



Recommendations of Task Force: Mapping changes in research support in media and communications across Europe

May 2017

The following recommendations are primarily addressed to the ECREA Executive Board arising from the work of the Task Force:

1. The work of the Task Force should continue, either to establish further detail of the trends and processes indicated in this report or as a continuing, or indeed permanent, work group reporting to the ECREA Board on trends and patterns in research funding in ECREA fields of interest. The current members have indicated a willingness to continue this work, and to find resource to do so should ECREA be unable to do so.
2. As an outcome of recommendation 1 ECREA should consider developments and trends in research support and funding at an annual meeting of its Board.
3. The ECREA secretariat should establish and regularly update a roster of national subject associations in the field together with appropriate contact details.
4. Where such national subject associations are inactive or simply absent ECREA should take such steps as possible to support and enable their formation and/or development.
5. ECREA should consider how best to lobby both individual funding bodies and funding bodies generally to ensure a proportionate and healthy level of research funding for the fields within its remit. In considering such research support the Association should address any apparent omissions or imbalances in the general availability of research funding either to particular groups or locales, or to particular aspects of communications research. In the first instance this might involve coordinating a meeting with such bodies to present and discuss the report and associated ECREA concerns.
6. ECREA should also, if and where possible, liaise with stakeholders in industry on a European level (e.g. gaming, design, film) documenting the value and relevance of media and communication scholarship. The purpose of such discussions should be to raise the awareness and use of scholarly research among such stakeholders and to encourage their support for it.
7. ECREA should liaise with other cognate organisations and stakeholders to assess any relevant trends or concerns, for example toward an undue focus on 'innovative media' interpreted in ways that might narrow or confine research questions and activities. This might include the ERC as well as parallel umbrella subject associations.

8. ECREA should discuss with the European Research Council its role in supporting communication research, including basic and long-term research.