

ERAC-GPC 1301/19

NOTE

Subject: Summary conclusions of the GPC plenary meeting of 7 December 2018

Delegations will find annexed to this Note the summary conclusions of the GPC plenary meeting of 7 December 2018, as adopted by the GPC on 6 March 2019.

The meeting was chaired by the GPC Chair, Mr Leonidas ANTONIOU and the GPC Vice-Chair, Mr Emmanuel PASCO-VIEL.

1. Approval of the provisional agenda

The agenda was adopted as set out in doc. CM 5351/1/18, with some changes in the order of the items.

2. Future of Joint Programming

2a. Criteria framework for Partnerships and Strategic Coordinating Process

Mr Joerg NIEHOFF (COM) made a presentation on the draft Criteria framework for European Partnerships and the Strategic Coordinating Process for Partnerships under Horizon Europe (documents WK 15353/2018, WK 14470/2018 and WK 14467/2018).

He referred, among other things, to the ERAC plenary session of 6 December 2018 at which ERAC welcomed the Commission proposals on the draft criteria framework for Partnerships and on the strategic coordinating process, as well as the proposal to set up a transitional Forum for R&I Partnerships.

2b. Parts of the Partial General Approach of the Horizon Europe proposal relevant to Partnerships

On behalf of the Austrian Presidency, Mr Martin SCHMID made a presentation on the parts of the Partial General Approach of the Horizon Europe proposal -adopted by the Competitiveness Council on 30/11/2018- which are relevant to European Partnerships (doc. WK 15354/2018).

He outlined, among other things, the confirmation by the Council in its Partial General Approach of the Commission proposal to include three types of Partnerships: co-programmed, co-funded and institutionalised.

In the ensuing debate, the delegations highlighted key aspects related to:

- the role of the Member States (MS) in the future process for the identification and selection of Partnerships
- synergies with the structural funds and the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI) for the funding of Partnerships

- the simplification and the improvement of the Partnerships landscape
- the position of the JPI's in the new landscape
- the geographical balance in the participation of MS in the future Partnerships.

3. Follow-up on the Council conclusions on the ERA governance, adopted on 30/11/2018

The Chair recalled the strong link between the future of the GPC and the Council conclusions on the ERA adopted on 30/11/2018 (following the ERAC recommendations on the ERA governance review), as well as with the Commission proposals presented at the ERAC plenary of 6 December 2018 on the strategic coordinating process for Partnerships.

He invited delegations to express their views on how they see the future of the GPC in relation with the future of the ERA governance and the strategic coordinating process for Partnerships in Horizon Europe, with a view to considering possible scenarios and options in order to elaborate concrete ideas for the future.

3a. Information by the AT Presidency

The MS co-Chair of ERAC, Mr Christian NACZINSKY, made a presentation of the Council conclusions on the Governance of the ERA (doc. 14989/18), with a focus on paragraphs 5, 6 and 20 of the conclusions, which are more relevant to GPC activities.

Among other things, he referred to the support of the ERAC plenary of 6 December 2018 to the Commission's approach on the Strategic coordinating process for Partnerships.

He also referred to his intervention during the ERAC plenary where he put forward prospects for reflection on the future of the GPC taking into account the creation of the envisaged Forum for R&I Partnerships, which might be inspired on the ESFRI model, and would steer and monitor the lifecycle of the Partnerships. A radical option would be the suspension of the GPC, as the new Forum would deal with R&I Partnerships. A smoother looking-forward option would consist in the integration of key topics like openness and transparency of networks in the context of inclusiveness into the existing GPC tasks, for the estimated two-year transition phase, with a view to paving the way for the possible inclusion of these topics as new ERA priorities in the future.

The GPC's new perspective would not require therefore modification of the GPC mandate.

He finally encouraged GPC delegates to start a reflection period with a view to taking a decision at the next GPC meeting on 6 March 2019.

The GPC Chair agreed that a clear direction on the future of the GPC should be given. He also concurred with the opinion of taking advance of the current context in order to explore in the GPC a possible future ERA priority on inclusiveness. The incoming Romanian Presidency recalled that inclusiveness was also part of the priorities under its presidency.

Many delegations supported to have a focus on inclusiveness, in line with the theme number 5 on inclusiveness contained in the current GPC work programme 2018-2019.

Many also highlighted the need to streamline procedures for Partnerships, while avoiding duplications of structures, and taking advanced of the valuable experience of the GPC.

Some delegations pointed out to the need to continue working in support of the JPIs.

It was decided that the Vice-Chair of the GPC will coordinate a small task force of volunteers to prepare a discussion document on possible options regarding the future activities of the GPC including openness and transparency of European collaborative networks.

The document should be ready by 20 January 2019 with a view to presenting it to the ERAC Steering Board meeting of 29 January and eventually approved in the next GPC plenary, scheduled for 6 March 2019. This document should lead to the update of the GPC work programme for 2019-20 adequately.

3b. *ERAC Workshop of 5/12/2018*

GPC delegates were debriefed on the outcomes of the three subgroups of the ERAC Workshop that took place in Brussels on 5 December 2018:

- Subgroup 1 (Impact of the ERA Council conclusions and the follow-up on the review of the ERA advisory structure) - presentation made by the Vice-Chair Emmanuel PASCO-VIEL
- Subgroup 2 (Options for a simpler and coherent monitoring of ERA NAPs) - presentation made by Mrs Petra ZAGAR
- Subgroup 3 (Sharing information on the national governance for the transition period and of partnerships in a longer perspective) - presentation made by Mrs Maria REINDFELDT (Commission) (doc. WK 15357/2018)

3c. *Working Group on the Future of Joint Programming - state of play*

The Vice-Chair presented an update on the state of play on the work of the WG on the Future of Joint Programming.

4. General information by the Chair

4a. *Recent developments within the ERA-related groups*

The Chair presented the state of play on the work of ERA-related groups and referred to the updates submitted by the ERA-related groups to the ERAC plenary of 6 December 2018:

<http://data.consilium.eu.int/doc/document/wk-14491-2018-init/en/pdf>.

4b. *10 Years Joint Programming Conference – JPIs Common Declaration*

The Chair presented the outcome of the Joint Programming Conference that took place in Vienna, on 19 and 20 September 2018.

He recalled the Declaration on "Driving Research and Innovation to address societal challenges" signed by chairs of the JPIs.

4c. *Collaboration with ERA-related groups - SFIC*

The Vice-Chair provided updated information on the collaboration of the GPC with the SFIC.

5. Presentation of priorities for the upcoming Romanian Presidency

Mrs Ioana ISPAS, on behalf of the incoming Romanian Presidency, gave an overview of the priorities of the Romanian Presidency in the first semester of 2019 (doc. WK 15358/2018).

6. Procedure for the election of Chair and Vice-Chair

The Chair recalled that the mandates of the incumbent GPC Chair and Vice-Chair will expire on 8 March 2019 and the elections will take place at the GPC plenary meeting of 6 March 2019.

In this respect, he recalled Articles 3 and 4 of the GPC Rules of procedure ([doc ERAC-GPC 1308/16](#)).

The period to submit applications will be opened until 5 February 2019.

The new Chair and the Vice-Chair will take over their duties for a period of three years as from 9 March 2019.

The GPC Secretariat was instructed to circulate in written form the procedure and timelines for the election of the GPC Chair and Vice-Chair.

7. Any other business

The Chair recalled that the next meetings of the GPC are scheduled on 6th March and 4th June 2019.
