



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR RESEARCH & INNOVATION

Directorate G - Research & Innovation Outreach  
**The acting director**

Brussels,  
RTD.G.2/JN

**TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN**

**Subject: Endorsement letter in the frame of the study on Knowledge ecosystems in the new ERA**

Dear Madam/Sir,

The European Commission Directorate-General for Research and Innovation (DG R&I), signed the specific contract<sup>1</sup> with the consortium led by Technopolis Group and composed of the Austrian Institute of Technology (AIT), CWTS (University of Leiden), IDEA Consult, INCENTIM (Catholic University of Leuven), ULB Solvay, and the Austrian Institute of Economic Research (WIFO).<sup>2</sup>

The objective of this contract is to contribute to the implementation of the ERA Communication and, more specifically, its strategic priorities ‘Nourishing talents for excellence’, ‘A European framework for research careers’, ‘Strengthening the public science system through synergies with the European Education Area’, and ‘Strengthening innovation ecosystems for knowledge circulation and valorisation’.

The study aims at a better understanding of, first, knowledge ecosystems across the ERA and, second, the interactions between its actors (both organisations and individuals) with a view of formulating policy recommendations for the strengthening of these ecosystems. The study will be carried out at three levels – ecosystems, ecosystems actors and individual R&I talents. Particular attention will be paid to the development of the concept of the ERA Hubs, the Higher Education Transformation Agenda, defining a R&I competence framework for R&I talents, including research careers outside academia, and talent circulation. This will be complemented by the preparation of observatories on knowledge ecosystems, researchers careers and talent circulation, a toolbox of legal measures supporting attractive careers and facilitating cooperation between higher education institutions, as well as the development of an investment strategy to help institutions to deliver on the transformation agenda towards the future of universities.

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<sup>1</sup> RTD/2020/SC/011 – LC-01595023 implementing framework contract 2018/RTD/A2/OP/PP-07001-2018 Lot 2 (FW-00069502)

<sup>2</sup> as well as Cecoforma and Old Continent, as subcontractors.

The study is scheduled to run from January 2021 to April 2022 and will include multiple stakeholders' consultations with a wide range of knowledge ecosystems' actors and their representatives.

Given the importance of this study for policymaking purposes, DG R&I would greatly appreciate your co-operation with the consortium led by Technopolis Group and the members listed above. Your contribution will be crucial in better understanding of the functioning of knowledge ecosystems, its actors, and individual R&I talents for formulating evidence-based recommendations and advice for its strengthening.

All data and opinion shared with the study team will be treated with the strictest confidentiality and all information will only be analysed in an aggregated manner, unless you give explicit permission to do otherwise.

For further information, please contact Jekaterina Novikova, responsible policy officer for this project ([jekaterina.novikova@ec.europa.eu](mailto:jekaterina.novikova@ec.europa.eu)).

Yours sincerely,

Electronically signed

Anna PANAGOPOULOU