

ANNUAL PLAN 2024 POLICY WORKING GROUP

STRATEGIC CLUSTER

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 position ERRIN on cross-cutting policy issues. The WG follows closely overall research and innovation policy, in particular the Horizon Europe framework programme, from an overarching perspective and ensuring coordination of horizontal programme aspects. The WG also focuses on the preparations to the next framework programme (FP10), implementation of the European Research Area (ERA) as the renewed policy framework and agenda for research and innovation, as well as on the New European Innovation Agenda, especially strengthening ecosystems and the “Regional Innovation Valleys” initiative.

CONTEXT

Main long-term priority for the Working Group:

- Next European Framework Programme for R&I (FP10) – overall priority to be addressed throughout the year with regular meetings and activities

Key EU-level priorities, strategies, events, as well as work programmes and priority calls for proposals that the Working Group aims to follow up in 2024:

- Coherence between R&I and cohesion policies and funding
- Follow-up on the New European Innovation Agenda (NEIA) and Regional Innovation Valleys initiative
- Horizon Europe Strategic Plan 2025-2027
- Follow-up of Horizon Europe mid-term review process and its impacts, especially in EU Missions and Partnerships

- Development of the ERA Policy Agenda 2025-2027
- Follow-up from the EIC Forum Working Groups
- New European Commission and new European Parliament
- Belgian and Hungarian presidencies of the Council
- European Innovation Ecosystems work programme

ACTIVITIES

Due to the character of the Working Group, all Policy WG activities take place in person unless due to exceptional circumstances it is stated otherwise. If the ERRIN thematic WG clusters are working on policy issues, they are invited to present their activities at the end of the Policy WG meetings.

Kick-starting 2024: Towards R&I and cohesion policies post-2027

Date: January

Cluster Activity: *with the Innovation and Investment WG, Science and Education for Society WG & S3 WG*

Organised by the Policy WG, the meeting will also serve to learn more about the planned activities for 2024 of the ERRIN strategic cluster working groups: Policy, Smart Specialisation, Innovation & Investment and Science & Education for Society.

This meeting will invite representatives of Commission's high-level groups on Horizon and on the future of cohesion policy to discuss the regional dimension in R&I policy, and R&I dimension in cohesion policy post-2027, as well as the state of play of the process of developing both policies – as some of the main topics of interest emphasised by members in the Annual Member Survey.

It will also be a chance to talk about coherence between the policies at a time when we are awaiting the report with recommendations of the high-level group on cohesion, while the group focusing on Horizon started its activities only in December.

Towards FP10- internal member exchange

Date: February

This meeting will be organised in a form of an internal discussion between members, focusing on any work planned or already undertaken around the next European Framework Programme for R&I (FP10). The event will serve to raise inspiration, help in potentially coordinating any activities and contribute to shaping ERRIN's work around the topic.

A survey is organised prior to the meeting with a deadline on 15 February, scoping members' plans, activities and key issues to address with regard to FP10.

Sneak peek of NEIA report and new Regional Innovation Valleys

Date: March

Link with the Smart Specialisation WG

With the European R&I Days planned on 20-21 March, this meeting will aim to offer a sneak peek of the outcomes of the first Regional Innovation Valleys calls for EoI & proposals from 2023 and selected territories, and insights into findings of the report on the implementation of the New European Innovation Agenda.

ERA Policy Agenda 2025-2027 – refining the actions

Date: April

With the list of the ERA Actions for 2025-2027 to be established by March 2023, the ERA Forum will then start working on refining the content of the actions. The meeting will serve to discuss the developments in the process, as well as actions which ERRIN shall support as a network.

FP10 and EU Missions

Date: May

As the preparations towards FP10 continue, this meeting may focus on future perspectives for EU Missions.

NB: The planned focus of this meeting may change, depending on outcomes of discussions earlier in the year and developments in the FP10 preparation process at the time.

Topics to be monitored further:

- Follow-up of the ERA Hubs projects: COOPERATE and ERA_FABRIC
- European Partnerships in relation with the results of Horizon Europe mid-term review and the publication of the Strategic Plan 2025-2027
- Funding synergies and state-aid rules
- Various kinds of support provided to Horizon Europe applicants in regions – exchange of practices
- Mobilising industry stakeholders in regional innovation ecosystems – different approaches and mutual learning