



Implementation of the Statement of Intent between the European Commission (EC) and the EIROforum Organisations for the period 2018-2020

Considering the Statement of Intent (Sol), which was signed by the EC and the EIROforum Organisations on 24 June 2010 and which identifies a number of areas for closer cooperation;

Building on the achievements obtained in the periods 2014-2015; and 2016 -2017,

Aiming to specify areas of common interest, joint activities, points of contacts subject to joint monitoring by the EIROforum and the EC, as foreseen in the Sol;

Acknowledging that the EIROforum Organisations are leading scientific organisations in Europe and key contributors to the European Research Area.

Recognising that the EIROforum Organisations accord different priorities to specific issues, depending on their particular founding Conventions / Treaties and/or their own relations with the EC.

In order to effectively implement the Sol and without prejudice to any single EIROforum member Organisations' right to dialogue on a bi-lateral or multi-lateral basis with the EC, EIROforum and the EC envisage further cooperation on the following sections for the period 2018-2020:

1. Science Policy

In order for Europe to remain both at the forefront of Scientific Research and competitive worldwide, a number of challenges need to be addressed which are mostly deriving from the ongoing revolution of science affairs that is taking place in today's digital era. Evolving in parallel to such revolution, the Commission has defined Open Innovation, Open Science and Open to the World as the new set of priorities in the Science and Innovation dimension. These affirm the need to create the necessary integrated and interconnected ecosystem in which Science can develop, increase the number of actors



and to facilitate investment in the Research and Innovation process and, finally, seek the appropriate degree of internationalisation of the activities being carried out. Moreover, in order to achieve the desired level of cost-efficiency, interoperability and effectiveness, research activities need to fully exploit the possibilities offered by the modern digital environment.

In such context, Open innovation is about involving a greater number of actors in the innovation process, from researchers, to entrepreneurs, to users, to governments and civil society. Open innovation is instrumental to capitalise on the results of European research and innovation.

Under the European Open Science Agenda, policy lines are already being addressed by specific policy initiatives, namely Open Access (see further below) and the European Open Science Cloud which is part of the Digital Single Market Strategy.

Europe is recognised as a global leader in science, and this translates into being a leading voice in global debates. This needs to be ensured by a strong engagement in science diplomacy and by engaging effectively in global scientific collaborations. Such objective is pursued through the Open to the World priority.

- a. The European Commission and the EIROforum Organisations, in affirming that excellent science is the foundation of future prosperity, acknowledge the need for a closer collaboration between them with regard to defining the science policy and science priorities for Europe, based on input from the scientific communities and Member States. Within that context EIROforum and the EC envisage a continuous exchange of information on the EC research programming developments and developments within EIROforum. Where appropriate, EIROforum should be invited to share its expertise with the EC on topics of mutual interest that underpin the development of European science policy.
- b. Interested EIROforum organisations and the EC should explore options to make use of financial instruments such as the EU Finance for Innovators (Innovfin) initiative launched by the European Investment Bank Group (EIB and EIF) in cooperation with the European Commission under Horizon 2020 and the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI).



- c. Joint Programming and ESFRI research infrastructures – EIROforum organisations should explore opportunities to coordinate and collaborate with both pertinent Joint Programming Initiatives (ERA-NETs, Art. 185¹) and ESFRI research infrastructures, wherever thematically appropriate.

2. Open Access to scientific publications and research data

The EIROforum Organisations and the EC are supportive of the accessibility to the results produced in their Research Infrastructures.

Several common possible objectives have been identified:

- a. To promote Open Access as one of the elements for the free and efficient circulation of scientific knowledge, including fostering of best practices and common policies;
- b. To support the implementation of the respective Open Access policies and initiatives, analysing, monitoring and sharing information on the outcomes;
- c. To aim at transferring knowledge and making available technologies in support of Open Access;
- d. To work on the development of an appropriate infrastructure to make available these results (e.g. the European Open Science Cloud);
- e. To continue the exchange of information on activities related to research data policies, practices and procedures, including the dimensions of protection, accessibility and privacy. This is of particular relevance in the area of health research data, due to General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

¹ ec.europa.eu/research/era/era-net_en.htm



3. Open Innovation

The EC supports actions to ensure optimal circulation and exploitation of the results from research funded through the Framework Programmes and works to promote effective exploitation of EU publicly-funded research results in general.

A primary goal of EIROforum is to play an active and constructive role in promoting the quality and impact of European Research. It mobilises its substantial combined expertise in the exploitation of large international infrastructures, for the benefit of European research and development.

EIROforum Organisations and the EC intend to cooperate in the following dimensions:

- a. Foster knowledge circulation and transforming research results into socio-economic value across the European research and innovation environment and raise the profile of knowledge transfer, open innovation and co-creation among the research community, taking into consideration the emerging open innovation practices;
- b. EIROforum, based on its experience, expects to contribute to the discussion on the identification of the main bottlenecks and barriers in engaging in Open Innovation (or if none, then in Knowledge Transfer and Technology Transfer) with industry;

4. Research Infrastructures

EIROforum and the EC intend to continue stimulating inter-sectorial activity between Research Infrastructures, industry and academia, fostering industry involvement. The EIROforum Organisations have unique experience in the design, construction and operation of major research infrastructures and, in addition, have significant experience in building research links and networks across borders. The EIROforum Organisations are well-positioned to help establishing optimal transnational co-operation in European research and, as such, EIROforum Organisations pool resources to carry out programmes in specific scientific fields, thereby contributing to greater cohesion of research policies between the EIROforum Organisations' Member and Associate Member States and EU Member States.

Some major infrastructure projects by the EIROforum Organisations are part of the European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures (ESFRI) Roadmap.



In order to achieve a coherent approach:

- a. EIROforum and the EC should continue to regularly exchange views on the vision, planning, development, access and operation of Research Infrastructures in Europe, including the JRC infrastructures and the ones on the ESFRI Roadmap, in particular those coordinated by the EIROforum Organisations;
- b. The EC intends to involve EIROforum Organisations in the discussion on the long term sustainability of Research Infrastructures. Some specific topics of interaction are industry involvement strategies and socio-economic impact models used by EIROforum Organisations;
- c. The EC should involve EIROforum Organisations in discussions around the Charter for Access to Research Infrastructures², fostering its relevance to Open Innovation, Open Science and Open to the World;
- d. EIROforum and the EC intend to discuss the most effective ways to promote and develop the innovation potential of Research Infrastructures as well as the design of large scale co-innovation pilots with the involvement of all relevant actors, including academia and industry.

5. E-science and e-Infrastructures

A number of EIROforum Organisations and the EC have a strong interest in excellent world leading e-infrastructures in Europe. A collective and coordinated effort is therefore needed not only to maintain the current position but also to further enhance it in the future (e.g. via the European Open Science Cloud). Priority subjects of interest include FAIR data management and open access to scientific publications and research data, high-performance, cloud and high-throughput computing, international high-speed networking, as well as the closer integration of existing publicly funded e-infrastructures, their link with commercial service providers and the discussions on governance models. Consequently:

² The Charter for Access to Research Infrastructures - https://ec.europa.eu/research/infrastructures/pdf/2016_charterforaccessto-ris.pdf



- a. EIROforum and EC should continue the exchange of information on strategies and means to develop next generation e-infrastructures in Europe;
- b. EIROforum and the EC envisage to promote common positions on e-Infrastructures in European and international fora;
- c. EIROforum and the EC should continue the exchange of information on strategies and means to cooperate in extending e-infrastructures beyond Europe;
- d. EIROforum and the EC are expected to exchange information on activities related to research data policies, practices and procedures, including the dimensions of protection, accessibility and privacy.

6. Horizontal issues

a. Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI)

EIROforum and the EC have a common strong interest in excellent relationship between science and society. EIROforum and the EC should foster the promotion of the 5 dimensions of Responsible Research and Innovation: science education, open access, public engagement, ethics, and gender.

b. Public Engagement in science

EIROforum and the EC intend to favour the engagement of citizens and civil society organisations to the European Research Infrastructures, through citizen science activities and user-led innovation.

c. Ethics in science

EIROforum and the EC expect to support the promotion of the highest ethical values.

d. Gender equality in research and innovation

EIROforum and the EC should promote gender equality in research and innovation in all their activities along the three objectives defined in the 2012 ERA Communication namely:

- gender equality in scientific careers and
- gender balance in decision making.



These objectives were strengthened by Council conclusions on "Advancing gender equality in the European Research Area"³, adopted on 1 December 2015.

EIROforum and the EC should work towards integrating the gender dimension in research and innovation content, i.e. taking into account the biological characteristics and social/cultural features of women and men, thus enhancing the quality as well as the societal relevance of the knowledge, technologies and innovations produced.

EIROforum and the EC will further discuss the gender dimension under the broader approach of the Diversity and Inclusiveness activities.

e. Future Framework Programme

The future framework programme after 2020 is prepared with a strong engagement of different stakeholders. The written inputs and support of EIROforum are welcome, as part of the stakeholders' consultation process launched for its preparation.

7. Human resources, training, mobility of researchers

- a. The EIROforum Organisations and the EC intend to promote research as an attractive career choice in Europe;
- b. EIROforum and the EC, building on the current EIROforum training activities (to include Scientific & Technical staff from other organisations and institutes), intend to optimise staff exchanges, summer schools and project management training;
- c. EIROforum and the EC envisage to identify ways to facilitate researchers' training and career development, in particular:
 - EIROforum will take part in EC working groups that address the issue of researchers' careers, in the context of the European Research Area;
 - EIROforum organisations and the EC intend to exchange views on best strategies for enhancing the skills of people involved in research and innovation;

³ CONSILIUM 14846/15

- When considering it appropriate, EIROforum Organisations intend to exploit and develop the use of EURAXESS in advertising vacancies for researchers and promote support to mobile researchers offered by the EURAXESS Centres;
- When considering it appropriate, EIROforum Organisations intend to exploit and promote the Human Resources Strategy for Researchers (HRS4R) as implementation tool of the European Charter for Researchers;
- Whenever deemed appropriate, EIROforum Organisations will foster structured training for researchers, capitalising on EU initiatives that support advancement of young talent; in particular, H2020 Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA);
- EIROforum and the EC will exchange on present obstacles in relation to the mobility of researchers, be them geographical, inter-sectorial or of another nature;
- The EIROforum Organisations and the EC will exchange expertise on entrepreneurial career development;
- Without prejudice to the provisions of the existing pension schemes of EIROforum Organisations; EIROforum Organisations and the EC intend to discuss the issues of mobility of researchers and its impact on their pension scheme. In particular by exchanging information on the development of the EU Supplementary Pension Fund plan (RESAVER);
- The EIROforum Organisations and the EC welcome international, inter-disciplinary and also cross-sectorial mobility, in particular between research infrastructures. In this context EURAXESS will be further promoted by EIROforum Organisations using the new hosting section;
- EIROforum and the EC envisage to explore possibilities to recognise data management and data scientists' competences in specific career paths, to help fill the skill gap in data-driven science.

8. Science education and communication

Education of the next generation of scientists and communication of science to the public are becoming increasingly important. The EC and EIROforum have a long tradition in both of these domains. A good coordination will be needed to make science education and communication even more effective.

- a. The EC intends to encourage the participation of the EIROforum Organisations in the launch of science outreach events and exhibitions organised by the EC;
- b. Education:
 - EIROforum and the EC consider closer cooperation regarding Science in School;
 - EIROforum and the EC will continue their fruitful cooperation in the frame of the European Union Contest for Young Scientists (EUCYS). This includes EIROforum jurors and prize attribution to excellent scientific projects;
 - EIROforum and the EC intend to exchange information on new science education projects/initiatives and should elaborate further cooperation;
 - EIROforum and the EC should explore possibilities for EIROforum's participation in existing education schemes (including teachers' training).

9. International cooperation in research

EIROforum Organisations are Intergovernmental Research Organisations and several of them have extended or are going to extend their membership to non-European countries. The collective expertise and the ongoing activities with or within third countries are a good basis on which the cooperation between the EIROforum Organisations and the EC can build. In order to continue such trend:

- a. When mutually beneficial and appropriate, the EC and EIROforum intend to consider the possibility of coordinated participation in activities that aim at enhancing relations with third countries, including through science diplomacy;
- b. The EIROforum Organisations intend to exchange with the EC experience in the implementation of international projects and the development of long-term international co-operation strategies;



- c. The EIROforum Organisations and the EC intend to share information on challenges and opportunities, and exchange good practices in the field of international cooperation. One example is sharing know-how towards developing principles underpinning international co-operation in research, such as, but not limited to gender equality, science ethics, intellectual property rights;
- d. In the frame of its participation in the activities of the Group of Senior Officials on global Research Infrastructures the EC will promote, when so agreed, the EIROforum Organisations as potential Research Infrastructures of global interest.

10. Governance of the implementation process of the Statement of Intent (SoI)

EIROforum and EC intend to meet annually to ensure that the implementation of the SoI is regularly monitored and, when commonly agreed, subject to further updates and adjustments. A mid-term meeting at operational level will be organised to follow-up on these activities.

Responsibility for ensuring the implementation of the SoI is held by each organisation individually in accordance with their own rules and procedures. The implementation will involve contacts at working level between members of the relevant Directorates (and Directorates General) of the EC and the EIROforum Thematic Working Groups. Each side will identify and notify the other of relevant experts/counterparts at the working level.



Signed in Brussels on 30th May 2018

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EIROforum Members:

- The European Organisation for Nuclear Research (CERN)
- The European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL)
- The European Space Agency (ESA)
- The European Organisation for Astronomical Research in the Southern Hemisphere (ESO)
- The European Synchrotron Radiation Facility (ESRF)
- The European XFEL Free-Electron Laser Facility (European XFEL)
- The European Consortium for the Development of Fusion Energy (EUROfusion)
- The European Neutron Source (Institut Laue-Langevin -ILL)

