;
- the Conclusions of the European Council of 13 and 14 March 2008, inviting Member States and the EU to remove barriers to the free movement of knowledge by creating a "fifth freedom"<sup>1</sup>;
- its Conclusions of 29 May 2015 on open, data-intensive and networked research as a driver for faster and wider innovation<sup>2</sup>, in which it considers that openness of research data could further increase the efficient use of public funding and highlights that making data discoverable, accessible, assessable, reusable and interoperable would considerably increase innovation potential and create new business opportunities;

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<sup>1</sup> 7652/1/08

<sup>2</sup> 9360/15

- its Conclusions of 27 May 2016 on "The transition towards an Open Science system"<sup>3</sup>, in which the Council acknowledges that unnecessary legal, organisational and financial barriers to access results of publicly funded research should be removed as much as possible and appropriate, in order to attain optimal knowledge sharing, taking into account when necessary the need for exploitation of results; ~~and~~ in which the **Council underlines that the principle for the optimal reuse of research data should be "as open as possible, as closed as necessary"; and in which** the importance of ensuring long-term sustainability of Research Infrastructures is underlined and a targeted action plan is asked for;
- its Conclusions of 27 May 2016 on "FP7 and the Future Outlook: Research and Innovation investments for growth, jobs and solutions to societal challenges"<sup>4</sup>, ~~in~~ which ~~it~~ recognises that the Commission and the Member States should aim for better use of other EU funds to support research and innovation (R&I) projects and cater for downstream exploitation of research results for marketable products, services and social innovations;
- its Conclusions of 27 May 2016 on "Research and Innovation friendly regulation"<sup>5</sup>;
- **its Conclusions of 29 November 2016 on "Measures to support early-stage researchers, raise the attractiveness of scientific careers and foster investment in human potential in research and development"**<sup>6</sup> in which the Council stresses **the need to equip the new generations of researchers with the relevant set of skills giving emphasis to the use of digital technologies, entrepreneurship and knowledge transfer as well as research integrity and open science;**

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3 9526/16  
4 9527/16  
5 **9510/16**  
6 **15013/16**

- its Conclusions of 1 December 2017 "From the interim evaluation of Horizon 2020 towards the ninth Framework Programme"<sup>7</sup> in which the Council highlights the importance of disseminating and exploiting effectively research and innovation (R&I) results; recognises that the European competitiveness hinges on the effective circulation of new ideas and knowledge and underlines the importance of better synergies between different EU funding sources;
- the ERAC Opinion of 7 July 2017 on the Interim Evaluation of Horizon 2020 and preparations for the next Framework Programme (FP)<sup>8</sup>, in which ERAC recognises FPs as generating a wide range of impacts, from science to society and from business to culture, but it also considers that the "productivity paradox"<sup>9</sup> observed in Europe is partly due to the slow dissemination of innovation to the society;
- the Commission Communication of 11 January 2018 on "Horizon 2020 interim evaluation: maximising the impact of EU research and innovation"<sup>10</sup> which stresses the need to build on progress made in terms of making the scientific publications and data generated by Horizon 2020 openly accessible to the wider scientific community and the public;
- **the contribution of the Commission and those of ESFRI (European Strategic Forum on Research Infrastructures) and other relevant stakeholders to the debate on the long-term sustainability of Research Infrastructures and welcomes the priority actions discussed during the Bulgarian Presidency Flagship Conference "*Research Infrastructures beyond 2020 – sustainable and effective ecosystem for science and society*".**

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<sup>7</sup> 15320/17

<sup>8</sup> ERAC 1207/17

<sup>9</sup> European Commission: *The economic rationale for public R&I funding and its impact*, 2017

<sup>10</sup> 5271/18

## Transfer of knowledge for maximising the impact of Research and Innovation (R&I)

1. CONSIDERS that the EU needs to make full use of the **relevant** scientific knowledge it produces and ensure a more effective transfer of ~~publicly~~ funded **R&I projects** results of ~~R&I projects~~ to society and industry in order to maximise the impact of ~~public~~ **R&I** investment and further amplify the EU added value of the Framework Programme;
- 2.(3)<sup>11</sup>ACKNOWLEDGES that the possibilities for increasing impact and innovation can differ depending on the research ~~project~~ **domain** and **CALLS on the Commission to develop monitoring and evaluation framework for the next Framework Programme allowing to track progress towards achieving an impact at the programme level on short, medium and long-term**; **CONSIDERS** that the approach to facilitate impact and innovation should be customized; and **UNDERLINES** the importance of **supporting** fundamental research ~~without direct impact on society or immediate innovative applications~~; **and of funding collaborative projects particularly for providing the basis for new solutions and enhancing the innovative power of Europe**;
- 3.(4) ACKNOWLEDGES the crucial importance of efficient circulation **and transfer** of knowledge within **the** European Research Area. **EMPHASIZES** the importance of the curiosity driven, frontier research for the development of ground breaking science and innovation capital. **NOTES** the pivotal role in this respect played by the European Research Council, acting as a catalyst for such research and the contribution of **the** Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions to the **circulation transfer** of knowledge within the EU; **ENCOURAGES** the Commission to further strengthen ~~and widen~~ these two instruments supporting scientific excellence of researchers and knowledge circulation in the EU;

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<sup>11</sup> The number in brackets refers to the paragraph number in document 7656/18

4.(5) INVITES Member States to step up efforts to examine and share best practices on knowledge transfer, e.g. by optimising access for innovators and citizens to national and regional R&I programmes and by fostering academia-business collaboration; CALLS on the Commission to ~~revisit~~ **ensure the application of** the principles and measures of its 2008 Recommendation on the management of intellectual property in knowledge transfer activities and the Code of practice for universities and other public research organisations<sup>12</sup> **and together with the Member States to raise awareness on those recommendations** and ~~where if~~ appropriate to propose **incentives for application** ~~a re-visit~~ of this Recommendation to further boost the impact of R&I through knowledge transfer;

[6.(new) **Invites the Commission, in line with the Recommendations of the High Level Group on maximising the impact of EU Research & Innovation programmes [and the Open Science Skills Working Group Report] to explore options for the next Framework Programme to reinforce support for skills and competence-development in EU-funded projects, and to provide incentives for the modernisation of universities, e.g. an Open Science label for universities;**]

#### **Fostering the uptake of R&I results**

7.(6) INVITES the Commission to ~~constantly~~ **regularly** monitor the innovation potential and promote **policies and tools for the use** of the FP projects results, ~~including~~ through ~~approaches such as the~~ **for example** clustering of complementary results and the Innovation Radar **to foster the** ~~for~~ potential uptake and reuse by companies (of all sizes, in particular SMEs and start-ups), investors, national, regional and European public administrations and policy-makers; **and in this regard CALLS on the Commission to develop and implement a strategy for dissemination and exploitation to further increase the availability and use of R&I project results, thus boosting the overall impact of the Framework Programmes;**

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<sup>12</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/invest-in-research/pdf/ip\\_recommendation\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/invest-in-research/pdf/ip_recommendation_en.pdf)

4. ~~TAKES NOTE of the recommendations of the High Level Group of Innovators on establishing a European Innovation Council<sup>13</sup> which stresses the importance of collecting and making available intelligence on emerging technologies with breakthrough, market creating potential coming from national and EU research funding programmes to enable the quicker uptake of knowledge and open up new avenues for exploiting new knowledge more quickly in different areas, including commercialisation of knowledge intensive products;~~
6. ~~CALLS on the Commission to develop and implement a **an impact** comprehensive strategy for increasing the availability of results of R&I projects and accelerating their potential uptake to boost the overall impact of the Research and Innovation Framework Programmes and demonstrate its added value to the European **society and** economy and society;~~

**Openness, ~~and dissemination and mobility of researchers~~<sup>14</sup>**

8.(9) UNDERLINES that increased openness and dissemination of research results ~~and innovations~~ for societal benefit and thereby an enhanced uptake **of results** by European researchers, innovators, research organisations and industry, in particular SMEs, together with improved research and innovation framework conditions, are prerequisites for boosting the European competitiveness and prosperity<sup>15</sup>;

9.(new) **WELCOMES the Commission's work on making information on data and results of R&I projects publicly available through the Horizon 2020 Dashboard, and through CORDIS, the official Commission dissemination portal of R&I results and data stemming from projects funded under all Framework Programmes;**

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<sup>13</sup> *Europe is back: accelerating breakthrough innovation, 2018*

<sup>14</sup> Underlined text has been added.

<sup>15</sup> In the previous version of these Council conclusions (doc. 7424/18) this paragraph appeared under the RECALLING part.

10.(10)STRESSES that ensuring and incentivising FAIR<sup>16</sup> research data and publicly available research results, **such as open access to publications**, as well as optimal **dissemination and exploitation** ~~and dissemination~~ of knowledge, are important enablers for increasing the European competitiveness and growth; RECOGNISES the role of education and life-long training, including setting up targeted skills agendas especially ~~as regards to~~ **concerning** open access, ~~and~~ data processing **and** ~~, including an appropriate share of~~ intellectual property rights. REQUESTS the Member States and the Commission to promote **and implement** the necessary training and incentives **schemes** for Framework Programme participants, researchers and innovators to make their results and data accessible for use and reuse;

11.(11)**ENCOURAGES ACKNOWLEDGES career planning for researchers including** that transnational **and** inter-sectoral ~~and inter-disciplinary~~ mobility of researchers **and as part of** their continuous professional development **and as are one of the key factors** for ~~optimal dissemination~~ **for their spreading** of knowledge. RECOGNISES that open science and the exploitation of the global data ecosystem demands new sets of skills for researchers and ~~for~~ **other** data users. CALLS on the Member States and the Commission to support the knowledge circulation by implementing and further enhancing mobility; ~~reintegration~~ and training for researchers, ~~including~~ through initiatives such as Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions, **COST, ERASMUS+ and initiatives such** as EURAXESS, **HRS4R** and RESAVER;

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<sup>16</sup> FAIR data: Findable, Available, Interoperable and Reusable data  
[http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants\\_manual/hi/oa\\_pilot/h2020-hi-oa-data-mgt\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants_manual/hi/oa_pilot/h2020-hi-oa-data-mgt_en.pdf)



## **Framework Conditions and Synergies between EU programmes**<sup>17</sup>

12.(12)UNDERLINES that European, national, regional and local administrations may affect positively the multiplier effect of innovation ~~by ,in particular when it comes to~~ strengthening the Single Market; PROMOTING public-private cooperation and potential for quicker commercialisation; and conceiving, designing and implementing ~~public~~ **favourable** framework conditions for research and innovation, including innovation-friendly regulation, **for instance through innovation deals and the application of the innovation principle;**

13.(13)In this context, STRESSES that **striking a fair balance between protecting** ~~an efficient and effectively enforced~~ intellectual property rights ~~framework and striking a fair balance~~ **between protecting knowledge and dissemination of knowledge through open access** is key to boost ~~up open access and~~ **knowledge circulation;**

### **Synergies between EU programmes**

14.(14)REITERATES the importance of exploiting synergies between Horizon 2020 and other relevant EU Programmes such as the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) and ERASMUS+. Such synergies can pave the way for building of resilient regional economies, **favouring the integration of cutting edge research results in education and training activities** and fostering the circulation and take-up of knowledge with the final aim of promoting positive spill over effects among research organisations, universities, industries and societies all over Europe;

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<sup>17</sup> Underlined text has been added.

15.(15)CONSIDERS therefore, as stated in its Conclusions of December 2017<sup>18</sup>, that the regulations for the FP and the European Structural and Investment Funds, as well as any other relevant EU programmes, must be designed from the very beginning with synergies, coherence, compatibility and complementarity in mind **both at programme design and programme implementation levels**, pursuing significant simplification and increased usability for beneficiaries ~~throughout the innovation system~~. This can help improve diffusion of information on innovation support from all EU funding sources and deepen its impact including better market uptake of innovative solutions;

### **Long-term sustainability of Research Infrastructures**

16.(new)CONSIDERS that **Research Infrastructures play an essential role in the advancement and circulation of knowledge, fostering scientific excellence and enabling researchers to participate in cross-border research activities;**

17.(new)ACKNOWLEDGES the **positive role of ESFRI in developing state-of-the-art Research Infrastructures in Europe and the need of their consolidation in view of their long term sustainability;**

~~16. RECALLS the contribution of the Commission and those of ESFRI and other relevant stakeholders to the debate on the long-term sustainability of Research Infrastructures and WELCOMES the following priority actions identified during the Bulgarian Presidency Flagship Conference “Research Infrastructures beyond 2020 — sustainable and effective ecosystem for science and society”:~~

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<sup>18</sup> Conclusions of 1 December 2017 "From the interim evaluation of Horizon 2020 towards the ninth Framework Programme" (15320/17)

- 18.(17)~~INVITES the Commission and Member States~~ **UNDERLINES the importance of further efforts** within the framework of ESFRI ~~to for define actions for putting in place a better more synchronized~~ **aligned** decision making for setting-up and participating in ESFRI and ERIC Research Infrastructures in particular by **exchanging experience about** ~~better linking~~ national roadmaps **procedures** and establishing national budget lines **as an option** for their contributions to ESFRIs and ERICs (**European Research Infrastructure Consortia - ERICs**), **where appropriate**;
- 19.(18)ACKNOWLEDGES the need for **Research Infrastructures** to strengthen a service-driven approach and INVITES the **Member States in cooperation with ESFRI** to include in the governance of Pan-European Research Infrastructures a systematic monitoring **methodology and to explore options to support this through the use** ~~on the basis of commonly agreed~~ Key Performance Indicators;
- 20.(19)UNDERLINES the importance ~~of for~~ the effective use of the European Structural Funds and the European Fund for Strategic Investments **and in combination** with the Framework Programme to ~~construct, operate and upgrade~~ **support** pan-European Research Infrastructures thus addressing imbalances of R&I in the European Union. In this context, ~~ACKNOWLEDGES~~ **NOTES** that different rules between funding programmes hinder the impact of investment of Research Infrastructures and INVITES Members States and the Commission to explore the development of **transnational R&I co-funded activities** ~~common instrument~~ to support in particular the construction and early phase operation **including the commissioning** of pan-European Research Infrastructures;
- 21.(20)CALLS on the Commission and Member States to explore **new** measures to make European Research Infrastructures more broadly available **and affordable, building on the European Charter of Access to Infrastructures** thereby developing common transparent access policies, including for training and skills enhancement purposes of researchers and to establish cross-border access schemes, for example on the basis of co-funding.

21. ~~INVITES the Commission to inform the Council regularly on the progress made in the implementation of these priority actions and to propose new sets of actions aimed at improving the long-term sustainability of Research Infrastructures.~~

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