



Council of the  
European Union

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RECH 120  
COMPET 192

**NOTE**

From:	Presidency
To:	Delegations
No. prev. doc.:	7424/18 RECH 120 COMPET 192
Subject:	Draft Council conclusions on "Accelerating knowledge circulation in the EU" - Presidency text

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 11 April 2018.

Explanation:

Strikeout = deletion in relation to doc. 7424/18

**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 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"**;
- its Conclusions of 1 December 2017 "From the interim evaluation of Horizon 2020 towards the ninth Framework Programme"<sup>5</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;

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<sup>3</sup> 9526/16  
<sup>4</sup> 9527/16  
<sup>5</sup> 15320/17

- the ERAC Opinion of 7 July 2017 on the Interim Evaluation of Horizon 2020 and preparations for the next Framework Programme (FP) <sup>6</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>7</sup> observed in Europe is partly due to the slow dissemination of innovation ~~from the technology frontier actors to the rest of society~~;
- the Commission Communication of 11 January 2018 on "Horizon 2020 interim evaluation: maximising the impact of EU research and innovation"<sup>8</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;

~~— CONSIDERING that increased openness and dissemination of research results and innovations and thereby an enhanced uptake by European innovators, research organisations and companies, in particular SMEs, together with improved research and innovation framework conditions, are prerequisites for boosting the European competitiveness and prosperity;~~

~~— RECALLING that R&I activities in certain Member States are low, and that EU financial programmes, in particular the European Structural Investment Funds and the European Fund for Strategic Investments, could play a role in the upgrading, operating or constructing of European research infrastructures and thus the uptake of research results and innovations in those Member States;~~

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<sup>6</sup> ERAC 1207/17

<sup>7</sup> European Commission: *The economic rationale for public R&I funding and its impact*, 2017

<sup>8</sup> 5271/18

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

1. **CONSIDERS** ~~ACKNOWLEDGES~~ that the EU needs to make full use of the ~~produced~~ **scientific** knowledge **it produces** and ensure a more effective transfer of **publicly funded** results of R&I projects to **society and** industry ~~and society~~ **in order** to maximise the impact of ~~R&I~~ public **R&I** investment and further amplify the EU added value of the Framework Programme;
2. ~~ACKNOWLEDGES the call of the High Level Group, chaired by Pascal Lamy, on maximising the impact of EU R&I Programmes for better capturing, measuring and communicating the impacts of the EU Framework Programme for research and innovation<sup>9</sup>; and CALLS on the Commission to develop a monitoring and evaluation framework for the next EU Framework Programme allowing to track and assess its impact on the short, medium and longer term;~~
3. **ACKNOWLEDGES** that the possibilities for increasing impact and innovation can differ depending on the research project and that the approach to facilitate impact and innovation should be customized; and **UNDERLINES** the importance of fundamental research without direct impact on society or immediate innovative applications;

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<sup>9</sup> LAB – FAB – APP, Investing in the European future we want - Report of the independent High Level Group on maximising the impact of EU Research & Innovation Programmes, see [http://ec.europa.eu/research/evaluations/pdf/archive/other\\_reports\\_studies\\_and\\_documents/hlg\\_2017\\_report.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/evaluations/pdf/archive/other_reports_studies_and_documents/hlg_2017_report.pdf)

4. **ACKNOWLEDGES** the crucial importance of efficient circulation of knowledge within 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 Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions to the 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.
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 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>10</sup> and where appropriate propose a recast of this Recommendation to further boost the impact of R&I through knowledge transfer;

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

6. ~~3.~~ **INVITES** the Commission to constantly monitor ~~and support~~ the innovation potential **and promote policy and market uptake** of the FP projects ~~and apply novel approaches to cluster mature research results that can be transferred,~~ **including through approaches such as the clustering of complementary results and the Innovation Radar** 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;

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<sup>10</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)

7. 4. **WELCOMES TAKES NOTE** of the recommendations of the High Level Group of Innovators on establishing a European Innovation Council<sup>11</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 commercialising new knowledge** more quickly in different areas, **including commercialisation of knowledge intensive products**;
- ~~5. RECOGNISES that open access, FAIR<sup>12</sup> data, modern education, training and incentive mechanisms, optimal dissemination of knowledge and the uptake of research results are important enablers for increasing the European competitiveness and growth. REQUESTS the Commission to strengthen the innovation friendly framework conditions that allow unhindered and seamless knowledge circulation and create the necessary training modalities and incentives for FP beneficiaries, researchers and innovators to share their results for use and reuse, as well as help bring a continual stream of innovation;~~
8. 6. CALLS on the Commission to develop and implement a 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 economy and society;

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<sup>11</sup> *Europe is back: accelerating breakthrough innovation, 2018*

<sup>12</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)

## Openness and dissemination

9. **UNDERLINES** ~~CONSIDERING~~ that increased openness and dissemination of research results and innovations **for societal benefit** and thereby an enhanced uptake by European **researchers**, innovators, research organisations and **industry companies**, in particular SMEs, together with improved research and innovation framework conditions, are prerequisites for boosting the European competitiveness and prosperity<sup>13</sup>;
10. **STRESSES** that ensuring and incentivising **FAIR**<sup>14</sup> research data and publicly available research results as well as optimal 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 open access and data processing, including an appropriate share of intellectual property rights. **REQUESTS** the Member States and the Commission to promote the necessary training and incentives for Framework Programme participants, researchers and innovators to make their results and data accessible for use and reuse;
11. **8. ACKNOWLEDGES** that ~~trans~~international, inter-sectoral and inter-disciplinary mobility of researchers and their continuous professional development are key for optimal dissemination of knowledge. **RECOGNISES** that open science and the exploitation of the global data ecosystem demands new sets of skills for researchers **and for data users**. **CALLS** on the Member States and the Commission to support the ~~dissemination of knowledge~~ **circulation** by implementing and further **enhancing** mobility ~~enhancing initiatives~~, **reintegration and training for researchers, including through** initiatives such as **Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions**, EURAXESS and RESAVER.

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<sup>13</sup> In the previous version of these Council conclusions (doc. 7424/18) this paragraph appeared under the RECALLING part.

<sup>14</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

12. ~~7. STRESSES the importance of ensuring open access to research results and innovations to innovators, research organisations and companies in all Member States, especially those Member States with low R&I performance, and of fostering their use.~~ UNDERLINES that **European**, national, regional and local administrations may affect positively the multiplier effect of innovation, 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 framework conditions for research and innovation, **including innovation-friendly regulation;**
13. **In this context, STRESSES that an efficient and effectively enforced intellectual property rights framework and striking a balance between protecting knowledge and disseminating it is key to boost up open access and knowledge circulation;**

## **Synergies between EU programmes**

14. ~~9. REITERATES the importance of~~ **exploiting** synergies between Horizon 2020 and other relevant ~~Commission initiatives~~ **EU Programmes** such as the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) and ERASMUS+. Such synergies can pave the way ~~for prototyping in EU regions, allow for the building of resilient regional economies and~~ **fostering the circulation and take-up of** ~~foster~~ knowledge with the final aim of ~~fully exploiting~~ **promoting** positive spill over effects among research organisations, universities, industries and societies all over Europe;

**15. 40.** CONSIDERS therefore, as stated in ~~its previous~~ **Conclusions of December 2017<sup>15</sup>**, that **the** regulations for the ~~FP Framework Programme for Research and Innovation~~ 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, **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. 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”:
- 17. INVITES** the Commission and Member States within the framework of ESFRI to define actions for putting in place a more synchronized decision making for setting-up and participating in ESFRI and ERIC Research Infrastructures in particular by better linking national roadmaps and establishing national budget lines for their contributions to ESFRIs and ERICs;
- 18. ACKNOWLEDGES** the need for research Infrastructures to strengthen a service-driven approach and **INVITES** the member States to include in the governance of pan-European research Infrastructures a systematic monitoring on the basis of commonly agreed Key Performance Indicators;

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<sup>15</sup> Conclusions of 1 December 2017 "From the interim evaluation of Horizon 2020 towards the ninth Framework Programme" (15320/17)

19. **UNDERLINES** the importance for the effective use of the European Structural Investment Funds and the European Fund for Strategic Investments in combination with the Framework Programme to construct, operate and upgrade pan-European Research Infrastructures thus addressing imbalances of R&I in the European Union. In this context, **ACKNOWLEDGES** 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 a common instrument to support in particular the construction and early phase operation of pan-European Research Infrastructures;
20. **CALLS** on the Commission and Member States to explore measures to make European Research Infrastructures more broadly available, 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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