

EUROPEAN UNION
EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA
AND INNOVATION COMMITTEE
High Level Group for
Joint Programming

Secretariat

Brussels, 5 November 2019
(OR. en)

ERAC-GPC 1305/19

NOTE

Subject: Summary conclusions of the High Level Group for Joint Programming
(GPC) plenary meeting of 20 September 2019

Delegations will find annexed to this Note the summary conclusions of the GPC plenary meeting of 20 September 2019, as adopted by written procedure.

Summary conclusions of the GPC plenary meeting of 20 September 2019

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 as set out in document.

The agenda was adopted as set out in document [CM 3646/19](#) and the Chair welcomed new members to the group from FI, HR and SI.

2. Strategic Coordinating Process for Partnerships

The GPC held an exchange of views, together with JPIs representatives, on the basis of detailed information provided by the Commission on the state of play and the next steps of the Strategic Coordinating Process for Partnerships (WK 10287/2019).

In reply to questions by delegations, the Commission recalled that choices will have to be operated within the framework of the Strategic Planning of Horizon Europe, and stressed in particular that the transparency of the process for the selection of Partnerships in the relevant areas will be mainly ensured through open public consultation as well as the structured consultation of the Member States through the Shadow Strategic Configuration of the Horizon Europe Programme Committee.

The Commission also anticipated the next steps of preparations and provided with the provisional timeline for the preparation of Article 185/187 initiatives that is expected to result in the launch of the first wave of European Partnerships in early 2021.

3. Future of the JPIs in the new landscape of partnerships in Horizon Europe

The JPIs representatives gave a presentation (WK 10291/2019) and provided views on how they see the evolution of the JPIs in the context of Horizon Europe and the new approach on partnerships.

During the presentation on behalf of the JPIs representatives, Ms Margit Noll (JPI Urban Europe) identified a number of critical issues that would have to be addressed related to several aspects such as simplification, involvement of partners in the co-creation, co-design and co-decision of future partnerships, models for coordination and participation of international partners.

The Commission thanked for the valuable input and clarified that it is too soon at this stage of the process to be able to provide details in implementation features of future partnerships.

Some delegations encourage the Commission to continue the dialogue. It was also mentioned the importance of the early commitment from the member states for the success of the future partnerships.

4. Survey on impact of Joint Programming at national level

The Chair informed on the state of play of the ongoing survey on the impact of JP at national level. Given that up to now only eight delegations have completed the questionnaire that was distributed to the GPC delegations, it was decided that the deadline for completing the questionnaire on the survey which was originally set on September 20, is extended for an additional month, until 25 October 2019, to allow delegations more time for better internal coordination.

The Chair recalled the target to deliver the report in 2020.

5. Gender equality in the context of Joint Programming

By way of introduction, the Chair recalled that gender is a cross-cutting dimension included in the ERA Action Plan to be considered by the ERA-related groups including the GPC.

Ms Ana Puy, in her capacity of representative of the ERAC Standing Working Group on Gender in R&I and member of the Horizon 2020 GENDERACTION Project, made a presentation on ways to mainstream gender equality in Joint Programming activities.

The presentation included a number of proposal for collaboration and interaction between the GPC and the Standing Working Group on Gender in R&I (WK 10288/2019), such as the creation of a mixed group to develop guidelines and recommendations for mainstreaming gender in the programming cycle for European partnerships.

Many delegations stressed the need to overcome gender imbalances in R&I institutions and decision making bodies and welcomed the possibility to engage in joint activities in order to raise awareness with a view to better integrate gender issues into research and development policies, programmes and projects.

JPIs representatives shared some experiences in their respective fields of action and agreed with the GPC delegates that the JPIs can make an impact in gender issues.

The Chair welcomed the proposals for collaboration and showed openness to explore ways of close collaboration.

Furthermore, delegates were invited to sign up for GENDERACTION training sessions by expressing their interest to the GPC Secretariat.

Delegations were also invited to register for a Mutual Learning Workshop on *Gender in international cooperation in STI* to take place in La Valetta, Malta, on 7 and 8 November 2019 (<https://forms.gle/wpZkYusRXZkzSAJYA>).

6. Future of Joint Programming

The Chair recalled the GPC contribution that was sent on 1 July 2019 to the ERAC Ad-hoc Working Group on future of the ERA.

The GPC contribution was consolidated thanks to oral input provided by delegations at the last GPC plenary meeting on 4 June and written input provided by several delegations afterwards.

The Chair also underlined that the Ad-hoc Working Group is about starting to work on the possible future priorities for the ERA after 2020, and the importance that these deliberations will have for the future shape of the Joint Programming process.

In the ensuing debate, the majority of delegations agreed that the GPC has a crucial role to play during the transitional period and its experience and expertise can greatly contribute to build the future landscape.

They however acknowledged that it is too soon to foresee how precisely the Joint Programming process will be articulated and monitored in the future ERA and that the centre of gravity would in any case move towards the process of partnerships.

Therefore they agreed that the GPC should start preparing for the new framework.

The Commission underlined that the future Forum for R&I Partnerships would cover all partnerships of European relevance, also those not supported as European Partnerships under the Framework Programme.

Several delegations underscored that existing JPIs may continue their activities under a different form as long as they find the right place in the upcoming strategic research agendas.

Other contextual elements were also mentioned, such as possible links with the increasing importance of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Chair concluded that the GPC will revert on these issues at upcoming meetings.

7. Inclusiveness: Openness and transparency of networks

The GPC heard a presentation by the Vice-Chair on the progress of the GPC task force on inclusiveness and openness/transparency of networks (WK 10293/2019).

The Chair announced that he will request additional guidance from the ERAC Steering Board on the way forward related to activities of the task force.

8. Recent developments within other ERA-related groups

- Outcome of the last ERAC Steering Board meeting and preparations for the next ERAC plenary (including final report on monitoring ERA priorities in the NAPs)

The Chair debriefed on the outcome of the last ERAC Steering Board meeting on 2 July and on preparations for ERAC plenary in Helsinki on 2 October 2019.

He notably referred to the final report on monitoring ERA priorities in the NAPs ([1212/19](#)) to be submitted to ERAC for approval. The report includes the GPC analysis on ERA Priority 2a.

- Implementation of the Action Plan on the ERA review

The Chair informed on the state of play of the implementation of actions to be carried out by the GPC contained in the ERA Action Plan.

In this respect, the GPC Secretariat encouraged delegations to limit their request for interpretation in future GPC meetings before the beginning of the next Presidency with a view to implementing in a practical way the provisions agreed in the ERA Action Plan, on the understanding that GPC delegations will continue to fully maintain their right to request interpretation services for GPC meetings and that the current legal situation on the interpretation regime has not changed.

9. Next meeting: Tuesday 10 December 2019
