



**MARSEILLE DECLARATION ON INTERNATIONAL  
COOPERATION IN RESEARCH AND INNOVATION  
(R&I)**

1. The French Presidency of the Council of the European Union organised on 8 March 2022 in Marseille a conference on a global approach of research, innovation and higher education gathering the Ministers responsible of R&I of the Member States of the European Union, of the European Economic Area and the European Free Trade Area States associated to the framework programme Horizon Europe, and the European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth or their representatives. The objective was to move forward with the implementation of the new strategy for international cooperation in R&I of the European Union and to better concert the Union and Member States' approaches to third countries. They wanted to take advantage of the revitalization of the debate on a more concerted approach in these areas, which was given impetus by the Commission's communication of 18 May 2021<sup>1</sup>, followed by Council conclusions of 28 September 2021<sup>2</sup>.
2. International cooperation in R&I, as well as in higher education, is of geopolitical and strategic importance for the European Union, as underlined in the joint communication from the Commission and the High Representative of 1 December 2021<sup>3</sup>. It is thus necessary to strengthen the attractiveness and the competitiveness of the European Union by finding common solutions for societal challenges and by contributing towards a key role of the Union in global value chains. In this respect, international cooperation should promote in particular democratic values and cooperation for peace, the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda in the context of mutually beneficial and balanced partnerships, access to the most up-to-date knowledge as well as collaboration between and circulation of the best talents in the world. It also creates economic and business opportunities in established and emerging markets and allows the influence of the Union to be reinforced through science diplomacy.
  1. **The framework of European policy for international cooperation in research, innovation and higher education**
3. The Presidency calls for the adoption of a more holistic approach, by strengthening synergies between international R&I cooperation policies on the one hand and higher education on the other, as outlined in the Commission's Communication of 18 January 2022<sup>4</sup>. Building on the various existing European programs, such as Horizon Europe, Erasmus+ and the instruments of the Union's external action, concerted action should aim to help our institutions,

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<sup>1</sup> "Global Approach to Research and Innovation", COM(2021) 252

<sup>2</sup> "Global approach to Research and Innovation – Europe's strategy for international cooperation in a changing world", Doc. 12301/21

<sup>3</sup> "The Global Gateway", JOIN(2021) 30

<sup>4</sup> "A European Strategy for Universities", COM(2022) 16

researchers, staff and students to engage internationally and to enable mutual strengthening of capacities with partner countries, particularly through the development of their research, innovation and higher education systems.

4. In order for the Union and its Member States to be able to effectively deploy their international cooperation policy in the areas of R&I as well as higher education and in order to effectively promote the principles and values of the Union, it appears necessary to better concert their approaches and actions with regard to third country partners. In this respect, they highlighted the role that the European Research Area Forum should play in relation to the relevant structures of the European Education Area with the objective of maximising synergies. On the model of the "Team Europe" approach, by pooling available EU and Member States resources, it would be appropriate to explore the possibility of enhanced cooperation, on a voluntary basis and with the aim of maximizing the effectiveness and impact of actions.
5. The conduct of scientific research has notably as objective the intellectual emancipation of the individual, the promotion of living together in an inclusive knowledge based society and the contribution to major societal challenges such as environmental protection and global health. It is important to welcome the willingness of researchers, innovators, academics and students to collaborate internationally and to ensure that they can work and collaborate freely in an environment based on principles and values shared by all actors, thus ensuring a balanced cooperation. It is crucial to maintain openness in order to strengthen their partnerships with their counterparts in other countries.
6. The Presidency notes the need to rebalance international cooperation in research and innovation on the basis of reciprocity and level playing field following the principle "as open as possible but as closed as necessary". For the Union and its Members States, this cooperation should be considered in the light of the values and interests of the Union, in particular the development or safeguard of its strategic autonomy and technological sovereignty while preserving an open economy. This requires a common understanding of the framework conditions for a mutually beneficial collaboration.

## **II. The development of the Union's key principles and values for international R&I cooperation**

7. The Council, in its above-mentioned conclusions of 28 September 2021, invited the Member States and the Commission to engage in a co-design process to further develop the Union's principles and values for international research and innovation cooperation and to present the results to the Council in early 2022. In this respect, this co-design process has led to the recognition of the following

principles and values derived from the Council Recommendation of 26 November 2021<sup>5</sup> as key, which will be proposed to the Council for approval and will form the basis for discussion with the Union's key international partners:

- a. Freedom of scientific research: The European Union and its Member States shall promote and protect freedom of scientific research and academic freedom in all international research, innovation and higher education collaboration, as defined in the Bonn Declaration on the Freedom of Scientific Research and in the Statement on Academic Freedom annexed to the Rome Ministerial Communiqué approved in 2020 at the Ministerial Conference of the European Higher Education Area. Freedom of scientific research encompasses the right to freely define research questions, and by employing sound scientific research methods, to challenge conventional wisdom and to propose new ideas and theories. It implies the rights of researchers to share, disseminate and publish openly the results and data of this research, including through training and teaching, and to associate in representative professional or academic organizations without being disadvantaged by the system in which they work or by governmental or institutional censorship and discrimination.
- b. Ethics and integrity: the freedom of scientific research also implies the responsibility of researchers to work ethically, and with rigor and integrity. The European Union and its Member States are committed to take ethical concerns into account in international scientific and academic collaboration, among others when research work involves human subjects, animal experimentation or the environment. To this end, research and innovation projects should first undergo an independent and transparent ethical peer review process. Research integrity includes elements of trustworthiness, honesty, respect and responsibility to obtain reliable research results in a transparent and reproducible manner by counteracting the spread of pseudosciences and misinformation and thus, to maintain trust in science, in the scientific process and in the relationship between science, scientists and society. The European Union and its Member States are basing their approach in particular on the European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity.
- c. Research excellence: The European Union and its Member States promote research excellence as the main driver of international cooperation in research and innovation. Research excellence is driven by its quality and added value, the rigor of the scientific method, the choice and definition of research questions aiming at creating new knowledge or responding to

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<sup>5</sup> "A Pact for Research and Innovation in Europe", Council recommendation (EU) 2021/2122

common challenges. Excellence in research must also be assessed on the principles of ethics and integrity. In order to foster research excellence, the European Union and its Member States promote free and balanced circulation of researchers and knowledge.

- d. Gender equality: the European Union and its Member States, on the basis of the Ljubljana Declaration of 26 November 2021, promote gender equality in terms of professional equality and, in particular, equal opportunities in careers.
- e. Open Science: the European Union and its Member States will seek reciprocal consolidation and dissemination of research results through frameworks and strategies focusing on open and immediate access to scientific publications, the structuring, preservation and, as far as possible, the opening or sharing of research data and software and source codes produced by research, access to networks, support to open science infrastructures, open participation of societal actors in the scientific process, communication with the general public and open innovation.
- f. Intellectual property, personal data: the European Union and its Member States should foster and promote, with a view to the economic and societal enhancement of knowledge, the improvement of the universal protection and enforcement of intellectual and industrial property rights as well as of the rules for the protection of privacy and personal data.
- g. Value creation and societal and economic impact: The European Union and its Member States recognize the importance of fundamental research and emphasize that science, technology and innovation have a key role in addressing societal challenges. They provide products, services, processes and solutions, as well as the scientific knowledge contributing to evidence-informed policymaking at individual and collective level. This promotes the well-being of citizens and living beings in a mutually respectful and sustainable approach to all of the planet's resources, economic and societal prosperity, and knowledge transfer.
- h. Societal and environmental responsibility and solidarity: The European Union and its Member States commit to respond to the needs of society in their international cooperation in research and innovation and higher education in order to expand collective capacities and achieve greater societal and environmental benefits. To this end, they are committed to promote in international cooperation the participation of stakeholders, local communities and citizens in the design and implementation of policies, by strengthening science communication activities to support trust and

engagement in science and innovation. International cooperation is also an instrument contributing to the development and reinforcement of a knowledge-based economy in developing countries.

- i. Risk management/security: The European Union and its Member States take measures to counter and manage the risks inherent to international cooperation in research, technology, innovation and higher education, in order to promote secure cooperation while providing adequate precautions concerning the security of the Union, the safeguarding of intellectual and industrial property rights, and the rules for the protection of privacy and personal data while preserving an open economy. The European Union and its Member States should draw on the good practices identified for example in the Commission Staff Working Document on foreign interference in research and innovation.<sup>6</sup>

It will be up to the Council to examine and approve the content of these principles and values for the Union with a view to their appropriateness for the multilateral dialogue.

### **III. Towards a multilateral dialogue on principles and values of international cooperation with key international partners**

8. It is appropriate to call for an international cooperation in research and innovation, as well as in higher education, which is based on shared principles and values, is mutually beneficial and contributes in particular to the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda.
9. To this end, it appears important to invite the European Union's key international partners in research, innovation and higher education cooperation to join forces with them and to engage in a dialogue on these issues and on the basis of these principles and values in a multilateral approach. The objective of this multilateral dialogue should be: to contribute to a robust and common framework for balanced and mutually beneficial international cooperation and for peaceful purposes; to establish a common basis for the respect of values and principles; to foster the establishment of a level playing field, including in the areas of intellectual property, open science and data protection; to ensure the integration of solidarity in international cooperation; and to protect cooperation against any foreign interference that would jeopardize the values and principles.

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<sup>6</sup> "Tackling R&I Foreign Interference", *Commission Staff Working Document*, January 2022