

**ERAC-GPC 1301/16**

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Subject: Summary conclusions of the GPC plenary meeting of 11 December 2015

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The meeting was chaired by the GPC Chair, Mr Fulvio Esposito. The High Level Group for Joint Programming (GPC) drew the following conclusions:

**1. Welcome by the Chair and approval of the provisional agenda**

The agenda was approved as set out in document 4846/15 with the following changes:

- at the request of the French delegation the Commission was asked to provide an update on the work of the Expert Group on the Evaluation of JP under item 4;
- item 6 was removed from the agenda.

## **2. Relations between the GPC and the JPIs and Framework Conditions**

### **a) State-of play of the IG 1**

Ms Brigitte Weiss gave a presentation on the state of play of the IG1 (Fostering and Mentoring JPIs). Ms Weiss summarised the work performed by the IG1 within the three work packages foreseen for this group. She also reminded the recommendations of the IG1 for the GPC and its members to have a strong and active role in the joint programming process. It was concluded that the IG1 delivered on its mandate and after having prepared its report it shall discontinue its work.

## **3. Alignment and Interoperability**

### **a) State-of play of the IG 2**

Ms Karin Schmekel, the Co-Chair of the IG2 on Alignment and Improving Interoperability, presented the work undertaken by the group concentrating on the goals for the governance of the national JPP. It was concluded that the work on alignment and interoperability will continue under the Mutual Learning Exercise (MLE) on alignment and that the members of the IG2 should join the MLE.

The presentation was followed by a discussion in which delegations voiced the following main remarks:

- both alignment and interoperability will have an important impact on the cooperation between the countries;
- the JPP and alignment are common goals and the involvement of the Member States, Associated Countries, the JPIs and the European Commission is important;
- research systems vary very much and on different levels as there are differences between countries, between ministries involved, between different RPOs, etc;
- clear political and administrative commitment is needed;
- the alignment of tools at the national level facilitates the cooperation between countries;

- widening participation in the JPP should be taken into account;
- the MLE on alignment will be a very important exercise and it will be crucial to address the right, well-thought questions;
- as many countries as possible should participate in the MLE.

**b) Outcome of the Lund Revisited Conference**

Ms Karin Schmekel (SE delegation) made a presentation on the main outcomes of the Lund Revisited Conference – Tackling Societal Challenges, which took place in Lund, Sweden, on 3-4 December 2015. The Lund Declaration identifies four priority areas in which progress is vital in order to better tackle societal challenges:

1. Alignment of strategies, instruments, resources and actors at national and European level in order to address grand societal challenges;
2. Global cooperation with partners around the world to address the grand challenges in partnership and to attract the world's best researchers and innovators and private sector investment;
3. Frontier research (excellent science base, world-class research infrastructures and excellent researchers);
4. Achieving greater impact on challenges through involvement of the public sector and industry in knowledge creation, with a stronger focus on innovation and the role of end-users.

**c) Updates about the expressions of interest for the Policy Support Facility - supported Mutual Learning Exercise and the possible convergence between IG2 and the MLE**

The Vice-Chair provided a presentation on the above mentioned subject concentrating on the timelines and the typology of alignment developed by the ERA-Learn project. The GPC decided on the following schedule for the exercise:

- GPC 11 December 2015: First Discussion on Terms of Reference (ToR)
- 12 January 2016: Deadline to provide contributions to the ToR
- End of January 2016: Draft proposal on ToR sent for comments
- 11 February 2016: Meeting in Brussels to launch the MLE on the basis of the draft proposal on ToR
- 12 February 2016: Adoption of ToR at the GPC plenary meeting
- March/April 2016: Background work by the EC's contractor
- End of April-July 2016: MLE sessions

Ms Diana Senczyszyn, (Commission), underlined that the exercise remains open all the time. She provided the list of the countries which so far indicated their intention to participate in the MLE: AT, DK, IT, NO, PT, SE, SI as well as NL (after the Presidency). She also indicated that the exercise can be organised in cycles.

#### **4. JPP assessment**

##### **a) State-of play of the IG 3**

Mr Leonidas Antoniou, the Chair of the IG 3 on Monitoring the JPP, provided information on the planning of the work within the IG 3:

- The IG 3 is planning to present its proposal for its task 1 (JPI Assessment) during the next GPC plenary meeting in February.
- The IG 3 intends to deliver its final report on its tasks 1 and 2 (Development of Minimum Conditions for JPIs) for the GPC plenary meeting in April.
- Due to the timeline planned for the ERA-Learn project on task 3 (Evaluation for Performance and Impact of JPIs and the JPP), the IG 3 proposed to discontinue its activity and to leave it for the ERA-Learn project to provide the results.

At the request of the FR delegation, Mr Jörg Niehoff, (Commission), provided an update on the work of the Expert Group on the evaluation of JPP:

- During the P2P conference which was postponed to 14-15 January there will be a workshop organised for the Expert Group to receive as much input as possible from the participants on the conclusions and recommendations.
- The experts will have their final meeting on 2 February.
- The report will be finalised at the end of February.

#### **5. Expert group 'Analysis of ERA-NET Cofund actions under Horizon 2020'**

Mr Jörg Niehoff, (Commission), made a presentation on the Expert Group on "Evaluation of ERA-NET Cofund actions under Horizon 2020" concentrating on the objectives of the Expert Group, its composition and the expected deliverables. The group will start its work in January 2016 with the aim of finalising the report by June 2016.

#### **6. Information on the outcome of the Competitiveness Council on 1 December 2015**

This item was removed from the agenda, although its main content was covered under the following item 7.

#### **7. Expected contribution by the GPC due to the recent developments of the ERA advisory structure and the outcomes of the Competitiveness Council on 1 December 2015**

##### **a) revising the GPC mandate**

The Chair informed the delegations that the Council (Competitiveness) adopted Council conclusions on the ERA advisory structure on 1 December 2015. The Conclusions are set out in document 14875/15. As a consequence, the GPC has been asked to review its mandate and propose a new mandate to the Council, including the "standard clauses" agreed by the Council. To this aim, a draft version for a new GPC mandate will be soon prepared based on the GPC Opinion on a renewed mandate which was already discussed and adopted by the GPC at its meeting on 11 March 2015. The prepared draft will be subsequently submitted to delegations for written comments with a view to its adoption at the following GPC meeting on 12 February 2016. Afterwards the version adopted by the GPC delegates will need to be submitted to the Council in early 2016.

**b) providing input to the ERAC annual report**

The Chair informed the delegations that all the ERA-related groups will need to provide input to the ERAC annual report. For the current year the GPC was requested to provide its input by the end of February 2016. It was agreed that for this reason the Chairs of the IGs will prepare a one page summary of the work undertaken by their respective IGs by mid-January and they will send it to the Chair and the Vice-Chair who will submit a draft GPC input in view of its adoption at the next GPC plenary meeting on 12 February 2016.

**c) contributing on the definition of input, output and outcome indicators for ERA Priority 2a, in view of the preparation of the 2016 ERA Progress Report**

The Chair pointed out that ERAC was informed that the next ERA Progress Report is planned to contain one input, one output and one outcome indicator per priority. As the current ERA Roadmap indicator for priority 2a is an input indicator, two more indicators will need to be developed. The Chair invited the delegations to participate in the process of identifying these indicators.

**8. Presentation of the programme of the incoming Dutch Presidency**

Mr Peter Keet, NL delegation, provided a presentation on the programme of the incoming Dutch Presidency concentrating on the priorities in the Research and Innovation area.

**9. Preparation of the procedure of the election of the new GPC Chair and Vice-Chair**

The Chair recalled the delegations that his and the Vice-Chair's term of office come to an end on 7 March 2016. The Secretariat has prepared the procedure for the election of the Chair and the Vice-Chair which was sent to delegations on 27 November. The elections of the new Chair and Vice-Chair will be organised at the next GPC plenary of 12 February 2016. People wishing to become candidates for the position of the Chair and the Vice-Chair are invited to send their CVs and letters of intention by 8 January 2016.

**10. AOB**

The Chair indicated the tentative dates for the next GPC plenary meetings: 12 February and 29 April 2016.