

## POLICY WORKING GROUP

### ANNUAL PLAN 2021

#### WORKING GROUP LEADERS

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#### OBJECTIVES

The Policy Working Group works closely with the Management Board and the leaders of the other WGs to develop ERRIN's positions on cross-cutting policy issues. The WG follows closely overall Research and Innovation Policy and focuses on the Horizon Europe programme. Also the European Research Area (ERA) as the renewed policy framework for research and innovation will be closely followed up by the group.

#### CONTEXT

##### Key EU level priorities, strategies, and events that the Working Group aims to follow:

- Governance and practical implementation of the European Research Area (ERA)
  - Including synergies with the European Education Area (work led by SEFS WG)
  - Exploring the potential development of a European Innovation Area
- Horizon Europe – new elements of the programme
  - European Partnerships (overview and governance)
  - European Innovation Ecosystems (in collaboration with I&I WG)
  - Mission implementation plans (overview of the progress of the missions)
- Funding synergies – R&I and cohesion, recovery (in collaboration with S3)

##### Key funding programmes for the Working Group:

- Horizon Europe
- Overall understanding of the R&I funding landscape

##### Support for partnership building and collaboration with other European organisations or networks:

- The WG will identify key networks & organisations relevant for collaboration related to ERA and Horizon Europe novelties

## ACTIVITIES

### Bi-monthly meetings

The Policy Working group organises regular internal meetings that are designed to exchange information, exchange on intelligence and further define the issues to be tackled in the group. The WG also serves as a place where members, and in particular Working Group Leaders, can inform the group about on-going policy related activities within other WGs as well as or encourage collaboration with other organisations.

For the first half of the year the meetings have been scheduled for

- 19 January (afternoon)
- 23 February (morning)
- 23 March (morning)
- 24 April (morning)
- 18 May (morning)

### Thematic meetings and events

#### Regional dimension of ERA

##### 19 January

Exploring how to operationalise some of the new initiatives launched within the renewed European Research Areas and how to better coordinate the R&I priorities at various governance levels by using Structural Funds.

This meeting will be followed up by a policy document that will be discussed with the Cabinet of Mariya Gabriel.

#### Regional dimension of ERA in practice – internal meeting

##### 23 February

Exchange views on the ERA Hubs and the ERA Forum for transition and explore how the regional dimension could (in practice) be embedded into those proposed initiatives.

Our objective is to pull together the questions, ideas and proposals to a document that we can share with the Cabinet of Mariya Gabriel and the DG R&I.

### Overview of European Partnerships – What role for regions and their ecosystems?

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## **23 March**

Having an overview of the first wave of European Partnerships and what opportunities they offer for regions and their ecosystems. Focus will be on the governance and what role regions and their ecosystems can play in those partnerships.

Understanding the different models for joining and collaborating, for example between co-funded and co-programmed partnerships. Synergies with Smart Specialisation Partnerships.

Taking examples from some of the European Partnerships identified as priorities in thematic WGs: Hydrogen, CCAM, Waterborne Transport, Driving Urban Transitions, Health Systems, Made in Europe, Innovative SMEs, Biobased Europe.

## **European Partnerships – internal meeting**

### **24 April**

Follow up the overview meeting with further analysis of the governance model of the partnerships. Follow up on the role of regions in the co-funded partnerships.

## **Synergies between R&I and cohesion funding**

Several new European level initiatives are calling for combined efforts and funding from the different EU funding programmes and instruments. Using concrete examples – such as the European Partnerships and Missions to explore how R&I and cohesion policy funding could be combined. Focus will be also creating dialogues between the different actors in charge of the various funding programmes (e.g. managing authorities and NCPs).