EUROPEAN UNION

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

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NOTE

Subject:	GPC contribution to the ERAC 2016 annual Report

Delegations will find in the annex GPC contribution to the ERAC 2016 annual Report, as adopted by the GPC at its meeting on 7 March 2017.

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Priority 2a: Jointly Addressing Grand Challenges

The High Level Group for Joint Programming (GPC) is responsible for Priority 2a of the ERA Roadmap.

Key achievements supporting the implementation of the group's specific ERA priority

The main activities of the GPC are promoted through the work done by Working Groups (WG), Implementation Groups (IG), Task Forces (TF) and Rapporteurs (RA). During 2016, the GPC adopted the suggestions prepared by some groups which were set up in 2015. In addition, new working groups were set up in 2016, in view of the implementation of the New Work Programme of the GPC for the period 2016-2018

When undertaking its activities, presented below, the GPC sought to contribute to the progress of ERA in general and more specifically of the Priority 2a, both at national and European level.

1. **Fostering Relationships among the JPIs and the GPC**

The work of the IG on *"Fostering Relationships among the JPIs and the GPC"* focused on the role of the actors (JPIs, GPC and the EC) of the Joint Programming Process (JPP) and led to a set of recommendations that was adopted by the GPC. The main conclusions of the IG are: (i) a much stronger interplay between the actors of the JPP is needed to further advance JP and the JPIs and (ii) GPC shall have a much more active role in the future and shall be supportive in creating a favourable environment for the implementation of JPIs.

This led to the decision of inviting, wherever possible, the JPIs' representatives to the meetings of the GPC and the WGs and the participation of GPC Chairs in JPIs' Chairs meetings. This improves the smooth information flow and strengthens the cooperation between the GPC and the JPIs.

2. **Improving Alignment and Interoperability**

The IG on *"Improving Alignment and Interoperability"* was given the task to develop strategies, instruments and methods to boost alignment from both the JPIs and the MS&AC, the EC and other stakeholders. The IG performed an alignment mapping exercise, with all relevant stakeholders, which highlighted the importance of a high level national commitment, of an overarching inclusive national strategy, and of using the national budget as an instrument for promoting alignment.

Interestingly, also the national governance of the JPP was explored, which led to a set of recommendations providing guidance for national processes to make MS better prepared for international alignment and interoperability.

3. Monitoring and Evaluation

The IG on *"Monitoring and Evaluating JPIs"* mainly focused its work on the development of minimum conditions for the assessment of new and existing JPIs. In order to assess new and existing JPIs, the IG developed a multi-dimensional set of criteria on which the JPIs have to provide sufficient information to the GPC to compose an informed advice to the Competitiveness Council on whether to start a new JPI or maintain an existing one. The criteria and minimum conditions are arranged in assessment process differentiating between new and existing JPIs.

This had an effect at European level by opening formally the possibility to select new JPIs. It also provides a set of criteria to be used from national authorities in order to decide about supporting ideas for new JPIs and participating in existing initiatives.

4. Long Term Strategy of Joint Programming

Following the recommendations of the Hernani Report[1] (March 2016), the GPC established (Apr. 2016) a WG with three main tasks: (i) to organize a systematic process allowing the JPIs to provide input to the Work Programmes of H2020, (ii) to prepare JPIs' Long Term Strategies (LTS), and (iii) to prepare an Opinion of the GPC on the future of joint programming in the context of the preparation for the next Framework Programme (FP). The tasks are implemented through a fruitful collaboration between the GPC, the ten JPIs and the EC.

The first task was completed in late 2016 and the JPIs' Strategic Plans 2018-2020 were presented and discussed in the GPC plenary and subsequently submitted by the GPC to the EC, as a contribution to the preparation of the last WPs of H2020.

The WG has also prepared a commonly agreed template for preparing the JPIs' LTS and each one of the JPIs is currently working on this task, following its internal procedures.

As far as the last task is concerned, the WG has established an open dialogue and has organised two Workshops in Brussels with the participation of a broad spectrum of national and international stakeholders. The main output of this procedure is expected to be a general framework for JP long- term strategy which will serve as a basis for GPC Opinion regarding the future of JP in the next FP.

5. Mutual Learning Exercise

The GPC, in order to enhance the alignment process, decided to launch in collaboration with the EC, a Mutual Learning Exercise (MLE) on *"Alignment and Interoperability of Research*

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[1] Produced by the Expert Group that was established by the European Commission (EC) to carry out the evaluation of Joint Programming to address grand societal challenges.

Programmes" using the 'Policy Support Facility' (PSF) under H2020. The MLE started in 2016 and will run in sequences and is expected to support the countries to find solutions for increasing MS/AC and EC commitment to the joint programming process and to the JPIs, for enhancing alignment of strategies and programmes and for improving interoperability among MS/AC instruments and with the EC instruments.

6. Migrants, Migrations and Integration (MMI) Challenge

A number of GPC Delegations propose to the attention of the GPC plenary a concept note on the MMI challenge, aiming at initiating an exchange of views among all the GPC Delegations. As a result of the discussion held in the plenary, the GPC decided to set up an ad hoc TF with the aim of exploring the possibilities, as well as pros and cons, of establishing a JPI in the field of MMI. The TF prepared a report on the feasibility of a JPI on MMI that was presented to the GPC plenary in the last two GPC meetings of 2016. A final decision on the steps to follow will be taken at the next GPC meetings.

7. Widening Participation

The Inclusiveness TF aims to examine the participation of low-performing countries in all 10 JPIs and assess the relevance of the best practices used for involving low-performing countries. The mandate of the TF involves (i) consultation with various stakeholders representing the MS, the EC, GPC, JPIs, P2P initiatives, as well as scientists, and funding agencies, (ii) analysis of major bottlenecks for participation of low-performing countries, (ii) motivations and benefits of inclusiveness strategies and (iii) preparation of practical recommendations. The TF started its operation in the last quarter of 2016 and is expected to complete its work in 2017.

8. National Action Plans - ERA roadmap

The GPC started to work on this process by inviting the MS/AC to present their objectives for the Priority 2a, in order to exchange information and potentially help MS to add best practices regarding JPP in their national roadmaps, in order to ensure national commitment for the JPIs.

9. EIC Statement

The GPC prepared a statement on the JP aspects in the EIC which emphasised the need to promote innovation, concrete solutions and products in order to overcome societal challenges and secure successful implementation of both the JPIs and the priority 2a of the ERA.

10. New GPC Work Programme

Following a written consultation for the GPC priorities and an extended discussion during the plenary, the GPC adopted the new Work Programme (2016-2017). The new GPC WP includes

seven main priorities.

11. Revised GPC Mandate

The revised GPC mandate was adopted by the GPC (Feb. 2016) and the Council (Apr. 2016). The revised mandate was accomplished according to the main concept that "the focus of the GPC activity should shift from the JPIs to the JPP".

12. Indicators for ERA Priority 2a

In view of the preparation of the 2016 ERA Progress Report the GPC delegations participated in the process of identifying the 3 (outcome, input and output) indicators for ERA Priority 2a contributing with their expertise.

13. OTHER

Early in 2016 Mr Leonidas Antoniou (CY) and Mr Emmanuel Pasco-Viel (FR) were unanimously elected for the positions of the Chair and the Vice-Chair respectively for a period of 3 years running from 8 March 2016.

During 2016, the GPC Chairs promoted the goals and activities of the GPC in several occasions, such as the ERAC plenary, the ERAC Steering Board, the ERA-LEARN 2020 Advisory Board, the Governing Boards meeting of JPIs, the annual Conference of Joint Programming, the workshop "JPIs on the Global Stage", the PLATFORM Annual Event etc.

Short text to be included in the Executive summary *(max. 10 lines)*

The main activities of the GPC in 2016 were promoted through the work of Working Groups (WG), Implementation Groups (IG) and Task Forces (TF). During 2016, the GPC adopted the suggestions prepared by 3 IGs, which were set up in 2015, related to (i) fostering relationships among the JPIs and the GPC, (ii) improving alignment and interoperability and (iii) monitoring / evaluation of new and existing JPIs. New WGs and TFs were set up, in view of the implementation of the GPC Work Programme 2016-2018. These groups have the tasks to prepare recommendations on the Long Term Strategy of Joint Programming, the Migrants - Migrations - Integration Challenge and the participation of low-performing countries in the JPIs. In addition, the GPC, among other activities, launched a MLE on alignment and interoperability of research programmes, exchanged information on best practices regarding the national ERA roadmaps, prepared a position paper on the EIC and adopted its revised mandate.