



## Joint Conclusions

by the Co-Chairs of the Meeting

# Building the European Research Area in partnership with Turkey

Istanbul, 16 November 2017

The "Building the European Research Area in partnership with Turkey" high level meeting was hosted by TÜBİTAK at the TÜBİTAK Marmara Research Center Campus in TÜSSİDE on 16 November 2017. This meeting was a follow up to the successful events in Ankara (8-9 October 2015) and in Brussels (24 November 2016), which concluded that all stakeholders should increase their efforts to intensify the partnership between the European Research Area (ERA) and the Turkish Research Area (TARAL) to establish a high-performing research and innovation capacity in Turkey and in the EU, and to build a strong public science base where researchers, scientific knowledge and technology can freely circulate.

The 2017 meeting brought together senior representatives of the Alliance of Turkish Research Universities (Bilkent University, Boğaziçi University, İstanbul Technical University, Koç University, Middle East Technical University, Sabancı University), TÜBİTAK, representatives of the newly identified elite research universities (Erciyes University, Gazi University, Gebze Technical University, Hacettepe University, İstanbul University, İzmir Institute of Technology, Ankara University), the League of European Research Universities, the European University Association, the European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures, the European Research Facilities association, and the European Commission's Directorate-General for Research and Innovation.

The meeting was co-chaired on the EU side by Ms Maria Cristina Russo, Director International Cooperation of the European Commission's Directorate General for Research and Innovation, and on the Turkish side by Prof. Dr. Mustafa Verşan Kök, President of ODTÜ on behalf of the Alliance of Turkish Research Universities (ALTRU), and by Prof. Dr. A. Arif Ergin, President of TÜBİTAK. The list of participants is attached.

The aim of the meeting was to exchange on recent ERA, TARAL and research and innovation policy developments with a view to promoting convergence and reciprocity of research and innovation policies between the EU and Turkey. The meeting took stock of the advancements made on each of the 6 ERA priorities, and of the current level of research and innovation cooperation between the EU and Turkey. The discussion tackled ways to strengthen research and innovation cooperation, including adequate framework conditions, in particular through open science, open innovation and open to the world.

The meeting reconfirmed the commitment of all participants to intensify and accelerate the alignment of the ERA and the TARAL based on the following principles:

- A. Effective national research systems based on adequate investments in science, technology and innovation, excellence-based allocation of funds, adequate mechanisms for industry-academia collaboration, autonomy of universities, and academic freedom;
- B. An open labour market for researchers based on open transparent recruitment procedures, sustainable and transparent career trajectories, and facilitated mobility of researchers across institutions, sectors and countries;
- C. Gender equality in research, at all seniority levels as well as gender mainstreaming in research;
- D. Optimal circulation and transfer of scientific knowledge across countries and disciplines and between academia and industry, including open access to scientific publications and research data;
- E. International cooperation to extend in partnership the frontiers of knowledge and jointly address the grand societal challenges which our societies are facing.

The meeting agreed that a closer linking of the ERA and the TARAL is vital to ensure that research systems in Turkey and the EU can jointly address societal challenges and contribute to lasting economic growth and competitiveness at all levels (local, regional, national and global). It is also agreed that participation of Turkish Universities in European ERA Stakeholder organisations is essential to foster exchange of good practices and mutual learning on ERA priority implementation.

All participants underlined the important role of Horizon 2020 to facilitate the alignment of the ERA and the TARAL, for supporting researchers' mobility and for developing long lasting partnerships between EU and Turkish researchers.

It was agreed that the next meeting will be held in Europe.

## List of Participants

### Alliance of Turkish Research Universities (ALTRU)

<b>Prof. Abdullah Atalar</b>	Rector, Bilkent University
<b>Prof. Mehmed Özkan</b>	Rector, Boğaziçi University
<b>Prof. Ayşe Kadioğlu</b>	Rector, Sabancı University
<b>Prof. Umran Savaş İnan</b>	Rector, Koç University
<b>Prof. Mustafa Verşan Kök</b>	Rector, Middle East Technical University
<b>Prof. İrşadi Aksun</b>	Vice-Rector, Koç University
<b>Dr. Volkan Özgüz</b>	Director of Nanotechnology Research and Application Center, Sabancı University
<b>Assoc. Prof. Ahmet Yozgatlıgil</b>	Assistant to the Rector, Middle East Technical University
<b>Prof. Levent Trabzon</b>	İstanbul Technical University

### Elite Group of Research Universities

<b>Prof. Muhammet Güven</b>	Rector, Erciyes University
<b>Prof. İbrahim Uslan</b>	Rector, Gazi University
<b>Prof. Haluk Görgün</b>	Rector, Gebze Technical University
<b>Prof. A. Haluk Özen</b>	Rector, Hacettepe University
<b>Prof. Halis Yunus Ersöz</b>	Vice-Rector, Istanbul University
<b>Prof. Ahmet E. Eroğlu</b>	Vice-Rector, Izmir Institute of Technology
<b>Prof. Ali Sınağ</b>	Coordinator, Ankara University

## **TÜBİTAK**

<b>Prof. Arif Ergin</b>	President
<b>Mr. Mirat Satođlu</b>	Director for Turkish Academic Network and Information Center
<b>Ms. Hande Alpaslan</b>	Acting Head of Unit for Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Governance Mechanisms, Directorate for STI Policies
<b>Dr. Zeynep Arziman</b>	Head of Bilateral and Multilateral Programmes Department
<b>Mr. Emre Yurttagul</b>	Acting Head of Unit for EU Framework Programmes

## **Republic of Turkey Ministry of Development**

<b>Ms. Hande Hacımahmutođlu</b>	Planning expert, Department of R&D and Entrepreneurship
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## **Republic of Turkey Ministry for EU Affairs**

<b>Mr. Kayhan Özum</b>	Director for Social Regional and Innovative Policies
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## **ERA Stakeholders**

<b>Ms. Katrien Maes</b>	Chief Policy Officer, League of European Research Universities (LERU)
<b>Ms. Lidia Borrell-Damian</b>	Director, Research and Innovation, European University Association (EUA)
<b>Prof. Giorgio Rossi</b>	Chair, European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures (ESRFI)
<b>Mr. Yannick Legré</b>	Director EGI Foundation European Research Facilities association (ERF)

## **European Commission, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation**

<b>Ms. Cristina Russo</b>	Director International Cooperation
<b>Mr. Bernhard Fabianek</b>	Policy Officer Strategy, EFTA and enlargement countries, Russia, Asia and Pacific
<b>Ms. Fabienne Gautier</b>	Head of Unit Open Science and ERA policy
<b>Mr. Özgür Ocal</b>	Programme Manager EU Delegation, Ankara
<b>Ms. Tsvetana Stoycheva</b>	Programme Manager EU Delegation, Ankara