



## **ALLEA Consultation of Member Academies**

### **Input to European Commission Consultation on the “Common Strategic Framework for Research and Innovation”**

#### ***Background – modalities - timeline***

#### **Background**

The European Commission has launched a major consultation exercise among all research and innovation stakeholders on the **Green Paper** which proposes major changes to EU research and innovation funding under the heading “**Common Strategic Framework for Research and Innovation (CSF)**”. The emphasis of all future funding will be placed, more than ever, on supporting and accelerating innovation processes, thereby shortening the time from research (also basic research) to (successful) retail. The changes, to be introduced in the next EU budget after 2013, would include, under a common strategy, the current Framework Programme (FP), the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme (CIP), and the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT).

Background material has been made available on the dedicated part of the ALLEA website: <http://www.allea.org/Pages/ALL/29/522.bGFuZz1FTkc.html>

#### **Modalities of providing input to the ALLEA consultation**

While the Commission has invited the views of all interested individuals and organisations by the deadline of Friday, 20 May 2011, recent meetings with the Commission (EU Presidency conference 24-25 February 2011, Budapest, and stakeholders’ meeting 1 March 2011, Brussels) made it clear that substantial consensus documents are expected from the relevant pan-European umbrella organisations in the field of research and innovation, among them ALLEA.

Given the extremely short time the Commission has available between closure of the consultation (20 May) and presentation of the outcome and of the revised proposal for a CSF itself (mid-June), this attempt to encourage the preliminary clustering of individual responses seems to be indeed pragmatic advice that also the Academies should heed.

Following this advice, we invite you to contribute with your Academy’s input to the joint ALLEA submission to the consultation. The timeline (see below) is arranged accordingly.

#### **Questionnaire:**

You will find attached (and, for downloading, also on the dedicated section of the ALLEA working website) the Microsoft-Word version of the online questionnaire used for the Commission’s consultation. We would ask you to follow this format in your response; please note that the questions about the respondent have been tailored to the needs of this exercise of

the Academies; they differ to some extent from what the Commission is interested to know about the respondent.

Otherwise, the questions are the same as in the Green Paper itself; in order to assess the relevance of a given topic for your Academy, please indicate the relative importance of the aspects covered in each question. Please note that there is no need to answer all questions; if there are some question that do not concern your Academy, just write *n.a.*

Free text responses in the questionnaire should be limited to 1500 words as in the online questionnaire; aspects not covered under the pre-set questions can be covered in free text at the end of the questionnaire or in a separate attachment.

You are invited to make the best use of this opportunity to encourage the Commission to rethink their funding portfolio by expressing clearly your positions and expectations for such a framework, taking into account the political choices visible in the Vision “Europe 2020”, the seven flagship initiatives and the “Innovation Union” (see references on the working website), but considering in particular the needs of science and scholarship in a context that is driven, to a large extent, by the urgency to improve the global competitiveness of European societies.

### **Background information**

Background information is provided on the dedicated section of the ALLEA website (<http://www.allea.org/Pages/ALL/29/522.bGFuZz1FTkc.html>). Inter alia you will find a copy of the Green Paper, links to the consultation website, as well as related documents and links. There is also a list of national statements on FP8; although they are documents prepared largely before the CSF and the related consultation were made public, they may still be useful reminders of the national policy interests.

### **Respondents**

In view of the necessary correspondence during the consultation process we need to know who will be the lead contributor from your Academy (even before you return the questionnaire).

We assume that for members of the ALLEA Board it will be the delegate to the Board, and that for several other Member Academies it will be the member delegated to the “European Academies Science Policy Task Force”; but please do confirm whether this is indeed the case.

For this exercise, you need to provide, as part of your Academy’s input to ALLEA, the following information at the top of the questionnaire:

- Name of the Academy
- Name, affiliation and contact details [e-mail; phone] of respondent
- Has your Academy received funding from:
  - a. FP7, CIP, other EC programmes (please specify),
  - b. research/innovation support programme in your country (please specify)
- Have you or do you intend to submit a separate written response to this consultation?  
[yes, no]

### **Reference to other position statements and specific references in the joint statement**

Should your Academy submit or integrate its position also into national or other position statements, we would welcome it if you informed us.

The final text will be, as in the past, a synthesis of the input received; such synthesis / consensus statements do not identify the origin of a given formula or position. There will be an opportunity to comment on the final draft, but very little time will be available for that purpose or for adjustments of the text. For that reason we ask you to indicate from the beginning whether there are parts of your input that you wish to see explicitly referenced as emerging from your Academy. Such requests for specific references we would expect to apply chiefly to specific regional (for example: Baltic, Black Sea, Danube, Mediterranean strategies etc.) or disciplinary concerns (for example: Social Sciences and Humanities) or where they reflect concerns of specific sub-categories of Member Academies (for example: research performing academies – some of which are more closely concerned with commercial spin-offs than learned societies – or Academies in non-EU countries with their specific position vis-à-vis EU research programmes).

In the drafting process, ALLEA will also include input received from its expert groups and based on its presence in EU and Commission advisory and consultation groups.

## Timeline

### *Commission*

- Febr. 2011 Launch of the Consultation process
- 24-25 Febr. EU Presidency Conference on the Interim Evaluation of FP7 and perspectives for the period after FP7, Budapest
- 1 March 2011 EU Commission science and innovation stakeholders meeting, Brussels

### *ALLEA*

- Launch consultation of Member Academies
- Invite input from expert groups and EASAC portfolios
- Involve “European Academies Science Policy Task Force”
- 1 April 2011** **Deadline for input from Member Academies’ feedback**
- 12 April 2011 Discussion of input received and of positions taken with Task Force at General Assembly
- Beg. May 2011 Draft of joint submission completed.

### *Commission*

- 20 May 2011 Formal end of consultation process
- 10 June 2011 Presentation of outcome at EU conference

This sequence aims to give due consideration to the shortness of time that the Commission has allowed itself to digest input between the formal closure of the consultation (20 May) and the presentation of the outcome and of the revised proposal for a CSF itself (mid-June). It goes without saying that the kind of substantial response that will be submitted by ALLEA should not arrive at the last moment. We invite you therefore to try and respect the deadlines set and to let us know as early as possible if there are compelling reasons why this might not be possible.

The timeline also seeks to ensure that a first round of discussions of common positions can occur during the General Assembly on 12-13 April 2011.

### Individual submissions

If, in addition to providing input to the joint response, you also wish to submit an individual response, there are a number of ways to contribute through the CSFRI website:

The *online questionnaire* based on the Green Paper (and corresponding to the questionnaire which we shall also use for the joint response), will be quickest to complete; it is not necessary to answer all questions.

There is also the possibility to submit *written responses*. This is appropriate in particular for submissions of in-depth views. Such responses will be published on this site immediately following their submission. Written responses should follow the structure and questions set out in the Green Paper. It is not necessary to respond to all questions, and additional ideas are welcome.

Please note that the Commission services intend to collate responses to the various topics (along the lines of the questions included in the questionnaire) to cluster responses received around certain areas of interest, and that all submissions will be published on the CSFRI website.

Finally, there is also an *interactive blog*, where various questions and topics will be posted on a regular basis for open comment, debate and ideas.

The Commission, national governments, associations and others will organize in the next months a number of *events*, which will allow voices to be articulated. ALLEA will have a special session during the General Assembly. The Commission plans to host a major event after the close of the consultation (20 May 2011) to bring together and discuss the main outcomes; the date envisaged is 10 June 2011.

### Follow-up

The Commission reassures all stakeholders that “the responses received will be analysed carefully by the Commission services. They will be used to design the proposals, to be presented by the Commission by the end of 2011, for a legislative decision of the Council and Parliament on the Common Strategic Framework.”