

ERAC-GPC 1304/19

NOTE

Subject: Summary conclusions of the High Level Group for Joint Programming
(GPC) plenary meeting of 4 June 2019

Delegations will find annexed to this Note the summary conclusions of the GPC plenary meeting of 4 June 2019, as adopted by written procedure.

The meeting was chaired by the GPC Chair, Mr Emmanuel PASCO-VIEL and the GPC Vice-Chair, Ms Petra ŽAGAR.

1. Approval of the provisional agenda

The agenda was adopted as set out in document CM 2920/1/19 and the Chair welcomed the new members to the group.

2. Approval of the GPC Work Programme 2019-2020

The plenary formally adopted, without discussion, the GPC Work Programme 2019-2020 as set out in document [ERAC-GPC 1303/19](#).

3. Preparation of the GPC report: draft template for the questionnaire on impact of JP at national level

The Chair presented a preliminary document for discussion (WK 6775/2019) on the "Survey on impact of Joint Programming at national level".

The survey features the GPC Work Programme 2019-2020, which includes the task of producing a report on JPP and JPIs with a focus on the impact of JP at national level.

The draft survey, which was prepared by the group of delegations who volunteered to join a taskforce on this issue, seeks to provide knowledge on the impact of JPIs on research systems, policy making, knowledge transfer to other governmental agencies and organizations and possible influence on the society in general, at national level.

GPC delegations welcomed the document and agreed with the scope and general thrust of the draft survey. GPC delegations also made a number of comments and suggestions to be taken into account in a new version of the document, including possible support by ERA-LEARN, which will be circulated to delegations with a view to the finalisation of the survey before the summer break.

4. Future of Joint Programming

a) GPC contribution to the ERAC Ad-hoc Working Group on future of the ERA

The Chair informed on the state of play and next steps of the work carried out by the ERAC Ad-hoc Working Group on future of the ERA (WK 6991/2019).

The Ad-hoc Working Group, which had its first constitutive meeting on 24 May, has been instructed to submit a draft ERAC Opinion with the following deliverables to ERAC:

- options for a new narrative/paradigm for the ERA 2020-2030 (until September 2019), and
- possible future ERA objectives and priorities, taking into account, inter alia, relevant interlinkages with Horizon Europe, in particular the part ‘Reforming and enhancing the EU Research and Innovation System’ (until December 2019).

The draft ERAC Opinion should be available by 1 December 2019, with a view to the ERAC plenary on 17 December 2019.

The Chair announced that all ERA-related groups had been invited to contribute to the work of the new Ad-hoc Working Group by presenting a collective view from the perspective of their respective ERA priorities.

A few delegations gave general preliminary comments on how GPC topics and Priority 2a could evolve in the post-2020 ERA landscape.

b) The strategic planning process towards Horizon Europe

The Chair introduced the subject by recalling the transition phase on topics relevant to the GPC in the context of the new approach on partnerships and the coordinating process, as well as the new topic related to inclusiveness and openness of networks that the GPC is starting to examine.

In particular, he mentioned the mandate of the ERAC Ad-hoc Working Group on the future of the ERA, which includes a reflection on the linkages between ERA and the Horizon Europe framework programme, outlining that Horizon Europe includes a transversal part with activities dedicated to strengthening the ERA.

The Commission representative, Joerg NIEHOFF, provided information on the progress made related to two key elements that are intertwined under Horizon Europe:

- the Strategic Planning process, under which all Partnerships will have to be identified, and
- the Strategic Coordinating Process for Partnerships.

He notably referred to a [preliminary list of 44 candidates for European Partnerships](#).

5. Update on ERA-LEARN activities

The Commission provided updated information of ERA-LEARN activities in relation to impact assessment and evaluation of public partnerships in R&I (WK 6995/2019).

In particular, it was highlighted the potential collaboration between ERA-LEARN and the GPC.

6. Inclusiveness: Openness and transparency of networks

In the context of the new activity on openness and transparency of networks included in the GPC Work Programme 2019-2020 (see item 2 here above), the GPC heard a presentation by the Director of the COST Association Ronald DE BRUIN (WK 6986/2019).

The presentation had a focus on promoting and spreading excellence in R&I, which is one of the three strategic priorities in the ERA identified by COST, together with fostering interdisciplinary research for breakthrough science and boosting careers for young researchers.

It was notably outlined that inclusiveness is parameter which is integrated from the beginning of the COST actions and combined with excellence.

Following a questions and answers session, the GPC Vice-Chair presented a roadmap of the GPC task force of volunteers in charge of examining possible actions on inclusiveness and openness of networks to be carried out by the GPC during the transition period (WK 6993/2019).

The task force was created at the last GPC plenary on 6 March 2019 and is provisionally made up of AT, DE, PT, RO and SI delegates. It has the purpose to draw up recommendations to ERAC in view of a possible future ERA priority on inclusiveness in accordance with the GPC Work Programme 2019-2020.

7. Monitoring of ERA Priority 2a

The Vice-Chair and rapporteur of the task force for monitoring ERA Priority 2a, Petra ŽAGAR, provided updated information on the progress made in monitoring Priority 2a of the ERA national action plans and strategies.

The presentation (WK 6994/2019) included a quantitative and qualitative assessment with a view to its final presentation made at the ERAC plenary on 6 June 2019.

8. Recent developments within other ERA-related groups

The Chair debriefed the GPC on the outcome of the ERAC Steering Board meeting held on 7 May 2019 (WK 6991/2019).

In particular, he addressed the measures to be taken by the GPC in 2019 in order to implement the relevant actions contained in the Action Plan on the ERA review 2019-2021, which are the following ones:

1. Update of the GPC Work Programme

This action is concluded (see item 2 here above).

2. ERA stakeholder organisations provide information to ERAC and are invited to selected meetings of ERAC and/or other ERA-related groups, wherever relevant

This action is already a current practise within the GPC, notably through the invitation to JPIs representatives and other external stakeholders to regularly participate in GPC meetings. It will continue in future meetings.

3. Gender issues shall be discussed under a dedicated agenda item in GPC as necessary and in relation to its specific mission and mandate

This action shall be considered in upcoming GPC meetings.

4. Revisit the rules of procedures of GPC and SFIC. Drop interpretation services for GPC and SFIC

The GPC will examine if its rules of procedure need to be reviewed.

The Chair announced that, following verification with the Council legal service, interpretation services in GPC meetings will be discontinued as from the next GPC plenary. The relevant rule being Article 11(1) of the ERAC Rules of Procedure which provides that "All meetings of the Committee and its Working Groups shall be conducted in English." As dedicated configurations of ERAC, this rule also applicable to both the SFIC and the GPC.

GPC delegates were therefore requested to take note that the interpretation services in GPC meetings will stop as from the next GPC plenary.

5. All ERA-related groups select a rapporteur to conduct and present a stock-taking exercise of NAPs for their respective ERA Priority

This action is ongoing by means of the GPC task force led by the GPC Vice-Chair (see item 7 here above).

6. ERA-related groups, especially Chairs, reflect on the proper volume and content of meeting documents and how to improve timely distribution thereof

Efforts will be increased to distribute in advance GPC documents to allow proper preparations by delegations.

9. Information by the current and incoming EU Presidencies

- Delegations heard a presentation (WK 6982/2019) by Ioana ISPAS (RO) on the progress made in the Romanian Presidency priorities.

- Delegations heard a presentation (WK 6985/2019) by Noora ERONEN (FI) on the priorities of the incoming Finnish Presidency.

10. Any other business

Next GPC plenaries are scheduled on Friday 20 September and Tuesday 10 December 2019.
