



Annual Activity Report 2020

Annexes

European Research Council
Executive Agency

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ANNEX 1: Statement of the Director in charge of Risk Management and Internal Control

I declare that in accordance with the Commission's communication on the internal control framework¹, I have reported my advice and recommendations on the overall state of internal control in the Executive Agency to the Executive Director.

I hereby certify that the information provided in the present Annual Activity Report and in its annexes is, to the best of my knowledge, accurate and complete.

Brussels, 31/03/2021,

Signed in ARES

Laurence Moreau
Head of Department D – RMIC

¹ C(2017)2373 of 19.04.2017.

ANNEX 2: Performance tables

ERC's Specific Objectives and Result Indicators – FP7 and H2020

In order to measure the implementation of specific programmes entrusted to the ERCEA, the following results indicators stemming from the legal basis are measured:

Ideas Specific Programme (FP7) - SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE	To enhance the generation of excellent, innovative ideas in frontier research in Europe	
Result indicators	Latest known results	Target (result)
Number of international prizes and awards by grant holders	10.285	200 by 2020
Number of scientific publications by grant holders	180.000	~40-60 000 by 2020

Source: PI's reports

H2020 SP SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 1	Excellent science – European Research Council (ERC) – Strengthening frontier research	
Indicator	Share of publications from ERC-funded projects which are among the top 1% highly cited per field of science	
Baseline	Milestone	Target for Horizon 2020²
	2020	
New approach	7%	1.8%

Source of data: ERC Research Information System (ERIS)

² The reference for this target is the year when the last actions financed under Horizon 2020 will be finished *i.e.* several years after the formal end of the programme in 2020.

Specific objective of the parent
DG(s): To ensure an effective and
efficient implementation of Horizon
2020 and other RTD programmes
and maximise synergies

Related to spending programme(s): H2020

Main outputs in 2020:

EXPENDITURE-RELATED OUTPUTS			INPUTS: Operational expenditure		Latest known results/Achieved/ Non achieved
Description	Milestone (per quarter /semester)	Number of outputs - successful proposals	Budget line	EUR million	
ERC-2020-StG – Starting Grant	-	455 (677 million)	BGUE-B2020-08.020101-C1-ERC STG BGUE-B2020-08.020101-E0-ERC STG BGUE-B2020-08.025001.6-R0-ERC STG	623.7 52.3 1	Main: 379 (586.9) Reserve: 2 (3.3)
ERC-2020-CoG – Consolidator Grant	-	343 (657 million)	BGUE-B2020-08.020101-C1-ERC COG BGUE-B2020-08.025001.6-R0-ERC COG	656 1	Main: 31 (60.5)
ERC-2020-AdG – Advanced Grant	-	209 (492 million)	BGUE-B2020-08.020101-C1-ERC ADG BGUE-B2020-08.020101-C5-ERC ADG BGUE-B2020-08.025001.6-R0-ERC ADG	505.9 0.3 12.6	
ERC-2020-SyG-Synergy Grant	-	39 (350 million)	BGUE-B2020-08.020101-C1-ERC SYG BGUE-B2020-08.025001.6-R0-ERC SYG	350.4 1.7	Main: 6 (58.5) Reserve: 1 (11.7)
ERC-2020-PoC – Proof of Concept	-	167 (25 million)	BGUE-B2019-08.020101-C1-ERC POC BGUE-B2019-08.025001.6-R0-ERC POC	24.9 0.2	Main: 102 (15.3)

2.1 Implementation of the ERCEA 2020 AWP

2.1.1 Scientific and Grant Management

Objectives	Performance indicators	Target 2020	Result 31.12.2020
<u>Call management:</u> Clear and stable guidance on the application procedures provided to applicants	a) % of ineligible proposals / total proposals submitted, per call	2020 StG, CoG, AdG calls: 1.5% 2020 SyG: 2% PoC 2020: 3%	1.4% 0.5% 3.4%
	b) % increase /decrease of submitted proposals from previous year by call	2020 StG, CoG, AdG: 0% 2020 PoC: 10% 2020 SyG: 30%	13.7% 2% 53.1%
	c) % success rate per call ³	2020 StG: 14.5% 2020 CoG: 13.3% 2020 AdG: 9.4% 2020 SyG: 9.5% 2020 PoC: 35%	13.3% 13.0% On-going 7.5% 31.1%
<u>Evaluations:</u> Feedback to all applicants on the evaluation result is timely, unbiased and transparent	Time to inform ⁴ (average time in day) ALL applicants on the outcome of the evaluation of their application from the final date for submission of completed proposals	2019-AdG: 154 2020-AdG: 159 2020-StG: 219 2020-CoG: 182 2020-SyG: 250	159.2 On-going 209.1 206.7 226.3

³ This indicator is calculated as follows: (Main)/Submitted proposals.

⁴ According to Article 20.3 of the Rules for Participation and dissemination in H2020 (cf. OJ. L347 of 20/12/2013, p. 92), the ERCEA may exceed the period of 5 months from the final date for submission of complete proposals to inform all applicants of the outcome of the scientific evaluation of their application.

Objectives	Performance indicators	Target 2020	Result 31.12.2020
	Time to inform ⁵ (average time in day) SUCCESSFUL applicants on the outcome of the evaluation of their application from the final date for submission of completed proposals	2020-AdG: 240 2020-StG: 296 2020-CoG: 311 2020-SyG: 370 2020-PoC: 100	On-going 280.0 302.0 351 85.0
	% of re-evaluations out of overall proposals submitted and following requests for redress	All calls: 0.1%	0.02%
	Overall average number of remote referee reviews per proposal	All Calls (except PoC): 2	3,6
<u>Ethical Review:</u> To monitor that selected ERC proposals receive timely ethical clearance from competent authorities	Time to ethics clearance ⁶	45 days	AdG 2019: 43 days AdG 2020: on-going StG 2020: 50 days (99% completion) CoG 2020: on-going SyG 2020: on-going PoC 2020-1: 64 days (100% completion) PoC 2020-2: 54 days (99% completion) PoC 2020-3: on-going
<u>Time to grant:</u> To minimise the duration of the granting process aiming at ensuring a prompt implementation of the Grant Agreements through a simple and transparent grant preparation process	Time to sign grant agreements from the date of informing successful applicants (average values)	2019-StG: 120 days 2019- CoG: 120 days 2019- AdG: 120 days 2019-SyG: 140 days 2019-PoC-3:120 days 2020-PoC: 120 days	2019-STG : 96,6 2019-COG : 97,4 2019-ADG : 90,4 2019-POC 1 : 101,9 2019-POC 2 : 120,7 2019-POC 3 : 92,8 2019-SYG : 133,3 2020-POC 1 : 93,4 2020-POC 2 : 88,4 2020-STG : 83,4 2020-COG : 15,9

⁵ According to Article 20.3 of the Rules for Participation and dissemination in H2020 (cf. OJ. L347 of 20/12/2013, p. 92), the ERCEA may exceed the period of 5 months from the final date for submission of complete proposals to inform all applicants of the outcome of the scientific evaluation of their application.

⁶ Data relates to the pre-granting ethics review. This time span runs in parallel to the granting process.

Objectives	Performance indicators	Target 2020	Result 31.12.2020
			2020-SYG : 46,1
	Time to grant ⁷ measured (average) from call deadline to signature of grants	2019-StG: 435 days 2019-CoG: 434 days 2019-AdG: 352 days SyG-2019: 497 days 2019-PoC-2/3: 220 days 2020-StG: 416 days 2020-PoC-1/2: 220 days	2019-StG : 397,6 2019-CoG : 396,4 2019-AdG : 293,4 2019-PoC 1 : 193,9 2019-PoC 2 : 205,7 2019-PoC 3 : 183,8 2019-SyG : 466,3 2020-PoC 1 : 181,4 2020-PoC 2 : 164,4 2020-StG : 363,4 2020-CoG : 316,9 2020-SyG : 397,1
<u>Scientific follow-up:</u> Timely communicate the assessment of PI's final scientific reports	% of final reports which exceeded 60 days	All calls ⁸ : 3%	StG2020: 1% CoG2020: 1% AdG2020: 2% SyG2020: 20% (there were only 5 final reports and 1 assessment was completed above 60 days)

⁷ According to Article 20.3 of the Rules for Participation and dissemination in H2020 (cf. OJ. L347 of 20/12/2013, p. 92), the ERCEA may exceed the period of 8 months from the final date for submission of complete proposals to signature of grant agreements with applicants.

⁸ The target is 3% per call.

2.1.2 Financial Management

2.1.2.1 Operational Budget

Objectives	Performance indicators	Target 2020		Result 31.12.2020	
		H2020	FP7	H2020	FP7
To maximise execution of the operational commitment credits delegated to ERCEA by the European Commission	% execution of L1 commitment	100%		100%	
	% execution of L2/L1 commitment (C8)	100%		99.7% ⁹	
To ensure full yearly execution of payments credits (operational budget) through careful planning and monitoring	% execution of payment credits (C1)	100%	100%	100%	100%
Minimise financial and legal transaction time for ERC beneficiaries	a) time to pay (% according to milestones & budget table specified in the Description of Work and processing payments ie economic target days)	Pre-financing: 95% within 30 days		6.4 days avg TTP (99.3% within 30 days)	
		Interim payments: 95% within 90 days	IP: 95% within 90 days	18.1 days avg TTP (99.9% within 90 days)	23.2 days avg TTP (100% within 90 days)
		Final payments: 95% within 90 days	FP: 95% within 90 days	45.1 days avg TTP (99.3% within 90 days)	42.5 days avg TTP (99.4% within 90 days)
	b) time to invoice (% within 5 days)	95%	95%	99.8%	99.6%
	c) time to amend (% approved or rejected within 45 days upon receipt of valid request)	85%	95%	99,5%	100%
<u>Expert management:</u> To fully execute the yearly	a) time to pay (average)	100% within 30 days	n.a.	99.4% within 30 days (9.7 days avg TTP)	n.a

⁹ The overall H2020 L2/L1 commitment (C8) execution rate in 2020 stands at 99.7% and includes the open RAL of finalised projects which will be de-committed in 2021. The indicator computed on global individual legal commitments (L1) referring to 2019 calls only is 100%.

Objectives	Performance indicators	Target 2020		Result 31.12.2020	
		H2020	FP7	H2020	FP7
experts' operational budget by implementing efficient payment process	b) % of experts payments budget execution (C1-E0)	100 %	n.a.	100%	n.a
To ensure legality and regularity of underlying transactions to support ERCEA's positive Declaration of Assurance	ERCEA FP7 specific error rates	-ERCEA residual error rate <2% ¹⁰ -ERCEA Detected error rate <2% ¹¹	MUS residual error rate <2% ¹²	ERCEA residual error rate:1.69% ERCEA Detected error rate: 2.15%	MUS residual error rate: 1.10%

2.1.2.2 Operating Budget

Objective	Performance indicator	Target 2020	Result 2020	
			Budget 2020 (C1)	Budget 2019(C1+C8)
To ensure sound financial management of ERCEA's operating budget as well as the regularity and legality of its underlying transactions	% budget execution commitments	99%	99.73%	
	% budget execution payments	99%		99.43%
	% of error in transactions related to staff expenditure (salaries) detected through ex-ante checks	1.5%	0.7%	
	Time to pay	<15 days	10	
	Number (and % of total) of late payments for the administrative budget	<20 (<1 %)	16 (2.22%)	
	No material findings related to the sound financial management and legality and regularity of budget's underlying transactions in the financial report of the CoA	None		

¹⁰ H2020 ERCEA residual error rate drawn from Common representative error rate

¹¹ H2020 ERCEA detected error rate based on a Randomly selected ERCEA participations

¹² FP7 MUS ERCEA residual error rate, computed on the basis of MUS detected error rates

ANNEX 3: Draft annual accounts and financial reports

Annex 3 Financial Reports - DG ERC - Financial Year 2020

Table 1 : Commitments

Table 2 : Payments

Table 3 : Commitments to be settled

Table 4 : Balance Sheet

Table 5 : Statement of Financial Performance

Table 5 Bis: Off Balance Sheet

Table 6 : Average Payment Times

Table 7 : Income

Table 8 : Recovery of undue Payments

Table 9 : Ageing Balance of Recovery Orders

Table 10 : Waivers of Recovery Orders

Table 11 : Negotiated Procedures

Table 12 : Summary of Procedures

Table 13 : Building Contracts

Table 14 : Contracts declared Secret

Table 15 : FPA duration exceeds 4 years

Table 16 : Commitments co-delegation type 3 in 2020 for DG ERC

TABLE 1: OUTTURN ON COMMITMENT APPROPRIATIONS IN 2020 (in Mio €) for DG ERC					
			Commitment appropriations authorised	Commitments made	%
			1	2	3=2/1
Title 08 Research and innovation					
08	08 02	Horizon 2020 - Research	2.235,10	2.227,56	99,66 %
Total Title 08			2.235,10	2.227,56	99,66 %
Total DG ERC			2.235,10	2.227,56	99,66 %

* Commitment appropriations authorised include, in addition to the budget voted by the legislative authority, appropriations carried over from the previous exercise, budget amendments as well as miscellaneous commitment appropriations for the period (e.g. internal and external assigned revenue).

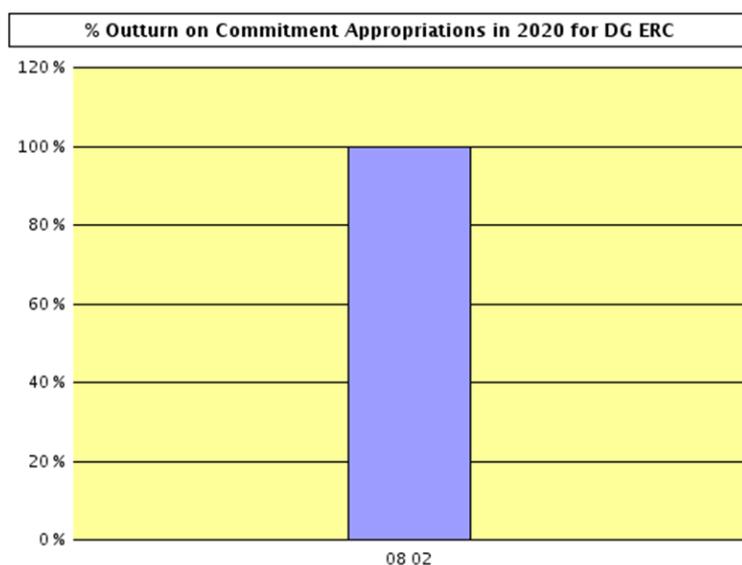


TABLE 2: OUTTURN ON PAYMENT APPROPRIATIONS IN 2020 (in Mio €) for DG ERC					
			Payment appropriations authorised *	Payments made	%
			1	2	3=2/1
Title 08 Research and innovation					
08	08 02	Horizon 2020 - Research	2.455,81	2.087,90	85,02 %
Total Title 08			2.455,81	2.087,90	85,02 %
Total DG ERC			2.455,81	2.087,90	85,02 %

* Payment appropriations authorised include, in addition to the budget voted by the legislative authority, appropriations carried over from the previous exercise, budget amendments as well as miscellaneous payment appropriations for the period (e.g. internal and external assigned revenue).

% Outturn on Payment Appropriations in 2020 for DG ERC

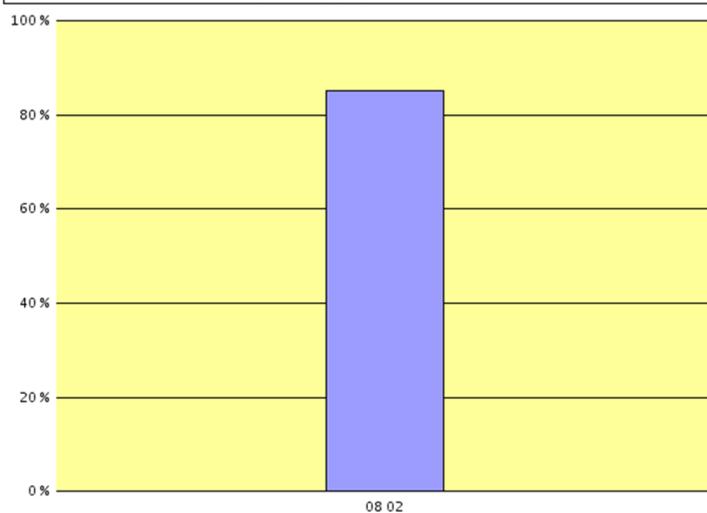


TABLE 3 : BREAKDOWN OF COMMITMENTS TO BE SETTLED AT 31/12/2020 (in Mio €) for DG ERC

Chapter			Commitments to be settled				Commitments to be settled from financial years previous to 2019	Total of commitments to be settled at end of financial year 2020	Total of commitments to be settled at end of financial year 2019
			Commitments	Payments	RAL	% to be settled			
			1	2	3=1-2	4=1-2/1	5	6=3+5	7
08	08 02	Horizon 2020 - Research	2.227,56	113,65	2.113,91	94,90%	4.061,71	6.175,62	6.074,09
Total Title 08			2.227,56	113,65	2.113,91	94,90%	4.061,71	6.175,62	6.074,09
Total for DG ERC			2227,56	113,65	2113,91	94,90 %	4061,71	6175,62	6074,09

Breakdown of Commitments Remaining to be Settled (in Mio EUR) at 31/12/2019 for DG ERC

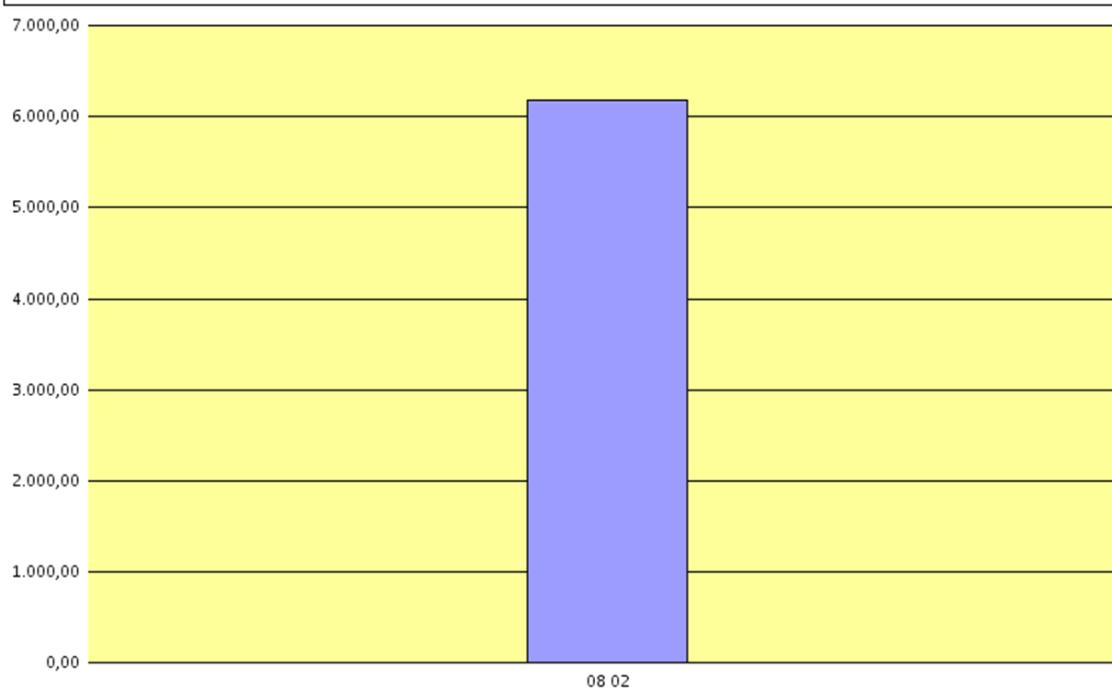


TABLE 4 : BALANCE SHEET for DG ERC

BALANCE SHEET	2020	2019
A.I. NON CURRENT ASSETS	397.057.101,79	282.720.958,50
A.I.5. Non-Current Pre-Financing	397.057.101,79	282.720.958,50
A.II. CURRENT ASSETS	1.225.698.092,07	1.025.705.195,45
A.II.2. Current Pre-Financing	1.223.206.162,99	1.024.107.203,12
A.II.3. Curr Exch Receiv & Non-Ex Recoverables	2.491.929,08	1.597.992,33
ASSETS	1.622.755.193,86	1.308.426.153,95
P.II. CURRENT LIABILITIES	-171.912.351,48	-245.713.409,72
P.II.4. Current Payables	-52.978.513,60	-45.347.356,74
P.II.5. Current Accrued Charges & Defrd Income	-118.933.837,88	-200.366.052,98
LIABILITIES	-171.912.351,48	-245.713.409,72
NET ASSETS (ASSETS less LIABILITIES)	1.450.842.842,38	1.062.712.744,23
P.III.2. Accumulated Surplus/Deficit	10.189.932.216,89	8.455.205.956,44
Non-allocated central (surplus)/deficit*	-11.640.775.059,27	-9.517.918.700,67
TOTAL DG ERC	0,00	0,00

It should be noted that the balance sheet and statement of financial performance presented in Annex 3 to this Annual Activity Report, represent only the assets, liabilities, expenses and revenues that are under the control of this Directorate General. Significant amounts such as own resource revenues and cash held in Commission bank accounts are not included in this Directorate General's accounts since they are managed centrally by DG Budget, on whose balance sheet and statement of financial performance they appear. Furthermore, since the accumulated result of the Commission is not split amongst the various Directorates General, it can be seen that the balance sheet presented here is not in equilibrium.

Additionally, the figures included in tables 4 and 5 are provisional since they are, at this date, still subject to audit by the Court of Auditors. It is thus possible that amounts included in these tables may have to be adjusted following this audit.

TABLE 5 : STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE for DG ERC

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE	2020	2019
II.1 REVENUES	-2.274.304,80	-2.014.213,91
II.1.1. NON-EXCHANGE REVENUES	-2.274.304,80	-2.014.213,91
II.1.1.5. RECOVERY OF EXPENSES	-2.203.525,36	-1.954.691,13
II.1.1.6. OTHER NON-EXCHANGE REVENUES	-70.779,44	-59.522,78
II.2. EXPENSES	1.694.614.570,24	1.736.740.474,36
II.2. EXPENSES	1.694.614.570,24	1.736.740.474,36
II.2.10.OTHER EXPENSES	0,00	673.035,56
II.2.2. EXP IMPLM BY COMMISS&EX.AGENC. (DM)	1.694.592.058,15	1.736.067.438,80
II.2.8. FINANCE COSTS	22.512,09	
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE	1.692.340.265,44	1.734.726.260,45

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Additionally, the figures included in tables 4 and 5 are provisional since they are, at this date, still subject to audit by the Court of Auditors. It is thus possible that amounts included in these tables may have to be adjusted following this audit.

TABLE 5bis : OFF BALANCE SHEET for DG ERC

OFF BALANCE	2020	2019
OB.1. Contingent Assets		0
GR for pre-financing		0,00
OB.2. Contingent Liabilities		0
OB.2.7. CL Legal cases OTHER		0,00
OB.3. Other Significant Disclosures	-5.828.604.105,56	-5.828.604.105,56
OB.3.2. Comm against app. not yet consumed	-5.828.604.105,56	-5.828.604.105,56
OB.4. Balancing Accounts	5.828.604.105,56	5.828.604.105,56
OB.4. Balancing Accounts	5.828.604.105,56	5.828.604.105,56
OFF BALANCE	0,00	0,00

It should be noted that the balance sheet and statement of financial performance presented in Annex 3 to this Annual Activity Report, represent only the assets, liabilities, expenses and revenues that are under the control of this Directorate General. Significant amounts such as own resource revenues and cash held in Commission bank accounts are not included in this Directorate General's accounts since they are managed centrally by DG Budget, on whose balance sheet and statement of financial performance they appear. Furthermore, since the accumulated result of the Commission is not split amongst the various Directorates General, it can be seen that the balance sheet presented here is not in equilibrium.

The amount of the commitment against appropriations not yet consumed presented in the off balance sheet corresponds to the 2019 figure. The 2020 amount calculated centrally by the service of the Accounting officer has not yet been booked.

Additionally, the figures included in tables 4 and 5 are provisional since they are, at this date, still subject to audit by the Court of Auditors. It is thus possible that amounts included in these tables may have to be adjusted following this audit.

TABLE 6: AVERAGE PAYMENT TIMES in 2020 for ERC

Legal Times									
Maximum Payment Time (Days)	Total Number of Payments	Nbr of Payments within Time Limit	Percentage	Average Payment Times (Days)	Nbr of Late Payments	Percentage	Average Payment Times (Days)	Late Payments Amount	Percentage
30	6205	6168	99,40 %	8,78	37	0,60 %	59,51	5.839.368,33	0,73, %
90	3461	3453	99,77 %	22,25	8	0,23 %	138,50	1.755.347,30	0,15, %
Total Number of Payments	9666	9621	99,53 %		45	0,47 %		7.594.715,63	0,38, %
Average Net Payment Time	13,89			13,61			73,56		
Average Gross Payment Time	20,01			19,65			98,20		

Suspensions							
Average Report Approval Suspension Days	Average Payment Suspension Days	Number of Suspended Payments	% of Total Number	Total Number of Payments	Amount of Suspended Payments	% of Total Amount	Total Paid Amount
0	32	1865	19,29 %	9666	569.924.897,72	28,81 %	1.978.114.519,98

Late Interest paid in 2020			
DG	GL Account	Description	Amount (Eur)
ERCEA	65010000	Interest expense on late payment of charges	22 512,09
			22 512,09

TABLE 7 : SITUATION ON REVENUE AND INCOME in 2020 for DG ERC								
Chapter		Revenue and income recognized			Revenue and income cashed from			Outstanding balance
		Current year RO	Carried over RO	Total	Current Year RO	Carried over RO	Total	
		1	2	3=1+2	4	5	6=4+5	
66	OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS AND REFUNDS	7.873.797,24	409.979,61	8.283.776,85	7.226.882,14	408.387,30	7.635.269,44	648.507,41
90	MISCELLANEOUS REVENUE	35.243,97	0,00	35.243,97	17.747,69	0,00	17.747,69	17.496,28
Total DG ERC		7.909.041,21	409.979,61	8.319.020,82	7.244.629,83	408.387,30	7.653.017,13	666.003,69

**TABLE 8 : RECOVERY OF PAYMENTS in 2020 for DG ERC
(Number of Recovery Contexts and corresponding Transaction Amount)**

INCOME BUDGET RECOVERY ORDERS ISSUED IN 2020 Year of Origin (commitment)	Irregularity		Total undue payments recovered		Total transactions in recovery context(incl. non- qualified)		% Qualified/Total RC	
	Nbr	RO Amount	Nbr	RO Amount	Nbr	RO Amount	Nbr	RO Amount
	2010	4	224.818,17	4	224.818,17	8	247.408,09	50,00%
2011	1	123.904,07	1	123.904,07	2	136.294,48	50,00%	90,91%
2012	1	3.564,58	1	3.564,58	1	3.564,58	100,00%	100,00%
2013	2	728,29	2	728,29	16	1.409.402,94	12,50%	0,05%
2014	5	65.382,22	5	65.382,22	21	1.555.159,08	23,81%	4,20%
2015	4	90.124,13	4	90.124,13	22	1.538.683,36	18,18%	5,86%
2016	2	4.588,20	2	4.588,20	7	635.551,47	28,57%	0,72%
2017	2	5.113,12	2	5.113,12	13	1.484.730,77	15,38%	0,34%
2018					9	856.349,14		
2019					5	25.964,67		
2020					1	15.668,99		
No Link					1	263,64		
Sub-Total	21	518.222,78	21	518.222,78	106	7.909.041,21	19,81%	6,55%

EXPENSES BUDGET	Irregularity		OLAF Notified		Total undue payments recovered		Total transactions in recovery context(incl. non-qualified)		% Qualified/Total RC	
	Nbr	Amount	Nbr	Amount	Nbr	Amount	Nbr	Amount	Nbr	Amount
INCOME LINES IN INVOICES	87	1.069.857,59			87	1.069.857,59	87	1.069.857,59	100,00%	100,00%
NON ELIGIBLE IN COST CLAIMS	237	3.920.199,41			237	3.920.199,41	547	18.497.255,37	43,33%	21,19%
CREDIT NOTES										
Sub-Total	324	4.990.057,00			324	4.990.057,00	634	19.567.112,96	51,10%	25,50%
GRAND TOTAL	345	5.508.279,78			345	5.508.279,78	740	27.476.154,17	46,62%	20,05%

TABLE 9: AGEING BALANCE OF RECOVERY ORDERS AT 31/12/2020 for DG ERC

	Number at 1/01/2020	Number at 31/12/2020	Evolution	Open Amount (Eur) at 1/01/2020	Open Amount (Eur) at 31/12/2020	Evolution
2016	1	1	0,00 %	1.592,31	1.592,31	0,00 %
2019	4		-100,00 %	408.387,30		-100,00 %
2020		8			664.411,38	
	5	9	80,00 %	409.979,61	666.003,69	62,45 %

TABLE 10 :Recovery Order Waivers >= 60 000 € in 2020 for DG ERC

Waiver Central Key	Linked RO Central Key	RO Accepted Amount (Eur)	LE Account Group	Commission Decision	Comments
-----------------------	--------------------------	-----------------------------	------------------	------------------------	----------

Total DG ERC	
--------------	--

Number of RO waivers	
----------------------	--

No data to be reported

TABLE 11 : Negotiated Procedures in 2020 for DG ERC

Negotiated Procedure Legal base	Number of Procedures	Amount (€)
Annex 1 - 11.1 (b) - Artistic/technical reasons or exclusive rights or technical monopoly/captive market	1	125.000,00
Total	1	125.000,00

TABLE 12 : Summary of Procedures in 2020 for DG ERC

Internal Procedures > € 60,000

Procedure Legal base	Number of Procedures	Amount (€)
Negotiated procedure without prior publication (Annex 1 - 11.1)	1	125.000,00
Total	1	125.000,00

TABLE 13 : BUILDING CONTRACTS in 2020 for DG ERC

Legal Base	Procedure subject	Contract Number	Contractor Name	Contract Subject	Contracted Amount (€)

No data to be reported

TABLE 14 : CONTRACTS DECLARED SECRET in 2020 for DG ERC

Legal Base	LC Date	Contract Number	Contract Subject	Contracted Amount (€)

No data to be reported

TABLE 15 : FPA duration exceeds 4 years - DG

No data to be reported

TABLE 16 : Commitments co-delegation type 3 in 2020 for DG ERC

No data to be reported

Annex 3 Financial Reports - ERC - Financial Year 2020

Table 1 : Commitments

Table 2 : Payments

Table 3 : Commitments to be settled

Table 4 : Balance Sheet

Table 5 : Statement of Financial Performance

Table 5 Bis: Off Balance Sheet

Table 6 : Average Payment Times

Table 7 : Income

Table 8 : Recovery of undue Payments

Table 9 : Ageing Balance of Recovery Orders

Table 10 : Waivers of Recovery Orders

Table 11 : Negotiated Procedures

Table 12 : Summary of Procedures

Table 13 : Building Contracts

Table 14 : Contracts declared Secret

Table 15 : FPA duration exceeds 4 years

TABLE 1: OUTTURN ON COMMITMENT APPROPRIATIONS IN 2020 (in Mio €) for ERC					
			Commitment appropriations authorised	Commitments made	%
			1	2	3=2/1
Title 1 Staff expenditure					
1	1 1	Remunerations Allowances and Charges	39,95	39,89	99,85 %
	1 2	Professional Development and Social expenditure	2,14	2,12	99,11 %
Total Title 1			42,09	42,01	99,81 %
Title 2 Infrastructure and operating expenditure					
2	2 1	Building expenditure	6,35	6,30	99,20 %
	2 2	ICT	2,05	2,05	99,82 %
	2 3	Movable property and Current Operating expenditure	0,23	0,23	99,33 %
Total Title 2			8,63	8,58	99,35 %
Title 3 Programme support expenditure					
3	3 1	Programme Management expenditure	1,46	1,46	99,69 %
Total Title 3			1,46	1,46	99,69 %
Total ERC			52,18	52,04	99,73 %

* Commitment appropriations authorised include, in addition to the budget voted by the legislative authority, appropriations carried over from the previous exercise, budget amendments as well as miscellaneous commitment appropriations for the period (e.g. internal and external assigned revenue).

% Outturn on Commitment Appropriations in 2020 for ERC

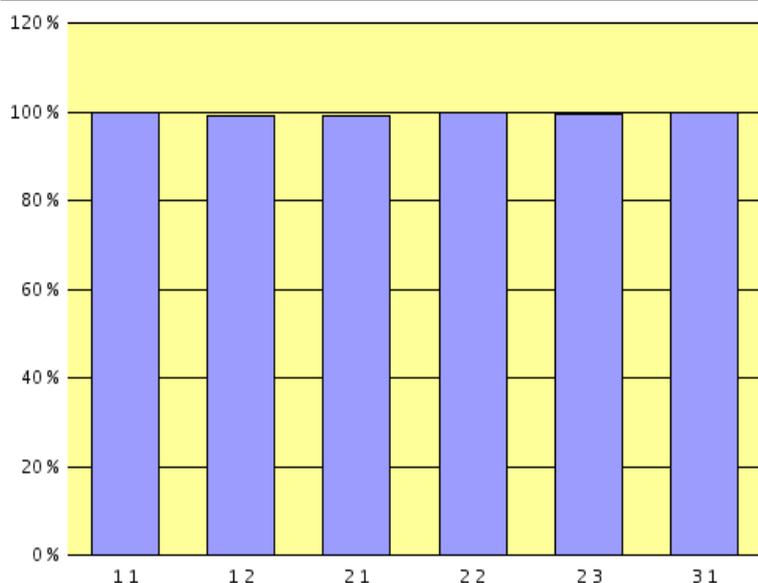


TABLE 2: OUTTURN ON PAYMENT APPROPRIATIONS IN 2020 (in Mio €) for ERC

			Payment appropriations authorised *	Payments made	%
			1	2	3=2/1
Title 1 Staff expenditure					
1	1 1	Remunerations Allowances and Charges	40,01	39,88	99,68 %
	1 2	Professional Development and Social expenditure	2,57	2,22	86,33 %
Total Title 1			42,58	42,10	98,87%
Title 2 Infrastructure and operating expenditure					
2	2 1	Building expenditure	7,48	6,76	90,48 %
	2 2	ICT	2,31	2,02	87,42 %
	2 3	Movable property and Current Operating expenditure	0,34	0,26	75,98 %
Total Title 2			10,12	9,04	89,30%
Title 3 Programme support expenditure					
3	3 1	Programme Management expenditure	2,51	1,83	72,76 %
Total Title 3			2,51	1,83	72,76%
Total ERC			55,22	52,97	95,93 %

* Payment appropriations authorised include, in addition to the budget voted by the legislative authority, appropriations carried over from the previous exercise, budget amendments as well as miscellaneous payment appropriations for the period (e.g. internal and external assigned revenue).

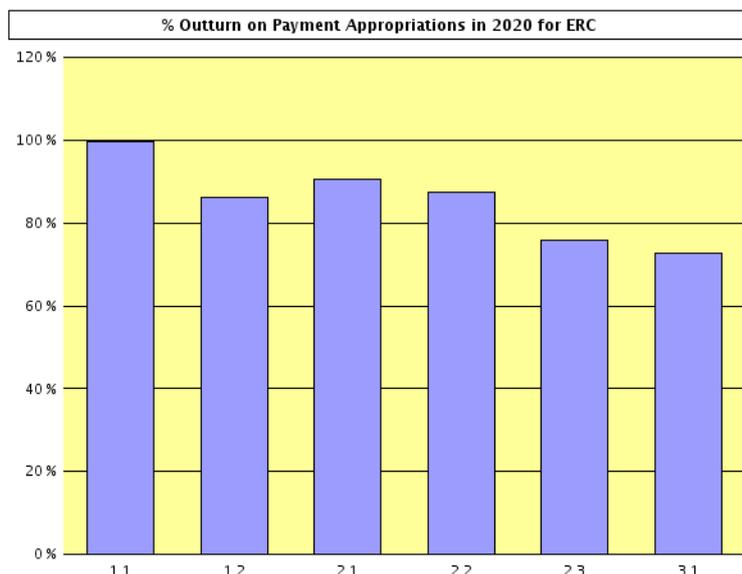


TABLE 3 : BREAKDOWN OF COMMITMENTS TO BE SETTLED AT 31/12/2020 (in Mio €) for ERC

Chapter			Commitments to be settled				Commitments to be settled from financial years previous to 2019	Total of commitments to be settled at end of financial year 2020	Total of commitments to be settled at end of financial year 2019
			Commitments	Payments	RAL	%to be settled			
			1	2	3=1-2	4=1-2/1	5	6=3+5	7
1	1 1	Remunerations Allowances and Charges	39,89	39,82	0,07	0,17%	0,00	0,07	0,06
	1 2	Professional Development and Social expenditure	2,12	1,83	0,28	13,44%	0,00	0,28	0,43
Total Title 1			42,01	41,65	0,35	0,84%	0,00	0,35	0,50

TABLE 3 : BREAKDOWN OF COMMITMENTS TO BE SETTLED AT 31/12/2020 (in Mio €) for ERC

Chapter			Commitments to be settled				Commitments to be settled from financial years previous to 2019	Total of commitments to be settled at end of financial year 2020	Total of commitments to be settled at end of financial year 2019
			Commitments	Payments	RAL	%to be settled			
			1	2	3=1-2	4=1-2/1	5	6=3+5	7
2	2 1	Building expenditure	6,30	5,73	0,57	9,04%	0,00	0,57	1,13
	2 2	ICT	2,05	1,78	0,26	12,92%	0,00	0,26	0,26
	2 3	Movable property and Current Operating expenditure	0,23	0,15	0,07	32,29%	0,00	0,07	0,11
Total Title 2			8,58	7,67	0,91	10,58%	0,00	0,91	1,49

TABLE 3 : BREAKDOWN OF COMMITMENTS TO BE SETTLED AT 31/12/2020 (in Mio €) for ERC

Chapter			Commitments to be settled				Commitments to be settled from financial years previous to 2019	Total of commitments to be settled at end of financial year 2020	Total of commitments to be settled at end of financial year 2019
			Commitments	Payments	RAL	%to be settled			
			1	2	3=1-2	4=1-2/1	5	6=3+5	7
3	3 1	Programme Management expenditure	1,46	0,90	0,56	38,33%	0,00	0,56	1,05
Total Title 3			1,46	0,90	0,56	38,33%	0,00	0,56	1,05

Total :			52,04	50,22	1,82	3,49 %	0,00	1,82	3,04
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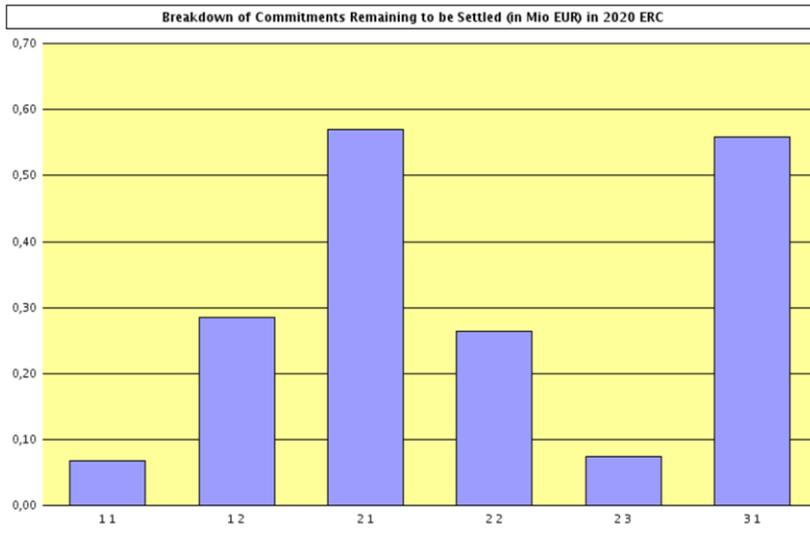


TABLE 4 : BALANCE SHEET for ERC

BALANCE SHEET	2020	2019
A.I. NON CURRENT ASSETS	907.033,33	1.624.309,82
A.I.1. Intangible Assets	36.386,00	173.866,00
A.I.2. Property, Plant and Equipment	870.647,33	1.450.443,82
A.II. CURRENT ASSETS	17.150.649,64	6.395.961,25
A.II.3. Curr Exch Receiv & Non-Ex Recoverables	3.027.469,78	2.925.873,48
A.II.6. Cash and Cash Equivalents	14.123.179,86	3.470.087,77
ASSETS	18.057.682,97	8.020.271,07
P.II. CURRENT LIABILITIES	-15.089.673,03	-3.912.809,52
P.II.2. Current Provisions		0,00
P.II.4. Current Payables	-12.406.860,88	-482.562,73
P.II.5. Current Accrued Charges & Defrd Income	-2.682.812,15	-3.430.246,79
LIABILITIES	-15.089.673,03	-3.912.809,52
NET ASSETS (ASSETS less LIABILITIES)	2.968.009,94	4.107.461,55
P.III.2. Accumulated Surplus/Deficit	-4.107.461,55	-4.987.949,74
Non-allocated central (surplus)/deficit*	1.139.451,61	880.488,19
TOTAL	0,00	0,00

It should be noted that the balance sheet and statement of financial performance presented in Annex 3 to this Annual Activity Report, represent only the assets, liabilities, expenses and revenues that are under the control of this Directorate General. Significant amounts such as own resource revenues and cash held in Commission bank accounts are not included in this Directorate General's accounts since they are managed centrally by DG Budget, on whose balance sheet and statement of financial performance they appear. Furthermore, since the accumulated result of the Commission is not split amongst the various Directorates General, it can be seen that the balance sheet presented here is not in equilibrium.

Additionally, the figures included in tables 4 and 5 are provisional since they are, at this date, still subject to audit by the Court of Auditors. It is thus possible that amounts included in these tables may have to be adjusted following this audit.

TABLE 5 : STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE for ERC

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE	2020	2019
II.1 REVENUES	-51.749.682,30	-51.451.475,94
II.1.1. NON-EXCHANGE REVENUES	-51.647.418,81	-51.106.240,78
II.1.1.6. OTHER NON-EXCHANGE REVENUES	-51.647.418,81	-51.106.240,78
II.1.2. EXCHANGE REVENUES	-102.263,49	-345.235,16
II.1.2.2. OTHER EXCHANGE REVENUE	-102.263,49	-345.235,16
II.2. EXPENSES	52.889.133,91	52.331.964,13
II.2. EXPENSES	52.889.133,91	52.331.964,13
II.2.10. OTHER EXPENSES	12.816.620,07	14.111.082,10
II.2.6. STAFF AND PENSION COSTS	40.072.513,84	38.220.874,04
II.2.8. FINANCE COSTS		7,99
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE	1.139.451,61	880.488,19

It should be noted that the balance sheet and statement of financial performance presented in Annex 3 to this Annual Activity Report, represent only the assets, liabilities, expenses and revenues that are under the control of this Directorate General. Significant amounts such as own resource revenues and cash held in Commission bank accounts are not included in this Directorate General's accounts since they are managed centrally by DG Budget, on whose balance sheet and statement of financial performance they appear. Furthermore, since the accumulated result of the Commission is not split amongst the various Directorates General, it can be seen that the balance sheet presented here is not in equilibrium.

Additionally, the figures included in tables 4 and 5 are provisional since they are, at this date, still subject to audit by the Court of Auditors. It is thus possible that amounts included in these tables may have to be adjusted following this audit.

TABLE 5bis : OFF BALANCE SHEET for DG ERC

OFF BALANCE	2020	2019
OB.1. Contingent Assets		0,00
GR for pre-financing		0,00
OB.2. Contingent Liabilities		0,00
OB.2.7. CL Legal cases OTHER		0,00
OB.3. Other Significant Disclosures	-6.003.707.941,75	-5.828.604.105,56
OB.3.2. Comm against app. not yet consumed	-6.003.707.941,75	-5.828.604.105,56
OB.4. Balancing Accounts	6.003.707.941,75	5.828.604.105,56
OB.4. Balancing Accounts	6.003.707.941,75	5.828.604.105,56
OFF BALANCE	0,00	0,00

It should be noted that the balance sheet and statement of financial performance presented in Annex 3 to this Annual Activity Report, represent only the assets, liabilities, expenses and revenues that are under the control of this Directorate General. Significant amounts such as own resource revenues and cash held in Commission bank accounts are not included in this Directorate General's accounts since they are managed centrally by DG Budget, on whose balance sheet and statement of financial performance they appear. Furthermore, since the accumulated result of the Commission is not split amongst the various Directorates General, it can be seen that the balance sheet presented here is not in equilibrium.

Additionally, the figures included in tables 4 and 5 are provisional since they are, at this date, still subject to audit by the Court of Auditors. It is thus possible that amounts included in these tables may have to be adjusted following this audit.

TABLE 6: AVERAGE PAYMENT TIMES FOR 2020 for ERC

Legal Times									
Maximum Payment Time (Days)	Total Number of Payments	Nbr of Payments within Time Limit	Percentage	Average Payment Times (Days)	Nbr of Late Payments	Percentage	Average Payment Times (Days)	Late Payments Amount	Percentage
30	661	645	97,58 %	9,37	16	2,42 %	40,06	131.481,68	1,0, %
60	1	1	100,00 %	2				0,00	0,0, %
90	1	1	100,00 %	6				0,00	0,0, %

Total Number of Payments	663	647	97,59 %		16	2,41 %		131.481,68	1,0, %
Average Net Payment Time	10,09			9,35			40,06		
Average Gross Payment Time	11,95			11,23			41,31		

Suspensions							
Average Report Approval Suspension Days	Average Payment Suspension Days	Number of Suspended Payments	% of Total Number	Total Number of Payments	Amount of Suspended Payments	% of Total Amount	Total Paid Amount
0	25	49	7,39 %	663	302.562,47	2,22 %	13.603.020,45

DG	GL Account	Description	Amount (Eur)

TABLE 7 : SITUATION ON REVENUE AND INCOME IN 2020 for ERC								
Chapter		Revenue and income recognized			Revenue and income cashed from			Outstanding balance
		Current year RO	Carried over RO	Total	Current Year RO	Carried over RO	Total	
		1	2	3=1+2	4	5	6=4+5	
2 0	Subsidy from the Commission	52.178.495,00	0,00	52.178.495,00	52.178.495,00	0,00	52.178.495,00	0,00
9 1	Recuperation of expenses	8.112,67	0,00	8.112,67	3.978,19	0,00	3.978,19	4.134,48
9 2	Miscellaneous revenues	104.169,05	0,00	104.169,05	97.794,05	0,00	97.794,05	6.375,00
Total ERC		52.290.776,72	0,00	52.290.776,72	52.280.267,24	0,00	52.280.267,24	10.509,48

**TABLE 8 : RECOVERY OF PAYMENTS in 2020 for ERC
(Number of Recovery Contexts and corresponding Transaction Amount)**

Year of Origin (commitment)	Total undue payments recovered		Total transactions in recovery context(incl. non-qualified)		% Qualified/Total RC	
	Nbr	RO Amount	Nbr	RO Amount	Nbr	RO Amount
	2019			1	184,80	
2020			2	7.313,61		
No Link			37	52.320.642,00		
Sub-Total			40	52.328.140,41		

EXPENSES BUDGET	Irregularity		OLAF Notified		Total undue payments recovered		Total transactions in recovery context(incl. non-qualified)		% Qualified/Total RC	
	Nbr	Amount	Nbr	Amount	Nbr	Amount	Nbr	Amount	Nbr	Amount
INCOME LINES IN INVOICES										
NON ELIGIBLE IN COST CLAIMS										
CREDIT NOTES							28	325.519,64		
Sub-Total							28	325.519,64		
GRAND TOTAL							68	52.653.660,05		

TABLE 9: AGEING BALANCE OF RECOVERY ORDERS AT 31/12/2020 for ERC						
	Number at 1/01/2020	Number at 31/12/2020	Evolution	Open Amount (Eur) at 1/01/2020	Open Amount (Eur) at 31/12/2020	Evolution
2020		2			10.509,48	
		2			10.509,48	

TABLE 10 :Recovery Order Waivers >= 60 000 € in 2020 for ERC						
Waiver Central Key	Linked RO Central Key	RO Accepted Amount (Eur)	LE Account Group	Commission Decision	Comments	

Total DG

Number of RO waivers

No data to be reported

TABLE 11 : Negotiated Procedures in 2020 for ERC

Negotiated Procedure Legal base	Number of Procedures	Amount (€)
Total		

No data to be reported

TABLE 12 : Summary of Procedures in 2020 for ERC**Internal Procedures > € 60,000**

Procedure Legal base	Number of Procedures	Amount (€)
Total		

No data to be reported

TABLE 13 : BUILDING CONTRACTS in 2020 for ERC

Legal Base	Procedure subject	Contract Number	Contractor Name	Contract Subject	Contracted Amount (€)

No data to be reported

TABLE 14 : CONTRACTS DECLARED SECRET in 2020 for ERC

Legal Base	LC Date	Contract Number	Contract Subject	Contracted Amount (€)

No data to be reported

TABLE 15 : FPA duration exceeds 4 years - ERC

No data to be reported

ANNEX 4 : Financial Scorecard

The Annex 4 of each Commission service summarises the annual result of the standard financial indicators measurement. Annexed to the Annual Activity Report 2020, 6 standard financial indicators are presented below, each with its objective, category, definition, and result for the Commission service and for the EC as a whole (for benchmarking purposes)¹³:

- Commitment Appropriations (CA) Implementation
- CA Forecast Implementation
- Payment Appropriations (PA) Implementation
- PA Forecast Implementation
- Global Commitment Absorption
- Timely Payments

For each indicator, its value (in %) for the Commission service is compared to the common target (in %). The difference between the indicator's value and the target is colour coded as follows:

- 100 – >95% of the target: dark green
- 95 – >90% of the target: light green
- 90 – >85% of the target: yellow
- 85 – >80% of the target: light red
- 80 – 0% of the target: dark red

The Commission services are invited to provide commentary behind each indicator's result in the dedicated boxes below as this can help the reader to understand the Commission's service context. In cases when the indicator's value achieves 80% or less of the target, the comment becomes mandatory.

¹³ If the EC service did not perform any transaction in the area measured by the indicator or the information is not available in the central financial system, the indicator is not calculated (i.e. displayed as “-”) in this Annex.

Indicator	CA Implementation
Category	Efficiency Controls / Budget
Objective	Ensure efficient use of commitment appropriations
Result	<p>Executive Agency ERCEA achieved 100% compared to the EC result of 99%</p> <p>0% 20% 40% 60% 80% 100%</p> <p>EC (99%) 100%</p>
Comment	N/A
Definition	<p>Formula: Value A / Value B</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Value A: Committed L1 Accepted Amount + Direct Committed L2 Accepted Amount (Eur) - Value B: Credit Accepted Com Amount (Eur) <p>Scope: Commitments on all relevant Fund Sources, except for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Internal assigned revenue in first year (C4) - Internal assigned revenue from lettings and sale of buildings and lands (CL) - Repaid advances (structural funds) (C6) - External assigned revenue except for EFTA (FCA ,FRT, PO, RO, TCA, TF5, TFC)

Indicator	CA Forecast Implementation
Objective	Ensure efficient use of payment appropriations
Result	<p>Executive Agency ERCEA achieved 100% compared to the EC result of 99%</p> 
Comment	N/A
Definition	<p>Formula: Value A / Value B</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Value A: Payment Accepted Amount (Eur) - Value B: Credit Accepted Pay Amount (Eur) <p>Scope:</p> <p>Payments on all relevant Fund Sources, except for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Internal assigned revenue in first year (C4) - Internal assigned revenue from lettings and sale of buildings and lands (CL) - Repaid advances (structural funds) (C6) - External assigned revenue except for EFTA (FCA ,FRT, PO, RO, TCA, TF5, TFC) - Payments stemming from C1, C5, E0 outstanding commitments on the non-staff budget positions that will be carried-forward as C8 to the next financial year

Indicator	PA Forecast Implementation
Objective	Ensure the cumulative alignment of the commitment implementation with the payment forecast in a financial year
Result	<p>Executive Agency ERCEA achieved 100% compared to the EC result of 98%</p> <p>The chart displays a scale from 0% to 100% in 20% increments. A green bar represents the EC result at 98%, and a red bar represents the ERCEA result at 100%.</p>
Comment	N/A
Definition	<p>Formula: Value A / Value B*,**</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Value A: Committed L1 Accepted Amount + Direct Committed L2 Accepted Amount (Eur) - Value B: Commitment Forecast Amount (Eur) <p>*if Value A / Value B between 100 and 200% then the result indicator will be equal to $1 - (ABS(Value B - Value A) / Value B)$</p> <p>**if Value A / Value B > 200 % then the result indicator will be equal to 0%</p> <p>Scope:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Commitments on all relevant Fund Sources - Commitment Forecast Amount (Eur) from the most up to date forecast version (Initial Mar-Aug, Revised Sep-Dec)

Indicator	<u>Global Commitment Absorption</u>
Objective	Ensure the cumulative alignment of the payment implementation with the commitment forecast in a financial year
Result	<p>Executive Agency ERCEA achieved 100% compared to the EC result of 99%</p> 
Comment	N/A
Definition	<p>Formula: Value A / Value B^{*,**}</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Value A: Payment Accepted Amount (Eur) - Value B: Payment Forecast Amount (Eur) <p>[*]if Value A / Value B between 100 and 200% then the result indicator will be equal to $1 - (ABS(Value B - Value A) / Value B)$</p> <p>^{**}if Value A / Value B > 200 % then the result indicator will be equal to 0%</p> <p>Scope:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Payments on all relevant Fund Sources - Payment Forecast Amount (Eur) from the most up to date forecast version (Initial Mar-Aug, Revised Sep-Dec)

Category	Efficiency Controls / Absorption
Objective	Ensure efficient use of already earmarked commitment appropriations (at L1 level)
Indicator	Timely Payments
Result	<p>Executive Agency ERCEA achieved 100% compared to the EC result of 98%</p> <p>0% 20% 40% 60% 80% 100%</p> <p>EC (98%) 100%</p>
Comment	N/A
Definition	<p>Formula:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Value A: Com L1 Consumption amount (Eur) - Value B: Com L1 Initial amount (Eur) + Com L1 Complementary Amount (Eur) + (Com L1 Decommitment Amount (Eur) on all Fund Sources except for C8 and C9) <p>Scope:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Com L1 with FDC ILC date from 01/01 to 31/12 of the current year - No movements to the Com L1 Consumption amount (Eur) after the FDC ILC date is taken into account (Generally decommitments of L2 which decrease the Com L1 consumption) <p>Remark: Due to technical limitation, the indicator does not take into account the Com L1 Consumption between the FDC ILC date and the FA FDI allowed as an exception in the external actions for Com L1 of type GF, i.e. with Financing Agreement, under the FR2018 Article 114.2. As a result, the actual Indicator score may be slightly higher than the one reported for DGs using the GF commitments.</p>

Category	Efficiency Controls / Timeliness
Objective	Ensure efficient processing of payments within the legal deadlines
Result	<p>Executive Agency ERCEA achieved 100% compared to the EC result of 99%</p> <p>0% 20% 40% 60% 80% 100%</p> <p>EC (99%) 100%</p>
Comment	N/A
Definition	<p>Formula: Value A / Value B</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Value A: Payment Accepted Amount (Eur) in time <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o In Time: Payment Bank Value Date <= Payment legal deadline - Value B: Payment Accepted Amount (Eur) <p>Scope:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Payments made in the current year - Payments valid for payment statistics (DWH Flag "Payment Time Status OK?" = "Y")

ANNEX 5: Materiality criteria

DG Research and Innovation's expenditure is composed of (in order of importance), directly managed grants, indirectly managed grants and financial instruments and other direct spending mostly of an administrative nature. The error rate affecting payments is estimated yearly and per management system, following a methodology that takes into account the risk associated to the type of expenditure (in terms of probability and final financial impact).

Considering that around 80% of the yearly expenditure is related to directly or indirectly managed research grants, and the fact that the research framework programmes' implementing bodies are sharing a common ex-post audit approach, the following section focusses on this specific management system.

A. RESEARCH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMMES – COMMON ASPECTS

The assessment of the effectiveness of the different programmes' control system is based mainly, but not exclusively, on ex-post audits' results. The effectiveness is expressed in terms of detected and residual error rate, calculated on a representative sample.

Assessment of the effectiveness of controls

The starting point to determine the effectiveness of the controls in place is the cumulative level of error expressed as the percentage of errors in favour of the EC, detected by ex-post audits, measured with respect to the amounts accepted after ex-ante controls.

However, to take into account the impact of the ex-post controls, this error level is adjusted by subtracting:

- Errors detected corrected as a result of the implementation of audit conclusions.
- Errors corrected as a result of the extension of audit results to non-audited contracts with the same beneficiary.

This results in a residual error rate, which is calculated as follows:

$$\text{ResER}\% = \frac{(\text{RepER}\% * (P - A)) - (\text{RepERsys}\% * E)}{P}$$

where:

ResER% residual error rate, expressed as a percentage.

- RepER%** representative error rate, or error rate detected in the common representative sample, expressed as a percentage. The RepER% is composed of complementary portions reflecting the proportion of negative systematic and non-systematic errors detected. This rate is the same for all implementing entities, without prejudice to possibly individual detected error rates.
- RepERsys%** portion of the RepER% representing negative systematic errors, (expressed as a percentage). The RepERsys% is the same for all entities and it is calculated from the same set of results as the RepER%
- P** total requested EC contribution (€) in the auditable population (i.e. all paid financial statements).
- A** total requested EC contribution (€) as approved by financial officers of all audited financial statements. This will be collected from audit results.
- E** total non-audited requested EC contribution (€) of all audited beneficiaries.

The Common Representative Sample (CRS) is the starting point for the calculation of the residual error rate. It is representative of the expenditure of each FP as a whole. Nevertheless, the Director-General (or Director for the Executive Agencies) must also take into account other information when considering if the overall residual error rate is a sufficient basis on which to draw a conclusion on assurance (or make a reservation) for specific segment(s) of the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7)/Horizon 2020. This may include the results of other ex-post audits, ex-ante controls, risk assessments, audit reports from external or internal auditors, etc. All this information may be used in assessing the overall impact of a weakness and considering whether to make a reservation or not.

If the CRS results are not used as the basis for calculating the residual error rate this must be clearly disclosed in the AAR, along with details of why and how the final judgement was made.

Should a calculation of the residual error rate based on a representative sample not be possible for a FP for reasons not involving control deficiencies,¹⁴ the consequences are to be assessed quantitatively by making a best estimate of the likely exposure for the reporting year based on all available information. The relative impact on the Declaration of Assurance would then be considered by analysing the available information on qualitative

¹⁴ Such as, for instance, when the number of results from a statistically-representative sample collected at a given point in time is not sufficient to calculate a reliable error rate.

grounds and considering evidence from other sources and areas. This should be clearly explained in the AAR.

Multiannual approach

The Commission's central services' guidance relating to the quantitative materiality threshold refers to a percentage of the authorised payments of the reporting year of the ABB expenditure. However, the Guidance on AARs also allows a multi-annual approach, especially for budget areas (e.g. programmes) for which a multi-annual control system is more effective. In such cases, the calculation of errors, corrections and materiality of the residual amount at risk should be done on a "cumulative basis" on the basis of the totals over the entire programme lifecycle.

Because of its multiannual nature, the effectiveness of the Research and Innovation family services' control strategy can only be fully measured and assessed at the final stages in the life of the framework programme, once the ex-post audit strategy has been fully implemented and systematic errors have been detected and corrected.

In addition, basing materiality solely on ABB expenditure for one year may not provide the most appropriate basis for judgements, as ABB expenditure often includes significant levels of pre-financing expenditure (e.g. during the initial years of a new generation of programmes), as well as reimbursements (interim and final payments) based on cost claims that 'clear' those pre-financings. Pre-financing expenditure is very low risk, being paid automatically after the signature of the contract.

Notwithstanding the multiannual span of their control strategy, the Directors-General of the Research DGs (and the Directors of ERCEA, REA, and, for Horizon 2020, EASME and INEA) are required to sign a statement of assurance for each financial reporting year. In order to determine whether to qualify this statement of assurance with a reservation, the effectiveness of the control systems in place needs to be assessed not only for the year of reference but also with a multiannual perspective, to determine whether it is possible to reasonably conclude that the control objectives will be met in the future as foreseen.

In view of the crucial role of ex-post audits defined in the respective common audit strategies, this assessment needs to check in particular whether the scope and results of the ex-post audits carried out until the end of the reporting period are sufficient and adequate to meet the multiannual control strategy goals.

The criteria for making a decision on whether there is material error in the expenditure of the DG or service, and thus, on whether to make a reservation in the AAR, will therefore be principally, though not necessarily exclusively, based on the level of error identified in ex-post audits of cost claims on a multi-annual basis.

Adequacy of the audit scope

The quantity of the (cumulative) audit effort carried out until the end of each year is measured by the actual volume of audits completed. The data is to be shown per year and cumulated, in line with the current AAR presentation of error rates. The multiannual planning and results should be reported in sufficient detail to allow the reader to form an opinion on whether the strategy is on course as foreseen.

The Director-General (or Director for the Executive Agencies) should form a qualitative opinion to determine whether deviations from the multiannual plan are of such significance that they seriously endanger the achievement of the internal control objective. In such case, she or he would be expected to qualify his annual statement of assurance with a reservation.

B. 2020 REVISED METHODOLOGY FOR THE CALCULATION OF THE ERROR RATE FOR HORIZON 2020

The European Court of Auditors observed in its 2018 and 2019 Annual Reports that the error rate of Horizon 2020 was understated because the ex-post audits aim for maximum coverage of the accepted costs, but rarely cover all the costs. The error rate is calculated as a share of all the accepted costs, instead of the amount actually audited. This means that the denominator in the error calculation is higher, so the error rate is understated. In case the errors found are of a systemic nature, the error is extrapolated which partially compensates for the above-mentioned understatement. However, since extrapolation is not performed for non-systemic errors, the overall error rate is nevertheless understated. The understatement of the error rate cannot be quantified. It is, then, impossible to determine whether the impact of this understatement is significant.

In response to this observation, in 2020 the Commission re-defined its methodology for calculating the Horizon 2020 error rate. In order to quantify any potential understatement mentioned by the Court, the Commission applied a new methodology for all audits closed as from 01 January 2020. The main change in the methodology is the denominator used in the error calculation is the sum of costs actually audited and not the sum of all accepted costs.

The additional 0.41% (calculated on 790 H2020 audit participations by difference with the previous methodology) has been used to top up the detected error rate for 2020 calculated according to the methodology used in the past.

The IAS has carried out a limited review on the methodology for calculation of the error rates of Horizon 2020 in year 2020. The preliminary findings of this limited review confirmed that there is no weakness in the calculation of the detected error rate and that

the impact of these findings on the accuracy of the calculation of the residual error rate is minor. The final recommendations of this limited review will be implemented in the AAR 2021.

C. RESEARCH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMMES – SPECIFIC ASPECTS

The control system of each framework programme is designed to achieve the operational and financial control objectives set in their respective legislative base and legal framework. If the effectiveness of those control systems does not reach the expected level, a reservation must be issued in the annual activity report and corrective measures should be taken.

As each programme has a different control system, the following section details the considerations leading to the establishment of their respective materiality threshold and the conclusions to draw with regard to the declaration of assurance.

Seventh Framework programme and the Coal and Steel Research Fund

For the Seventh Framework programme and the Coal and Steel Research Fund, the general control objective, following the standard quantitative materiality threshold proposed in the Standing Instructions for AAR, is to ensure that the residual error rate, i.e. the level of errors which remain undetected and uncorrected, does not exceed 2% by the end of the programmes' management cycle.

The question of being on track towards this objective is to be (re)assessed annually, in view of the results of the implementation of the ex-post audit strategy and taking into account both the frequency and importance of the errors found as well as a cost-benefit analysis of the effort needed to detect and correct them.

Horizon 2020 Framework Programme

The Commission's proposal for the Regulation establishing H2020 framework programme¹⁵ states that

It remains the ultimate objective of the Commission to achieve a residual error rate of less than 2% of total expenditure over the lifetime of the programme, and to that end, it has introduced a number of simplification measures. However, other objectives such as the attractiveness and the success of the EU research policy, international competitiveness, scientific excellence and in particular, the costs of controls need to be considered.

¹⁵ COM(2011) 809/3 Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing Horizon 2020 – the Framework programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020), see point 2.2, pp 98-102.

Taking these elements in balance, it is proposed that the Directorates General charged with the implementation of the research and innovation budget will establish a cost-effective internal control system that will give reasonable assurance that the risk of error over the course of the multiannual expenditure period is, on an annual basis, within a range of 2-5 %, with the ultimate aim to achieve a residual level of error as close as possible to 2 % at the closure of the multi-annual programmes, once the financial impact of all audits, correction and recovery measures have been taken into account.

Further, it explains also that

Horizon 2020 introduces a significant number of important simplification measures that will lower the error rate in all the categories of error. However, [...] the continuation of a funding model based on the reimbursement of actual costs is the favoured option. A systematic resort to output based funding, flat rates or lump sums appears premature at this stage [...]. Retaining a system based on the reimbursement of actual costs does however mean that errors will continue to occur.

An analysis of errors identified during audits of the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) suggests that around 25-35 % of them would be avoided by the simplification measures proposed. The error rate can then be expected to fall by 1.5 %, i.e. from close to 5 % to around 3.5 %, a figure that is referred to in the Commission Communication striking the right balance between the administrative costs of control and the risk of error.

The Commission considers therefore that, for research spending under Horizon 2020, a risk of error, on an annual basis, within a range between 2-5 % is a realistic objective taking into account the costs of controls, the simplification measures proposed to reduce the complexity of rules and the related inherent risk associated to the reimbursement of costs of the research project. The ultimate aim for the residual level of error at the closure of the programmes after the financial impact of all audits, correction and recovery measures will have been taken into account is to achieve a level as close as possible to 2 %.

In summary, the control system established for Horizon 2020 is designed to achieve a control result in a range of 2-5% detected error rate, which should be as close as possible to 2%, after corrections. Consequently, this range has been considered in the legislation as the control objective set for the framework programme.

The question of being on track towards this objective is to be (re)assessed annually, in view of the results of the implementation of the ex-post audit strategy and taking into account both the frequency and importance of the errors found as well as a cost-benefit analysis of the effort needed to detect and correct them.

3. De minimis threshold for financial reservation

As from 2019¹⁶, a 'de minimis' threshold for financial reservations is introduced. Quantified AAR reservations related to residual error rates above the 2% materiality threshold, are deemed not substantial for segments representing less than 5% of a DG's total payments and with a financial impact below EUR 5 million. In such cases, quantified reservations are no longer needed.

¹⁶ Agreement of the Corporate Management Board of 30/4/2019.

ANNEX 6: Relevant Control System(s) for budget implementation (RCSs)

6.1 ERCEA Operational budget

A. Preparation, adoption and publication of H2020 Calls of proposals aligned to the ERC Work Programme.

Main internal control objectives: Ensure that the H2020 calls for proposals are effectively launched and concluded according ERC Work Programme objectives' effectiveness, in compliance with rules and regulations.

Main risks It may happen (again) that...	Mitigating controls	How to determine coverage, frequency and depth	Cost-Effectiveness indicators (effectiveness, efficiency, economy)
WP and subsequent calls for proposals are inadequate to ensure the evaluation of proposals	Hierarchy of legal texts (legal basis, decisions, rules...) Scientific Council (ScC) support and Call Coordination	All calls	<p>Effectiveness:</p> <p>% of planned Calls successfully concluded</p> <p>% success rate per call</p> <p>Qualitative Benefits:</p> <p>A good Work Programme and well publicised calls should generate a large number of good quality projects, from which the most excellent can be chosen. There will therefore be real competition for funds. Optimised procedures, common approach on multiple issues (audits, fraud, legal aspects, reporting...); better reporting on the whole programme – better management of the programme</p>

B. Evaluation, ranking and selection of proposals

Main internal control objectives: Ensure that only proposals meeting the "H2020" Work Programme objectives' are selected for funding, while complying with rules and regulation and preventing / deterring fraud.

Main risks It may happen (again) that...	Mitigating controls	How to determine coverage, frequency and depth	Cost-Effectiveness indicators (effectiveness, efficiency, economy)
Eligible proposals are excluded from the evaluation or ineligible proposals are proposed for funding	<p>Automatic IT-based eligibility checks</p> <p>Eligibility checks and decision for clear cut cases by scientific officers and call coordinators</p> <p>In depth double-check of special cases at Step 2 by call coordinators</p> <p>Eligibility decision for pending cases (not clear cut) by Eligibility Committee</p>	100% applicants and all aspects of eligibility criteria	<p>Effectiveness:</p> <p>Number of proposals evaluated</p> <p>% of ineligible proposals over total proposals submitted per call</p> <p>% of redress cases concerning eligibility issues</p>
The evaluation, ranking and selection of proposals is not carried out in accordance with the established procedures	<p>ScC selection and appointment of panel members</p> <p>Panel coordination by scientific officers making sure procedures are followed (panel checklists and standard deliverables)</p> <p>Assignment of proposals to panel members by panel chairs</p> <p>Conflict of interest procedure</p>	<p>100% of panel members and experts</p> <p>100% of proposals</p> <p>100% of complaints received are analysed by the Redress Committee.</p> <p>100% exclusion from evaluation of experts having a conflict of interest</p>	<p>Effectiveness:</p> <p>Number of experts participated/invited</p> <p>% of expert payment execution</p> <p>Number of experts (remote referees) reviews per proposals</p> <p>Time to appoint experts</p> <p>Time to pay experts</p>

Main risks It may happen (again) that...	Mitigating controls	How to determine coverage, frequency and depth	Cost-Effectiveness indicators (effectiveness, efficiency, economy)
	<p>Selection of experts (remote referees) by panel chairs</p> <p>Assessment of proposals by panel members and experts (remote referees)</p> <p>ScC President's approval and ERCEA Director's final adoption of ranking lists.</p> <p>Redress procedure</p>		<p>% of successful redress cases</p> <p>Expert budget / number of evaluated proposals</p> <p>Efficiency:</p> <p>Time to Inform all/successful applicants (average number of days) on the outcome of the evaluation of their application from the final date for submission of completed proposals</p> <p>Posts standard costs + expert budget / operational budget</p> <p>Qualitative benefits:</p> <p>Compliant, fair and reliable evaluation based on sole criterion of excellence</p>

D – Monitoring

Main internal control objectives: To ensure the financial and legal transaction time is minimised for ERC beneficiaries and the FP7/H2020 underlying transactions are legal and regular.

Main risks It may happen (again) that...	Mitigating controls	How to determine coverage, frequency and depth	Cost-Effectiveness indicators (effectiveness, efficiency, economy)
<p>The grant agreement is not or partially carried out in compliance with the Description of Work and/or amounts claimed by beneficiaries are not complying with the contractual and regulatory framework.</p>	<p>Financial Officers perform check-list-based financial controls based on the Periodic Financial Management Report, which provides an explanation of financial resources claimed versus the Description of Work, in particular its budgetary annex.</p> <p>Certificate on the Financial Statements delivered by an independent qualified auditor.</p> <p>EDES screening</p> <p>Final payments are subject to the approval of the Scientific reports.</p> <p>Anti-fraud awareness raising training for project officers</p>	<p>100% of transactions</p> <p>100% of transactions with cumulative costs claims exceeding € 325.000 for H2020 or € 375.000 for FP7.</p> <p>100% of transactions</p> <p>100% of transactions</p>	<p>Effectiveness:</p> <p>% of payment credit execution.</p> <p>% of ineligible costs identified by Financial Officers</p> <p>% of total number of financial transactions and accepted costs covered by Certificate on Financial Statements (CFS).</p> <p>Research Family indicator:</p> <p>% and values of errors detected through ex-ante desk checks / total value of cost claims.</p> <p>% of final payments suspended due to results of Scientific reports</p> <p>% of ERCEA staff participation in ethics and integrity trainings</p> <p>Efficiency:</p> <p>Time to pay (pre-financing / interim and final payments)</p> <p>Research Family indicator: Average time to pay (% on time)</p> <p>Qualitative benefits:</p> <p>Average project management cost/running grant agreement</p>

Main risks It may happen (again) that...	Mitigating controls	How to determine coverage, frequency and depth	Cost-Effectiveness indicators (effectiveness, efficiency, economy)
			Average number & value of running grant agreement managed/staff. Detected error rate ex-ante desk checks

Overall economy and quantitative benefit for ex-ante control

			<p>Economy:</p> <p>a.Estimation of cost of staff involved in the ex-ante checks</p> <p>Programme management and monitoring Financial management Budget and accounting General Coordination incl. Strategic Programming and Planning, internal control, assurance and quality management Anti-fraud Development and support of IT systems linked to managing funding programmes</p> <p>b.Estimation of other costs linked to ex-post checks</p> <p>Cost of experts</p> <p>Qualitative Benefits:</p> <p>Total amount committed for grants signed Total amount paid against cost claims including clearings on prefinancing.</p>
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E - Ex-post controls

Main internal control objectives: Measuring the effectiveness of ex-ante controls by performing on-the spot ex-post controls aiming at detecting errors, irregularities or fraud in cost statements related to FP7/H2020 grants.

Main risks It may happen (again) that...	Mitigating controls	How to determine coverage, frequency and depth	Cost-Effectiveness indicators (effectiveness, efficiency, economy)
<p>Ex-ante controls fail to prevent, detect and correct erroneous, irregular or fraudulent payments.</p>	<p>Common and multi-annual FP7/H2020 ex-post control strategy - representative sample of transactions (CRaS)</p> <p>ERCEA specific ex-post control strategy (2007-2013) - representative sample (MUS) and risk-based audits.</p> <p>Updated Anti-fraud Strategy of the ERCEA elaborated on the basis of the methodology provided by OLAF</p> <p>Referring grant/beneficiary to OLAF</p>	<p>Representative sample allows drawing conclusions on the effectiveness of ex-ante controls.</p> <p>The FP7/H2020 audit strategy sets the audit method for the Research Family.</p>	<p>Effectiveness:</p> <p>ERCEA specific error rate (global activity)</p> <p>ERCEA residual error rate (drawn from ERCEA MUS sample)</p> <p>FP7/H2020 - CRaS error rate (representative sample)</p> <p>FP7/H2020 - CRaS residual error rate</p> <p>Number of open fraud / irregularity cases included in the Fraud/Irregularity Register</p> <p>Amount of recoveries</p> <p>Efficiency:</p> <p>Number of audits performed (+% of beneficiaries & value coverage)</p> <p>Qualitative benefits:</p> <p>Non-monetary benefits:</p> <p>Deterrent effect.</p>

Main risks It may happen (again) that...	Mitigating controls	How to determine coverage, frequency and depth	Cost-Effectiveness indicators (effectiveness, efficiency, economy)
			<p>Learning effect for beneficiaries.</p> <p>Improvement of ex-ante-controls or risk approach in ex-ante controls by feeding back audit findings.</p> <p>Improvement in rules and guidance from audit feedback.</p>

Overall economy for ex-post control

			<p>Economy:</p> <p>Estimation of cost of staff involved in the coordination and execution of the ex-post audit strategy and in the implementation of audits</p> <p>Costs of the appointment of audit firms and missions</p>
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6.2 ERCEA Operating budget

A - Administrative budget

Main internal control objectives: To ensure compliance with financial and accounting rules as well as regularity, effectiveness, efficiency and cost benefit of financial transactions processed and monitor the quality of budget planning and of payment workflows.

Main risks It may happen (again) that...	Mitigating controls	How to determine coverage, frequency and depth	Cost-Effectiveness indicators (effectiveness, efficiency, economy)
Credibility of the draft budget (= request for EC contribution in N+1) is questioned by the Budget authority against the ERCEA ability to reach a high level of execution	Monitoring of the quality of the budget planning	100% of operating budget	<p>Effectiveness:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> % Budget execution commitments % Budget execution payments (C1) & (C1+C8) <p>Qualitative benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> respect of commitment towards the budgetary authority to limit administrative costs
Late payments give a negative image of the Agency (reputational risk) and may lead to the payment of late interests	Monitoring of the quality of payment workflows	100% of operating budget	<p>Effectiveness:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> % and number of late payments <p>Efficiency:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Time to pay <p>Qualitative benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Respect of the payment target imposed by budgetary authority

Main risks It may happen (again) that...	Mitigating controls	How to determine coverage, frequency and depth	Cost-Effectiveness indicators (effectiveness, efficiency, economy)
<p>A high rate of errors in the transactions on the administrative budget lead to remarks in the final report of the court of auditors</p>	<p>Compliance & regularity checks of financial transactions</p>	<p>100% of transactions</p>	<p>Effectiveness:</p> <p>% Residual number of accounting errors/total number of transactions (<2%)</p> <p>% Residual accounting errors (<2%) of total balance sheet or economic outturn account</p> <p>Number of findings related to sound financial management and/or legality and regularity of budget's underlying transactions in the final report of the CoA</p> <p>Number of critical findings related to the true and fair view of the financial position for the administrative budget in the final report of the CoA</p> <p>Qualitative benefits:</p> <p>Optimisation of budget execution in line with financial and accounting rules.</p>

B - Procurement

Main internal control objectives: To ensure the legality & regularity of procurement operations.

Main risks It may happen (again) that...	Mitigating controls	How to determine coverage, frequency and depth	Cost-Effectiveness indicators (effectiveness, efficiency, economy)
A lack of competition amongst tenderers may lead to restriction of market	Regular follow-up and update of the contract register	100% checked	<p>Effectiveness: Reduced n° of splitting of a purchase</p> <p>Qualitative benefits:</p> <p>Widest competition (increase the choice of potential suppliers)</p>
<p>Procurement documents (invitation to tender, tender specifications and its annexes, draft contract) is not well drafted, potentially leading to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - inconsistency and irregularity amongst the documents - the fact that offers are not submitted 	<p>Ex-ante visa (twice) in all public procurement files:</p> <p>1. During the preparatory phase:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - procedures above € 15.000 - "procurement check-list" <p>2. Before the signature of the contract (after the award decision):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - procedures above € 15.000 - "procurement check-list" - procedures below € 15.000 - "commitment request checklist" 	<p>100% checked</p>	<p>Effectiveness:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - n° of errors detected - n° of requests issued for clarification regarding the call for tender - n° of complaints or litigation cases filed <p>Qualitative benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - limited number of procedure cancellations - needed services/goods are provided - compliance with rules - limited number of complaints / litigations filed
	<p>Training and bilateral coaching provided to operational units</p> <p>Regular update of the "procurement document" templates and supporting documents (e.g. "step by step",</p>	100% checked	

Main risks It may happen (again) that...	Mitigating controls	How to determine coverage, frequency and depth	Cost-Effectiveness indicators (effectiveness, efficiency, economy)
The procurement documents used by operational units are not in line with the rules/models	<p>guidelines)</p> <p>In-house trainings on procurement</p> <p>Updated guidelines on public procurement (Ares (2016)3267245).</p>		
Due conflict of interest during the award process, contract awarded may be contested	Members of the evaluation committee sign a declaration of absence of conflict of interests and of confidentiality	100% checked	<p>Effectiveness:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - n° of complaints or litigation cases filed <p>Qualitative benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - awarded contract are awarded and services/goods delivered (needs satisfied) - limit number of litigations & complaints - fair competition

ANNEX 7: Specific annexes related to "Financial Management"

Table on the estimated "cost of control" at the Commission level:

Table - Overview of DG's/EA's estimated cost of controls at Commission (EC) level:

NB. The absolute values are presented in million EUR.

Title of the Relevant Control	Ex ante controls			Ex post controls			Total***	
	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)
	EC total costs	related funds managed/concerned*	Ratio (%)** (a)/(b)	EC total costs	total value verified and/or audited	Ratio (%) (d)/(e)	EC total estimated cost of controls (a)+(d)	Ratio (%)* (g)/(b)
FP7	6.760.855,64	68.738.289,93	9,8%	356.509,65	12.318.209,00	2,9%	7.117.365,29	10,4%
H2020	45.574.499,72	2.072.131.547,43	2,2%	N/A	N/A	N/A	45.574.499,72	2,2%
OVERALL total estimated cost of control at EC level	52.335.355,37	2.140.869.837,36	2,4%	356.509,65	12.318.209,00	2,9%	52.691.865,02	2,5%****

* related funds managed/concerned = payments made, revenues and/or other significant non-spending items such as e.g. assets, liabilities, etc

** ratio possibly "Not Applicable (N/A)", e.g. if a RCS specifically covers an Internal Control Objective such as safeguarding sensitive information, reliable accounting/reporting, etc; or if control costs are not attributable to a single RCS and may relate to a 'mix' of expenditure, revenue, assets/liabilities, etc

*** any 'holistic' control elements (e.g. with 'combined' ex-ante & ex-post characteristics) can be mentioned in the total column (without being in either one of the ex-ante or ex-post columns), provided that a footnote clarifies this (their nature + their cost). *Example: MS system audits in shared management.*

**** Details of the estimated cost of controls related to shared/pooled control activities carried out by by DG Research and Innovation (Common Implementation Centre; Common Audit Service) for the Research and Innovation family are reported in the Annual Activity Reports of DG RTD.

Ex-post controls: Audit strategy

The main legality and regularity indicator resulting from the ex-post audits is the error rate. Because of its multi-annual nature, the effectiveness of the control strategy of the Research Family can be measured and assessed in the final stages of the Framework Programme, once it has been fully implemented and systematic errors have been detected and corrected. As a major development of the Common FP7 Audit Strategy, the Research family has introduced in 2012 the Common Representative Audit Sample (CRaS) and the related CRaS error rate, aiming at estimating the overall level of error on a multi-annual basis in FP7 across all the services.

The ERCEA manages the ex-post controls in line with the FP7 Common Audit Strategy and is part of the FP7 Common Representative audit Samples (CRaS 1, 2 & 3). However, to conclude on the legality and regularity of transactions, ERCEA does not rely on the common approach of the CRaS, since the risk profile of the Ideas beneficiaries is inherently lower compared to the rest of the FP7.

The different risk profile is due to the specificities in the Ideas programme, such as ERC grants being mono-beneficiary, beneficiaries being mostly large research institutes with well-established internal controls on financial reporting (e.g. no SMEs, few newcomers to the programme, mostly public bodies), simplifications inherent in the programme design (e.g. flat-rate overheads).

Thus, while contributing to the Research Family common audit strategy, the ERCEA has adopted an alternative assessment pattern fully aligned to annex 5 and implemented its own multi-annual ex-post controls indicators, since it has considerable additional evidence to allow for an assessment of the error rate of its own expenditure, to provide assurance to the Authorizing Officer by Delegation on the ERC specific population. Different error rates are calculated according to the methodology described in annex 4, namely the MUS Statistical Error rate (detected error rate), the MUS Residual Error rate, and the Global Activity Error Rate¹⁸, and the

¹⁸ MUS Statistical Error Rate: the multi-annual error rate derived from the results of audits performed on a representative sample of IDEAS beneficiaries, to be defined as "representative" error rate upon finalization of the samples and to be extrapolated to the overall population. Until completion, this indicator is defined as "detected" statistical error rate. The MUS rate has a multi-annual nature and is calculated for the IDEAS programme since before the introduction of the CRaS.

- Residual MUS Error Rate: on a multi-annual basis, the extrapolated level of error remaining after corrections/recoveries undertaken by ERCEA following the audits that have been made on the MUS sample (calculation of the residual error rate shown in Annex 5).

Upon completion, this is the reference indicator for the purposes of assessing the legality and regularity of transactions, as well as the progress made through the ERCEA ex-post strategy in dealing with errors over a multiannual basis.

results are corroborated to provide a comprehensive view of the legality and regularity of underlying transactions.

Finally, it should be underlined that the Agency has disclosed in its 2013 AAR - in agreement with the parent DG - the above described alternative assessment pattern¹⁹) established before the introduction of the CRaS. Furthermore, this practice has been enshrined in the 2015 revision of “ERCEA FP7 Ex-post control approach and audit strategy for the remaining period 2015-2018”, following the implementation in 2015 of an IAS recommendation resulting from the audit on ERCEA FP7 internal control systems and ex-post controls.

Audit Activity and Sampling

The table below gives an overview of the FP7 audit activity performed by the ERCEA by the end of 2020 detailed by type of audits (given that a single audit can cover more samples or activity strands, the overview is expressed in number of financial statements):

Number of Cost Statements audited	2020					
	CRaS1, 2 & 3	MUS1 (ex-250) & MUS 2 samples		Risk Based (Risk Analysis + Request, TOP 100, technical, other)	Joint with CoA	Total 2020
Ongoing – beginning of the period	0	0	3	48	0	51
Launched	0	0	0	4	0	4
Closed	0	0	3	43	0	46
Ongoing – end of the period	0	0	0	9	0	9
2009-2020						
Ongoing – beginning of the period	0	0	0	0	0	0
Launched	41	161	150	1403	31	1786
Closed	41	161	150	1394	31	1777
Ongoing – end of the period	0	0	0	9	0	9

Source of data: Internal follow up tool, "closed audit - error rates & implementation follow-up.xls"

The detected rates derived from the statistical sample are complemented by the risk based error rate, resulting from audits conducted for corrective and budget cleaning effects.

- Global Activity Error Rate: the error rate derived from the results of all audits (excluding the ones performed by the Court of auditors only), whether audits on the statistical sample of beneficiaries or audits implemented for other reasons (risk based etc.).

¹⁹ This alternative pattern supports its Declaration of Assurance based on the specific error rate deriving from the ERCEA statistical sample.

FP7 Audit plan execution

Detailed data on the ERCEA completion of the annual and cumulative plans are shown in the table below (indicating both numbers of audits and of financial statements audited):

Number of audits (& Financial Statements)	2020		2009 – 2020	
	AUDITS	FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	AUDITS	FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
Audits planned – as per AWP & audit strategy	5	N/A	550	N/A
Audits ongoing – beginning of the period	7	48	0	0
Audits launched	1	4	568*	1786
Audits closed	5	46	566	1777
Audits ongoing – end of the period	3	9	3	9
Total amount audited - €	€ 12.318.209		€ 679.866.109	
Audit coverage - %	8,96%			

*3 audits had to be cancelled

Source of data: Internal follow up tool, "closed audit - error rates & implementation follow-up.xls"

	Number of audits 2020	Time to audit (number of days)
Audits performed by Internal resources (launched & closed in 2020)	0	0
Audits performed by Internal resources (backlog = launched before 2020)	3	731
Audits performed by external resources	2	1355
Total:	5	N/A

Source of data: AUDEX

Final Results of FP7 ex post control audits

Indicators related to ERCEA specific ex-post control strategy				
Financial Statements audited	2020		2009-2020	
	Amount in €	Number	Amount in €	Number
Total cost accepted by Financial officers (€) on audited FS – Audited amount	12.318.209 €	46	679.866.109 €	1777
Thereof audited as part of the MUS 1 (ex-MUS250)	0,00 €	0	62.219.211 €	161
Thereof audited as part of the MUS 2	1.227.902 €	3	54.564.790 €	150
Thereof audited as part of the risk based sample (31 FS jointly audited with CoA & CRaS included)	11.090.308 €	43	563.082.108 €	1466
Total adjustments in favour of the ERCEA (€, only negative)	802.773 €	20	13.394.317 €	540
On the MUS sample	30.534 €	2	1.501.378 €	96
On the risk based sample	772.238 €	18	11.892.939 €	444
Detected error rate – stratified (MUS1 & MUS2) - %	N/A	N/A	1,51%	N/A
Residual Error rate – from MUS stratified- %	N/A	N/A	1,10%	N/A
Other MUS related rates:				
Detected error rate – from MUS1 - %	N/A	0	2,11%	161
Detected error rate – from MUS2 - %	N/A	3	0,50%	150
Other ERCEA error rates:				

Risk based error rate (risk analysis, audits on request, Top100, CoA)- %	N/A	N/A	2,67%	1466
Global activity error rate (all activity) - %	N/A	N/A	2,50%	1777

Source: internal follow up tool, "closed audit-error follow-up.xls"+CORDA BO Report+AUDEX data

**Control effectiveness as regards legality and regularity
Research Family FP7 CRaS results**

Research Family harmonised indicators	31-12-2020	31-12-2019
Detected error rate from a representative sample (CRaS1 . 2 & 3)[1]	5,45%	5,45%
Residual error rate (CRaS)[2] – (including 52 ERC Financial statements)	2,91%	3,33%
Value of corrections 'made', by implementing and extending audit results, by recoveries (ABAC) or offsetting (local PM system)	€ 8 573 427	€ 8 220 276
Value of recoveries as per the "Comm. on the Protection of EU financial interests"	€ 7 909 041	€ 13 282 081

Source of data: Source: internal follow up tool, "closed audit - error rates & implementation follow-up.xls"+ ABM tables from WIKI confluence + CORDA BO report.

ANNEX 8: Specific annexes related to "Assessment of the effectiveness of the internal control systems"

8.1 Fraud prevention and detection

ERCEA has developed and implemented its own anti-fraud strategy since 2011 elaborated on the basis of the methodology provided by OLAF. So far, it has been updated in 2013, in 2015 and in 2020.

Objective 3: Minimisation of the risk of fraud through application of effective anti-fraud measures, integrated in all activities of the EA, based on the EA's anti-fraud strategy (AFS) aimed at the prevention, detection and reparation of fraud.			
Indicator 1: Updated anti-fraud strategy of the ERCEA, elaborated on the basis of the methodology provided by OLAF²⁰			
Source of data: ERCEA AFS			
Baseline	Target		Result 2020
<i>Date of the last update:</i> 12/11/2015	The Strategy shall be updated when there is a need for achieving effective alignment of the AFS due to changing circumstances and/or revised systems/programmes		Strategy adopted in May 2020
Indicator 2 : Fraud awareness is increased for target population as identified in the Action Plan of the Agency's AFS			
Source of data: ERCEA's AFS			
Baseline	Target		Result 2020
2016	80% of target population reached by 2017		76%
Indicator 3 : Regular monitoring of the implementation of the anti-fraud strategy and reporting on its result to management			
Source of data: ERCEA's AFS			
Baseline	Target		Result 2020
2016	-Bi-annual Report to the Director on irregularities and potential fraud cases -Annual reporting to the Director on the implementation of the Action Plan attached to the AFS		Reported in June 2020 ²¹ Action Plan adopted in 2020
Main outputs in 2020:			
Output	Indicator	Target	Result 2020

²⁰ The methodology can be found here:

<https://myintracomm.ec.europa.eu/serv/en/fraudprevention/ToolBox/Documents/201602%20Updated%20guideline%20AFS.pdf>. In particular paragraph 3 of the methodology is relevant.

²¹ An update on related cases has been reported to the Director by the RMIC on a monthly basis.

<i>Targeted risk assessment on fraud</i>	<i>Timely completion of the activity</i>	<i>Yearly update of fraud risks and Action Plan of the AFS by 2020</i>	Completed
<i>Revision of anti-fraud dedicated procedures</i>	<i>Timely completion of the activity</i>	<i>Update the "handling and reporting irregularities and potential fraud" procedures by 2020</i>	Update of the procedure on "handling and reporting irregularities and potential fraud" postponed to 2021

8.2 Results of IC effectiveness indicators

Internal control monitoring criteria

DG or EA
ERCEA

No	Criteria/Indicators	Source of data to obtain value for the indicator	Baseline value	Target value	IC component	IC Principle	Latest known result 31/12/20	S/D ¹
1	% of staff who followed a training on ethics and integrity.	EU-Learn / ERCEA training statistics	73%	80%	I	1	73% ²	S
2	ERCEA communicates to third parties (Grant applicants, Principal Investigators, Host Institutions, Experts; tenderers, contractors) its commitment to integrity and ethical behaviour.	ERC Work programme, Model grant agreements / experts contract; model annex to tenderer specifications.	Y	Y	I	1	Y	
3	Existing governance & working arrangements between the parent DG and the Agency allow an independent oversight of its internal control development and performance.	Delegation Act; Steering Committee minutes;	Y	Y	I	2	Y	S
4	Key and relevant information on the developments and performance of internal control is provided to and discussed with the Steering Committee and RTD services.	Steering Committee minutes; RTD consultation on AWP, AAR, Bi-annual	Y	Y	I	2	Y	
5	ERCEA organisation chart and financial circuits are kept updated and are communicated to staff.	Steering Committee decisions; ERCEA intranet	Y	Y	I	3	Y	S
6	% staff assessing their job to be clearly linked to the Agency's mission and objectives.	Staff opinion survey	86,5%	85%	I	3	86,5%	S
7	% of staff turnover.	ERCEA HR statistics	5% (2019)	<8%	I	4	4,9%	S
8	Number of training days per staff	ERCEA HR statistics	5.9 days (2019)	6 days	I	4	5	S
9	The process of staff appraisal includes a dialogue where staff members receive a meaningful and practical feedback on how to improve their performance and identify training needs.	Sysper	Y	Y	I	5	Y	S
10	% of staff assessing that Management identifies and addresses poor performance.	Staff opinion survey	62%	> 62%	I	5	62%	S
11	Agency's objectives are aligned with its Mission statement, cover all its activities (comprehensive) and are compliant with the SMART criteria.	AWP	Y	Y	II	6	Y	S
12	% of staff assessing that Management gives clear guidance on the mission, objectives and tasks of the Agency and its units.	Staff opinion survey	70,5%	68%	II	6	70,5%	S
13	% of Management assessing that the risks identification and assessment is organised, coordinated and reviewed across the whole Agency by staff with the adequate competence and its outcome is discussed and validated by ERCEA senior management.	ERCEA risk management process ICAT	94%	90%	II	7	91%	S
14	Regular update of the ERCEA Risk Register	ERCEA risk management process	2/year	2/year	II	7	2/year	

No	Criteria/Indicators	Source of data to obtain value for the indicator	Baseline value	Target value	IC component	IC Principle	Latest known result 31/12/20	S/D ¹
15	The annual identification of fraud risks and schemes is based on fraud patterns/schemes, considers the vulnerabilities of the Agency and its outcome is reflected in ERCEA strategy /anti-fraud action plan.	ERCEA risk management process	Y	Y	II	8	Y	5
16	% staff dealing with financial operations having attended a training on fraud prevention, detection & handling potential fraud.	EU-Learn and ERCEA training statistics; ERCEA Anti-fraud Strategy	76%	80%	II	8	76% ³	
17	% of Management assessing that the risk identification and assessment process covers changes to the internal/external environment, governance, policies, operational priorities as well as in management's attitude towards internal control.	ERCEA risk management process ICAT	93%	75%	II	9	90%	5
18	Results of control and performance indicators are monitored as to ensure achieving related objectives.	Minutes of Management meetings; Reporting from the Management and RMIC to the Director.	Y	Y	III	10	Y	5
19	% of timely implemented mitigating measures of high and medium risks.	Minutes of Management meetings; Reporting from the Management and RMIC to the Director.	71%	> 75%	III	10	75%	
20	ERCEA plans and implements its IT projects and activities via an annual Information Technology Masterplan which is approved by the IT Steering Committee.	IT Steering Committee minutes	Y	Y	III	11	Y	5
21	% of completed IT Masterplan activities	IT statistics	100%	100%	III	11	75% ⁴	
22	Number of request for authorisation and non compliance events.	Register of exception and non compliance	22	25-30	III	12	20	5
23	Number of IAS critical and very important recommendations related to procedures.	IAS reports	0	0	III	12	0	
24	% of registered documents not filed.	HAN statistics	0,47%	1%	IV	13	0,58%	5
25	Percentage of HAN files readable/accessible by all units in ERCEA	HAN statistics	92,80%	90%	IV	13	92,7%	
26	% of staff attending the yearly meeting providing information on Agency's progress in achieving its objectives, on challenges etc...	Invitation to staff (email); Intranet	79%	85%	IV	14	65%	5
27	ERCEA has a whistleblowing procedure in place which is communicated to and accessible by staff members.	ERCEA intranet (handling and reporting unethical behaviour webpage)	Y	Y	IV	14	Y	5
28	Press coverage of the ERC - i.e. number of articles mentioning the ERC (number of media items)	ERCEA external communication statistics	12.000	stable/positive trend	IV	15	14.200	5
29	Competent and independent staff reporting to the RMIC (independent from operational staff) defines the ERCEA assurance building process and validates its outcome.	Statement of the RMIC (reflected in Annex 1 of the AAR)	Y	Y	V	16	Y	

No	Criteria/Indicators	Source of data to obtain value for the indicator	Baseline value	Target value	IC component	IC Principle	Latest known result 31/12/20	S/D ¹
30	Management regularly monitors the performance /functioning of the internal control via the internal scorecard, outcome of the risk management exercise, exception/non-compliance reports	Minutes of Management meetings; Reporting from the Management and RMIC to the Director.	4/year	4/year	V	16	4/year	S
31	Internal control weaknesses are recorded, reported to and addressed by management in a timely manner.	RMIC's reporting on the assessment of the functioning of the IC system (ongoing / year end assessment)	Y	Y	V	17	Y	S

¹ strength or deficiency

² 2019 result reported as no training was organised in 2020, due to the unavailability of trainers. However, during Q1 2021 3 trainings are scheduled, targeting in particular the 2020 and 2021 newcomers.

³ 2019 result reported as no training was held in 2020; these will be resumed in 2021.

⁴ 100% achieved end of January 2021.

ANNEX 9: Reporting – Human resources, digital transformation and information management and sound environmental management

This annex refers to section 2.2 "Modern and efficient administration".

9.1 Human Resources

Objective: The ERCEA deploys effectively its resources in support of the delivery of the Commission's priorities and core business, has a competent and engaged workforce, which is driven by an effective and gender-balanced management and which can deploy its full potential within supportive and healthy working conditions.

Indicator 1: Percentage of female representation in middle management

Source of data: ERCEA

Baseline (2019)	Target (2020)	Latest known results (31/12/2020)
25%	40%	36%

Indicator 2: Percentage of staff who feel that the agency cares about their well-being

Source of data: Commission staff survey

Baseline (2018)	Target (2020)	Latest known results (31/12/2020)
69%	≥ 69%	58% ²²

Indicator 3: Staff engagement index

Source of data: Commission staff survey

Baseline (2018)	Target (2020)	Latest known results (31/12/2020)
73%	≥ 70%	67%

Main outputs in 2020

Output	Indicator	Target	Result 2020
To support Agency's core business by providing the required number of staff on time	Occupation rate at year end	98%	97.4%

²² This percentage is based on the 2018 results of the Commission Staff Survey adjusted with the 2020 Pulse Surveys results (source of information: DG HR).

Programmes	Staff (EU Budget)					
	TAs	Of which Seconded officials	CAs	SNEs	Total	Percentage
FP7						
FP7	10	2	25	2	37	7%
Management and administrative support	1	0	3	0	4	1%
Subtotal	11	2	28	2	41	8%
H2020						
H2020	111	15	303	13	427	83%
Management and Administrative Support	6	0	41	0	47	9%
Subtotal	117	15	344	13	474	92%
Total	128	17	372	15	515	100%

Staff financed by contributions from EFTA and/or third countries	
Staff allocated to operational activities	0
Staff allocated to management and administration	0
Total	0

9.2 Information management aspects

The main objective of the Document Management Centre (DMC) is to apply the e-Domec policy at ERCEA by fulfilling the legal obligations related to document management. To this end, the DMC assesses the risks related to Document management, provides advice to services, manages access rights to official documents, trains and supports ERCEA staff in using the dedicated tools (Hermes-Ares-Nomcom), shares working methods in an hybrid (paper and electronic) working environment, and contributes to the information management policy.

In 2020, the DMC achieved three out of the four established objectives concerning document management.

The result of the first indicator could be explained by the following factors: the agency did not have a full-time DMO for half a year. Consequently there was no monthly follow-up to ensure that the various units were maximising the percentage of their registered files. The results for the second and the third indicators are in line with the ones of the previous year,

with a slight improvement. In the framework of the Knowledge Management strategy of ERCEA and under the leadership of the new DMO, the agency will revise the accessibility of the official files, based on the “need to know” concept and increase the visibility of official files when possible to improve both indicators if needed.

Objective: Information and knowledge in ERCEA is shared and reusable by other Commission services. Important documents are registered, filed and retrievable		
Indicator 1: Percentage of registered documents that are not filed²³ (ratio)		
<i>Source of data: Hermes-Ares-Nomcom (HAN)²⁴ statistics</i>		
Baseline	Target	Result 2020
0.39%	1% ²⁵	0.58%
Indicator 2: Percentage of HAN files readable/accessible by all units in the EA (Source of data: HAN statistics)		
Baseline	Target	Result 2020
92.00 %	90%	92.68%
Indicator 3: Percentage of HAN files shared with other Commission services		
<i>Source of data: HAN statistics</i>		
Baseline	Target	Result 2020
14.60%	35%	11.14%
Indicator 4: Implementation of a training policy to increase knowledge of EA staff (Welcoming sessions for newcomers) – Source: DMC/HR – Selections and recruitment		
Baseline:	Target	Result 2020
none (new indicator)	75 % of newcomers to be trained ²⁶	79%

²³ Each registered document must be filed in at least one official file of the *Chef de file*, as required by the [e-Domec policy rules](#) (and by ICS 11 requirements). The indicator is to be measured via reporting tools available in Ares.

²⁴ Suite of tools designed to implement the [e-Domec policy rules](#).

²⁵ The figure has been rounded to 1% to simplify the communication around this challenging target, as filling is a process involving almost all staff.

²⁶ Number of training sessions/coaching given by the DMC compared with number of newcomers.

9.3 External communication activities

Objective: Citizens perceive that the EU is working to improve their lives and engage with the EU. They feel that their concerns are taken into consideration in European decision making and they know about their rights in the EU.			
Indicator 1: Percentage of EU citizens having a positive image of the EU <i>Definition:</i> Eurobarometer measures the state of public opinion in the EU Member States. This global indicator is influenced by many factors, including the work of other EU institutions and national governments, as well as political and economic factors, not just the communication actions of the Commission. It is relevant as a proxy for the overall perception of the EU citizens. Positive visibility for the EU is the desirable corporate outcome of Commission communication, even if individual Executive Agencies' actions may only make a small contribution. Source of data: Standard Eurobarometer (DG COMM budget)			
Baseline: June 2019		Target: 2020	
Total "Positive": 45% Neutral: 37 % Total "Negative": 17%		Positive image of the EU ≥ 50%	
Main outputs in 2020:			
Output	Indicator	Target 2020	Results 2020
Participation in Scientific Congresses	-Number of events -Number of grantees mobilised -Number of participants	5-6 >25 >15 000	Since 2020 was an exceptional year with the Covid-19 crisis, the actions in 2020 represent a total of 30 events with 42 ERC grantees mobilised and over 15 865 participants.
Participation in popular science events	-Number of events -Number of grantees mobilised -Number of participants	2-3 >25 >500 000	
Organisation of events/ actions with key multipliers and communication partners	-Host Institutions, Principal Investigators, National Contact Points, Commission Representations and other multipliers reached	At least one event/ action with each target group	2
ERC success stories	-Number of stories shared (via website, online magazine, social media, press releases, conference brochures etc.)	>150 stories	380

Objective	Performance indicators	Target 2020	Result 2020
To raise visibility and awareness of the European and worldwide scientific community and policy makers on ERC and its funding opportunities, key developments and project results	Number of ERC website visitors	600 000 visitors	943 607
	ERC Press coverage (number of articles/interviews mentioning ERC published)	12 000 media items	14 200
	Social media followers	75 000 Twitter followers 35 000 Facebook followers	98 184 Twitter followers 32 715 Facebook followers 72 537 LinkedIn followers
Annual communication spending:			
Baseline (2019)	Estimated commitments (2020)	Total amount spent 2020	
520 000	228 630.22	226 629.31	99.12%

ANNEX 10: Implementation through national or international public-sector bodies and bodies governed by private law with a public sector mission (not applicable)

ANNEX 11: EAMR of the Union Delegations (not applicable)

ANNEX 12: Decentralised agencies and/or EU Trust Funds (not applicable)
