

Informal videoconference of the members of the GPC

Monday 25 May 2020 - from 10.30 to 13.00

Main results

1. Welcome by the Chair

The Chair welcomed the participants and clarified that, in accordance with the Council rules, the virtual meeting is an informal one where no formal decisions can be taken. The main objective of the meeting being to exchange information on the various topics of the agenda.

2. Presentation of priorities of the upcoming German Presidency

The upcoming German Presidency gave an overview of the priorities and events in R&I during its term in the second half of 2020. It was notably outlined the importance of future synergies between the European Research and Education areas, on which the upcoming Trio of Presidencies are currently developing a joint roadmap.

3. Follow-up to the Final report on openness/transparency

Following a presentation by the Vice-Chair on the Report by the GPC task force on Openness and transparency of networks which was endorsed by the GPC on 18 March 2020, and forwarded to ERAC, delegates exchanged views on the follow-up to the Report.

The Group concluded that the report will be very useful for the future of activities in this field, which will be most likely under the remit of the Forum of Partnerships. The Group concurred that it remains to be seen how GPC will fit in the landscape after the presentation of the Commission communication on the ERA, expected this summer, and the review of the ERA advisory structure due in 2021. Given this context, it is still difficult to predict how the situation will evolve at this point in time.

4. Continuation of the work on impact of Joint Programming

The Chair made a presentation on the state of play of the work on the impact of Joint Programming (JP) at national level.

A first presentation had been made at the last GPC plenary of 10 December 2019 on the preliminary findings of the survey that was conducted in 2019 (document WK 14146/2019).

He notably explained that the results of the survey can be very useful in the context of the assessment of the work carried out by the JPIs during the last 10 years, and how the achievements by the JPIs can be valuable in the current Partnerships process.

Several GPC delegates also elaborated on the future of the JPIs as a part of the landscape after the establishment of the Forum for Partnerships in R&I, and the possible role of the GPC to continue supporting the JPIs.

The workshop on the impact of JP at national level originally planned in April 2020 could not take place because of the COVID-19 crisis. However, it was not excluded that the workshop, with physical attendance, could be organised in the second half of 2020, which should have a forward-looking focus. ERA-LEARN has also additional data that could be combined for the follow-up of the assessment on JP.

The Chair proposed to send a message to the JPIs representatives in order to gather views on their prospects for the future.

5. Monitoring of the ERA Priority 2a

The Vice-Chair debriefed on the state of play of the ongoing exercise for the monitoring of Priority 2a.

Among other things, she explained that this 3rd monitoring exercise allows to make a comparison with the 2018 and 2019 monitoring exercises. In this respect, she pointed out that there have been almost no cancelled measures.

She also referred to the next ERAC plenary on 4 June, where the rapporteur for the monitoring of ERA NAPs will present the state of play on the progress made on the monitoring of all ERA priorities, including with the input by the GPC.

6. Recent developments within other ERA-related groups

The Chair briefed on the outcome of the last ERAC Steering Board meeting of 29 April, which prepared the informal ERAC meeting planned on 4 June 2020.

The agenda of the next ERAC meeting will include the following main items:

- the state of play of the response to the COVID-19 crisis in the ERA from two angles:
 - the implementation of the "ERAvsCorona Action Plan" (the Commission will provide a document ahead of the plenary), and
 - the activities of the ERA groups (based on an overview of actions undertaken by some ERA groups on COVID-19). It was considered that the GPC did not need to undertake any work on this respect as the GPC's scope of action had been covered by the Commission.
- A debate on synergies between the European Education and Research areas.
- A debate on the state of play of the work conducted by the Transitional Forum for R&I Partnerships.

7. Update on the preparation of European Partnerships and the transitional Forum for Partnerships

The Commission presented an oral update on the current status of preparation and next steps on European Partnerships and informed delegations on the ongoing work of the transitional Forum for Partnerships.

Among other things, the following main stages were highlighted:

- The European Commission is currently finalising the impact assessment for institutionalised partnerships. Adoption of Commission proposals is planned for autumn 2020.
- It will not be possible to present legislative proposals on initiatives related to Articles 185 and 187 until there is an agreement on the next Multiannual Financial Framework.
- Draft partnership proposals elaborated by partners will be published by mid-June.

- Member States will be required to make commitment for participation and contribution by September.
- Around mid-June a document on synergies with other EU programmes will be sent to the Horizon Europe Shadow Strategic programme committee.
- The Transitional Forum has produced drafts on deliverables that will be presented at the ERAC plenary next week with a view to gather feedback from ERAC delegations. The next steps to improve national preparedness will be discussed at this meeting.
- The final shape of the Forum will only be known once the discussions on the overall context of the ERA governance will be developed.
- Several recent documents related to the ongoing work have been uploaded in the ERA-LEARN portal.

8. Chairmanship of the GPC

Following the message sent by the GPC Chair, Emmanuel Pasco-Viel, to the GPC delegations on 7 May 2020 announcing that he will have to step down from his duties as Chair of the GPC for professional reasons as from 1 June 2020, he thanked all GPC delegates for their excellent work under his term in office as Chair of the group.

Many delegations praised the work accomplished by the Chair and his continued commitment with the Group.

Following previous exchanges with the Vice-Chair, the Council Secretariat and the MS ERAC co-Chair, it was proposed that the current Vice-Chair, Petra Zagar, assumes the role of Acting Chair of the GPC to avoid a gap in the chairmanship of the GPC.

There was a common understanding among the GPC delegates that the current Vice-Chair should act as Acting Chair of the GPC to ensure the continuation of the chairmanship at least until the end of 2020.

9. Any Other Business

None.
