

**EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA
COMMITTEE**

**High Level Group for
Joint Programming**

Secretariat

ERAC-GPC 1303/12

NOTE

Subject: **Summary conclusions of the 20th meeting of the High Level Group for Joint Programming (GPC), held in Brussels on 24 May 2012**

The meeting was chaired by the GPC Chair, Mr Rolf ANNERBERG.

The High Level Group for Joint Programming (GPC) drew the following conclusions:

1. Approval of the provisional agenda

The agenda was adopted as set out in doc. 2701/12.

2. The GPC work programme

- Presentation by the Vice Chair
- Discussion and adoption

According to Article 7 of the GPC Rules of Procedure, adopted by GPC at its meeting on 11 November 2011, the Group should adopt a 24 months work programme describing the "activities of the Group which are in line with its mandate".

The Vice Chair presented the provisional work programme and opened the floor for discussion. There was a general support for the proposed activity lines. Several delegations asked for a stronger role for GPC in view of the implementation of Horizon 2020 and ERA Framework.

The Vice Chair noted that a new dedicated activity line would be created in the Work Programme as of the next GPC meeting, including a presentation from the Commission on the ERA Framework and the possible role that the GPC could play in view of its implementation. Further links to the implementation of Horizon 2020 will also be explored.

On the voluntary guidelines for "Framework Conditions on Joint Programming in Research", it was decided that they would be reviewed at a later time so that they can fully take into account the future Commission's Communication on ERA Framework and the progress on Horizon 2020. Also, it was decided that the "Recommendation on ways to involve industry in Joint Programming Initiatives" would be integrated in the Framework Conditions, as appropriate.

3. The 2012 Biennial Report

- Appointment of Task Force and Rapporteur

The Chair introduced this item and proposed the creation of a Task Force with a mandate to prepare the 2012 Biennial Report. The aim of the report is to provide details of the main activities carried out and an assessment thereof in order to give guidance to ERAC, the Council and the Commission regarding follow up requirements and options. Delegates from ES, IE, DE and NL were interested in participating in the Task Force, while the GPC Vice Chair will coordinate it and report to the Group on its activities.

According to the proposed timeline, the Task Force will produce a first draft to be presented to the GPC at its next meeting in September. The Group will adopt the document at its meeting in December in view of its endorsement by the Competitiveness Council in February 2013.

4. How to use Structural Funds in JP

- Information by the Commission
- Discussion

The Commission noted that there would not seem to be any fundamental obstacle to cohesion policy supporting Joint Programming. However, it is necessary to:

- highlight Joint Programming in the preparation of Smart Specialisation Strategies;
- indicate in the preparation of the future programming period the role of Joint Programming in socio-economic development and not just scientific excellence.

Several delegations proposed that a reference to structural funds should be included in the next review of the "Framework Conditions for Joint Programming in Research".

5. Synergies with other ERAC groups

- SFIC

The SFIC Chair, Ms Riitta Mustonen, provided a presentation on the work of the SFIC, including possible links to the GPC. Some of the most important actions that could increase the SFIC-GPC cooperation are:

- *enhancing communication* - regular communication channels could be established between the two Groups (e.g. sharing minutes of SFIC/GPC plenary meetings after their adoption, as well as of agendas of JPIs and SFIC roadmaps on country initiatives, invitation to seminars or meetings of the other group etc);
- *sharing guiding documents* with potential interest for the other group (e.g. the "Framework conditions for Joint Programming" or the "IPR in China: Guidance for Researchers");

- *developing together the international dimension of JPIs* - if JPIs consider that an international dimension may be of added value to their work, SFIC could provide support through advice based on its acquired experience and by providing relevant information. SFIC could also create an ad-hoc group to support the JPI;
- *sharing a vision for the future* - cooperation schemes, such as joint programmes or big “lighthouse” projects involving EU/Member States and third countries together, could be explored in the future.

6. Information on the progress of Joint Programming Initiatives

- Presentations by the 10 JPIs
- Discussion

The representatives of the 10 Joint Programming Initiatives had the opportunity to present to the GPC their activities, the challenges they are facing and the perspectives of their initiatives. Some JPIs are still in the early stages of establishment or consolidation, while others are already acting as models for international cooperation in their respective fields.

Some of the recurrent challenges mentioned by the representatives of the JPIs in their presentations are:

- having an impact on the national and European agenda setting and fostering alignments between national and EU research programmes;
- coordinating JPI implementation with the priorities set out in Horizon 2020;
- increasing the cooperation among JPIs, with ERA-NET and EIP initiatives, as well as with other initiatives and projects;
- extending the partnership and cooperation at regional and global level and with international organizations and NGOs;
- evaluating and monitoring joint programming activities.

7. AOB

The Irish delegate announced a conference that will be hosted by Ireland in the context of its Presidency between 28 February - 1 March 2013: "Joint Programming - Agenda for the Future and Achievements to Date." He asked GPC members to save the date in view of their participation.

On invitation from the GPC Chair, the Chair of the Commission's Expert Group on Joint Programming, Ms Helena Acheson, made a brief presentation of the activities and objectives of the Group.

The Chair recalled the Members about the date of the next meeting: 19 September 2012.
