

ERAC-GPC 1306/15

NOTE

Subject: Summary conclusions of the GPC plenary meeting of 30 September 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. Welcome by the Chair and approval of the provisional agenda

The agenda was approved as set out in document 3805/15 with some changes of the order of the items (item 5 was discussed after item 2 b), item 8 was discussed after item 4 b), item 6 was discussed after item 7 b).

2. JPP assessment

- a) State-of play of the IG 3

Mr Peter Spyns (BE delegation, IG3 Monitoring the JPP) presented the work performed and planned under the three work packages for the IG3. In particular, no additional work is needed regarding work package 1 (JPP assessment), in view of the work of the ad hoc Expert Group established by the EC. Concerning work package 2 (Evaluation for performance and impact of JPIs and the JPP), the IG3 members concluded that the ERA-Learn consortium inspires confidence in its experience and ability acquired earlier on and the IG3 members will keep a critical mind towards the project results based on the mandate of the IG3. As far as work package 3 (development of minimum conditions for JPIs) is concerned, the discussions are ongoing within the IG3.

- b) Report from the Expert Group "Evaluation of Joint Programming to address Grand Societal Challenges"

Mr Juan Tomas Hernani, the Chair of the Expert Group, presented the first results of the work of the Expert Group. He outlined the methodology of the analyses undertaken by the Expert Group and the countries' commitment and participation in JPIs calls. He also specified that the conclusions of the Expert Group will be presented in December at the Lund Revisited Conference and the final report should be available towards the end of the year.

In the discussion the following major points were raised:

- Some delegations advised the Expert Group not to concentrate solely on the joint calls but also to take other elements into account when measuring the JPIs and the JPP.
- Some delegations pointed out that besides JPIs and Member States, the other stakeholders of the JPP that could be addressed in the report are the GPC and the Commission.
- Some delegations called for the acknowledgement of the diversities of the various JPIs.
- The Chair reminded that the associated countries are an important part of the JPP and that this fact should be appropriately mirrored in the future report.

- Mr Hernani mentioned that the Expert Group consulted the GPC Chair, Vice-Chair and the representatives of the IGs and that all the GPC members have an open invitation to provide any comments they may have.
- Mr Jörg Niehoff (the Commission) pointed out that further opportunities for the GPC members to be consulted will be provided (e.g. the P2P Conference on 24-25 November 2015 and the Lund Revisited Conference on 3-4 December 2015).

3. 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 possible actions by GPC, such as strengthening the role of GPC in the JPP and intensifying the relations between GPC and JPIs; support to JPIs concentrating on Framework Conditions that need increased focus in the course of the further enhancement of the JPP; strengthening the GPC's role as an interface between the JPIs and the MS.

In the context of the GPC role vis-a-vis the JPIs, the Chair informed the delegations that he had been invited to the SFIC plenary meeting of 29 September to give a presentation on the internationalisation of the JPIs. He mentioned that one of the important conclusions was that the JPIs could participate in SFIC working groups in order to find out more about the internationalisation opportunities.

4. Alignment and Interoperability

a) State-of play of the IG 2

Mr Pontus Holm (SE delegation; IG2 on Alignment and Improving Interoperability) presented the results of the GPC alignment survey report formulated by the IG2 in consultation with GPC and JPIs and conducted between June and September 2015 with 21 completed surveys.

In the discussion the following main issues were touched:

- Mr Holm reconfirmed that the definition of alignment on which the IG2 bases its work is the one formulated by the GPC WG on Alignment.
- Delegations emphasised that the JPP and alignment are not only about the joint calls, though they are one of its important elements.
- JPI representatives invited the IG2 to consider also requesting the JPIs to fill in the questionnaire in order to have an overall picture.
- Mr Holm indicated that if the delegations who have not submitted their replies to the questionnaire would be willing to do so, the IG2 could re-open the questionnaire.

b) Report from the ERA-Learn workshop on Alignment of 29 September 2015

Ms Caroline Lesser, representative of ERA-Learn, presented a preliminary report of the ERA-Learn Workshop on the Practical Implementation of Alignment: Learning from Good Practice organised in Brussels on 29 September. She mentioned the objectives, organisation, key messages, major challenges and key factors for success as discussed during the workshop. Ms Lesser also discussed a preliminary typology of the identified existing alignment actions and instruments.

c) Policy Support Facility and Mutual Learning Exercise on Alignment

Ms Diana Senczyszyn (the Commission) made a presentation on Horizon 2020 Policy Support Facility (H2020 PSF). She pointed out the rationale of H2020 PSF and the services of the H2020 PSF, such as (1) Peer reviews of national R&I systems; (2) Specific support to countries; (3) Mutual learning exercises (MLE); (4) Online library: joint RIO and PSF website. She also provided a timeline and the practical aspects concerning H2020 PSF.

Delegations agreed that the GPC can play a role in MLE on alignment and that a MLE can be used to advance alignment.

The Vice-Chair concluded that there is no specific deadline for the MLE and that delegations are invited to consider their participation in the national reply concerning the MLE on alignment.

5. European Joint Programme Cofund actions

Mr Jörg Niehoff (the Commission) presented the European Joint Programme Cofund actions. He provided a definition of a programme co-fund action, description of the EJP Cofund, its aims, main features, specific provisions, its description in the Annual Work Plan and the conditions for the financial support for third parties. Mr Niehoff also discussed the main differences between ERA-NET Cofund, EJP Cofund and Art.185 initiatives as well as the screening of P2P activities in Work Programme 2016/17.

6. Tasks and profile of GPC delegates

The GPC adopted its paper on “Keeping the GPC up to the job – Tasks and Profile of GPC delegates“ (doc. 1305/15).

7. ERA advisory structure and ERA Roadmap

a) Information on the review of the ERA advisory structure

The ERAC co-Chair, Mr David Wilson, recalled the Council Conclusions of May 2015 which stated i.a. that:

- ERAC should be co-chaired by the Commission and an elected representative from the Member States.
- Regular review of the ERA-related groups should be conducted.
- The Steering Board should include also the Chairs of the other ERA-related groups.

- ERAC should report back on a number of outstanding issues, such as streamlining the advisory structure; developing standard clauses which should be present in the mandates of all ERA-related groups; a mechanism for definition of new ERA-related groups and conditions for revising the status of the existing ones.

Mr Wilson also pointed out some elements of the currently discussed proposal within ERAC:

- As smaller countries may have difficulties in supporting all the groups, the number of the groups should be limited to the ERA priorities.
- Considerations are given to the status of the groups.
- There might be a 3-yearly overview of the groups.

The Chair:

- Welcomed the presentation made by the ERAC co-Chair.
- Appreciated the fact that the streamlining of the ERA advisory structure is a collegiate process.
- Pointed out that the reimbursement issue can be sensible to some countries.
- Invited to explore ways of reducing costs, such as increase use of ICT and resigning from interpretation during meetings.
 - b) Update on the possible indicator to monitor progress on the ERA Roadmap Top Action Priority within ERA priority 2a

The Chair of the ERAC Working Group on monitoring the ERA Roadmap, Mr Ward Ziarko, presented the approach undertaken towards developing the indicators and the outcomes. He also discussed the indicator relevant to ERA Priority 2a and outlined the indicators regarding the other ERA priorities. He also discussed the next steps towards the finalisation of the indicators.

8. Preparations towards the Lund Revisited Conference

Ms Karin Schmekel, SE delegation, presented the background of the Lund Revisited Conference and the procedure towards the elaboration of the future declaration. She also outlined the background paper to the Lund Revisited Conference and invited delegations to provide comments by 9 October.

The Vice-Chair presented a draft paper concerning the GPC input to the Lund Revisited Conference and it was concluded that the GPC will aim at providing a common input on alignment. Delegations were invited to provide comments on the draft paper by 5 October with a view to finalise the draft in written procedure.

9. Presentation of the programme of the Luxembourg Presidency

The Chairperson of the Research Working Party, Ms Lynn Wenandy, gave a presentation on the programme of the Luxembourg Presidency in the field of research. Ms Wenandy informed delegations that the priorities of the Presidency include research integrity and gender equality. The Presidency is aiming at preparing Council conclusions on the two above-mentioned subjects as well as it plans to follow-up on the May 2015 Council Conclusions on the review of the European Research Area advisory structure.

10. AOB

The Chair indicated the tentative dates for the next GPC plenary meetings: 11 December 2015, and 12 February and 29 April 2016.
