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

Secretariat

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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations
Subject: GPC contribution to the ERAC 2017 Annual Report

Delegations will find in the annex GPC contribution to the ERAC 2017 Annual Report, as adopted by the GPC in written procedure.

2017 ERAC ANNUAL REPORT

Priority 2a

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

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

The new GPC mandate and Work Programme 2016-2018 reflects the decision that *“the focus of the GPC should shift from the JPIs to the Joint Programming Process (JPP)”*. When undertaking its activities¹, the GPC seeks to contribute to the progress of ERA, both at national and European levels. The main actions of the GPC during 2017 were:

1. Fostering the JPP and Empowering the Interplay Between the Stakeholders

Based on the approach of its new mandate and following the recommendations of the GPC WG on *“Fostering Relationships among the JPIs and the GPC”* and the Hernani Report² (2016) the GPC decided to have a much more active role in creating a favourable environment for the implementation of JPP.

Therefore, representatives of the 10 JPIs, other P2P initiatives, the European Commission (EC) and relevant national, European and international stakeholders representing a wide spectrum of interests have been invited to participate in the GPC meetings, WGs, workshops and events in order to strengthen the public debate on Joint Programming, as well as the co-operation between the different stakeholders.

2. Contributing to the Discussion on the Future of JPP

A strong focus of GPC's work in 2017 has been on the future of the JPP, following the evaluation of JP and in the context of the interim evaluation of H2020 and the preparation of the next FP.

GPC Opinion on the "Future of Joint Programming to Address Societal Challenges"

On February 9th 2018, a workshop was organized, with the participation of representatives from all the JP main initiatives and stakeholders, in order to discuss the general concept of JPP, the main prerequisites to tackle societal challenges, as well as several important components (MS/AC commitment, governance and secretariat, funding support from EC) related to the implementation

¹ 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).

² Produced (March 2016) by the Expert Group (chaired by prof. H. Hernani) that was established by the European Commission (EC) to carry out the evaluation of Joint Programming to address grand societal challenges.

of JPIs. The conclusions of the workshop were used as a basis for the preparation of the **GPC opinion on the future of JP** which was adopted by the GPC in June. The Opinion included, among others, the main challenges of the JPP, as well as the suggested measures to meet these challenges. The Opinion considered the idea of a «*JP Roadmap*» with regular evaluations in order to achieve sustainability for the overall JPP.

These discussions were also used to feed the ERAC opinion on the FP which was adopted in the same period. Based on the conclusions from the GPC and ERAC opinions, the EC started to elaborate on scenarios for the future of P2Ps in the next FP, taking into account feedback from MS/AC and stakeholders.

Tackling Societal Challenges and Related Missions

Following the developments in the informal Council and ERAC meetings for the future of JP, the GPC organised, in collaboration with the 10 JPIs, another workshop on November 7, 2017. This workshop had a broader scope as its main objective was to **open the public discussion on the issue of partnerships in the European R&I landscape, as well as on the issue of missions**. The main goal was to take a next step towards a reflection of existing partnerships and their missions against requirements of future mission oriented - programmes.

Parallel sessions were organised to bring together the JPIs, other initiatives tackling similar challenges and EC representatives and allow thematic in-depth discussions on **how to improve coherence of the partnership landscape and strengthen the delivery** of partnerships on tackling specific societal challenges and related missions. After the thematic sessions, a plenary discussion took place between several stakeholders on the issue of rationalization of European R&I partnerships in view of the next FP and the relation with the future missions.

ERAC Ad-hoc Group on Partnerships

Moreover, several GPC delegates, as well as the GPC Chair and Vice-Chair, are participating to the ERAC ad-hoc group on partnerships which was launched in December.

Long Term Strategies of the JPIs and the JP

Following the recommendations of the Hernani Report, the GPC organize a systematic process allowing the JPIs to prepare their **Long Term Strategies (LTS)** for the next years. All JPIs delivered and presented their LTSs in June 2017. The JPIs' LTS were submitted to the European Commission and served as important inputs for the preparation of the next FP.

The GPC established a WG on “Long Term Strategy of Joint Programming” with the aim to: (i) prepare an analysis of the Long Term Strategies of the JPIs, (ii) provide advice to the JPIs, and also the GPC and the ERAC, of individual good practices and challenges as well as cross-cutting issues identified in the LTSs, both with regard to actual JPI activities and to how the work is presented, (iii) further draw from the rich material of the ten LTSs to give JPIs pointers to attractive activities, solutions and ways to develop the reports, and (iv) provide information on

commonalities, dissimilarities, patterns and synergies that may serve as a platform for a future extended evaluation of the broader questions of JP, JPP, Partnerships in the next FP.

3. GPC and JPIs input to the Horizon 2020

In the context of the GPC WG on future of Joint Programming, and following the inputs from JPIs on the elaboration of the 10 JPIs' contribution for the Work Programmes 2018-20 of H2020 were presented and discussed in the GPC plenary and subsequently submitted (2017) by the GPC to the EC, as a contribution to the preparation of the last WPs of H2020.

4. Measuring the Progress and Implementation of Priority 2a of the ERA Roadmap

According to the ERA Progress Report (2016), the indicators related to Priority 2a had the highest growth rate among all priorities (8%), which is considered as a significant progress.

In 2017, a GPC TF prepared a report on the “**ERA NAPs and Strategies Analysis for Priority 2a**”, as well as a monitoring mechanism. Both of them were adopted by the GPC. The report provides an analysis of objectives and actions set-up at national level for Priority 2a in the context of the ERA roadmap and allows GPC delegates to have more insights on national activities and to exchange best practices.

The monitoring mechanism will ensure a proper follow-up of national actions in this area at an annual basis. The output of this first monitoring exercise, as well as best practises on implemented national measures will be presented and discussed during the next GPC meeting in March 2018.

5. Improving Alignment and Interoperability

To promote the recommendations of the IG on “*Improving Alignment and Interoperability*”, the GPC in collaboration with the EC, launched (2016) a **Mutual Learning Exercise** (using the PSF of H2020), which supported the participating countries by developing solutions for increased MS/AC and EC commitment to the JPP, including enhancing the alignment of strategies and improving interoperability among MS/AC and EC instruments.

Many GPC delegates were involved in the Mutual Learning Exercise on Alignment which ended in 2017. This exercise allowed an in-depth discussion on national practices to enhance alignment in the context of Joint Programming. The final deliverable was a report focusing on main issues, national actions and best practices, which is of strong interest for all GPC delegates in order to improve alignment at national level, for instance through better coordination at national level, or better dissemination of information.

More generally, the constant dialogue between MS/AC and the EC through the GPC ensures a continuous enhancement of alignment at European level.

6. Setting up a New Framework for Evaluating JPIs

The GPC IG on ‘Monitoring and Evaluating JPIs’ developed a multi-dimensional set of criteria and a relevant mechanism for the assessment of new and existing JPIs. According to the new framework, 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. 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.

7. Migrants, Migration and Integration (MMI) Challenge

Following the discussions in 2016, the GPC TF “Migrants Migration and Integration (MMI)” presented its final report "Towards a proposal for a new JPI on Migration, Migrants and Integration" on the feasibility of a JPI on MMI. The GPC considered that the presented proposal did not fulfil at this stage all the minimum criteria for a new JPI under the terms of the then newly adopted JPI assessment framework developed by the GPC Implementation Group 3. The TF was requested to reflect on further steps for the proposal on the basis of the comments in order to possibly present a new version of the proposal at a later stage.

8. Increasing Awareness

During 2017, GPC representatives promoted the goals of the Priority 2a of the ERA Roadmap, the GPC activities in several occasions (e.g. ERA-LEARN 2020 activities, JPIs’ Governing Boards meetings and events, international conferences, events and workshops etc) in order to increase public awareness about the idea of JP and the need for joint action in European level to address the grand societal challenges.

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

According to the approach of its new mandate the GPC’s work in 2017 focused on fostering the Joint Programming Process (JPP) and strengthening the public debate on the future of JP. In the spirit of opening its operation to the broader JP community, the GPC invited representatives of JPIs, P2P, national, European and international stakeholders to participate in the GPC meetings, WGs and events. The GPC organised two workshops with the aim to provide opinion on the

future of JP to address societal challenges and recommendations on the issue of partnerships and their relation with mission oriented programmes. Furthermore, the GPC organised a systematic process in collaboration with the 10 JPIs, for the preparation of their Long Term Strategies and contribution to the WP 2018-20 of H2020. In addition, (i) the GPC adopted the report on the “ERA NAPs and Strategies Analysis for Priority 2a”, as well as a mechanism, that will be used for monitoring the national progress in annual basis, (ii) the MLE on Improving Alignment and Interoperability was completed, and (iii) the New Framework for Evaluating new and existing JPIs was applied to consider a proposal on “Migrants, Migration and Integration Challenge”.