

ESAF Annual meeting:

“The role of science advice in rebuilding the society”

29-30 November 2022, Vilnius, Lithuania

Professional and efficient science advice is becoming an increasingly important component of supporting the development of democratic society by means of effectively tackling and explaining the complexity of contemporary world. In parallel, adequate advice is becoming a crucial element of rebuilding damaged countries and societies. In such occasions its scope naturally covers recommendations towards shaping of research landscape of developing and/or damaged countries and thus meets the missions of policy for science.

A more common challenge is the task of connecting policy-making with the output of scientific research. The European Commission will launch the relevant staff working document at the end of October 2022. This document inter alia reflects the experience of many ESAF members in connecting science advice with policy-making. Its main principles were reported to the last ESAF annual meeting in Tallinn. It aims at developing a robust science to policy ecosystem from the level of single countries up to the European Commission. While diversity of science advice systems in different countries is an asset, some countries or regions may need support in order to properly structure science advice to best serve their society.

In this context we are facing two challenges. On the one hand, the war in Ukraine will hopefully end soon, and then we have to be prepared our support towards rebuilding the country after massive damage. On the other hand, we may need to reconsider the mandate and tasks of ESAF in the light of abovementioned staff working document that eventually will funnel many future actions of the European Commission in our scope.

Both these aspects need rapid reflection from the ESAF community. For this reason it was decided to organise the next ESAF Annual Meeting at relatively short notice, on 29-30 November 2022 in Vilnius, Lithuania. Similar to the last meeting in Tallinn, it is expected to comprise the afternoon of 29 November and the morning of 30 November. Additionally to these two urgent matters, we also need to discuss some technical issues of ESAF membership under changing conditions.

With hope that you can still pack this event into your calendar

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