

ERAC-GPC 1302/19

NOTE

Subject: Summary conclusions of the High Level Group for Joint Programming
(GPC) plenary meeting of 6 March 2019

Delegations will find annexed to this Note the summary conclusions of the GPC plenary meeting of 6 March 2019, 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.

1. Approval of the provisional agenda

The agenda was adopted as set out in document CM 1744/19 and the Chair welcomed the new members to the group.

2. Approval of the draft summary conclusions of the GPC plenary of 7 December 2018

The plenary adopted the summary conclusions of the GPC meeting on 7 December 2018 as set out in document ERAC-GPC 1301/19.

3. Monitoring and evaluating JPIs

The rapporteur of the JPI's joint task force on monitoring and evaluation, Svend Otto REMØE, made a presentation on the final report on key indicators elaborated by the task force (doc. WK 3457/2019 + COR1).

The rapporteur explained the background, objectives and challenges of the task force, which was established in January 2017 by the chairs of the decision making bodies from the ten JPIs, with the purpose to define a framework of common dimensions and indicators relevant and applicable to all JPIs.

Among other things, he referred to the difficulties of establishing comparisons between the JPI's in some cases given their different nature.

In the ensuing debate, the rapporteur clarified that the next step for the JPIs is to establish their new frameworks, which relates very much to the need for a stable system for the collection and treatment of data.

In response to criticisms from one delegation, the rapporteur stressed that the goal is to streamline and simplify tasks while avoiding duplications.

The Chair of the GPC commended the work done by the task force as valuable and useful for the collaboration with the GPC and considered that the main relevant elements are well reflected in the final report with a balanced approach. Moreover he recalled that self-assessments will have to be done by the JPIs and that JPIs are governed by management boards where there are representatives from each member country.

4. Inclusiveness, Openness and Transparency of Networks

- Monitoring Flash “Dynamic Network Analysis”

Julien RAVET (Commission) made a presentation (doc. WK 3459/2019 + COR1) of the Monitoring Flash “[Dynamic Network Analysis](#)” (November 2018).

In the replies to questions put forward by delegates, it was clarified that calculations in the monitoring flash had been made in order to show qualitative results, including on the use of data for smaller countries. It was also outlined that the study was helpful for Horizon Europe negotiations and it might be of great value for future tasks to be carried out by the GPC in the near future.

- The results of the [mutual learning exercise \(MLE\) on Widening Participation and Strengthening Synergies](#)

Professor Lena J. TSIPOURI made a presentation (doc. WK 3462/2019 + COR1) on the MLE carried out between October 2017 and June 2018 which focused on ways to further support national participation in EU framework programmes, as well as on how to improve the use of structural funds and exploit synergies at national level to build up a knowledge economy.

The MLE is one of the three instruments of the Horizon 2020 [Policy Support Facility](#).

The presentation was introduced by Magda CARLI (Commission), who outlined the importance of exchanging best practises, recalled that widening participation is a shared responsibility and acknowledged that there is room for improvement in the use of cohesion funds. She also drew attention to the fact that the abrupt separation used in some studies between performing and less performing countries in the field of R&I is no totally accurate because some regions in certain performing countries can suffer from similar problems like, for example, lack of stimulus to attracting and retaining top talents.

Professor TSIPOURI explained the grounds, motivations and focus of this MLE and the exchange of experiences and analysis of impact in four relevant selected topics: 1. Attract qualified R&D staff and fight against brain drain 2. Encourage science-business cooperation, 3. Improve networking through participation in actions at EU level and 4. Support to skills development, information, communication and training.

In the ensuing debate, Member States explained the latest developments on widening participation and synergies in their respective countries.

In her replies to questions, Professor TSIPOURI clarified that widening participation should not happen at the cost of excellence and that, when trying to tackle problems related to brain drain, the framework conditions in EU countries and regions must not necessarily be equal, but should not in any case be radically different. She also explained that future partnerships was not a part of the experts' mandate.

A number of delegates agreed that it is of paramount importance to clarify the concept of widening participation and that this issue is relevant to all EU countries and not only to some of them.

Several GPC delegates and the Chair praised the impact of this study and indicated that it had been taken into account at national level. More generally, they underscored the usefulness of the MLEs and expressed their support for future similar advisory activities. In this context, the Commission announced an upcoming report aimed at improving the Policy Support Facility instruments.

The Chair concluded that the presentation will also be helpful for identifying concrete issues that the GPC will have to address under its new orientation.

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

The rapporteur of the Task force on the future of the GPC, Emmanuel PASCO-VIEL, presented the draft report (doc. WK 2584/2019) on the Future role of the GPC and its accompanying work programme 2019-2020.

He explained the key messages of the draft report and the possible scenarios for the future of the GPC, while highlighting the need for a clear articulation between the GPC and the future "Forum for R&I Partnerships".

The draft report was supported by a majority of GPC delegations and by the Commission.

A number of delegations though stressed the need to continue providing support to the JPIs, whereas other delegations suggested to carry out an assessment on the achievements reached by the JPIs before the end of 2020.

The GPC Chair was also of the view that the draft report was balanced and keeps the door open on possible ways forward.

The draft report was adopted by the GPC with a minor addition and the GPC agreed to forward it to the ERAC plenary of 21-22 March 2019 for endorsement as set out in document WK 3556/2019.

6. Updated work programme 2019-2020 for the GPC

Based on a proposal attached to the Report on the future of the GPC, delegates discussed on the template with the timeline of the draft work programme 2019-2020 for the GPC, which had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Following comments made by delegations, the GPC agreed on modifications of the template of the GPC work programme 2019-2020. The template will be forwarded to the ERAC Steering Board and to the GPC for formal adoption.

The GPC decided to create a task force of volunteers on how to deal within the GPC with the Joint Programming process (corresponding to themes 1, 2 and 4 of the draft GPC work programme 2019-2020), building on the work of the previous Working Group on the future of JP. The new task force will provisionally be made up of FR, IT, NO, SE and UK delegates, and remain open to other GPC delegates willing to contribute to the work.

The GPC also decided to create a task force of volunteers on possible actions on the new topic related to inclusiveness and openness of networks to be carried out by the GPC during the transition period. The task force will provisionally be made up of AT, DE, PT, SI and RO delegates, and remain open to other GPC delegates willing to contribute to the work.

7. Monitoring of ERA Priority 2a

Petra ŽAGAR (SI), rapporteur of the task force for monitoring ERA Priority 2a, provided updated information on the progress made in monitoring Priority 2a of the ERA national action plans and strategies (doc. WK 3463/2019 + COR1).

The presentation included additional clarifications on the monitoring tool as well as the next steps in the process towards the final presentation on the progress made at the June ERAC plenary.

The second round for contributions by GPC delegations on national progress in Priority 2a actions will remain open until 2 May 2019.

8. General information on recent developments within the ERA-related groups

The GPC Vice-Chair debriefed the GPC on the outcome of the ERAC Steering Board meeting held on 29 January 2019.

He notably referred to the presentation to the Steering Board of the draft report (doc. WK 2584/2019) on the Future role of the GPC and its accompanying work programme 2019-2020 (see also item 5 above), where no comments had been made by the Steering Board members on the text of the draft report.

The GPC Chair recalled that the GPC contribution to the ERAC Annual Report 2018 is expected before end March 2019 and therefore a draft contribution will be circulated to delegations for comments.

9. Election of new Chair and Vice-Chair

As a result of a procedure launched on 10 December 2018 for the renewal of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the GPC, the GPC Secretariat received two applications for the position of new GPC Chair introduced by Rui Durão (PT) and by Emmanuel Pasco-Viel (FR), and one application for the position of new GPC Vice-Chair introduced by Petra Žagar (SI).

Following a vote, a majority of GPC members elected Emmanuel PASCO-VIEL as new GPC Chair for a period of three years starting on 9 March 2019.

The GPC also elected Petra ŽAGAR as new GPC Vice-Chair for the same period.

10. Any other business

The outgoing GPC Chair, Leonidas ANTONIOU, thanked the GPC delegates for their commitment and hard work during his chairmanship and asked for continued constructive support to the new GPC Chair and Vice-Chair. In his farewell speech, he notably referred to the openness of the work carried out by the GPC to all the joint programming community as one of the main successful achievements during his term in office.

The GPC delegations paid tribute to the outgoing GPC Chair for the achievements accomplished by the group during the previous three years. They congratulated the incoming GPC Chair and Vice-Chair for their new positions and expressed support in taking forward the GPC work during their mandates.

The GPC also thanked Martin SCHMID (AT) who announced his departure from his post in the GPC.

The next GPC plenary meeting is scheduled on 4 June 2019.