

ERAC-GPC 1301/18

NOTE

Subject: Summary conclusions of the GPC plenary meeting of 4 December 2017

Delegations will find annexed to this Note the draft summary conclusions of the GPC plenary meeting on 4 December 2017, as adopted by written procedure.

The meeting was chaired by the GPC Chair, Mr Leonidas ANTONIOU. 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 adopted as set out in doc. CM 5127/17.

2. Debrief from the 3rd GPC Workshop on the Future of Joint Programming

Mr Martin SCHMID (AT) provided the information on the background and the structure of the 3rd GPC *Workshop on the Future of Joint Programming focussing on how to improve the coherence of the partnership landscape and strengthen the delivery of partnerships on tackling specific societal challenges*, which was held in Brussels on 7 November 2017. He also presented the following main messages from the plenary discussions:

- Strategic planning for R&I in the context of societal challenges needed – instruments follow content/objectives
- Stronger involvement of society – use JPI best practice
- Crucial role for UN-SDGs – mixed bottom up and top down approach
- More and more strategic alignment of FP/partnerships/MS activities
- Urgent need for more (sectoral) coordination of/among (existing) partnerships
- More openness and transparency both for selection and implementation of partnerships
- Striving for self-sustainability of partnerships – limited duration of funding
- Clear focus on impact – framework for setting KPIs

3. Debrief from the Annual Conference on Public-Public Partnerships, 7-8 November 2017

Mr Joerg NIEHOFF (Commission) debriefed delegations on the key elements of the Annual Conference on Public-Public Partnerships "Co-designing Public-Public Partnerships for the next Framework Programme" which was held in Brussels on 7-8 November 2017.

Presentations and reports from the conference could be found under the following address:

<https://www.era-learn.eu/events/annual-conference-on-public-public-partnerships-7-8-nov-2017>

In the discussions concerning the possible scenario for the future Framework Programme (FP9) the following main points were raised:

- The possible links between the missions of the FP9 and the partnerships.
- The questions of the existing networks and the possible reduced number of networks.
- The options for the possible exit strategy for partnerships.
- The possible expansion of the application of the state aid rules for the financing.
- The coherence of various R&D programmes.

4. Science Europe's Policy Brief on Public-to-Public Partnerships and the Next Framework Programme for Research and Innovation

Ms Maud EVRARD (Science Europe, Head of Policy Affairs) and Mr Stephan KUSTER (Science Europe, Director) presented Science Europe and its position on Public to Public Partnerships (P2Ps).

They also proposed to offer “consulting services” to support the GPC work on P2Ps.

5. Main outcomes of the Tallinn’s Joint Programming Workshop

Ms Dominique DARMENDRAIL (JPI Water) provided a presentation on the above subject.

6. Working Group on Long Term Strategy of Joint Programming - next steps

Mr Pontus HOLM (SE) informed about the current composition of the Working Group on Long Term Strategy of Joint Programming: AT, ES, FR, PT, SE (coordinator). He also presented the proposed objective of the work of the Group, the suggested methodology and the proposed timelines (Intermediate report prepared for the March 2018 GPC meeting and the final report for the June 2018 GPC meeting).

The Chair invited the Working Group to consider the following:

- Linking the analysis of the Long Term Strategies of the 10 JPIs with the criteria elaborated by the former GPC Implementation Group 3.
- Encouraging the participation of the JPIs in the process.
- The WG's work could elaborate on the GPC opinion on the future of JP and provide input to ERAC in the context of the work of the Ad-hoc WG on partnerships.

7. Art. 185 Evaluation

(a) Meta-Evaluation of Article 185 Initiatives - Report of the Expert Group

Ms Claire NAUWELAERS (member of the Expert Group) presented the mandate, the evaluation methods and the main findings of the Expert Group.

(b) The Commission Staff Working Document on Evaluation of the Participation of the EU in research and development programmes undertaken by several Member States based on Article 185 of the TFEU

Mr Alexander GRABLOWITZ (Commission) presented the background, the structure and the key findings of the above mentioned Commission Staff Working Document.

Delegations raised the following main points in the discussion:

- The lack of national resources was identified as the main cause of lower participation in Art. 185 Initiatives.
- Some smaller and medium-sized countries may find it more difficult to allocate resources to the Art. 185 Initiatives.
- Need for more strategic planning at a very early stage of the process.
- Urgent need of finding a new approach of increasing the participation of less research intensive countries.
- Need to explore various ways of the complementary use of the Structural Funds.

8. Priority 2a - Final report of the Task Force

Ms Petra ZAGAR (SI) presented the work performed by the Task Force on national action plans and strategies for Priority 2a.

It was concluded that following the discussions an updated version of the report will be circulated to delegations.

In addition it was decided that each delegation will prepare and submit to the Secretariat the Progress Priority 2A Excel tool by mid-February 2018.

9. Presentation of the priorities of the incoming Bulgarian Presidency

Mr Vladimir MANOLOV (representative of the incoming Bulgarian Presidency) presented the priorities of the incoming Presidency in the area of research and innovation. He also informed delegations about the flagship events planned by the Presidency.

10. General information concerning the recent developments within the ERA-related groups

The Chair provided the following information:

- The draft mandate of the ERAC Ad-hoc Working Group on Partnerships should be adopted at the ERAC Plenary on 5 December. ERAC should also confirm the election of Maria Reinfeldt (EE) as the Chair of the Ad-hoc WG. The first meeting of the Ad-hoc WG will take place on 6 December and the second in mid-January. The GPC Chair is a permanent observer in this Ad-hoc WG.
- The discussion of the Directors-General at the ERAC Plenary of 5 December will launch the 2018 review of the ERA advisory structure. The next steps foreseen for the review are:
 - i. The Steering Board will identify the scope of the review and define the terms of reference at its meeting in mid-January.

- ii. The results of the Steering Board discussions will be presented to ERAC at the March 2018 plenary. A rapporteur for the exercise would also be elected at the March plenary.
- iii. The final report of the review should be approved by ERAC at the 2018 June plenary.
- Like the other ERA-related groups, the GPC should submit its contribution to the ERAC Annual Report by the end of February 2018.

11. Any other business

Ms Petra Manderscheid (JPI Climate) presented a joint statement *Joint Research is essential to addressing grand challenges* of the JPIs of 24 November 2017.

The Chair recalled that the tentative dates for the next GPC plenary meetings are 6 March and 5 June 2018.
