European Academies

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Science Advisory Council

INTRODUCING EASAC –
A guide for new members

Prepared by EASAC Secretariat

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For enquiries, please contact secretariat@easac.eu

This slide pack contains……

- What is EASAC?

- EASAC's strategic objectives (2016-2021)

- Organogram

- EASAC Governance

  – Council

  – Bureau

- EASAC Operations

  – Steering Panels

  – Working Groups

  – Criteria for project selection

  – Schematic of policy project process
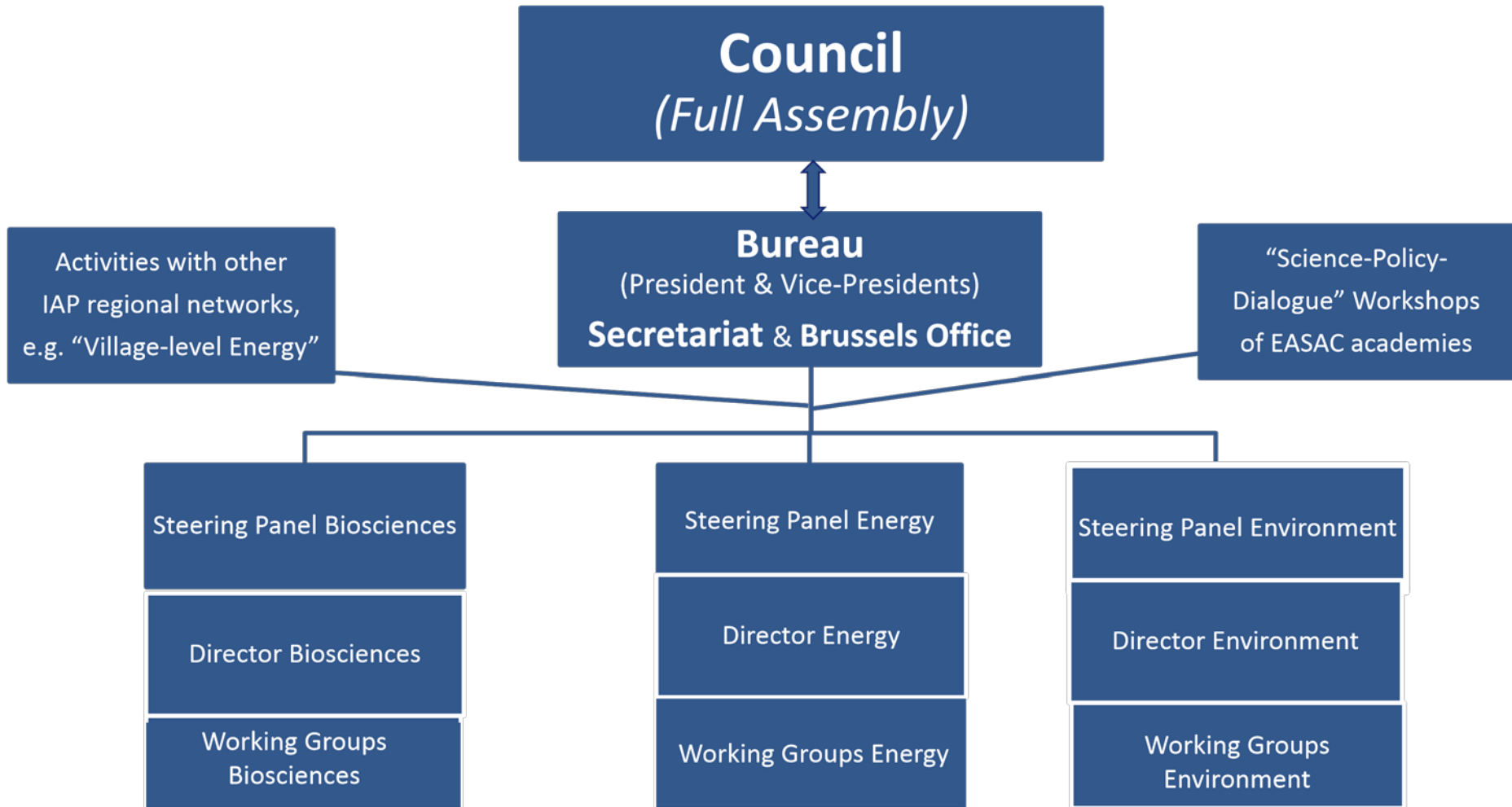
- EASAC Member Academies

What is EASAC?

- **E**uropean **A**cademies' **S**cience **A**dvisory **C**ouncil
- The authoritative voice of independent science advice in the EU
- A membership of 27 national science academies of EU Member States, Norway and Switzerland
- A mechanism for
  - mobilising Europe's best scientific minds on public policy issues
  - providing science-based advice to European policymakers and civil society
- Good working links with EU institutions
- Good working links with other academy networks in Europe – AE, FEAM, EuroCASE, ALLEA – through the SAPEA consortium
- Regional affiliated network for Europe of the IAP, the global network of academies

EASAC's strategic objectives (2016-2021)

1. To **influence EU policy development** and secondarily national policy within EU Member States, Norway and Switzerland i.e. those countries with EASAC members;

2. To **inform EU and Member States' contributions to global policy frameworks**, largely via its role as regional network (Europe) to the InterAcademy Partnership (IAP);

3. To **provide an independent platform for debate** and for convening scientists, policymakers and publics;

4. To **build the science policy capacity** of EU academies and scientists, and **mobilise the European science community** to engage on regional policy agendas;

5. To **build a progressive and more resilient science academies' network**.

Structure and areas of work

European Academies
easac
Science Advisory Council
Science Advisory Council

Council
(Full Assembly)

Bureau
(President & Vice-Presidents)
Secretariat & **Brussels Office**

Activities with other
IAP regional networks,
e.g. "Village-level Energy"

"Science-Policy-
Dialogue" Workshops
of EASAC academies

Steering Panel Biosciences

Director Biosciences

Working Groups
Biosciences

Steering Panel Energy

Director Energy

Working Groups Energy

Steering Panel Environment

Director Environment

Working Groups
Environment

EASAC Council

- EASAC's full assembly and governing body
- Sets EASAC's direction, agrees initiation of projects, monitors their progress, reviews and approves reports for publication
- Meets every 6 months; members serving a 3-5 year term
- Council members......

❑ oversee work of Bureau, Secretariat and Steering Panels

❑ nominate experts for working groups, Steering Panels and peer review groups

❑ communicate EASAC recommendations to national stakeholders

❑ act as intermediaries for two-way communication between EASAC and their own academies

❑ share good practice / lessons learned

❑ act as ambassadors for EASAC in their national and international business

EASAC Bureau

- Supports Council and actions its decisions

- Comprises past, current and next President, Vice-Presidents, and involves Steering Panel Chairs, Programme Directors and Executive Director

- Meets every 3 months

- Oversees the work of the Secretariat (Programme Directors and Executive Director):

❑ support EASAC's infrastructure
❑ oversee Steering Panels and project-specific working groups
❑ Programme Directors provide scientific and drafting expertise
❑ build and maintain working links with EU stakeholders

❑ maintain close contact with member academies
❑ liaise and work with other academy networks
❑ lead communications e.g. press releases, website

EASAC Steering Panels

- Currently three panels: Biosciences, Energy, Environment
- Advise Council on potential projects where EASAC can *add unique value* and have *high impact on EU policy*
- Comprise experts with complementary skillsets and experience of applying knowledge to public policy (3 year term, renewable)
- Run by Programme Directors and meet twice a year

❑ provide leadership on development of work programme
❑ nominate experts for working groups
❑ identify policy priorities and target audiences
❑ advise on reactive work

❑ monitor progress and quality assure output of working groups
❑ support dissemination of project output, nationally and regionally
❑ maintain links with their nominating (host) academy
❑ act as ambassadors for EASAC

EASAC Working Groups

- Nominated by member academies and Steering Panels, final selection resting with Bureau and Council

- Comprise experts with complementary perspectives and skills on policy question being explored

- Serve for duration of project, meeting 2-3 times on average, with extensive exchange by e-mail and teleconference

- Run by Programme Directors and Working Group Chair

❑ help develop project work plan
❑ contribute significantly to preparation of output, including drafting where tasked
❑ support dissemination of project output, nationally and regionally

❑ maintain links with their nominating (host) academy
❑ act as ambassadors for EASAC

Declaration of Interest Forms

To ensure the independence of EASAC activities and publications, all members of EASAC Council, EASAC Bureau, EASAC Steering panels and EASAC Working groups are required to complete declaration of interest forms. These are checked by the EASAC Bureau and Directors, who discuss any difficult cases before giving approval.

Criteria for project selection

- What is the policy problem?

- Is it relevant to the EU agenda and to EASAC's objectives?

- Can EASAC add unique value?

- What is the likely impact on EU policy?

- How feasible is the project, especially in terms of timeframe, and available and accessible knowledge/evidence?

- What external factors influence the timing of the project?

- Who is/are the audience(s)?

- Is there a case for working with partners?

- What is the most appropriate methodology and output?
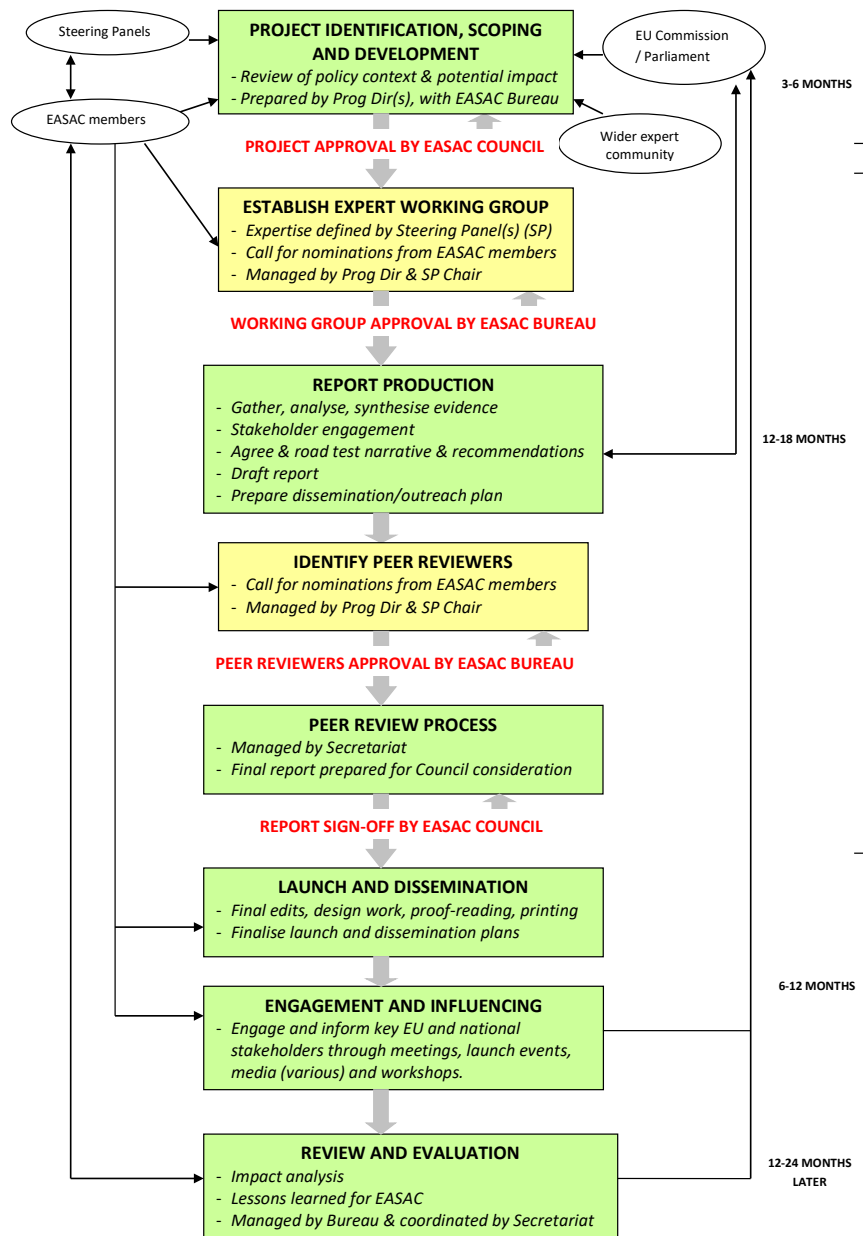
Schematic of policy project process

EASAC Member Academies

- The bedrock of EASAC

- Provide critical financial and in-kind support

- Identify national experts for EASAC's programmes and projects

- Can lead projects where they have intellectual leadership (strong national expertise and/or experience) and financial capacity

❑ provide, and support, a Council member, ensuring they are engaged and proactive
❑ nominate experts for Steering Panels, working and peer review groups
❑ maintain communication channels

between their representatives, their own Council and membership
❑ support dissemination of project output, nationally and regionally
❑ look out for opportunities for future EASAC work
❑ act as ambassadors for EASAC