

NOTE

Subject: Summary conclusions of the GPC plenary meeting of 3 June 2015

The meeting was chaired by the GPC Chair, Mr Fulvio ESPOSITO and the GPC Vice-Chair,

Mr Martin SCHMID. The High Level Group for Joint Programming (GPC) drew the following conclusions:

1. Approval of the provisional agenda

The agenda was approved as set out in document 2669/1/15 with the following modifications: item 3 c) was discussed under item 5 b), items 7 and 8 were merged and item 9 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 (AT delegation; IG1 on Fostering and Mentoring JPIs), made a presentation on the state of play of the IG1 concentrating on the implementation of the main recommendations of the ad hoc GPC Working Groups 1 and 2. Main focus of the presentation was a set of recommendations to the GPC and for the GPC meetings on how to improve the Joint Programming Process, following an analysis of the survey undertaken by IG1. The Chair suggested that in order to better structure the cooperation between the GPC and the JPIs, the JPIs could nominate one person per each JPI who could be responsible for contacts with the GPC. Ms Weiss suggested in her presentation that the GPC could also nominate one delegate per each JPI as a first contact point.

b) Report from the Stakeholders Workshop organised by the JPI More Years Better Lives on 2 June 2015

Ms Angelika Poth-Mögele, representative of the JPI More Years Better Lives, reported on the main subjects of discussions and the main proposals discussed at the Stakeholders Workshop organised by the JPI More Years Better Lives on 2 June 2015.

3. Alignment and Interoperability

a) State-of play of the IG 2

Mr Pontus Holm (SE delegation; IG2 on Alignment and Improving Interoperability) presented the work undertaken so far by the IG2. The IG2 proposed to prepare a survey to map the countries' engagement and work procedures for the JPIs, which was accepted by the GPC delegations.

b) Example of the national alignment in the area of JP

Ms Kristine Naderstad (NO delegation), presented the organisation of the national alignment of the joint programming.

c) Ways to tackle interoperability

This agenda item was discussed under 5 b).

4. JPP assessment

a) State-of play of the IG 3

Mr Leonidas Antoniou (CY delegation, IG3 Monitoring the JPP) presented the work performed and planned under the different work packages for the IG3.

b) Information on the Expert Group “Evaluation of Joint Programming to address Grand Societal Challenges”

Mr Jörg Niehoff, on behalf of the Commission, presented the objective, the composition and the guiding questions concerning the Expert Group on “Evaluation of Joint Programming to address Grand Societal Challenges”. He mentioned that the Expert Group is expected to present its interim report in November 2015 and the final report in January 2016.

5. GPC way forward

a) Tasks and profile of GPC delegates

The Vice-Chair recalled that the relevant document presenting a model tasks and profile of the GPC delegates was sent out to delegations on 27 May and that it is based on the recommendations made by the GPC Working Groups. He discussed the main ideas contained in the document. In the exchange of views on the document, several delegations fully supported the document and others, although expressing support, underlined difficulties to achieve full compliance with the suggested ambitious profile and tasks of the GPC delegates. Therefore, it was suggested to revise some formulations, though maintaining high level of ambition. It was concluded that a new version of the document will be prepared and it will be submitted for adoption by written procedure.

b) Decisions on the way forward

The Vice-Chair suggested to make use of the Policy Support Facility to advance the work on interoperability. It was agreed that the IG2 will formulate the topics and questions to be put forward to the relevant players dealing with the Policy Support Facility. Before submission the draft will be circulated to the GPC delegations for comments.

6. ERA-related groups

a) Information on the ERA Roadmap and the review of the status, the mandate and the reporting lines of the GPC

The Chair recalled the delegations a few pieces of information concerning the ERA Roadmap and the ERA advisory structure.

A. Regarding the ERA Roadmap:

- 16-17 April: ERAC adopted the ERA Roadmap in its plenary in Riga
- March to May: the Research Working Party worked on the draft Council conclusions
- Conclusions on the ERA Roadmap were adopted by the Competitiveness Council on 29 May 2015.

The aspects of the Council conclusions the most relevant to the GPC:

- The GPC has been specifically mentioned in paragraph 8, where it was invited to cooperate with ERAC "to assess the coherence of joint initiatives, especially those funded by the European Union, with an emphasis on their European added value, feasibility, critical mass, complementarity and impact".

[8. INVITES ERAC, in close cooperation and where relevant with appropriate input from relevant bodies, in particular GPC, and the Strategic configuration of the Programme Committee of Horizon 2020, to assess the coherence of joint initiatives, especially those funded by the European Union, with an emphasis on their European added value, feasibility, critical mass, complementarity and impact. In this context, EMPHASISES that the advice of ERAC and other ERA-related groups on the identification and design of strategic priorities should be taken into consideration for the implementation of Horizon 2020 and advice resulting from the assessment of the Seventh Framework Programme should be also taken into account.]

- In paragraph 9, the Council endorsed all the top action priorities identified in the ERA Roadmap, including the most relevant priority to the GPC, being "improving alignment within and across the Joint Programming Process and the resulting initiatives (e.g. Joint Programming Initiatives (JPIs)) and speeding up their implementation".
- In paragraph 10 indent 2, the Council highlighted "the need to further strengthen the Joint Programming Process (JPP)" and called "on the Member States to better align the implementation rules and procedures within and across the JPP and its initiatives in order to stimulate the cooperation and to avoid unnecessary administrative burden".
- Furthermore, ERAC was invited to propose by the end of 2015 a set of core indicators (paragraph 6 of the Council conclusions).

B. Regarding the ERA governance:

The Chair mentioned that the Council adopted on 29 May 2015 a set of conclusions on the review of the European Research Area advisory structure, in which it set some guiding principles for an improved ERA advisory structure. Especially, it was agreed that in the future, ERAC will be co-chaired by the Commission and an elected Member State representative. And also, the ERAC Steering Board should consist of the ERAC Co-Chairs, the Chairs of the other ERA-related Groups, two members elected from among the representatives of Member States of ERAC as well as representatives of the incumbent and of the incoming EU Presidency. Moreover, ERAC was asked to continue the examination of the remaining issues, with a view to presenting a proposal to the Council. The work by ERAC would allow the Council to finalise the review of the ERA advisory structure by the end of the year, under the Luxembourg Presidency.

**b) Discussion on the possible indicator to monitor progress on the ERA Roadmap
Top Action Priority within ERA priority 2a**

The Chair recalled the following:

- The ERA Roadmap states that "there needs to be a clear understanding by all parties to the ERA Partnership that visible progress must be made by 2020 and that it should be possible to demonstrate this progress. The Roadmap therefore must be an integral part of the monitoring associated with future ERA Progress Reports. This monitoring needs to be lean and to avoid creating extra administrative burdens while also being clear and workable at national as well as EU level. It should enable assessment of how far progress is being made at both these levels."
- ERAC established the Working Group (WG) on Monitoring the ERA Roadmap with the aim to advise and support ERAC on the development of appropriate indicators for monitoring the implementation of the ERA Roadmap with a view to submission of the results to the Council.
- The mandate of the WG provides that it shall closely cooperate with the Commission services, the ERA-related groups and stakeholders with the aim of making compatible the monitoring of the ERA Roadmap with the overall ERA Monitoring carried out by the European Commission.
- The GPC Vice-Chair will represent the Group at the first meeting of the WG, which is planned to take place on 8 June in Vienna. Therefore, the GPC Members and Observers are called to contribute to the process of the development of the indicators to monitor the implementation of the ERA Roadmap concerning ERA Priority 2a "Jointly addressing grand challenges".

The Chair also presented the draft document on indicators prepared by the WG. The main comments from delegations could be summarised as follows:

- The views of delegations concerning the proposed indicators varied: some of them noted support while others were more hesitant.
- Some delegations would prefer not to include the Horizon 2020 funding in the overall indicator.

- Some delegations underlined that the objective of the indicators is to reflect Member States' efforts.
- It was noted that not only quantitative indicators but also qualitative indicators should be taken into account.
- It was proposed that there could be a headline indicator and sub-indicators to measure inputs and outputs.
- It was suggested that the indicators should measure changes from one measured period to another and not to take a "snapshot" of the situation at a given point in time.

The Chair concluded that the views of delegations will be presented at the first meeting of the WG in Vienna and that it will be suggested to consider other indicators in addition to the one proposed in the draft document. Moreover, the delegations will be kept informed of the developments.

7 and 8. Overview of the P2Ps in H2020 Work Programmes 2016/2017 and European Joint Programme Co-Fund (EJP)

Mr Jörg Niehoff, on behalf of the Commission, presented the Screening of P2P activities in Work Programmes 2016/17, taking into consideration ERA-NET Cofund, CSA, COST, EJP Cofund and Expert Groups (Article 185 evaluations).

9. GPC relations to other relevant groups

This item was removed from the agenda.

10. AOB

The Chair indicated the tentative dates for the next GPC plenary meetings: 30 September and 11 December.