



## Horizon 2020 Policy Support Facility Peer Review of the Polish R&I system

- Information note -

### Horizon 2020 Policy Support Facility (PSF)

Since 2015 the [Horizon 2020 Policy Support Facility](https://rio.jrc.ec.europa.eu/en) (PSF) assists European countries in designing and implementing R&I policy reforms to improve the quality and impact of R&I systems. The PSF provides tailor-made services at the request of Member States and Associated Countries. Its support is either topic-specific (mutual learning exercises) or country-specific (wide-ranging peer reviews of national R&I systems, or support to the roll out of specific policy reforms).

The PSF has already provided tailored-made support to national reforms in such countries as Bulgaria, Hungary, Malta, Ukraine, Moldova, Slovakia and further activities are being launched with, for instance, Latvia, Lithuania and Slovenia. The PSF has worked on reforms linked to the administration and monitoring of R&I tax incentives, the evaluation of R&D business grants and PPPs, the alignment and interoperability of national research programs, innovation procurement or open science. Various relevant PSF reports are available RIO-PSF website at <https://rio.jrc.ec.europa.eu/en>.

The relevant information on the Polish Peer Review is available here: <https://rio.jrc.ec.europa.eu/en/policy-support-facility/peer-review-polish-research-and-innovation-system>.

### Polish request for the PSF Peer Review

The Polish government expressed its interest for an independent Peer Review under the Horizon 2020 Policy Support Facility in a letter of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Science and Higher Education of Poland dated 6 September 2016.

In line with this request and specific focus areas proposed by the Polish Ministry of Science and Higher Education (see below), the aim of the PSF support is to provide external and independent advice and operational recommendations to the Polish government on possible reforms to undertake in the context of the on-going restructuring of the national Science and Higher Education system and more specifically **on the future development of Poland's science and higher education policy in support of innovation.**

#### Specific focus areas of the Polish Peer Review

1. **Structural changes in the science and higher education system** - research university/higher education university/ higher vocational education institution: eligibility criteria for each category and evaluation of different categories' units. Their form of cooperation with academic, economic and societal environment. This includes:
  - a) Models of **output evaluation** (public and private sectors).
  - b) **Consolidation vs. restructuring/ streamlining of higher education institutes** (e.g. in the context of demographic change). The system of incentives

- to consolidate vs introduction of the legislation forcing consolidation.
- c) **Career development of researchers** (research and teaching).
  - d) **Research universities vs. higher vocational education**, including notably support for youth in the process of choosing their higher education path.
  - e) **Role of regional authorities** in shaping of the higher education system in the region.

**2. Links between the higher education sector and the other actors of the innovation system** (research institutes, Academy of Sciences, entrepreneurs) - models and recommendations on the functioning of the reformed sectors. This includes:

- a) **Financing pro-innovation activities in the higher education sector** (grants vs. statutory funding). Methodology for financing specific types of institutions, including ways of contracting tasks in scientific institutions and universities.
- b) **Commercialization of research results** - legal and financial issues (e. g. intellectual property at HEIs and PROs, industrial doctorates; the efficiency of the centres of technology transfer and special purpose vehicles; the effectiveness of commercial financial vehicles such as Alfa Bridge, Bridge VC, commercialization policies in the science and higher education institutions).

**3. Internationalisation of the science and higher education sector** - trends, key areas for improvement.

### **Peer Review of Poland under the Horizon 2020 PSF – process and methodology**

PSF Peer Reviews are independent in-depth assessments of a country's specific R&I policy issues, 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.

In compliance with the Polish request, the main expected outcome of the Polish Peer Review will be a report, including a set of key policy messages and recommendations reflecting the specific focus areas of the Review and backed by evidence, best practice, and analyses of similar approaches and reforms introduced in other countries. For this purpose, the policy support process will be undertaken by a PSF Panel of experts, composed of five independent experts from Austria, Denmark, Finland, the Netherlands, and Sweden, in addition to three senior officials (peers from Austria, Belgium, and Sweden). The composition of the PSF panel of experts is included at the end of this note.

The PSF Peer Review of the Polish R&I system started by gathering and analysing a comprehensive set of qualitative and quantitative information from Polish and international sources and the PSF background report summarising evidence on the situation in the field of science and higher education in Poland constituted important starting point for the PSF Panel work. The PSF framework was presented by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education (MNiSW) at the kick off meeting in Brussels on 30 January 2017. It is to be noted that the results from the Peer Review shall serve as **independent background for the new laws on higher education and public research institutions**, which are being developed in Poland with the wide participation of stakeholders (the so-called "Law 2.0"). The report should also contribute to developing a post- 2020 perspective for the restructuring of the Polish science and higher education system.

The PSF experts' panel will visit Poland twice. Firstly, on **7-10 March 2017** to meet Polish authorities involved in the R&I policies as well as the wide range of institutions and relevant stakeholders (organisations and individuals representing higher education and scientific sectors). A proposal for the structure, main messages and draft recommendations of the PSF report will follow. The PSF panel will discuss its

preliminary findings with an extensive set of Polish stakeholders during a **second field visit on 5-8 June 2017**. On the basis of the various documents received and analysed, Polish feedback on PSF Panel's preliminary findings as well as drawing on in-depth discussions with various stakeholders and experts and the comments received at the meetings during the two field visits, the PSF panel will prepare the final report of the PSF Peer Review of the Polish R&I system. The report and the recommendations, with supporting evidence gathered during the Peer Review process, will be presented to the Polish authorities and stakeholders in **September 2017**.

It is the country's responsibility to ensure the follow-up to the Peer Review as well as the potential implementation of its recommendations through concrete reforms.

#### ***Composition of the panel of experts carrying out the PSF Peer Review of Poland***

**Georg Winckler**, chair (Austria). Georg Winckler is an Austrian economist. From 1999 to 2011 he was Rector of the University of Vienna. From 2005 to 2009 he was president of the European University Association (EUA). From 2004 to 2007 he was a member of the European Research Advisory Board (EURAB) and since April 2008 a Member of the Council for the European Research Area Board (ERAB) at the EU Commission. From March 2005 to March 2009 he was president of the European University Association (EUA). Since February 2012, he is chairman of the board and president of the association of the ERSTE Foundation.

**Jaana Puukka**, rapporteur (Finland). Jaana Puukka has 20 years of experience in Higher Education and Innovation policy planning, development and evaluation at international, national and institutional level. She spent nearly ten years of her career as an analyst in the OECD Education Directorate where she led higher education system evaluations in over 30 countries. She was the coordinator and the rapporteur of the review in Poland which analysed the performance, quality and relevance of universities, in terms of their contribution to the socio-economic development in Wroclaw's region, and examined the underpinning national higher education and science policies. Currently she is external expert of the ET2020 Working Group on Modernisation of Higher Education (since 2013), a core expert for the University-Business Forum (since 2016), a rapporteur for Horizon 2020 Advisory Group on Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation (since 2014), and a member of the network of independent education experts for EAC (2014-2016).

**Jon File**, expert (the Netherlands). Director of Development and Consultancy at the Centre for Higher Education Policy Studies (CHEPS) at University of Twente, the Netherlands. He is an expert in higher education system dynamics, planning and policy, notably in developing and transitional economies. He was the co-project leader of the recently completed study on Structural Reforms in Higher Education in EU and is a senior member of the project on promoting the relevance of higher education, both carried out for DG EAC. He has been an expert member of OECD reviews of the higher education systems of Portugal and the Czech Republic (both in 2006).

**Göran Melin**, expert (Sweden). Associate Professor at Stockholm University and Assistant Director at Technopolis Group Sweden. He conducted studies and evaluations for ministries/governmental authorities and higher education institutions in Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Czech Republic, Lithuania, Norway and the UK, targeting issues such research funding mechanisms, organisation of higher education institutions, mobility, doctoral training, alliances and mergers between higher education institutions, academic careers and cooperation between universities and the surrounding society. Matters related to participation in the EU Framework Programmes have repeatedly been in focus. In 2011–2012 he supported as expert the Thematic Working Group of Higher Education of DG EAC. He has experience as national expert in a CREST OMC Working Group ("Mutual learning on approaches to improve the excellence of research in universities", 2009).

**Lauritz B. Holm-Nielsen**, expert (Denmark). Executive Director of the Sino-Danish Center (SDC). He was the Rector of Aarhus University from 2005-2013, is High Level Advisor to the Senior Management Group at Aarhus University (AU), and is Chairman of the Danish National Nature Fund and the Committee for Research Infrastructure. He is President of EuroScience and member of the Governing Board of Gothenburg University. Lauritz B. Holm-Nielsen was

member of the Danish Prime Minister's Growth Forum, Vice-Chairman of the Danish Research Commission and member of several OECD expert review teams and other international review and advisory panels on higher education and research.

**Christian Naczinsky**, peer expert (Austria), Head of Department EU Research Policy and Coordination, Ministry for Science, Research and Economy since 2002. Former Deputy Director General for Research and Chief co-ordinator of the Austrian EU Council Presidency in the field of research. Currently, among others, Member of the Austrian delegation to CSTP (OECD), Head of the Austrian delegation to ERAC, Sherpa to the Austrian Director General in the Research Policy Group, Chair of the Austrian ERA Reporting Board, Chair of the Austrian Roundtable for Delegates to HORIZON 2020, Chair of the Steering Boards of the Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG) for European and International Programmes as well as EU-Performance Monitoring, Secretary of the ERA Council Forum Austria and Co-Chair of the Austrian Working Group on the OECD Review of Austria's STI Eco-system.

**Göran Marklund**, peer expert (Sweden), Deputy Director General and Head of Operational Development and Analysis at VINNOVA, the Swedish Innovation Agency. In that capacity he is deeply involved in developing VINNOVA's strategy and program designs. Dr Marklund is also highly active in developing the agenda of the OECD TIP, Working Group on Innovation and Technology Policy. He has been Associate Professor in Economic History at Uppsala University with the focus on innovation and economic change. Dr Marklund has also been Science and Technology Attaché at the Swedish Embassy in Washington DC and guest researcher at the Centre for International Technology Policy (CISTP) at George Washington University. He regularly gives advice to the Swedish Government and to the EU on research, innovation and growth policy issues. As a researcher, Dr Marklund has primarily specialized in globalization, innovation and national competitiveness, as well as policy impact studies, with a particular focus on R&D and innovation indicators. In this function he has closely followed OECD's and Eurostat's indicator work and assisted at the meetings of OECD's group of national experts of science and technology indicators, NESTI. Dr Marklund is currently chairman of the Advisory Board for R&D and Innovation Statistics at Statistics Sweden.

**Ward Ziarko**, peer expert (Belgium). Since October 2012 Ward Ziarko is a director at the Belgian Science Policy Office (Belspo) where he served from 1986-2000 as a program manager running research programs. In 2000 he became the head of the department on STI-indicators and monitoring research policies. He is a member of the OECD working parties NESTI and CSTP; of the EU working party ERAC and a member of the Eurostat working party on STI indicators. He was previously chairing the ERAC ad-hoc working group on the European Semester and ERA Monitoring. In Belgium, he is a member of CFS-STAT and CIS-CFS and co-organised twice the ERAC peer review of Belgium. Previously he participated in the OECD STI policy review of South-Africa and the ERAC peer review of Spain.

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