

Subject: ERRIN Membership fee increase (membership year 2021)

Dear ERRIN Members,

On 3 December 2019, the ERRIN Management Board communicated to the ERRIN AGM that a proposal to increase the network's membership fees would be discussed at the upcoming Spring Annual General Meeting.

On 25 June a proposal will be tabled for AGM approval raising ERRIN Full Membership to €3,200 per year, from 2021. This increase is accompanied by a commitment to waive indexation in 2022, so no further increase will follow.

This change is the result of a project undertaken by the ERRIN Secretariat, at the request of the ERRIN Management Board, to propose a model for adjusting membership fees to more appropriately reflect the current services and support provided by the secretariat and to accompany the three year investment plan (2021-2023) previously approved by the Management Board and the Annual General Meeting.

Over the last years, ERRIN has undergone a professionalisation across the board, putting into place a more systematic approach to priority setting, project development and promoting network interests – as well as improving coordination across the network. Strategic support to the working groups, structured project facilitation and development, effective network management and more targeted and professional communication through our new website are just some examples of that work. The working groups have been completely restructured to follow the clustered approach of the Horizon Europe, which has allowed working group leaders to be more actively engaged in defining priorities and joined up work on crosscutting issues.

In order to achieve this professionalisation, the ERRIN Secretariat has grown from 3 (in 2012) to 10 members of staff. However, at present, membership fees still only cover the cost of 3 full-time staff members. ERRIN's involvement in strategic European projects has allowed the network to grow to what it is today. However, in order to continue this trajectory, the Secretariat and the network needs to be more effectively financed by its members. The proposed increase in membership fees is designed to do just that – more effectively balancing the contributions from membership and project income.

The growth in network activity seen in the years immediately after 2012 was directly funded by the unpaid overtime of staff. Following the commitment of the ERRIN Director and Management Board to rectify this situation over the past 3 years, ERRIN has seen a boost in staff retention and subsequently stronger relationships between the ERRIN team, Working Groups and the wider membership. In order to sustain the current level of ERRIN services without moving back to unpaid overtime, an increase in membership fees is essential.

The ERRIN Secretariat understands that the environment in which we operate has undergone significant changes over the past six months with the COVID-19 pandemic putting serious strain on organisations across Europe. Therefore, the ERRIN Management Board have reduced the Secretariat's proposed fee increase.

The proposal now being brought to the AGM is for a smaller increase bringing the annual membership fee for Full Members to €3,200 and Associate Members to €2,750 as of 2021. As

mentioned above, the proposal also includes waiving the indexation in 2022. This proposal was unanimously approved in the ERRIN Management Board meeting on 25 May.

The ERRIN Management Board and secretariat ask the Annual General Meeting of 25 June 2020 to support it this change and approve the fee increase to support the continued development of our network.

Your sincerely,

(signed)

Sarah English
Chair of the ERRIN Management Board