



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR RESEARCH & INNOVATION

Directorate A - Policy Development and Coordination  
A.4 - Analysis and monitoring of national research policies

## INFORMATION NOTE

### PEER REVIEW OF THE UKRAINIAN R&I SYSTEM UNDER THE HORIZON 2020 POLICY SUPPORT FACILITY

#### Horizon 2020 Policy Support Facility (PSF)

To support countries in reforming their research and innovation (R&I) systems, DG Research and Innovation set up a '**Policy Support Facility**' (PSF) under Horizon 2020, aimed at "improving the design, implementation and evaluation of R&I policies". The PSF provides best practice, leading expertise and guidance to Member States and Associated Countries (on a voluntary basis) through a broad range of services to address their specific needs.

The PSF offers three principal services: (1) **Peer Reviews of national R&I systems** carried out by panels of leading experts and policy practitioners, that lead to operational recommendations on reforms to improve their quality and impact on economic growth; (2) **mutual learning exercises on R&I policy challenges** of interest to various countries around project-based exchanges of good practice; and (3) **specific support** to countries wishing to address relevant policy issues and implement the corresponding policy actions.

In addition to these three principal services, a PSF knowledge centre has been developed jointly with the Research and Innovation Observatory (RIO) of the Joint Research Centre (<https://rio.jrc.ec.europa.eu/en>).

Various relevant outcomes are available as a result of the pilot phase of PSF activities during 2015. First, a Peer Review of R&I policies of Bulgaria<sup>1</sup>. Second, a mutual learning exercise on measures to support business R&I investments. Third, a pre-Peer Review of Hungary's R&I system<sup>2</sup>. Those proved to be most useful for the countries' involved in order to sustain reforms in the field of science and innovation. In addition to several mutual learning exercises, many other country-specific activities have been already launched under the PSF, aimed at supporting such countries as Moldova, Hungary, Ukraine, Malta, Slovakia or Romania, in their efforts to reform the R&I system.

#### Ukrainian request for the Peer Review

The Ukrainian authorities expressed their **interest for an independent Peer Review of their R&I system** by a letter of the Deputy-Minister of the Ministry of Education and Science

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<sup>1</sup> The report from the Bulgarian PSF Peer Review can be found here : <https://rio.jrc.ec.europa.eu/en/library/horizon-2020-policy-support-facility-peer-review-bulgarian-research-and-innovation-system>

<sup>2</sup> The report from the Hungarian PSF pre-Peer Review can be found here : <https://rio.jrc.ec.europa.eu/en/library/horizon-2020-policy-support-facility-pre-peer-review-hungarian-research-and-innovation>

(MESU), Maksim Strikha to DG RTD Director General (July 2015). In December 2015 Mr Strikha sent a second letter proposing to focus the Peer Review on the following three areas:

- (1) Optimization of available policy instruments to support the national research system, including the assessment and advice on the tools introduced by the new Law on Science, mobility of researchers, potential priority research areas.
- (2) Internationalisation of research and integration of Ukraine into the European Research Area, including advice on how to better enhance the presence of the Ukrainian scientists and SMEs in the European cooperation schemes.
- (3) Role of science in Ukrainian innovations development, including advice on how to improve the links between science and business and the innovation system in Ukraine.

In line with this request, **the aim of this Peer Review is to provide external advice and operational recommendations to the Ukrainian authorities** on possible reforms to undertake **in line with the above mentioned focus areas**. However these three focus areas are to be seen as a starting point: the Peer Review might address subjects which are not explicitly mentioned in the request but which appear to be relevant bottlenecks in the Ukrainian R&I system, such as human resources in a broader sense or the governance of the system.

#### Peer Review of the Ukrainian R&I system: process

Peer Reviews of national R&I systems are **independent in-depth assessments of a country's R&I system carried out by a panel of experts** and leading to **concrete recommendations to the national authorities** on reforms necessary to strengthen their R&I system.

The main expected outcome of the Peer Review is a **report**, including a set of key policy messages highlighted upfront, each one supported by a number of concrete and operational recommendations, backed up by evidence and analysis. Recommendations should be feasible to implement (actionable) in the national context, backed by evidence, best practice, and analyses of similar approaches and reforms introduced in other countries. For that purpose, the Peer Review will be undertaken by a PSF Panel of experts, composed by five independent experts and four peer experts being senior officials from Germany, Latvia, Hungary and UK.

#### **Composition of the panel of experts carrying out the PSF Peer Review of the Ukrainian R&I system**

**Hans Chang, *Chair***; Former Director General of The Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences, *Netherlands*

**Klaus Schuch, *Rapporteur***, Scientific Manager and CEO at the Centre for Social Innovation (ZSI), *Austria*

**Jelena Angelis, *Independent expert***, Senior Consultant at Technopolis Group Baltics and Research, *Lithuania*

**Claire Nauwelaers, *Independent expert, Independent Policy Analyst and Governmental Adviser***, *Belgium*

**Thorsten Posselt, *Independent expert***, Director of the Fraunhofer Center for International Management and Knowledge Economy, *Germany*

**Agrita Kiopa, Peer Expert**, Deputy State Secretary, Ministry of Education and Science, *Latvia*;

**Michael Schlicht, Peer Expert**, Director of the Organising Committee for DE Cooperation with Eastern Europe, *Germany*

**Philip Sinclair, Peer Expert**, Head of Innovation and Growth, UK Cabinet Office, *UK*

**Laszlo Szilagyi, Peer Expert**, Deputy Head of Department, Ministry for National Economy, Economic Planning Department, *Hungary*

The Commission acts as Observer and Facilitator of the PSF reviews.

The PSF panel will visit Ukraine twice. Firstly on **6-8 June 2016** to meet all Ukrainian authorities involved in the R&I policies as well as the wide range of institutions and relevant stakeholders. A proposal for the structure, main messages and draft recommendations of the Peer Review report will follow and the PSF panel will present the preliminary findings to Ukrainian stakeholders during a second field visit in Kiev on **5-7 September 2016**. On the basis of the various documents received and analysed, as well as in-depth discussions with various experts and the comments received at the meetings during the two field visit, the PSF panel will prepare the Peer Review report by **November 2016**. The report and the recommendations will be presented to the Ukrainian R&I community still in 2016.

For all the questions regarding the design and the activities of the Horizon 2020 Policy Support Facility, please contact [RTD-PSF@ec.europa.eu](mailto:RTD-PSF@ec.europa.eu).