



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR RESEARCH & INNOVATION

Directorate R - Resources  
R.4 - New Management Modes

## MINUTES OF THE 5<sup>TH</sup> COORDINATION MEETING BETWEEN ARTICLE 187 JUs AND COMMISSION SERVICES

24 APRIL 2018, 15H00 – 16H30 - RUE JOSEPH II 54, 00/011A

██████████ (DG RTD.R.4) opened the meeting by introducing herself and welcoming the participants, followed by a tour de table.

### 1. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was adopted; however, the order of items on the agenda was changed.

### 2. Integration of JUs' data in view of policy-making

██████████ RTD.J.5, ██████████, gave a brief introduction of the Unit's mission, which was followed by ██████████ (DG RTD.J.5), who presented the current status of (structured) data availability in CORDA for each JU.

Unit RTD F.2 underlined the importance and necessity for policy units in the Commission to have full, unrestricted online access to detailed (structured and not) project data and deliverables, including project mid-term and final reports and respective assessments by project officers, for the purpose of developing, implementing and monitoring Union policies or programmes. JUs' representatives mentioned that this issue had been discussed at large with the Director of CSC and that a new meeting was expected to take place soon. In addition, the JUs' representatives indicated that Commission policy officers were always welcome to ask JUs programme/project officers about activities and that project reports and deliverables would be provided, within their respective remits.

**ACTION:** The CSC to continue working with the JUs to define the most pertinent framework to allow online access to appropriate data and deliverables of JU's funded projects to Commission policy staff.

### 3. Discharge Annual Accounts 2016 and 2017

██████████ (██████████ DG RTD.R.3) reported that the 2016 discharge exercise has been successfully concluded and that there were no significant issues. He congratulated the staff of the JUs for the work undertaken to achieve this.

The 2017 discharge exercise is currently ongoing and, again, no significant issues are expected.

██████████, ██████████, ██████████ S2R JU, raised concerns regarding ECA's in-depth enquiries on supporting documents for at least 50% of S2R 2017 interim payments (provided that, following standard ex-ante H2020 'trust approach', the JU office does not systematically check against supporting documents). ██████████ (DG RTD.R.3) took note of this peculiarity and promised to check it with the ECA in due course.

██████████ (██████████ DG RTD.R.4) announced that the ECA will not carry out a performance audit on JUs, as initially foreseen. Instead, the ECA intends to monitor the implementation of the Actions Plans drafted in response to the recommendations made by the Independent Experts during the JUs interim evaluations and endorsed by the respective Governing Boards.

**ACTION:** Units RTD.R.4 and R.3 to keep JUs and thematic units informed of any update.

### 4. Audit matters

Regarding the Internal Audit Service (IAS) and given that different directorates are currently in charge of R&I family matters (DG RTD, Executive Agencies, JUs), DG RTD met IAS and insisted on a harmonised approach. JUs should contact RTD R.3 if they have concerns about IAS recommendations that may hinder harmonisation efforts.

**ACTION:** Unit RTD.R.3 to try and ensure that a harmonised IAS approach is established throughout the R&I family.

### 5. Joint Undertakings Benchmarking 2018

██████████ (DG RTD.R.4) referred to the annual JU benchmarking exercise that is intended to provide an overview of the JUs' performance.

DG RTD R.4 has received most of the JUs' benchmarking tables duly completed. Once all tables are received, they will be compiled in a single overview table, which will be published on the [NMMs wiki](#) (under 'comparative tables'). S2R and SESAR will verify with DG MOVE the status of their benchmarking exercise.

**ACTION:** Unit RTD.R.4 to compile the necessary data and publish the 2018 benchmarking table on the NMMs wiki.

## 6. Partnerships in FP9

██████████ reported on the work of the ERAC ad-hoc working group on Partnerships. Information about the work of this working group can be found at: <https://www.era-learn.eu/news/erac-ad-hoc-working-group-on-partnerships>. The JUs' representatives made themselves available to support the ERAC work, as needed.

According to the official roadmap, the proposal on the Multiannual Financial Framework 2021 – 2027 will be adopted on 2 May 2018 and the Commission's intention is to adopt the proposal for FP9 on 7 June 2018. At the same time, the FP9 impact assessment will be published. The JUs representatives made reference to the Interim Evaluations where the experts recommended the participation of the JUs in the design of the FP9/JUs related aspects.

If the calendar is respected, the strategic planning & programming process will start in summer 2018. At this stage, the intention is to invite stakeholders to share their views. The Commission aims for an open and inclusive strategic programming process.

**ACTION:** Unit RTD.R.4 to keep all JUs and relevant Commission services informed on developments regarding Partnerships in FP9.

## 7. Financing Decisions 2019

██████████ informed the RTD JUs (FCH2 JU, CS2 JU, BBI JU and IMI2 JU) that 6 September is the final deadline for submitting all documents required by RTD.R.4 in order to launch the procedure for the adoption of the Commission Decisions on the Union financial contributions to the JUs for 2019.

A revised template will be shared by unit R.4, once the Legal Service has provided their final comments.

██████████ (CS2 JU) doubted that CS2 JU will meet the deadline as the JU is in the process of defining the duration - annual or bi-annual - of the next annual work plan and the related grant agreements.

**ACTION:** Unit RTD.R.4 to share the revised Financing Decision template and the timetable for its adoption.

## 8. AOB

- [REDACTED] informed that all actions agreed in past meetings were carried out except one: *JUs communication departments to draft a joint document on the lessons learnt and follow up actions following the event “JUs4Innovation”, organised by all JUs in Strasbourg on 24-25 October 2017.*
  
- [REDACTED] briefly presented the new DG RTD organisational chart with Jean-Eric Paquet as the new Director General. She underlined that the Deputy-Directors General representing DG RTD at the JUs Governing Boards will be the following:
  - Wolfgang Burtscher for BBI JU and IMI2 JU,
  - Patrick Child for FCH2 JU,
  - Signe Ratso for S2R JU and CS2 JU.

## 9. Closing Remarks

[REDACTED] closed the meeting by announcing that the next Coordination meeting will take place mid-October 2018.

Annex: presence list