

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

Secretariat

Brussels, 7 April 2016
(OR. en)

ERAC-GPC 1305/16

NOTE

Subject: Summary conclusions of the GPC plenary meeting of 12 February 2016

The meeting was chaired by the GPC Chair, Mr Fulvio Esposito. The High Level Group for Joint Programming (GPC) drew the following conclusions:

1. Welcome by the Chair and approval of the provisional agenda

The agenda was approved as set out in document 1347/16.

2. Relations between the GPC and the JPIs and Framework Conditions

a) Draft final report of the IG 1

Ms Brigitte Weiss, the Chair and Rapporteur of the Implementation Group 1 on Fostering and Mentoring JPIs, presented the main elements of the IG1's draft final report as well as the recommendations to the GPC, being in line with the new mandate for the GPC. There was some discussion on whether the GPC should nominate the GPC delegates as representatives responsible for contacts with each of the 10 JPIs. In the end it was underlined that the presence of the JPIs at the GPC meetings has been foreseen to enhance the contacts between the JPIs and the GPC. The Chair concluded that for the time being no further actions of nominating any GPC representatives per JPI are foreseen. The draft final report of the IG1 was adopted by the GPC with minor changes (doc. 1303/16).

3. Alignment and Interoperability

a) State-of-play of the IG 2

Mr Pontus Holm presented the way IG2 on Alignment and Improving Interoperability has undertaken towards the preparation of the final report which is expected to be ready for adoption in the following GPC meeting in April.

Ms Karin Schmekel, the Co-Chair of the IG2, also informed the delegations that the IG2 is going to submit in April its document on Governance of the national JPI process to the GPC with a view to its adoption.

b) Mutual Learning Exercise - outcome of the launching meeting of 11 February 2016

The Vice-Chair provided a presentation on the outcome of the Commission workshop to prepare the Mutual Learning Exercise, which was held on 11 February 2016. The following countries were represented at the meeting: AT, DK, EE, EL, ES, FR, HU, IE, IT, MT, NL, NO, PT, RO, SE, SI. The following three blocks of issues to be tackled in the course of the MLE have been identified: (1) national governance regarding the JPP, (2) national activities for participating in the JPP and (3) resources for the JPP.

Mr Jörg Niehoff, (the Commission), specified some details concerning the MLE:

- As the MLE is independent of the GPC, other people than delegates may participate.
- The MLE is designed as a 6 month exercise dealing with specific issues.
- The MLE activities are foreseen to start within 2 months.
- The Terms of Reference are prepared by the Commission services.

The Chair underlined the importance of building on the experience gathered so far by various important actors, such as the JPIs, the ERA-Learn, JPIs-to-co-Work, the Implementation Group 2, etc.

4. JPP assessment

a) State-of play of the IG 3

Mr Peter Spyns, the Rapporteur of the IG 3 on Monitoring the JPP, provided information on the planning of the work within the IG 3 and concluded that the draft final report of the IG3 will not be ready before the end of April.

b) Analysis of national policy stakeholder survey of the Expert Group on Evaluation of Joint Programming to Address Grand Societal Challenges

Mr Jörg Niehoff, (the Commission), made a presentation on the above-mentioned subject. It was concluded that once the final report of the Expert Group on Evaluation of Joint Programming to Address Grand Societal Challenges is issued, it will be discussed in the GPC plenary meeting.

5. Outcome of the Annual Joint Programming Conference 2015

Mr Jörg Niehoff, (the Commission), provided details concerning the Annual Joint Programming Conference which took place in Brussels on 14-15 January 2016, concentrating on the outcome of the workshops held during the conference. He also indicated the dates of the next conference which is going to take place on 22-23 November 2016 in Brussels.

6. Science Europe's statement on JPP

Ms Amanda Crowfoot, Science Europe Director, shortly presented the members, the role and the roadmap of Science Europe. She also discussed the key messages concerning the Science Europe's statement on JPP.

7. Outcome of the "International Conference on Understanding and Tackling the Migration Challenge: The Role of Research" and possible future developments

Mr Yuri Borgmann-Prebil, (the Commission), presented the outcome of the International Conference on Understanding and Tackling the Migration Challenge: The Role of Research which took place on 4-5 February 2016 in Brussels. He described the objectives and the format of the conference and also discussed the possible role of research in migration. Mr Borgmann-Prebil outlined also the possible follow-up to the conference:

- Conference Report, available by end of February;
- Recommendations and identified research needs will be considered in DG RTD;
- Envisaged to feed into H2020 2018-20 strategic planning and work programme;
- DG RTD Task Force on Migration is being set up.

Mr Jørgen Carling, Research Professor from the Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO), provided a presentation entitled 'Would an impetus to coordinated migration research be useful to Europe?'. He indicated that the migration problem will be present in Europe for at least a decade and will not diminish even if the current military conflicts will be resolved. He also underlined that in his opinion a JPI could be the most appropriate instrument to tackle the migration challenge.

The presentations were followed by a discussion in which the following main points were raised:

- Some delegations were of the opinion that migration is currently the most urgent challenge to be tackled and that GPC is a good forum to discuss and put emphasis on migrations and integration.
- Some delegations were of the opinion that launching a JPI would be the right approach for dealing with this subject, arguing i.a. with the need for a visible platform and a proper link between science, society and the political sphere. Others were skeptical about it, mentioning the long and costly process of setting up a JPI while the issue is very urgent.

- Some delegations pointed out that, in case the path of setting up a JPI should be chosen, the formal procedure is to be followed, including the “minimum conditions” currently being elaborated by the IG3.
- Many delegations supported the idea of continuing the discussion on the migration challenge within the GPC.

The Chair informed the delegations that a few days before there was a meeting of the French and Italian research ministers in which the ministers made in particular reference to the possibility of launching a JPI on this subject within the framework of H2020.

The Chair also invited the Commission to provide more information about the DG RTD Task Force on Migration before the next GPC meeting in April.

8. GPC mandate

The GPC adopted its proposal for a revised mandate (doc. 1302/16).

9. GPC contribution to the ERAC Annual Report

The GPC contribution to the ERAC annual report was adopted with minor changes (doc. 1304/16).

10. Election of the new GPC Chair and Vice-Chair

Mr Leonidas Antoniou (Cyprus delegation) and Mr Emmanuel Pasco-Viel (French delegation) 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.

11. AOB

The Chair informed delegations about the date of the next GPC plenary meeting: 29 April 2016.
