

ERAC-GPC 1304/18

**NOTE**

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Subject: Summary conclusions of the GPC plenary meeting of 6 March 2018

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Delegations will find annexed to this Note the draft summary conclusions of the GPC plenary meeting on 6 March 2018, as adopted by written procedure.

The meeting was chaired by the GPC Chair, Mr Leonidas ANTONIOU and the GPC Vice-Chair, Mr Emmanuel PASCO-VIEL. 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 1681/18 with some changes in the order of the items.

**2. Future of Joint Programming**

**a) Update on the review of ERA advisory structure**

Mr Christian NACZINSKY, ERAC Member States co-Chair, presented the latest developments concerning the review of the ERA advisory structure. He provided the following main information:

- In its January meeting, ERAC Steering Board agreed on the Terms of Reference for the review.
- Several elements will be taken into consideration within the framework of the review, such as:
  - output and results of the Groups measured against objectives;
  - whether the mandates are still valid;
  - priorities as there might be new needs arising;
  - the number and the division of the Groups;
  - ways to improve efficiency and effectiveness of the work on ERA priorities;
  - the existing monitoring and reporting system;
  - management of the ERA governance systems and its interrelations;
  - ways of increasing impact beyond 2020.
- The methodology for the exercise has been agreed by the ERAC Steering Board and it consists of the following parts:
  - the Rapporteur will be elected in the next ERAC meeting;
  - the Rapporteur will be asked to develop a questionnaire to be sent to ERAC, ERA-related groups and stakeholders;
  - the Rapporteur will need to engage with the Presidencies covering the period of the review (2015-2018) to see how the work of the Groups feeds into the Council's work.
- The timetable for the exercise foresees the following steps:
  - an interim report will be presented at ERAC meeting in May;

- draft final report will be prepared before the summer break;
- Directors General will be invited to September ERAC meeting to look into the report;
- the incoming Austrian Presidency will prepare draft Council conclusions on the results of the review with a view to their adoption at the Council meeting in November.

**b) Information on the work of the GPC Task Force analysing the Long Term Strategies of the Joint Programming Initiatives on Long Term Strategy of Joint Programming**

Mr Pontus HOLM, SE delegation, provided the information on the work of the Task Force performing the analysis of the Long Term Strategies of the Joint Programming Initiatives. He presented the composition of the Task Force, the deliverables and the work concluded so far. Draft LTS analysis report is foreseen for the following GPC meeting in June.

Delegations raised the following main points:

- The report is very valuable and there is a need to ensure that it is drafted in a way which foresees repeatability and comparability for the future.
- It is important to take into consideration the criteria developed by the IG3.
- The GPC could consider at a later stage discussing the alignment between the JPIs and the missions-oriented approach.

**c) Information on the work of the ERAC Ad- hoc Working Group on Partnerships**

Mr Joerg NIEHOFF, Commission, provided information on the work of the ERAC Ad- hoc Working Group on Partnerships on behalf of the Chair of the ERAC Ad-hoc Working Group on Partnerships. He presented the context of the work undertaken by the Ad-hoc Group, its scope, the scope of the mandate of the Group, the current state of the discussions on the main criteria, the deliverables and the foreseen timelines.

The following main points were raised by delegations:

- Large support for the need for rationalisation of the partnerships landscape.
- Overall governance for different partnerships could be considered.

- A life cycle and/or an exit strategy for partnerships should be considered. Though these could be limited to the Commission's funded partnerships and related to commitment both from the Member States and the Commission.
- Increased synergies between different initiatives should be sought.
- The link between the public and the private should be reinforced.
- Aligning in general terms is a good approach though attention should be given to not harmonising too much as it may undermine the idea of the Member States' engagement.
- Clear lines of the division of the work between the Member States and the Commission should be foreseen.

**d) Discussion on the future of the Joint Programming and the role of the GPC**

The following main points were mentioned by delegations:

- There seems to be a need for a body that could advise on the partnerships landscape.
- The GPC could think on how to participate in the process. A few delegations mentioned the option of upgrading the GPC mandate or transferring its experience to a new structure underlining though that it is necessary to wait for the results of the discussions in ERAC.
- The new approach should be in place before summer 2019.
- The importance of coming up with a mechanism allowing for comparability in order to facilitate national decisions on financing partnerships has been underlined.
- The need to undertake a discussion by the GPC on the future funding instruments for the JPIs has been emphasised.

**3. Priority 2a - Final report of the Task Force**

**a) Initial results of the Monitoring Procedure**

The final report of the Task Force Priority 2a has been adopted by the GPC (1303/18).

Ms Petra ZAGAR, SI delegation, Rapporteur of the Priority 2a Task Force, presented the initial results of the monitoring procedure.

The deadline for delegations to provide the assessment of the progress of the Actions included in the NAPs has been extended to 31/3/2018.

**b) Best Practices of the actions planned or implemented in the ERA Roadmap  
Analysis Priority 2a**

Ms Ingunn Borlaug Lid, Norwegian delegation, presented the best practices of the actions planned or implemented in the ERA Roadmap Analysis Priority 2a in Norway.

Delegations have been requested to volunteer to present during the forthcoming GPC meeting of 5 June best practices of actions planned or already implemented in the ERA Roadmap Analysis Priority 2a of their respective countries.

**4. GPC input to the ERAC Annual Report**

The Vice-Chair presented the GPC draft input to the ERAC Annual Report. Following the discussions and a proposed new wording for paragraph 7 of the report, the Chair concluded that the report will be submitted for adoption in written procedure.

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

The Chair provided the following information:

- There will be an ERA workshop in Sofia on 14 March (with focus on human resources and the link between ERA and the higher education).
- The next ERAC plenary meeting will be held in Plovdiv on 15-16 March.
- The Chair and the Vice-Chair have started the review of the GPC work programme. In this context delegations have been encouraged to provide their ideas and proposals for the GPC Work Programme 2018-2019 in view of the discussions at the forthcoming GPC meeting.
- The Chair and the Vice-Chair envisage preparing a draft GPC Biennial Report for the following GPC meeting in June. The report is foreseen to follow the structure of the Annual Report.

**6. Any other business**

The Chair recalled the date of the next meeting: 5 June 2018.

The Commission suggested to consider taking up the follow-up information on the MLE on the agenda of the following GPC meeting.

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