

EU-LIFE feedback for the ERA and Forum for Transition on values, principles and priorities of the ERA Pact

Following the workshop “Expert group on the ERA Forum for Transition – workshop with the ERA Stakeholders” on 20th April 2021, **EU-LIFE is hereby extending its feedback to the values, principles and priorities of the ERA PACT**, structured according to the two sessions held during the workshop.

Values and principles for the ERA

- *Values and principles:* **Strong support** to the proposed **values and principles** in the Pact.
- *Values and principles:* It would be relevant to see emphasized **knowledge as culture** and the **value of fundamental and challenge-based research** within the underlying context of the values of ERA.
- *Gender equality and equal opportunities:* We would welcome highlighting better the **diversity and inclusion dimensions** along with gender equality. In addition, it should be explicitly expressed “creating and ensuring **safe and fair work environment for all**” (which we believe go beyond gender balance and inclusion principles).
- *Free circulation and value creation:* This is the time to create a common and bold vision about research careers. We strongly suggest to be **more explicit on the broadness and diversity of research careers** namely on the documents’ section of free circulation and value creation, which is still too narrowly focused on the simplistic, pre 21st century dichotomy academia-industry. It is important to mention **mobility** not only between academia and industry but also **with other sectors such as the social sector, management and the policy sector**.
- *Free circulation and value creation:* Likewise, **add management staff** (in addition to scientific and technical staff) when referring to careers in research **within academia**.
- *Value creation:* **add social prosperity** (not only economic).

Areas for the development of joint ERA policy actions

- It is urgent to address what **needs to change to ensure political ownership and commitment at both Member States’ and European level**. Namely, a more federated approach regarding coordination of policies such as on taxes and pensions to support circulation of people.
- Likewise, it is urgent to promote **binding mechanisms** for Member States regarding the Pact.
- Add to the Pact the concrete commitment for all Member States and EU level to ensure the proposed **3% and 1.25% GDP investments** in research and innovation.
- Introduce a key element of **support to fundamental research** in the Pact.



- Stronger emphasis is needed of **the institutional level as a driver of the ERA** since research-performing organisations are the ultimate enablers and drivers for the ERA's aims.
- Ensure that the **tools for implementation of ERA** and strengthening the capacity of the research ecosystem are **inclusive to all types** (and not only some) of organisations performing research - **research performing organisations, universities, institutes, companies, international organisations.**
- Look for synergies with national, regional and institutional research infrastructures. Currently, there is a too narrow vision of **research infrastructures**, in particular overlooking the key role of – and the need to support of- smaller research facilities at individual research institutes and universities across Europe.
- ERA Governance: **Timely and frequent involvement of relevant stakeholders**, including international organisations in all steps of the ERA from strategy to implementation.

EU-LIFE remains available to contribute to further development and implementation of the new ERA.

Barcelona, 22nd April 2021

EU-LIFE and the ERA strategy

Since its creation in 2013, EU-LIFE is a strong supporter of the European Research Area and an active stakeholder supporting its policy and implementation. EU-LIFE has participated in the ERA stakeholders' platform and its "doers" groups since 2015, and has regular dialogue with the European Commission and the European Research Area and Innovation Committee (ERAC).

EU-LIFE is an organisation focused on research institutes and its core values are shared with the values of the ERA. We promote and develop initiatives with respect to ERA, engaging our community of practice as real "ERA-at-work". We lead projects that make ERA a reality, building a common commitment towards gender equality and diversity in science, fair and transparent research evaluation, promotion of research careers at all levels, talent retention and mobility, professional technology transfer, high ethics standards, and open science. We do this by openly sharing information, developing guidelines and protocols, collaborative projects, exchange of students and staff among the 15 EU-LIFE members and associated partners in 15 European countries and by reaching out to national and European stakeholders.

For more information contact: Dr. Marta Agostinho, EU-LIFE Coordinator | Email: marta.agostinho@eu-life.eu; Mobile: [+34619570820](tel:+34619570820)

About EU-LIFE

EU-LIFE is an alliance of research centres whose mission is to support and strengthen European research excellence (www.eu-life.eu). EU-LIFE members are leading research institutes in their countries and internationally renowned for producing excellent research, widely transferring knowledge and



nurturing talent. The basis for the foundation of EU-LIFE was the perception that there was a gap in the science policy landscape regarding the representation of independent research centres.

EU-LIFE Partners

Center for Genomic Regulation (**CRG, Spain**) | Central European Institute of Technology (**CEITEC, Czech Republic**) | European Institute of Oncology (**IEO, Italy**) | Flanders Institute For Biotechnology (**VIB, Belgium**) | Friedrich Miescher Institute for Biomedical Research (**FMI, Switzerland**) | Institut Curie (**IC, France**) | Institute for Molecular Medicine Finland (**FIMM, Finland**) | Instituto Gulbenkian de Ciência (**IGC, Portugal**) | International Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology in Warsaw (**IIMCB, Poland**) | Max Delbrück Center for Molecular Medicine in the Helmholtz Association (**MDC, Germany**) | Research Center for Molecular Medicine of the Austrian Academy of Sciences (**CeMM, Austria**) | The Babraham Institute (**Babraham, United Kingdom**) | The Netherlands Cancer Institute (**NKI, The Netherlands**) | The University of Copenhagen Biotech Research & Innovation Centre (**BRIC, Denmark**) | Institute of Molecular Biology & Biotechnology (**IMBB FORTH, Greece, Associate Partner**)