

Draft Programme

European Regional Meeting of the Global Research Council

“Research Management in the Era of AI and Working Together in Co-Creation to Address Global Challenges”

**Movenpick Hotel, Lembitu 12, 10114
Tallinn, Estonia
28-31 October 2024**

HOST AND CO-HOST

The Estonian Research Council (ETAg) and Science Europe.

DATE AND TIME

Monday 28 October, Tuesday 29 October (whole day), Wednesday 30 October (morning). A welcome reception and dinner are scheduled on the evening of Monday 28 October.

TARGETED AUDIENCE

Representatives of GRC participating organisations: Head of Research Councils (HORCs), programme and international affairs managers.

FORMAT

The meeting will take place in a hybrid format. Participants are warmly invited to join the meeting in Bucharest, but remote participation will also be accommodated.

TOPICS

As announced in the 2024 GRC Annual Meeting, the topics for the 2025 GRC Annual Meeting are:

- Research Management in the Era of AI
- Working Together in Co-Creation to Address Global Challenges

Context and Objectives

GRC REGIONAL MEETING

The 2024 Regional European meeting of the Global Research Council (GRC) has been jointly organised by the Estonian Research Council (ETAg) and Science Europe.

In 2024, each [GRC regional meeting](#), convened across the globe, will contribute to shaping the agenda for the Annual Meeting, occurring in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. This significant gathering is a collaborative effort between the Estonian Research Council (ETAg) and Science Europe.

The topic for discussion for this edition will be research and sustainability and will be developed in two sub-topics, namely:

- Research Management in the Era of AI
- Working Together in Co-Creation to Address Global Challenges

These topics are of increasing importance in the research policy debate in recent years. AI is a fast-moving area and is considered more than a tool of reshaping things. Discussions could present the AI application risks, lack of boundaries, clear guidelines, ethics, patent, and copyrights implications. The AI topic is aligned not only with the outcomes of the 2023 GRC Foresight Report in which the AI was one of the recommended thematic focuses that will shape the future of the GRC but also the topic is aligned with the G20 held in India.

The discussions taking place during the Regional Meetings are intended to input the development of a Statement of Principles, due to be adopted at the Annual Meeting of the GRC in 2025.

The specific questions for all the sessions are presented in the programme below.

Draft Programme

28 October 2024

(TIMES EET)

15.00-19.00 Arrival and check-in

19.00-22.00 *Welcome Reception*
Movenpick Hotel, Lembitu 12, 10114, Tallinn, Estonia

29 October 2024

Welcome and Introduction

08.30-09.00 *Registration & Welcome Coffee*

09.00-09.45 **Introductory Speeches and background information**

- **Anu Noorma**, Director General of the Estonian Research Council
- **Mari Sundli Tveit**, Chief Executive, Research Council of Norway (RCN), President, Science Europe
- **Kristina Kallas**, Minister of Education and Research, Estonia

Speech from Estonian Authorities (*tbc*)

09.45-10.30 Keynote speeches

- **Signe Ratso**, Deputy Director-General, Directorate-General "Research and Innovation" (RTD), European Commission (*video address*)
 - **Sakhar Alkhereyf**, Co-chair of the Scientific Committee, Assistant Research Professor, KACST, Saudi Arabia
Presentation of draft paper on "Research, Development and Innovation in the Era of AI"
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10.30-11.00 *Coffee Break*

Topic 1 – Research Management in the Era of AI

11.00-12.30 **Keynote speech**

- **Maarja Kruusmaa**, Chief Scientific Advisor to the European Commission, Tallinn University of Technology

Panel Discussion

- **Francisco Javier Moreno Fuentes**, Vice-President for International Affairs of the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC), Governing Board Member of Science Europe
 - **Milica Đurić-Jovičić**, Acting Director of the Science Fund of the Republic of Serbia (SFRS)
 - Representative from Research Council of Norway (RCN)
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- **Gintaras Valinčius**, Chairman, Research Council of Lithuania

Moderator

- **Christopher Smith**, Executive Chair of the Arts and Humanities Research Council, UK Research and Innovation (UKRI), Governing Board Member of Science Europe

12.30-13.30 *Buffet Lunch*

13.30-14.30 **Breakout discussions**

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION (Based on the background paper from KACST/TÜBİTAK):

- The benefit of incorporating AI technology into the management of research funding such as optimizing document processing, predict funding requirements, ensure financial compliance, enhance communication, and refine the peer-review process.
- The utilization of AI to drive efficiency, increase transparency, and promote fairness in the allocation of research funds.
- The potential challenges including technological investment costs and concerns over data privacy.
- The potential rewards of AI implementation in research funding management.
- How can we help secure our future scientific and societal advancements?
- Discuss and recommend solutions for ethical, privacy, and integrity concerns and the regulations for utilizing AI tools in generating grant proposals and writing publications.
- Suggest comprehensive regulations, a robust utilization framework, and maintenance of adequate data security, to harmoniously integrate AI without compromising on ethics, integrity, and culture of the research ecosystem.

14.30-15.00 *Coffee Break*

15.00-15.30 **Plenary report on outcomes of breakout discussions**
Rapporteurs/Moderators

15.30-16.30 **Update on the activities of the GRC Working Groups**

- **Shawn McGuirk**, Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada NSERC, 'GRC Working Group on Responsible Research Assessment' (*tbc*)
- **Osamu Kobayashi**, Director of International affairs – Japan Science and Technology Agency – Co-Chair of the 'GRC Working Group on Multilateral Engagement' (online); **Prudence Makhura**, Director, South Africa National Science Foundation – Co-Chair of the 'GRC Working Group on Multilateral Engagement' (online)
- **Adrien Braem**, Co-Chair of the 'GRC Working Group Equality, Diversity and Inclusion' (EDI)

16.45-17.00 **Conclusions**

17.30-19.00 *Walking Tour of Medieval Tallinn Old Town*

19.00-21.00 *Dinner*
[Restaurant Farm](#), Tallinn Old Town

30 October 2024

Topic 2 – Working Together in Co-Creation to Address Global Challenges

08.00-08.30 *Registration & Welcome Coffee*

08.30-10.00 **Presentation of the topic discussion paper** " Working Together in Co-Creation to Address Global Challenges", TÜBITAK (*tbc*)

Keynote speech

- **Johan Kuylenstierna**, Director General, FORMAS

Panel Discussion

- **Prof. Ülo Mander**, Department of Geography Head of Chair, Professor of Physical Geography and Landscape Ecology, Tartu University
- Representative from DFG
- **Paula Erola**, President, Research Council of Finland (AKA)
- **Lauma Muižniece**, Director General, Latvian Council of Science (LZP)
- **Karen Lips**, Deputy Director General, IIASA
- **Sibylle Wentker**, Director, International Relations, Fellowships & Awards, Research Funding, Austrian Academy of Sciences (OEAW) (*tbc*)

Moderator

- **Mari Sundli Tveit**, Chief Executive, Research Council of Norway (RCN), President, Science Europe

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION (Based on the background paper from KACST/TÜBITAK):

- Addressing multiple challenges, including climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution, and sustainable development has scientific and societal urgency. In this context, how can the GRC community increase opportunities for working together with co-creation-based collaboration? How do these opportunities extend across disciplines, scales, and regions for more transdisciplinarity?
 - How can the GRC community increase transdisciplinary research and impact based on co-creation-based collaboration to ensure a “safe and just” world?
 - What are specific recommendations that can be shared for a “Statement of Principles and Practices for Co-Creation Based Collaboration to Address Global Challenges”? What are the most important guidelines of relevance?
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10.00-10.15 *Coffee Break*

10.15-11.15 **Breakout Discussions**

11.15-11.30	Report on GRC activities
11.30-11.50	Plenary report on outcomes of breakout discussions Rapporteurs/Moderators
11.50-12.00	Wrap-up & Conclusions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Anu Noorma, Director General, Estonian Research Council (ETAg) ▪ Lidia Borrell-Damián, Secretary General, Science Europe
12.00-13.00	<i>Buffet Lunch</i>
13.30 -17.00	Discussions on Europe-Africa Cooperation: Best practices and future possibilities, and the role of Science Europe
19:00-21:00	<i>Dinner</i>

31 October 2024

Visit to Flagship R&D Facilities, Tartu

Study visit to research and development facilities situated in Tartu, the 2024 European City of Culture.