

GLOBAL
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COUNCIL



INPUT FROM THE EUROPEAN REGION
TO THE HOSTS OF THE 2026 GRC ANNUAL MEETING

Report from the **2025** **European Regional Meeting** **OF THE GLOBAL RESEARCH COUNCIL**

Belgrade, Serbia

20–23 October



COLOPHON

February 2026

Input from the European Region to the hosts of the 2026 GRC Annual Meeting:
Report from the 2025 European Regional Meeting of the Global Research Council

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Global Research Council European Regional Meeting Report

Open Science and AI for Equity, Justice, and Sustainability Research for Sustainable Communities

Hyatt Regency, Belgrade
20–23 October 2025

Introduction

The Regional Meetings of the Global Research Council (GRC) are convened in all world regions and help shape the agenda for the following GRC Annual Meeting. The discussions inform the development of a Statement of Principles to be adopted by all regions during the Annual Meeting. In 2026, Thailand Science Research and Innovation (TSRI) and the Natural Sciences and Engineering Council (NSERC) of Canada will co-host the 14th GRC Annual Meeting from 17–21 May in Bangkok. The two main topics for discussion will be Sustainable Research and Open Science.

The European Regional Meeting was jointly organised by the Science Fund of the Republic of Serbia (SFRS), HUN-REN Hungarian Research Network, and Science Europe in Belgrade between 21–22 October 2025. It was followed by a Science Europe workshop on strengthening research co-operation between Asia and Europe.



During this meeting, GRC participants discussed both topics through the cross-cutting theme of integrating artificial intelligence into the global system of open science and sustainable research. The topics were addressed in the following sessions:

- Open Science and AI for Equity, Justice, and Sustainability
- Sustainable research for sustainable communities

Summary of Key Messages

OPEN SCIENCE AND AI FOR EQUITY, JUSTICE, AND SUSTAINABILITY

Participants agreed that cultural norms present in research ecosystems – in particular the prestige associated with publishing in established journals – remain a barrier to the realisation of open science. In addition, the unchecked deployment of AI in research could exacerbate bias, undermine inclusivity, generate fabricated findings, facilitate predatory publishing, and raise data protection concerns. Although AI could aid reviewer selection and preliminary eligibility checks, the technology is not yet suited for full proposal assessment.

Based on the discussions, it is suggested that funding organisations adopt policies that address systemic complexity, assess the downstream effects of any measure, and prioritise transparency.

The following concrete actions could accelerate the transition to Open Science:

- financially supporting lesser-known open-access journals
- implementing open peer review processes
- shifting researcher assessment away from metric-driven indicators
- Calls should include explicit clauses that outline permissible AI usage, as well as mechanisms to monitor and, if necessary, address the wrongful use of AI in research projects.
- Large-scale public infrastructures where researchers can both deposit and cross-validate their work against previously published results are needed.

RESEARCH FOR SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

Participants agreed that a socially sustainable academic career system must enable fluid, cross-border mobility by aligning national procedures such as pension portability and social benefits. Research institutions should enjoy the autonomy to create locally relevant sustainability solutions that can be scaled up by funding organisations, demonstrate societal benefit and embed sustainability in their own operations. A socially sustainable academic career system must encourage healthy brain circulation and leverage AI, while also securing the financial and environmental foundations of research.

The exchanges highlighted that the following initiatives would help build sustainable research ecosystems:

- Funding organisations should move beyond only financing projects to shaping ecosystems that offer long-term career stability, clear sustainability plans and a balance between top-down policy priorities and bottom-up scientific creativity.
- Precarious research posts are a major threat to Europe’s research landscape; the research ecosystem must reward and recognise non-linear career paths spanning universities, industry, and public administration, and improve evaluation systems to better capture this diversity.



- Flexible institutional and policy frameworks – allowing adaptable project durations, extensions and financial allocations – were deemed essential to improve efficiency and researcher well-being.
- Research organisations must pursue a broader sustainability agenda to embed social, ethical and environmental principles into daily organisational practices, meetings and conferences so that the values they promote are practised in their own operations.



European Regional Meeting of the Global Research Council



Topic 1 – Open Science and AI for Equity, Justice, and Sustainability

PRESENTATION OF THE GRC DISCUSSION PAPER

Sirinan Kulchat of Thailand Science Research and Innovation (TSRI) presented the GRC discussion paper 'Open Science and AI for Equity, Justice, and Sustainability'. Drawing on UNESCO's definition of open science, Kulchat highlighted the risk that, without confronting systemic power imbalances and commercial dominance, open science could inadvertently reinforce existing hierarchies. She outlined four foundational pillars: open scientific knowledge, open science infrastructures, open engagement of societal actors, and open dialogue with diverse knowledge systems. She set out four overarching objectives: diagnosing infrastructural lock-ins, advancing a justice-centred agenda, avoiding policy cloning through responsible internationalisation, and reflecting responsibly on AI integration.

KEYNOTE SPEECH

A keynote was delivered by **Matija Zlatar**, Co-ordinator of the Team for Open Science in Serbia, Ministry of Science, Technological Development and Innovation of the Republic of Serbia. He reinforced the view that open science extends far beyond open access and data. He emphasised that open science should become a normative practice rooted in collaboration, transparency, and accountability, and described Serbia's national effort to institutionalise open science through a dedicated team, a reproducibility network, and a capacity centre that supports hundreds of Diamond Open Access journals. Zlatar argued that open innovation platforms are essential for translating research from labs to industry and to citizens, and that education about open science must be embedded throughout academic curricula.

PANEL DISCUSSION

The subsequent panel brought together representatives from European funding organisations and research institutions to explore concrete pathways toward a more inclusive, AI-enabled open science ecosystem. **Thibault Cantat**, Deputy General Manager for Science at the French National Research Agency (ANR), underscored knowledge as a common good and pointed at historic milestones such as the Budapest Open Access Initiative and UNESCO's 2021 definition of open science. He advocated expanding openness from publications to the entire research process, noting that AI-driven multilingual translation can mitigate the dominance of English and make scientific output truly accessible. Cantat also warned that AI, while accelerating evaluation, can introduce new biases and reduce diversity, if not carefully governed.

Elvisa Seumenicht, Head of the Legal Department of the Austrian Science Fund (FWF), framed open access as a permission that must be paired with power-sharing. She described Austria's mandate for open access publishing and data sharing, aligned with the Berlin and Barcelona Declarations, and highlighted the emerging licensing model that lets creators signal their preferences for AI training use. By integrating FAIR principles and encouraging FAIRER data (which adds Ethics and Reproducibility), she argued that funding organisations can sustain trust while enabling AI to learn from diverse, high-quality datasets.



Dimitrios Fotiadis, Professor of Biomedical Engineering at the University of Ioannina, illustrated the stark infrastructural gaps faced by researchers in developing countries, using the European Health Data Space as an example of how well-curated data can empower both patients and scientists. He suggested that AI can harmonise disparate health datasets, generate synthetic data to fill gaps, and support the creation of digital twins for clinical research. However, he cautioned against over-reliance on generative AI given its propensity for hallucinations and the limited ability to enforce trustworthy principles.

Matija Zlatar reiterated the importance of Diamond Open Access and open peer review, urging universities to embed open science concepts early in curricula rather than reserving them for doctoral studies. He stressed that legal concerns should not become obstacles to data sharing, while still recognising the need for appropriate data protection.

Thomas Margoni, Research Professor of Intellectual Property Law at KU Leuven, presented two policy-focused proposals. First, he advocated a transition from mere open access to a fully equitable open science model, highlighting secondary publication rights that allow authors to republish their work in open venues despite prior contracts (a right that is already codified in several EU Member States and is expected to be consolidated in the upcoming ERA Act). Second, he discussed the European Health Data Space and the broader Common European Data Space as mechanisms to ensure that high-quality, interoperable data are available for AI training, thereby compensating for Europe's smaller data volumes relative to those of the United States and China.

Throughout the discussion, participants repeatedly returned to three guiding questions: how to foster a globally inclusive knowledge system, how AI can accelerate research while preserving trust and transparency, and what large-scale public infrastructures are needed for scientific validation and data interoperability. The panel concluded that funders must lead by example, through monitoring tools such as France's Open Science Barometer, dedicated Article Processing Costs, funding for Diamond Open Access, and robust data management plans. At the same time, they should also support the development of open-source AI tools and synthetic data generation. Participants emphasised that commercial data providers should be encouraged to open their datasets for academic use, and that regulatory frameworks such as the AI Act should embed FAIR principles to ensure that AI development aligns with the broader goals of open science, equity, and sustainability.



BREAKOUT DISCUSSIONS

The participants continued to exchange on the topic in breakout groups. The discussions centred on three guiding questions: how the Global Research Coalition (GRC) can foster a truly open global knowledge system that enables equitable participation; how artificial intelligence tools can accelerate open science research, technology transfer, and secure publishing; and, what kind of public, large-scale platform can support scientists in validating research and linking big data outcomes with existing literature.

Participants agreed that achieving an open, equitable research ecosystem requires coordinated action across all funding bodies. While the principle of open access is widely endorsed, entrenched cultural norms – particularly the prestige associated with publishing in established journals – remain a barrier. Consequently, the group recommended that funding organisations adopt policies that explicitly address systemic complexity, carefully assess the downstream effects of any measure, and prioritise transparency. Concrete actions include mandating publication of results on truly open platforms such as Open Research Europe or the Physics Particle Data Group; financially supporting lesser known open access journals; implementing open peer review processes; and shifting researcher assessment away from metric driven indicators toward narrative CVs that allow scholars to describe their contributions in context. In the spirit of openness, participants also suggested that, after reviewers have completed their assessments, the identities of proposal reviewers be disclosed to applicants, thereby enhancing accountability.

Regarding AI, the participants acknowledged its potential to streamline many stages of the research lifecycle but warned that unchecked deployment could exacerbate bias; undermine inclusivity; generate fabricated findings; facilitate predatory publishing; and raise data protection concerns. They emphasised that AI-assisted proposal writing should be permissible only when the contribution is clearly cited, treating the use of AI as a skill rather than a shortcut. Funding calls would need explicit clauses outlining permissible AI usage and robust enforcement mechanisms. In the evaluation phase, AI could aid reviewer selection and preliminary eligibility checks, but the technology is still nascent for full proposal assessment. To develop reliable evaluation tools, the group called for the creation of large, shared datasets, potentially contributed by funding organisations themselves - to train and validate AI systems responsibly.

Finally, the discussions highlighted the need for a public, large-scale infrastructure where researchers can both deposit and cross validate their work against previously published results. Such a platform would serve as a trusted repository for data, methods, and outcomes, enabling reproducibility and facilitating the seamless integration of AI-driven analytics. By aligning funding policies, embracing responsible AI practices, and investing in shared validation infrastructure, the GRC can advance a more inclusive, transparent, and sustainable global research ecosystem.



Topic 2 – Research for Sustainable Communities

PRESENTATION OF THE GRC DISCUSSION PAPER

Ursula Eicker, the Canada Excellence Research Chair in Smart, Sustainable and Resilient Cities and Communities, presented the discussion paper ‘Research for Sustainable Communities, arguing that research must directly tackle the most pressing challenges facing future societies. She outlined five priority actions: (1) adopt an SDG-aligned science agenda shaped by locally defined, cocreated goals; (2) ensure an equitable, open global knowledge system that supports just transitions; (3) synchronise science, technology, and innovation with sustainability targets; (4) embed AI and digital tools into research workflows; and (5) develop multilevel, pluralistic policy, governance, and financing frameworks. Eicker encouraged the Global Research Council to enable multilateral collaboration, financing, and monitoring mechanisms, recommending that funders provide flexible, long-term resources, embrace relational and participatory labour models, foster interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary work, and scale community-led innovations so that high-level principles translate into concrete, actionable guidance at both council and national levels.

KEYNOTE SPEECH

In his keynote speech, **Zoltán Divéki**, Deputy Director General of the HUN-REN Centre for Agricultural Research, framed sustainable research as a holistic responsibility that goes beyond publishing results. He argued that resilient research systems – providing stable career paths, predictable and diversified funding, and robust, energy-efficient infrastructure – are essential for delivering societal impact. To equip researchers for future challenges, the centre created an AI Ambassador Network and a Data Steward Network, promoting digital literacy and responsible AI use. Financial sustainability is achieved through a balanced mix of baseline funding and mid-sized grants for small teams, while infrastructure sustainability is treated as an ongoing cultural commitment that supports the centre’s mission of sustainable agriculture, exemplified by AI-driven tools such as ProPlanta and Edapholog.

Divéki also highlighted the importance of connectivity, noting that while Europe and the United States remain key partners, the centre is expanding collaborations with research ecosystems in east- and southeast Asia. Equally vital are local engagements – lecture series, visitor centres, and citizen science projects – that bring science to the public, build trust, and enhance scientific literacy. His presentation wove together five pillars: people, funding, infrastructure, AI, and community engagement, asserting that research and societal sustainability are inseparable. When careers are fair, knowledge is open, technology is responsibly applied, facilities are resilient, and relationships are trusted, research becomes a living part of society, empowering farmers, inspiring students, and informing policy.



PANEL DISCUSSION

Francisco Javier Moreno Fuentes, Vice-President for International Affairs of the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC) and Vice-President of Science Europe, introduced the panel and asked participants four questions: how to create a socially sustainable academic career system that encourages healthy brain circulation and harnesses the potential of AI; how can European and national research policies support the financial sustainability of research in a rapidly changing context, in terms of capacity building, research infrastructures, networking and researchers' mobility; in what ways can synergies among financial, social, and environmental sustainability be fostered; and, what is the role of research institutions in the process.

Professor **Danny Donoghue**, Executive Board member of the Coimbra Group, recalled the 2025 Coimbra Group Climate Symposium in March 2025, where universities came together to discuss what research was needed to advance the climate agenda. This led the entire network to sign the Durham Declaration on Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability. He reminded the audience of the IPCC prediction of a 15-metre sea level rise over the next 300 years and the possible immense impact on millions of people living within the danger zone. Highlighting the ample evidence of climate change, he stressed that, to avoid a potential crisis, further action is needed. He encouraged the participants to ask what is required from research funding organisations to move towards a different way of engaging with society.

Krzysztof Pyrc, President of the Management Board of the Foundation for Polish Science (FNP), first highlighted the importance of co-creation and inclusivity. He stressed that, while creating a sustainable research system, its impact for society and organisations should be considered. For now, the focus is on quantitative indicators such as impact factors, publications, and scientific output, while the impact of research on society and the economy should be given greater weight. He added that it is very important to understand that the diversity that we see in the world is a value. Showcasing a range of examples, Pyrc illustrated how research visibility differs across topics, highlighting how diseases of global relevance to Europe like AIDS receive greater prominence in leading journals, while neglected diseases affecting populations in Africa remain under-represented. Pyrc suggested using these examples to prepare for the future, by embracing diversity and working on different fields that are not currently popular in Europe. Due to climate change, the problems faced by countries in Africa today will be the problems of Europe of tomorrow.

Luisa Henriques, Senior Policy Analyst and Advisor to the Board of Directors, Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT), Portugal, suggested that the GRC raise awareness of its existence, role, and missions. Highlighting the connection between greening research and sustainable research systems, she stressed the importance of framework conditions, including principles, values, ethics, research integrity, research careers, research culture, and equal opportunities. While the need for modern, efficient, well-equipped infrastructure is acknowledged by countries with strong research and innovation capacity, the question is how to collaborate with partners in regions where such infrastructure is more limited. She also highlighted conflicting topics, such as large digital infrastructures and the natural resources needed for digital transformation, which may lead to contradictory impacts and unintended benefits. As a second point, she emphasised that attractive and sustainable research careers



are needed to address the precarity created by funding that often supports short-term, competitive projects. This issue should be addressed globally, reflecting the increasingly international character of the research labour market. As the third point, the essential role of policymaking and culture was highlighted, emphasising the need for community involvement.

Beáta Hoffer, Deputy CEO for Management, Hungarian Research Network (HUN-REN) outlined how scarce resources can be managed, a major question from an economist's point of view. Human resources, AI, and infrastructure are probably the most important elements of these resources, and their use should be economised and optimised. To this end, complex initiatives are needed, like the recently introduced digital platform or the AI Ambassador Network to support everyday research activities in HUN-REN. Finding a good combination of sources that can finance these activities long-term is a real challenge. At the same time, in both the Hungarian and the Central-Eastern European regional context, the isolation experienced by researchers was identified as challenge requiring action, with incentives introduced to encourage researchers to explore new opportunities and support interdisciplinary research. Brain loss is still a huge problem in this part of Europe, which HUN-REN has addressed by creating a new career path model for those who decide to stay. In conclusion, she highlighted the importance of creating actions and actionable ideas that enhance healthy brain circulation, so that the excellent researchers who decide to stay, despite the difficult conditions, can thrive in their work.

Zoltán Divéki reflected on the daily tasks and operations of a research institute from a researcher's perspective. While referring to obvious administrative setbacks, he emphasised the research network's efforts to ease researchers' workloads and introduce new facilities and technologies. He highlighted in particular the (pro)active AI Ambassador Network introduced by HUN-REN. Each research institute has an AI Ambassador who keeps in contact with and is updated by the AI4Science department. The researchers can rely on their help to find applicable ways to introduce AI into their research, sometimes even by designing AI tools and performing daily administrative tasks. The latter ensures that research activities are conducted more effectively. Another target area for AI is reducing the tedious administrative burden on researchers. One good practice he shared was the training of the AI model at HUN-REN on their internal regulations, enabling it to provide useful, up-to-date information on internal processes with just a prompt. Also, there are recent incentives and methods for data retrieval to avoid AI hallucinations.



BREAKOUT DISCUSSIONS



The following breakout discussions emphasised that a socially sustainable academic career system must enable fluid, cross-border mobility, often called the ‘fifth freedom’ of the EU internal market. It should do this by strengthening the European Research Area and aligning national procedures such as pension portability and social benefits, while recognising doctoral candidates as pivotal agents of brain circulation who require enhanced training, mentorship and career development services through doctoral schools. Financial sustainability was linked to the forthcoming EU Framework Programme, which needs a protected, predictable budget, alongside reinforced national R&I allocations, to balance the drive for research excellence with the imperative to narrow the innovation gap across Europe and to give funding bodies the agility to respond to rapid change. Finally, the role of research institutions was framed as a shared responsibility with funders and other stakeholders: institutions should enjoy the autonomy to devise locally relevant sustainability solutions that can be scaled up by funding organisations, demonstrate societal benefit, embed sustainability in their own operations, and integrate competitiveness so that European research remains impactful and globally influential.

The breakout discussions also examined how to build a socially sustainable academic career system that encourages healthy brain circulation and leverages AI, while also securing the financial and environmental foundations of research. Participants stressed that funders must move beyond merely financing projects, to shaping an ecosystem that offers long-term career stability, clear sustainability plans and a balance between top-down policy priorities and bottom-up scientific creativity. Precarious research jobs were identified as a major threat to Europe’s research landscape; the discussion called for recognition of horizontal, non-linear career paths spanning universities, industry, and public administration, and for evaluation systems that capture this diversity. Flexible institutional and policy frameworks – allowing for adaptable project durations, extensions and allocations – were deemed essential to improve efficiency and researcher wellbeing.

The dialogue also highlighted the need to bridge academia and industry, noting that sectoral mobility is as important as geographic mobility for effective brain circulation. A broader sustainability agenda was woven throughout, urging research organisations to embed social, ethical and environmental principles into everyday practices, meetings and conferences so that the values they promote are embedded in their own operations. Open questions remained about balancing autonomy with accountability in funding, guaranteeing cross-border researcher rights, and developing metrics that recognise not only scientific outputs but also social contributions, mentoring, and collaborative activities.



Updates on GRC Activities

Felina Wittke, Acting Deputy Executive Secretary of the Global Research Council, reminded the participants of the GRC's core mission to foster equitable, diverse and inclusive collaboration, to create conditions in which international research can thrive, and to jointly address cross-border challenges that enhance the quality of science while delivering economies of scale and avoiding duplication. The GRC's governance is organised through a Governing Board with regional representation from the Americas, Asia-Pacific, Europe, the Middle East/North Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa, supported by an Executive Support Group and an Executive Secretariat. The annual GRC cycle begins with the announcement of topics in May, followed by the drafting of discussion papers, regional meetings in the summer and autumn, synthesis of regional outputs, and culminates in an annual meeting where Statements of Principles are adopted. The 2025 regional meetings take place in Belgrade (Europe), Jakarta (Asia-Pacific), Montevideo (Americas), Cairo (MENA) and Bula-wayo (SSA), while the 2026 annual meeting will be hosted in Bangkok by Thailand Science, Research and Innovation (TSRI) and the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC).

The GRC's agenda reflects evolving global priorities, ranging from open science, research integrity and capacity building in earlier years to climate change, sustainable research, AI-enabled research management and co-creation for global challenges in recent cycles. Current calls invite proposals for side events that complement the 2025 cycle topics or the 2026 topic of "curiosity-driven research" focus for the 15th annual meeting, with deadlines. Additional calls seek hosts for the 2026 regional meetings across all five regions and for the 2028 annual meeting, encouraging agencies to propose locations and pre-event programmes. Throughout, the GRC emphasises the importance of regional input on discussion topics, sharing best practices, identifying case studies, and contributing to working groups such as the Collaboration & Neutrality Task Group, thereby ensuring that the Council remains a useful, inclusive platform for shaping the future of global research collaboration.



Regional Meeting Programme

All times are in CEST.

Tuesday 21 October 2025

HYATT REGENCY HOTEL BELGRADE, CRYSTAL HALL, MILENTIJA POPOVIĆA 5

Welcome and Introduction

09.00–09.30 Introductory Speeches and Background Information

- Nenad Filipović, Acting Director of the Science Fund of the Republic of Serbia (SFRS)
- Mari Sundli Tveit, Chief Executive of the Research Council of Norway (RCN), President of Science Europe, Member of the GRC Governing Board
- Roland Jakab, Chief Executive Officer of the Hungarian Research Network (HUN-REN)
- Rastislav Stojsavljević, Special Advisor to the Minister of Science, Technological Development and Innovation of the Republic of Serbia

09.30–09.50 Keynote speeches

- András Stipsicz, Director of the HUN-REN Alfréd Rényi Institute of Mathematics, Member of the ERC Scientific Council
- Sofija Stefanović, Full Professor of Physical Anthropology, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Belgrade

Topic 1 – Open Science and AI for Equity, Justice, and Sustainability

09.50–10.00 Presentation of GRC discussion paper on 'Open Science and AI for Equity, Justice, and Sustainability'

- Sirinan Kulchat, Deputy Director, Strategic International Collaboration & Research Impact Office, Thailand Science Research and Innovation (TSRI) (*online*)



10.00–10.15 Keynote speech

- Matija Zlatar, Principal Research Fellow, Institute of Chemistry, Technology and Metallurgy, University of Belgrade



10.15–10.45 *Coffee Break*



10.45–11.45 Panel Discussion

- Thibault Cantat, Deputy General Manager for Science, French National Research Agency (ANR)
- Thomas Margoni, Research Professor of Intellectual Property Law, KU Leuven, Belgium (*online*)

- **Elvisa Seumenicht**, Head of Legal Department, Austrian Science Fund (FWF)
- **Dimitrios I. Fotiadis**, Professor of Biomedical Engineering, University of Ioannina, Greece
- **Matija Zlatar**, Principal Research Fellow, Institute of Chemistry, Technology and Metallurgy, University of Belgrade

MODERATOR **Nenad Filipović**, Acting Director of the Science Fund of the Republic of Serbia (SFRS)

RAPPORTEUR **Ana Stevanović Zdravev**, Program Manager at the Science Fund of the Republic of Serbia (SFRS)

11.45–12.45 *Lunch*

12.45–13.30 **Breakout discussions**

MODERATORS

- **Torsten Schwede**, President of the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF)
- **Krzysztof Pyrc**, President of the Foundation for Polish Science (FNP)
- **José Labastida**, Director of the Spanish State Research Agency (AEI)

RAPPORTEURS

- **Krisztina Péntekné Gecsényi**, Deputy Head of Cabinet for International Affairs at the Hungarian Research Network (HUN-REN)
- **Bregt Saenen**, Senior Policy Officer, Science Europe
- **Jelena Mihailović**, Programs and Projects Specialist, Science Fund of the Republic of Serbia (SFRS)

Updates on GRC Activities and Discussion on Collaboration and Neutrality

13.35–13.55 **Updates on GRC Activities**

- **Felina Wittke**, GRC Deputy Executive Secretary, Programme Officer at the German Research Foundation (DFG)



13.55–14.15 **Activity Report: Responsible Research Assessment Working Group**

- **Catriona Firth**, Associate Director for Research Environment at UK Research and Innovation (UKRI)
- **Shawn McGuirk**, Director for Research Security at the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC)



14.15–14.30 *Coffee break*

14.30–14.40 **Activity Report: Multilateral Engagement Working Group**

- **Rune Vistad**, Director for International Cooperation, Research Council of Norway (RCN)

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- 14.40–14.50 Activity Report: Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Working Group**
- **Nia Glover**, Senior International Policy and Engagement Manager, UK Research and Innovation (UKRI)

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- 14.50–15.00 Plenary report on outcomes of breakout discussions**
- Rapporteurs/Moderators from breakout groups

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- 15.00–16.00 Discussion on the work of the GRC Task Force on Collaboration and Neutrality**
- **Lidia Borrell-Damián**, Secretary General of Science Europe and Member of the GRC Task Force on Collaboration and Neutrality

Breakout Discussions

MODERATORS

- **Lidia Borrell-Damián**, Secretary General of Science Europe
- **Nenad Filipović**, Acting Director of the Science Fund of the Republic of Serbia (SFRS)
- **Thibault Cantat**, Deputy General Manager for Science, French National Research Agency (ANR)

RAPPOORTEURS

- **Ana Stevanović Zdravev**, Program Manager at the Science Fund of the Republic of Serbia (SFRS)
- **Adrien Braem**, Senior Policy Officer at Science Europe
- **Jordan Girardin**, Scientific Officer at the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF)

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- 16.00–16.15 Introduction of the Evidence Synthesis Infrastructure Collaborative**
- **James Canton**, Deputy Director of Public Policy and Engagement, UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) (*online*)

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- 16.15–16.30 Plenary Report and Wrap-up of Day 1**



Wednesday 22 October 2025

Topic 2 – Research for Sustainable Communities

08.30–08.40 **Presentation of the GRC discussion paper on ‘Sustainable Research for Sustainable Communities’**

- **Ursula Eicker**, Canada Excellence Research Chair in Smart, Sustainable, and Resilient Communities and Cities, Next-Generation Cities Institute, Concordia University, Montréal (*video address*)

08.40–09.00 **Keynote speeches**

- **Zoltán Divéki**, Deputy Director-General of the HUN-REN Centre for Agricultural Research

09.00–10.00 **Panel Discussion**

- **Danny Donoghue**, Executive Board member of the Coimbra Group
- **Krzysztof Pyrc**, President of the Foundation for Polish Science (FNP)
- **Luísa Henriques**, Senior Policy Analyst and Advisor to the Board of Directors, Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT), Portugal
- **Beáta Hoffer**, Deputy CEO for Operations, Hungarian Research Network
- **Zoltán Divéki**, Deputy Director-General of the HUN-REN Centre for Agricultural Research

MODERATOR **Javier Moreno Fuentes**, Vice-President for International Affairs of the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC), Vice-President of Science Europe

RAPPORTEUR **Krisztina Szepesvári**, Desk Officer for International Relations at the Hungarian Research Network (HUN-REN)

10.00–10.15 *Coffee Break*

10.15–11.15 **Breakout Discussions**

MODERATORS

- **Jörn Achterberg**, Director for International Cooperation at the German Research Foundation (DFG)
- **Krzysztof Pyrc**, President of the Foundation for Polish Science (FNP)
- **José Labastida**, Director of the Spanish State Research Agency (AEI)

RAPPORTEURS

- **Krisztina Péntekné Gecsényi**, Deputy Head of Cabinet for International Affairs at the Hungarian Research Network (HUN-REN)
- **Bregt Saenen**, Senior Policy Officer, Science Europe
- **Ružica Radulović**, Programs and Projects Specialist, Science Fund of the Republic of Serbia (SFRS)



Wrap-up of Day 2

11.25–11.45 **Plenary report on outcomes of breakout discussions**

- Rapporteurs/Moderators from breakout groups

11.45–12.00 **Wrap-up & Conclusions**

- **Nenad Filipović**, Acting Director of the Science Fund of the Republic of Serbia (SFRS)
- **Gyula Sümeghy**, Head of Cabinet for International Affairs of the Hungarian Research Network (HUN-REN)
- **Lidia Borrell-Damián**, Secretary General of Science Europe



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