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MEETING DOCUMENT

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations

Subject: Danish EU Presidency
Horizon Europe negotiation process: Pillar IV on ERA
- PowerPoint presentation

Delegations will find attached a PowerPoint presentation on the above-mentioned subject made by the Presidency at the Research Working Party Meeting held on 6 November 2025.

PUBLIC

Danish EU Presidency

Horizon Europe
negotiation process:
Pillar IV on ERA

Today's agenda



- Research and Technology infrastructures
 - Including 1st exchange on process and criteria for selecting infrastructures for construction or upgrading funding
- ERA and Policy Facility

ERA Pillar: Articles and recitals

Framework programme

- Art 18 (European Research Area)
- Art 18a (Research and Technology Infrastructures)
 - Recital 19
- Art 18b (Policy Facility)
- Art 19 Widening [bracketed]
 - Recital 20

Specific Programme

- Art 14 (Reforming and enhancing the European R&I system)
- Art 16 (Research infrastructures)
- Art 17 (Technology infrastructures)
- Art 15 (Widening participation and spreading excellence) [bracketed]

Changes in Horizon Regulation

- The split of Article 18 in to 3 separate articles seems agreed.
- Art 18.1 only the reference to the ERA Pact is kept, no list of principles → in line with what has been done elsewhere and linked to simplify text.
- Art 18a title changed to research and technology infrastructures for consistency.
- Art 18a involvement of MS in deciding on infrastructures, and synergies with other programmes is added (reference to partnerships deleted as just one instrument amongst others).
- Art 18b on the policy facility is stable, sequence of articles to be adjusted at end.
- Recital 19 - reference to ESFRI added as well as the requirement for EU-level infrastructures to be long-term planned and strategic, thereby leading to coordinated investments.

Changes in Specific Programme

- Art 14 – added that realising ERA is a joint effort between Union and MS.
- For both TI and RI upgrade costs are added in the 20% funding and the two articles have been harmonised as much as possible.
- Art 16 smaller adjustments and addition of a bullet on collaboration and networking also with TI (echoes what is in TI, Art 17).
- Art 16.d reference to sector specific databases added in addition to EOSC.
- Art 17.1 simplified as it contained repetition of text in bullet below.
- Art 17.2 same order of bullets as in Art 16 (more or less), construction and upgrade costs added, valorisation and uptake added, and collaboration and networking with RI.
- Art 17.2a note, focus is on visibility and use of services

New proposal: Art 17a selection process and criteria for construction/upgrade - for discussion

To note, this is a first attempt by the PCY to have a discussion on the process and overall criteria for such support in view of defining a needed framework to also be able to better take a position on this novelty.

1. Process/support

The Specific Programme shall support the construction or upgrade costs for pan-European world-class infrastructures in key strategic areas in which global competition is severe and the Union's sovereignty is at stake. These infrastructures shall be jointly identified and selected by the Union and Member States to support the alignment of EU and national priorities in an open, transparent and competitive process, in consultation with ESFRI and [Placeholder for TIs].

The Union contribution will be based on a fixed amount grant contributing up to 20% of the building costs of critical new capacities or upgrades of existing critical capacities, notwithstanding other aid schemes and support provided at EU, national and regional level.

2. Guiding overall criteria

- Governance and management (including consortium experience and know-how);
- Financial feasibility (including political commitment and cost-benefit relationship);
- Key strategic area based on the Union's scientific, technological and industrial needs;
- EU added-value (including autonomy and sovereignty / complementarity);
- Data strategy;
- User strategy and access policy (openness and transparency), services;
- Business model, including financing of operating costs, sustainability and resource efficiency;
- Ecosystem coherence and consolidation, including where relevant synergies and complementarities between research and technology infrastructure capacities.