



EERA Policy WG meeting

Online Call #3 – 25 March 2021



▶ Agenda

1. Welcome and approval of the minutes of last POL WG meeting (25.02.21)
2. Latest policy developments on the EU side
3. AOB

1) Welcome and approval of the minutes



▶ 1) Draft minutes – POL WG 25.02.2021




POL WG meeting MINUTES

Date 25 February 2021
Time 10:00 – 11:00 hrs
Location Zoom

Participants

Adel El Gammal (EERA) - AEG	Lars Brückner (DTU) - LB
Alma Lamberti (EERA) - AL	Maria Luisa Fernandez (EERA) - MLFV
Annemie Wyckmans (NTNU) - AW	Mónica de Juan (EERA) - MdJ
Andrea Monti (UNIBO) - AM	Petter Stua (SINTEF) - PS
Barbara Spanò (DTU) - BS	Pieter Vingerhoets (VITO) - PV
Faton Avdijaj (DTU) - FA	Raffaele Guerini (EERA) - RG
Ganna Gladkykh (EERA) - GG	Rosita Zilli (EERA) - RZ
Holger Ihssen (Helmholtz) - HI	Vanessa Polillo (ENEA) - VP
Ivan Matejak (EERA) - IM	

Agenda

Topics discussed
Welcome and approval of minutes
Overview of topics POL WG members are working on
SUPEERA
Latest Policy Developments on the EU side
AOB

Links to useful documents

- [POL WG meeting PPT](#)

Key Outcomes
Welcome and approval of minutes
Welcome and approval of January POL WG minutes.

Update on EERA Strategy – Adel El Gammal
We have identified 3 key areas to develop for EERA, each of which will be addressed by a specific Task Force.

Page | 1 23/03/2021

1. Task Force 1: How do we move to a strategic advisor position to the EU (meaning all EU Institutions and MS) on the Clean Energy Transition.

2. Task Force 2: Looking at ways to improve the way we are governing the different JPs (the "one size fits all" mode of governance framework is not the most efficient). We are thinking about how to bring JPs to a higher level of impact and collaboration (so-called "European centers of excellence"): deeper collaboration and integration with industry and global alliances.

3. Task Force 3: How we consider the position of EERA in the global stakeholder context. We have the unique opportunity to be a matchmaker between the EU and MS strategies, and for this we need a much closer contact with MS. How as EERA, we are able to advance the situation in terms of shortening the innovation cycle (how do we transfer the intellectual capital developed at EERA into marketable products and sources).

Tour de table – Overview of topics POL WG members are currently working on

PS (SINTEF): We are currently preparing for calls, forming consortia, developing proposals.

PV (VITO): Personally, I have been involved in the Clean Energy Transition Partnership (CTEP), in particular, in the writing process of the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA). Moreover, I am the co-chair of the Belgian Energy Research Alliance. At VITO this year we expect a heavy commitment in the work of the strategic working group.

BS & LB (VTU): Continuation of the ~~Suenergy~~ community, DTU was one of the leading partners, it is now coming into a new phase with high ambitions for future funding opportunities. National initiatives (green solutions for the future): ambition to reduce greenhouse gas emission by 70% in 2030, the Danish government has released 4 missions (amongst which focused on carbon capture, storage and utilization, and green fuels for transportation and industry).

AM (UNIBO): Recently we had the managing board meeting of the JP Bioenergy, we had a long discussion for the selection of the most interesting call topics. Moreover, we had a long discussion on how to increase the participation of EU-13 countries to EERA. We were thinking about organizing an online workshop to inform Eastern members on the work of JP Bioenergy at EERA. Another discussion we had was on how to connect the work we are doing with the EERA Brokerage event.

HI (Helmholtz): Currently, we are focusing on a project preparation for Horizon Europe with a special focus on strategic issues, such as energy storage infrastructure, infrastructures for material research, mission innovation, and other activities focused on materials. New groupings in Horizon Europe are of key interest.

VP (ENEA): We are focusing on the new regulation on batteries from a legal point of view. We are in contact with the EU Council, EU Parliament. ENEA is involved in Hydrogen and Battery Alliance.

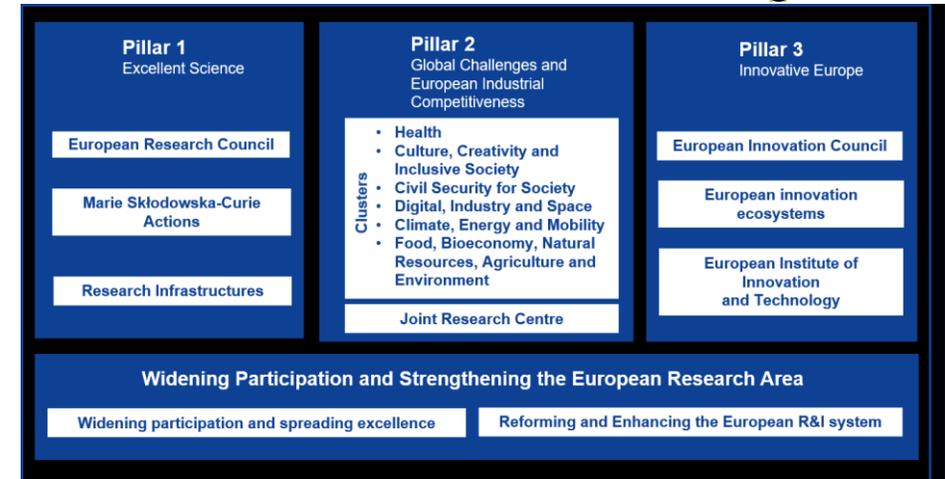
Page | 2 23/03/2021

2) Latest EU policy developments



▶ 2.1. Horizon Europe: Budget and Launch

- ▶ **TOTAL HEU Budget: €95.5 billion**
- ▶ 15/03/2021: EC adopts the [first strategic plan](#)
- ▶ **A few drafts of HEU 2021-2022 Work Programmes** published in the EU Transparency Portal
- ▶ First [calls for proposals](#) to be launched in spring 2021 and presented at the [European Research and Innovation Days](#) on 23-24 June. Link to the **Cluster 5** draft WP available [here](#).
- ▶ The UK's association to HEU has been **provisionally agreed**, but the document has yet to be scrutinised by the EU Parliament
- ▶ UK organisations are **able to participate in HEU calls**, providing the agreement is officially adopted before the grants are signed.



2.2. The European Green Deal



▶ 2.2.1. Key updates

▶ Set of EC policy initiatives to make Europe climate neutral by 2050

- ▶ 2020: [European Industrial Strategy](#), [Circular Economy Action Plan](#), [EU Energy System Integration Strategy](#), [EU Hydrogen Strategy](#), [Renovation Wave](#), [EU strategy on Offshore Renewable Energy](#), [EU Climate Pact](#), [2030 Climate Target Plan](#).
- ▶ 2021: [European Climate Law](#), [“Fit for 55” legislative dossier](#).

▶ Portuguese Presidency: Focus on the Climate Law (CL)

- ▶ EU needs to decide on **final climate target** for 2030, to be enshrined in the CL
- ▶ On this target: current fight between **EU Council - 55%** GHG reduction – and **EP - 60%** GHG reduction.

▶ 2.2.2. The EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change

- ▶ Adopted **24/02/21**
- ▶ Sets out how the EU can adapt to the **unavoidable impacts of climate change** & become **climate resilient by 2050**
- ▶ Aims at making **adaptation smarter, swifter and more systemic**, as well as at **stepping up international action**
- ▶ Focus on **more and better data** to bridge the knowledge gap
- ▶ Notion of “**just resilience**”: need to address fundamental inequalities in society and protect the weakest and most vulnerable
- ▶ **EU research programmes and Climate KIC** required to step up support to adaptation innovation

▶ 2.2.3. RED III - Key aspects

- ▶ : deliver on the **EU's increased climate ambition** for 2030 and 2050
- ▶ Initially adopted in 2009 to deliver on EU goal of
 - ▶ min 20 % share of renewables in final energy
 - ▶ consumption by 2020, recast in 2018 to deliver on
 - ▶ new goal of a min 32 % share by 2030
- ▶ State of the Union Speech (16/09/20):
 - ▶ VDL presented a plan to reduce the EU's GHG levels
 - ▶ by at least **55 %** in 2030 (compared to 1990 levels) → Need for a new RED revision
 - ▶ EC Work Programme 2021 → Revision expected by Q2 2021 (legislative proposal + impact assessment)

“ A revision of the Renewable Energy Directive is key to facilitate an integrated energy system, with increasing shares of renewable electricity, including offshore, electrification and renewable hydrogen”.

Ditte JUUL JØRGENSEN
Director-General for Energy



2.3. The New European Research Area (ERA)



▶ 2.3.1. Key aspects

- ▶ 30/09/2020 → EC Communication on a [new European Research Area \(ERA\)](#) for Research and Innovation
- ▶ ERA = EU's planned single market for research
- ▶ 4 Strategic objectives:
 - ▶ Prioritise investments and reforms in research and innovation towards the green and digital transition;
 - ▶ Improve access to excellent facilities and infrastructures for researchers across the EU;
 - ▶ Transfer results to the economy and foster EU competitiveness and leadership in the global tech setting;
 - ▶ Strengthen mobility of researchers and free flow of knowledge and technology.



2.3.2. New ERA & EERA Strategy Action Plan

	New ERA Actions		EERA Strategy Action Plan
1	Reaffirm the target of 3% GDP on EU research and development investment and propose a new EU 1.25% GDP public effort target to be achieved by MS by 2030.		Nil
2	Support MS in the coordination and prioritisation of national R&I funding and reforms through an European Research Area Forum for Transition . Voluntarily commit 5% of national public research and development investments to joint programmes and European partnerships by 2030.	2.1 3.1	Bilateral meetings with MS/ACs based on an EC/EERA delegation
3	Support MS that are below the EU average level of research and innovation investments to increase their investment by 50% in the next 5 years .		Nil
4	Support MS that have lower performance in training their researchers to access and develop excellence and increase their number of highly cited publications by one-third over 5 years .	2.3	Increase organised mobility of researchers
5	Develop common industrial technology roadmaps to maximise innovation in strategic areas like Artificial Intelligence, circular industries and resilient health industries	2.1 3.1 3.2	ECoEs must achieve critical mass and research excellence by leveraging existing / planned national resources. They must fully integrate with European industrial alliances and/or other industrial initiative
6	Develop and test a networking framework in support of Europe's research and innovation ecosystems , building on existing capacities, to strengthen excellence and maximise the value of knowledge creation, circulation and use.	2.1 3.1 3.2	ECoEs must achieve critical mass and research excellence by leveraging existing / planned national resources. They must fully integrate with European industrial alliances and/or other industrial initiative
7	Update and develop guiding principles for creating value from knowledge and a code of practice for the smart use of intellectual property.	3.2	implement more efficient and faster Lab -Fab-App transfer starting in selected strategic industrial sectors
8	Deliver a toolbox of measures to support researchers' careers , through a mobility scheme, trainings and more, in order to make Europe more attractive for talent.	2.3	Increase organised mobility of researchers
9	Launch a platform of peer-reviewed open access publishing and incentivise open science practices by improving the research assessment system.		Nil
10	Support the creation of world-class research infrastructures and establish an updated governance structure for research and technological infrastructures.	2.3	Updated mapping and governance for shared research infrastructure
11	Develop a roadmap of actions for creating synergies between higher education and research, notably building on the dual role of universities.		Nil
12	Develop concrete plans with MS to promote gender equality , as well as diversity and inclusiveness, in science, research and innovation.		Nil
13	13. Organise citizen science campaigns and hackathons to engage citizens, especially young people, in science and innovation.		Nil
14	14. Develop with Member States a new approach to set and implement strategic priorities for the European Research Area, through a Pact for Research and Innovation in Europe .		Nil

▶ 2.3.3. Focus on Improving EU Research careers

▶ Objectives:

- ▶ Stop brain drain and convert it into brain circulation
- ▶ Encourage a smoother transfer of research careers from universities to the private sector

▶ Tools:

- ▶ EC + MS to work on a **survey on researcher career progression in Europe** and what makes some of them leave to work in North America or Asia by as soon as May 2021
- ▶ EC and national agencies to work together to collect **information on researcher recruitment and mobility**, and career development patterns
- ▶ Research ministers to develop a **new code of conduct for the recruitment of researchers**
- ▶ Specific EU programmes that would help **include research staff into companies**, and for academia to recognise research activity carried out in the private sector

▶ 2.3.4. The Forum for Transition

▶ 04/02/21 → EC launches new ERA Forum for Transition

▶ Expert Group on the FfT → informal EG of the Commission to provide advice and expertise to DG R&I for the preparation of the ERA governance Framework in partnership with EU countries.



▶ of the Expert Group:

1. Provide recommendations on a new ERA governance framework
2. Cooperate on the development of the first ERA policy agenda and advance its work in line with the communication “a New ERA for Research and Innovation”
3. Provide input for a new yearly ERA Scoreboard to monitor ERA progress
4. Help draft a pact for R&I to convince MS to increase public R&D spending from the current average of 0.81% of GDP, to 1.25%

▶ Composition of FfT → MS representatives (contacted started already) + one representative from each EEA/EFTA Country. European R&I stakeholders will be invited to participate in the discussions on the basis of their expertise.

▶ 2.4. European Innovation Council

- ▶ €10 billion for the period 2021-27
- ▶ **EIC Fund**: dedicated equity fund to scale up innovative start-ups and small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs)
 - ▶ Around €3 billion of the EIC's budget will go towards the EIC Fund.
- ▶ The first annual work programme foresees over €1.5 billion in funding for 2021.
- ▶ Other instruments:
 - ▶ **EIC Pathfinder** for multi-disciplinary research teams, **worth €300 million**, to undertake visionary research with the potential to lead to technology breakthroughs. **Research teams can apply for up to €4 million in grants.**
 - ▶ Mostly open calls; €132 million allocated to tackle five Pathfinder challenges, among which green hydrogen
 - ▶ **EIC Transition funding** to turn research results into innovation opportunities, **worth €100 million**. This first EIC Transition call will **focus on results generated by EIC Pathfinder pilot projects** and European Research Council Proof of Concept projects

► 2.5. Ongoing EC public consultations

Policy	Deadlines	How
Mercury – EU Law	02 April 2021	Feedback to survey (Link)
Funding clean technologies – proposed changes to Innovation Fund application procedure	14 April 2021	Feedback to survey (Link)
Climate change – new rules to prevent methane leakage in the energy sector	1 May 2021	Feedback to survey (Link)
Measurement Research – European partnership on metrology (Horizon Europe)	1 May 2021	Feedback to survey (Link)
Sustainable Products Initiative	9 June 2021	Feedback to survey (Link)

3) AOB





Thank you!
