

ERA Partnership is Re-affirmed

On 13 December the ERA Partners signed a new Joint Declaration, stating their willingness to continue to work in partnership towards ERA. Paul Boyle, as President, signed this on behalf of Science Europe.

The Declaration stipulates that the six stakeholder organisations (SHOs) – Science Europe, NordForsk, the European University Association (EUA), the League of European Research Universities (LERU), the Conference of European Schools for Advanced Engineering Education and Research (CESAER) and the European Association of Research and Technology Organisations (EARTO) – and the European Commission will work together in 2014, through the ERA Stakeholder Platform. The short Declaration recognises that the partnership approach has been instrumental in making progress, but also acknowledges that challenges remain, hence the need for continued co-operation.

The Joint Statement of July 2012 remains valid, as does the Science Europe Statement on ERA. For the four organisations (EUA, EARTO, NordForsk and LERU) that signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) in 2012, these MoU expire at the end of 2013; the new Declaration affirms their commitment to continue working in the areas covered by their document, without having a new MoU in place. Each SHO will take action towards the realisation of ERA as appropriate to its remit and membership. Science Europe's activities will of course be driven by the Science Europe Roadmap, adopted by Member Organisations in November.

A meeting in Brussels took place on 13 December involving all SHOs and senior representatives from DG Research and Innovation and the Cabinet of Commissioner Geoghegan-Quinn (although the Commissioner herself was unable to attend due to illness). At this, the partnership discussed progress so far on ERA and identified priorities for the coming year. Some of the actions highlighted by the partners included:

- Commission – launch of the 'ERA Chairs', the smart specialisation strategy, participation in ESFRI, preparation of a proposal on scientific visas, and integration of gender issues across Horizon 2020. A major political achievement is the annual growth survey; ERA is now mentioned explicitly in this, which is a structural breakthrough.
- EUA – work on smart specialisation, on which a report will be released in early 2014; linked to this is work on teaming and twinning, including collaboration between industry and academia. A comprehensive survey of EUA members has shown that in many areas, such as open recruitment, institutional policies are in place. However, there is a need to further look at gender policies, and this will be a priority for 2014. Open Access is also a key priority, including discussing new business models with publishers.
- Nordforsk focussed their intervention on collaboration in research infrastructures, on which there has been an analysis of country positions and roadmaps. A particular focus is on e-infrastructures, including issues of training (the human aspects as well as the technological ones). They also stressed the importance of gender issues in RIs.
- CESAER – task forces have been established on HR, entrepreneurship, and responsible research and innovation, and one is planned on Open Access (both



Back: Amanda Crowfoot and Paul Boyle (Science Europe), Marion Dewar (Cabinet of Commissioner Geoghegan-Quinn), Riitta Mustonen (NordForsk), John Smith (EUA), Manfred Horvat (CESAER); Front: Gunnel Gustafsson (NordForsk), Kurt Deketelaere (LERU), Muriel Attané (EARTO), Maria Helena Nazaré (EUA), Marco Gilli (CESAER), © European Commission, 2013

Continues on page 2

Inside

Science Europe News

Workshop on Researchers' Inter-sectoral Mobility	page 2
Outcome of the Second MO Platform	page 3
GRC Meeting in Ottawa	page 3-4
More SE News	page 3

European Research News

ERC Workshop on Peer Review Systems	page 4
Research Priorities of the Greek Presidency	page 4
The EC Opens Consultation on Copyright Directive	page 5
More EU News	page 5

Workshop on Researchers' Inter-sectoral Mobility

On 13 December a task force on inter-sectoral mobility of the Research Careers Working Group organised a workshop in Paris with the following objectives: to take into account existing studies and their results, to screen good practice in terms of inter-sectoral mobility, and to define categories of inter-sectoral mobility.



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The day was opened by the Chair of the Working Group, Iain Cameron, who gave an overview of the EU funded MORE 2 study on mobility patterns and career paths of researchers (<http://www.more-2.eu/>), from the angle of mobility between the academic sector and other sectors. Dr Cameron expressed the opinion that a future study could benefit from the inclusion of questions which could be better informed by a deeper understanding of

cross-sectoral mobility issues for researchers. Lidia Borrell-Damian from the European University Association (EUA) made a presentation about the DOC-CAREERS 2 initiative (<http://www.eua.be/eua-work-and-policy-area/research-and-innovation/doctoral-education/doc-careers-ii.aspx>) which promotes 'collaborative doctoral education'. This requires the deep integration of private companies into the activities of PhD candidates so as to enhance their career opportunities by acquiring broader knowledge and skills.

Carmen Huber, Director of the National Science Foundation (NSF) Europe Regional Office (<http://www.nsf.gov/od/ia/ise/europe/nsf-europe-ofc-about.jsp>), explained that successful initiatives and schemes supporting mobility across sectors have already been implemented in the US for a long while. The variety and diversity of such schemes is considered an asset. As elsewhere, the relative lack of inter-disciplinary training hampers inter-sectoral mobility. Following this a presentation was given on the labour market for graduates and postgraduates based on career portfolios, by Rosa Fernandez from the National Centre for Universities and Business (NCUB) (<http://www.ncub.co.uk/>) in the UK, which identified and explored the connection between mobility across sectors and across borders.

Barthélemy Durette from ADOC Talent Management France (<http://www.adoc-tm.com/en/>) demonstrated how a competence-based approach can be used to promote inter-sectoral mobility. His recommendations included homogenising definitions and frameworks of competences in Europe for researchers. It was concluded that a competence-based approach, which is the norm in most sectors, could represent a very positive change of paradigm in the way the careers of researchers are envisaged.

The Research Careers Working Group is now planning to explore the role that funding and performing research organisations should play in this change of approach. A more thorough report on the results of this workshop and the discussions that took place will be made available on the Science Europe website in due course.

publications and data); a report is expected on innovative doctoral training.

- LERU – like EUA, LERU has surveyed its members, showing a high compliance with ERA (exceptions to this being EURAXESS, which is not considered useful, and open data, where more work is needed). Priorities include gender and Open Access, and a new roadmap on data.
- EARTO – mentioned work on open data, research infrastructures, HR, quality measurement and structural funds; a conference is planned for May to look at how RTOs can support research and innovation in Europe.

For Science Europe, it was stressed that the new Roadmap sets out priorities going forward. The work done in recent months on Open Access, data protection and cross-border collaboration was highlighted, as well as the establishment of new Working Groups. The importance of working internationally, for example through the Global Research Council (GRC), was stressed, as was the need for an evidence-based ERA.

The tone of the meeting was a positive one, and there was recognition of the work done by SHOs. Several areas were identified where most, if not all, SHOs will be active in the coming year, particularly open data and gender. There was also considerable agreement on the need for a stronger evidence base and more data. There was recognition that the Commission needs to be responsive to the concerns of SHOs, and to make use of their expertise. The Commission reiterated that they would welcome evidence that can help determine where and how to move ERA forward, as well as indications of where there are barriers that are outside the remit of SHOs and that the Commission could help with (e.g. pensions, social security, data protection). Finally, it was recognised that there is need for early collaboration in policy development – for example the Commission involving Science Europe in discussions on their plans for cross-border collaboration.

A joint news release on the signing is available at: <http://bit.ly/1bP9n7N>



More SE News

Three Models of Cross-border Collaboration

The Science Europe 'Practical Guide to Three Models of Cross-border Collaboration', produced by the Working Group on Cross-border Collaboration is at its final stage of production and will be publicly released in January 2014.

2014 Meeting Dates

Dates already set for 2014 are as follows:

General Assembly:

- 20 May, Krakow
- 20 November, Brussels

Governing Board (all in Brussels):

- 22 January
- 28 March
- 30 June
- 29 September

Working Group Meetings:

- Ex-Post Evaluation: 20 January, Brussels
- Research Data: 21-22 January, Brussels
- Research Integrity: 27-29 January, Madrid

Scientific Committee Meetings:

- PHYCHEMA: 13-14 January, Lisbon
- ENGITECH: 27-28 March, Brussels
- LEGS: 4-5 April, Warsaw
- SOCIAL: 11 April, Gothenburg
- HUMAN: 14-15 May, Dublin
- MED: 22-23 May, Brussels

What is New on SE Website

The presentations given at the last General Assembly are available in the Science Europe Login-Area.

The website has also been updated with new content on the Working Groups and the Scientific Committees' pages, as well as on the latest Regional Meeting for the GRC in the Policy section (see also next article).

Outcome of the Second Member Organisations Platform

The second Member Organisations (MO) Platform on the Scientific Committees took place on 5 December in Brussels. About 20 participants from different MOs met the Office's Research Affairs Team for an exchange of views about the activities of the Scientific Committees and their interaction with the Member Organisations.

Informal presentations of each Committee's topics showed the diversity of their disciplinary considerations as well as many cross-cutting interests (such as convergence of disciplines, excellence, careers). This led to a lively exchange of views about which topics could contribute most effectively to the goals of Science Europe. Amongst the different activities of the Committees, the work on the European Data Protection Regulation was noted as an especially successful example of a Committee engaging with a topic that bridges the gap between science and policy.

The need for co-ordination was discussed as one important current challenge in strengthening the Committees. The participants agreed that building up existing practices for co-ordination, both horizontally (Committee to Committee) and vertically (Committee to Member Organisations) was needed. For the latter, it was felt that gradually engaging with Science Europe Working Groups is important. Because of the diversity of the topics identified by the Committees, it was apparent that some might be of particular interest to some Member Organisations only; in this case, Committees were encouraged to directly engage with those.

The participants discussed how to further strengthen the mutual trust between Member Organisations and the Scientific Committees. In conclusion, the participants supported regular and thorough exchanges at high level between Committees and the Governing Board or General Assembly.

As a result of these discussions, the Office will review the current model for the MO Platform. With the Committees' work evolving, the interactions between the Committees and the different representatives and experts in the MOs will need other and more diverse instruments in order to allow regular exchanges in the future.

GRC International Steering Committee Meeting in Ottawa

On 12 December the International Steering Committee (ISC) of the Global Research Council (GRC) met in Ottawa, Canada, to finalise and consolidate the results of the five GRC regional meetings.



The ISC meeting was hosted by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) and co-chaired with the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) and the National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC), who will be hosting the GRC Global Summit in Beijing in May 2014 together with NSERC.

At the ISC meeting in Ottawa, representatives of the different GRC regional meetings presented the results and the input from those meetings on the two planned outcomes to be adopted at the 2014 GRC Summit in Beijing. The first outcome will be a statement on 'Funding the Future': principles for

Continues on page 4



Continued from page 3

action for funding the next generation of researchers; the second outcome will be a preliminary report of the results of a survey on the global state of Open Access.

Nakita Vodjdani from Agence Nationale de la Recherche (ANR) in France, as well as Maud Evrard and Stephan Kuster on behalf of Science Europe, represented the co-hosts of the European regional meeting. Delegations from the Asian and American regional meetings were present. The meeting was jointly chaired by NSERC and CAS. Unfortunately the delegation from Africa was not able to participate in the Ottawa meeting. The Middle East and North Africa region participated in part of the meeting via teleconference.

The participants agreed to work on the basis of the European proposal for the 'Funding the Future' Principles. Important points from a European perspective, such as recognising researchers at all stages as professionals, supporting diversity and equality as a basis for scientific excellence, and asserting the importance of scientific freedom and independence of early stage researchers, were taken up in the consolidated version of the statement.

The constructive input from the European regional meeting on the GRC Open Access Survey was also very well received and integrated into the questionnaire that will be used to gather the data for the preliminary report to be presented in Beijing.

As next steps, the chairs of the Ottawa meeting will finalise the drafts based on the discussions. These will be circulated to the participants of the respective regional meetings in January 2014. In February 2014, Science Europe Members and other relevant research organisations will be asked to participate in the GRC Open Access survey by filling in the questionnaire. Science Europe will co-ordinate the survey for the European region.

The GRC website is: <http://www.globalresearchcouncil.org/>

ERC Workshop on Peer Review Systems

The European Research Council (ERC) is stepping up its efforts to monitor and assess the quality of its operations. To this end, the ERC Scientific Council established a task force chaired by Professor Reinhilde Veugelers.

As one of its first actions, the task force organised a workshop on 'Monitoring the Performance and the Quality of Peer Review Systems', which took place on 28 November. Peer review and research evaluation experts from national research funding and performing organisations, including from a number of Science Europe Member Organisations, were invited to share practices and achievements in this rapidly evolving field. As the ERC is devoted to funding excellent, bottom-up scientific proposals, its peer review system is key to ensuring the overall quality of ERC operations. The ERC task force however has a broader mandate, encompassing the evaluation of all aspects of ERC operations.

The workshop presented a range of different perspectives and experiences on peer review processes: those of funding agencies, scientific publishers, foundations and individual researchers engaged in evaluations.

Amanda Crowfoot, Director of Science Europe, was invited to give an introductory presentation, highlighting Science Europe's activities related to peer review and to the evaluation of the performance of public research organisations. Amanda highlighted the upcoming Working Group on ex-post evaluation, and the importance of peer review as a cross-cutting topic in the Science Europe Roadmap. She discussed some of the on-going peer review collaboration models, such as the 'Lead Agency Procedure'; she also mentioned some of the issues related to inter-disciplinary evaluation, including those identified in the Opinion Paper on interdisciplinary evaluation produced by the Social Sciences and Humanities Committees (<http://bit.ly/1fEpFW4>). Amanda concluded by highlighting the centrality of peer review systems for the operations of Science Europe's Members and reflected on some of the key challenges faced in designing and evaluating such systems.

Science and Technology Policy Priorities of the Upcoming Greek Presidency of the EU

The Presidency of the Council of the European Union (EU) will be taken over by Greece, from Lithuania, as from January 2014.

The Presidency rotates among the EU Member States every six months, and consists of chairing Council meetings, setting Council agendas and leading negotiations within the Council and with other EU institutions. The Presidency will be handed over to Italy on the 1 July 2014.

In a European Parliament event on 4 December, Dr Christos Vasilakos, Secretary General for Research and Technology at the Greek Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, explained the major priorities for the upcoming Presidency with regards to science and technology policy.

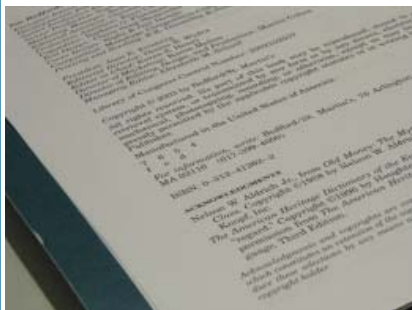
The implementation of Horizon 2020 and the further development of the European Institute for Innovation and Technology (EIT) were mentioned as being 'top of the list'. Other priorities include international co-operation agreements within Horizon 2020, the relationship between the European Semester and European Research Area (ERA) actions, and the completion of the so-called 'Innovative Investment Package'. This Package consists of legislative initiatives to increase private participation in research programmes and to enhance collaboration between national programmes. A set of Public-Private Partnerships

Continues on page 5



The European Commission Opens Public Consultation on EU Copyright Rules

On 5 December 2013 the European Commission (EC) launched a public consultation on the possible revision of EU Copyright rules.



The consultation, which closes on 5 February 2014, is based on a questionnaire with 80 questions covering different areas of copyright law. The EC will use the results of the consultation to decide in the course of 2014 whether or not to initiate a legislative process to revise the current legal framework governing copyright rules in the EU, in particular the EU Copyright Directive (Directive 2001/29/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 May 2001).

Participation in the consultation by research stakeholders, and in particular by Science Europe Member Organisations (MOs), is important as copyright law greatly influences the working conditions of scientists in all fields. Copyright law has significant impact on the use and re-use of material. The emerging area of 'Text and Data Mining' is therefore of particular concern and any future copyright rules should provide necessary provisions to ensure that research and innovation activities are not hampered.

The consultation form includes some specific questions related to research and innovation, but other aspects may also impact on the activities of researchers. To support Science Europe MOs in responding to the consultation, a Task Force of experts from the Research Data and the Open Access Working Groups has been put together. The Task Force has prepared initial briefing material to be sent to MOs this month and will provide further guidance, and some proposals for answers to key questions, in January 2014. The Science Europe Scientific Committees are also working on providing additional input from the scientific communities, which will be shared with all MOs.

The consultation period given by the EC – 5 December 2013 to 5 February 2014 – is very short and includes the Christmas holiday period. Nevertheless, answering the consultation by filling in the form is important. Upon request the EC has confirmed to Science Europe that submissions of position statements in addition to a filled in consultation form are also possible.

Link to the consultation: http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/consultations/2013/copyright-rules/

and Public-Public Partnerships to be jointly undertaken by EU Member States under Horizon 2020 are part of the Package. Furthermore, the Presidency will aim to promote the inclusion of the Mediterranean and Black Sea regions in EU initiatives and to champion a series of space-related initiatives.

The presentation given by Dr Vasilakos can be found here: <http://bit.ly/1fmCV0U>

The Greek Presidency website is: <http://www.gr2014.eu/>

More EU News

Launch of Horizon 2020 Calls

Following the approval of the Horizon 2020 budget by the Council of Ministers on 3 December, the European Commission was able to release the first calls for the new Horizon 2020 Framework Programme on 11 December. With these new funding opportunities comes a new web portal (<http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en>), designed to reflect the new focus on inter-disciplinary and inter-sectoral approaches. The Science Europe Horizon 2020 Working Group is currently looking at the implications this new focus will have on the evaluation of proposals.

The dates of the ERC 2014 calls are available at: <http://erc.europa.eu/main-calls-2014>.

New President for the ERC

The European Research Council (ERC) has formally announced that Professor Jean-Pierre Bourguignon will take over as ERC President on 1 January 2014. The new President will be based in Brussels and his role will encompass that of the outgoing ERC Secretary General (Professor Donald Dingwall) as well as the outgoing President (Professor Helga Nowotny). Professor Bourguignon is a mathematician, and his biography is available here: <http://erc.europa.eu/organisation/jean-pierre-bourguignon>.

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