

EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA
COMMITTEE

High Level Group for
Joint Programming

Secretariat

ERAC-GPC 1303/13

NOTE

Subject: **Summary conclusions of the 23rd meeting of the High Level Group for Joint Programming (GPC), held in Brussels on 21 March 2013**

The meeting was chaired by the GPC Chair, Mr Rolf ANNERBERG, and by the GPC Vice-Chair, Mr Armel DE LA BOURDONNAYE.

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. CM 1969/13.

2. Report of the Joint Programming Conference in Dublin (28 February - 1 March 2013)

- Presentation by the Irish Presidency

Ms Evelina SANTA, the Rapporteur of the Joint Programming Conference, provided a presentation on the report of the Conference. The Irish delegation mentioned that they are planning to use the report and some other key documents, like the GPC Biennial Report and the report of the Expert Group on the Joint Programming process, to prepare the input for the political debate which is going to take place at the May Competitiveness Council. The purpose of the political debate would be to obtain some key messages and the renewal of the political commitment concerning the joint programming process.

3. Discussion on the recommendations from the Biennial Report, Expert Group review and the Dublin conference – with a view to update the GPC work programme

- Which recommendations should the GPC implement?**
- How should they be implemented (e.g. by including actions in the work programme)?**
- Is there a need to update the GPC mandate in order to implement recommendations?**
- Review of the GPC Rules of Procedure**

The Vice-Chair informed the Group about the discussions at the ERAC Steering Board that took place on the 19 of March 2013 concerning the contribution to the monitoring progress and implementation of ERA. The first ERA progress report is being prepared by the Commission. On the basis of the first ERA progress report, ERAC could give relevant strategic advice to the Council on ERA progress and areas where further progress is needed, based on input by the GPC and other ERA-related groups.

The Vice-Chair gave afterwards a presentation on the GPC way forward, which was followed by a discussion.

Delegations discussed in particular:

- The best ways of **implementing the conclusions** from the Biennial Report, the Expert Group Report, the JP conference in Dublin and the Commission's ERA Communication. It was agreed that a synthesis document comprising the key aspects of the above mentioned reports, communication and the conference would be prepared by an ad hoc working group led by the Irish delegation and the Vice-Chair.
- The need to work on the **evaluation of the Joint Programming Initiatives** in two stages. First, to develop a set of criteria of their evaluation and second, to work on the ways of evaluating. As to the second stage there were different ideas, such as *inter alia* a short paper concerning the latest developments of the JPIs prepared ahead of each GPC meeting or inviting the JPIs coordinators to the GPC meetings.
- The ways to **interact with and between the JPIs**. One of the ideas was establishing a board of coordinators of the JPIs that could meet regularly and also participate in the GPC meetings as invited experts.
- The importance of continuous work on and the implementation of the **Framework Conditions**. It was underlined that a link with the JPIs To Co-Work work should be maintained.
- The possible ways of improving the **working methods** of the GPC. Delegations mentioned that the GPC meetings have always been very fruitful but that they encounter some difficulties between the plenaries. The Austrian and Dutch delegates undertook to prepare a paper flashing the ideas on how to improve the working methods.
- The possibilities of enhancing the **interactions at the Member States level**. The Chair encouraged the delegations to prepare some examples for the next GPC meeting.

The above mentioned points will be included in the GPC work programme.

It was agreed that the implementation of the recommendations would fall within the GPC mandate.

A room document concerning the suggestions as to the revision of the currently binding GPC Rules of Procedure was circulated. The Group was asked to consider the changes and reflect upon the need of the revision. In case the Group finds the revision useful, the discussions might commence at the next GPC meeting.

4. Relation and possible collaborations between the ERAC Working Group on Knowledge Transfer (KT) and the GPC

- **Presentation by the Chair of the ERAC Working Group on Knowledge Transfer**
- **Discussion**

Mr Georg BUCHTELA, the Chair of the ERAC Working Group on Knowledge Transfer, provided a presentation on the above mentioned subject. The presentation concentrated *inter alia* on the mandate, objective, composition, working methods and main activities of the Group as well as its relations with other ERAC Groups, its reporting lines and the work performed so far.

5. Relation and possible collaborations between the European Forum for Forward Looking Activities (EFFLA) and the GPC

- **Presentation by the EFFLA representative**
- **Discussion**

Mr Dan ANDREE, the representative of the European Forum for Forward Looking Activities, provided a presentation on the above mentioned subject. The following steps of action were suggested:

1. Short-term actions (for the year 2013):
 - The GPC representatives will be invited to one of the next EFFLA meetings and vice versa.
 - There could be an EFFLA – GPC workshop organised including national experts and the JRC.
2. Medium-term actions:
 - Setting up a FLA hub.
 - Foresight exchange network and process, as well as strategy training within DG RTD.
 - Harmonisation of new structures and processes with start of H2020 and new comitology.

Afterwards, the floor was opened for discussion which concentrated on two main points:

- The role for the Member States to take part in the Forward Looking Activities at the European level.
- The ways for the GPC and the EFFLA to facilitate this interaction.

Some delegations encouraged the EFFLA to place their work in the context of the different on-going initiatives regarding the forward looking initiatives already established in Europe.

6. JPIs To Co Work

- **Presentation by the JPIs To Co Work representative**
- **Discussion**

Mr Carlos SEGOVIA, JPIs To Co-Work project coordinator, provided a presentation on the above mentioned subject. JPIs To Co-Work, a Commission funded Coordination and Support Action, is following progress made by JPIs in using the GPC Guidelines on Framework Conditions for Joint Programming. There have already been three workshops organised, dealing broadly with: foresight, ex-ante evaluation, governance structure, evaluation of JPIs, peer review, funding and call management. The Group was informed that there are background documents available at the JPIs To Co-Work website. The next workshop will be organised on 2-3 October 2013 and will be devoted to dissemination and IPR as well as to facilitating innovation. The Chair of the ERAC Working Group on Knowledge Transfer was invited to designate a representative to this workshop. The final conference is planned to be organised at the beginning of next year.

7. AOB

The Chair recalled the Group about the date of the next meeting: 25 June 2013.