
New science Council

European ICSU Members' feedback to draft strategy document

Introduction

In response to your invitation, we take the opportunity to provide feedback on the draft strategy sent to the ICSU Membership on 31 March 2017 regarding the new Council that would result from the merger between ICSU and ISSC. Our contribution below is complementary to the paper of the European ICSU Members Management Group submitted to the extraordinary ICSU General Assembly in October 2016.

Feedback

Underlying our input to the draft strategy document, we:

- Continue to support the merger between ICSU and the ISSC into the new Council;
- Endorse the proposed mission “Advancing science as a global public good”;
- Are convinced that today’s global challenges need to be addressed in an inclusive and integrated way;
- Are satisfied that “science for policy” and “policy for science”, including priority research theme programming, are key strategy elements, because we would like to see the Council take leadership in both agenda setting and catering for requests at the global level, notably with regard to the UN;
- Support the Council’s ambition to become a leading global voice of science and its related intention to increase interaction and collaboration with other global science umbrella organisations.

To make use of the merger to seriously revisit the overall role of ICSU and ISSC as well as to ensure that the new Council has the widest possible support from the start, we recommend you to:

- Sharpen your argumentation concerning the added value of the merger for the work of the new Council, its membership and its target audience, especially within the UN system;
- Articulate the benefits of the new Council for its membership in a clear way;
- Restructure the strategy document with a view to consistently link the mission statement with corresponding goals, related measures and activities;
- Shorten the document to highlight the strengths of the new Council and the niche it aims to fill;
- Take into account the limited human and other resources available;
- Bear in mind the necessity for the new Council to increase its visibility in the scientific and policy communities as well as to be able to respond in a timely manner to emerging issues;
- Include the propagation of research integrity among the core values;
- Remove the annex and use that information as part of a supporting document that provides relevant background information to the strategy.

Consented by the participants at the European ICSU Members Annual Meeting, Riga, 12 May 2017
