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G6 contribution to the ERA Stakeholder forum

Investments targets; monitoring and implementation

The G6 network unites six large multidisciplinary Research Performing Organisations located in Europe, the Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche, the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, the Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, the Helmholtz-Gemeinschaft Deutscher Forschungszentren, the Leibniz-Gemeinschaft and the Max-Planck-Gesellschaft.

Research is the engine of the European Research Area (ERA)¹. We see its further development as an opportunity to strengthen Europe's overall scientific performance and expand its innovative capacity in line with the objectives of the EU Treaty.

We welcome the European Commission's invitation to contribute to an exchange on the future of the European Research Area (ERA), notably on its investment targets and on the monitoring and implementation, and are glad to contribute to the discussions.

In view of the challenges Europe is facing after the Covid-19 pandemic, especially the increasing international competition in research and innovation (R&I) and the global challenges which require novel solutions, there is no alternative – Europe needs to drastically increase its investments in Research and Innovation to be ready for the next decades. This requires a **strong commitment to ambitious investments of 3% of each Country's GDP to be dedicated to R&I**, except for those member states that have achieved this goal and which should not relent in their efforts and should set further objectives beyond the 3% target. In this context it seems advisable to **increase each member state's public investments to 1,25% of its GDP** to leverage and incentivise private investment. In addition, we call for strong commitments to joint programmes and European Partnerships.

It is precisely the handling of societal challenges - from health, world nutrition and digitization to global migration flows and climate change - that requires a science system capable of performance and change. G6 therefore calls for **stronger efforts** of national and EU activities, in particular with respect to joint programming activities and the ESFRI / national roadmap processes. Similarly, the **EU Missions** will require novel governance approaches to tackle challenges collectively. This process should be closely interlinked with the ERA implementation.

Stakeholders, and especially the research community, need to be **involved in all parts of the ERA process** in order to foster ownership of the research and innovation community. This includes also the monitoring, which should take advantage of data already collected at Member State level and should ensure transparency notably as regards the consequences drawn from the monitoring exercise.

The ERA needs to address the whole research and innovation chain, notably the parts too risky for the private sector to invest in on its own, i.e. fundamental research. The unfortunate tendency in times of

^{1 1} Key Principles G6, November 2018 – [“Knowledge is Europe's engine”](#)

crisis to cut **fundamental research** funding must be avoided in order to ensure Europe's competitiveness. The spectacular development of SARS-CoV2-vaccines in Europe has just demonstrated how critical long-term investments in basic research are. This needs to be indeed monitored via indicators and should be subject to specific targets.

The six organisations of the G6, the Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche, the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, the Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, the Helmholtz-Gemeinschaft Deutscher Forschungszentren, the Leibniz-Gemeinschaft and the Max-Planck-Gesellschaft, jointly representing more than 130 000 people dedicated to R&I in Europe, want to reaffirm their commitment to contribute to the development of the European Research Area and, therefore, to the future of Research and Innovation in the European Union.