

EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA
COMMITTEE

High Level Group for
Joint Programming

Secretariat

ERAC-GPC 1306/13

NOTE

Subject: **Summary conclusions of the 24th meeting of the High Level Group for Joint Programming (GPC), held in Brussels on 25 June 2013**

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. CM 3258/13.

2. Outcome of the Council "Competitiveness" of 29–30 May 2013

- Presentation by the Irish Presidency

Mr Pat Kelly, representative of the IE Presidency, summarised the outcome of the policy debate on joint programming held at the Competitiveness Council which took place in Brussels on 29-30 May 2013. The Irish Presidency had prepared the input for the debate mainly on the basis of the Joint Programming Conference held in Dublin on 28 February - 1 March 2013, of the GPC Biennial Report and of the report of the Expert Group on the Joint Programming process.

The Ministers in their interventions were in general very supportive of and very positive about the joint programming process. They underlined that joint programming is a very important but complex process. The participation in the JPIs is still low but should be increased as the joint programming process is good for Europe. The Ministers also emphasised the need to further align the national research agendas. The debate spelled out a renewed commitment of the Council towards the joint programming process.

3. Relation and possible collaborations between the Steering Group on Human Resources and Mobility (SGHRM) and the GPC

- Presentation by the SGHRM representative**
- Discussion**

Mr Hans M. Borchgrevink, a representative of the Steering Group on Human Resources and Mobility (SGHRM), gave a presentation concentrating, inter alia, on the history of the SGHRM, its initiatives, its input to ERAC on the ERA Framework, the current focus areas related to the development of the ERA Framework, partner organisation and the potential areas of collaboration between the GPC and the SGHRM. The Chair concluded saying that he would send the presentation file to the JPI coordinators for information, after which the GPC could decide on how to proceed.

4. Relation and possible collaborations between the European Forum for Forward Looking Activities (EFFLA) and the GPC - continuation of the discussions

- **Presentation by the EFFLA representative of the EFFLA brief**
- **Exchange of views**

Mr Dan Andrée, a representative of the European Forum for Forward Looking Activities (EFFLA), gave a presentation on the reasons of involvement of the Member States in forward looking activities at the EU level, the ways of as well as the necessary steps for and the possible benefits of such an involvement. Mr Dan Andrée presented also details concerning the proposed GPC-EFFLA workshop on "How to involve Member States in Forward Looking Activities at European Level". The workshop will be organised on 4 December 2013, 13.00 – 17.00 (day before the GPC-meeting, scheduled for 5 December) in VINNOVA, Sweden House, Rue de Luxemburg 3, Brussels. The purpose of the workshop will be to facilitate the Member States' involvement in the Forward Looking Activities at the European Level. Some delegations suggested that participants other than the GPC members could be more appropriate.

5. Discussion on the synthesis recommendations from the Biennial Report, Expert Group review, the Dublin conference and the Commission ERA Communication

- **Presentation by the Irish and French delegations**
- **Discussion**

Mr Pat Kelly presented the synthesis recommendations from the GPC Biennial Report, the review of the Expert Group on Joint Programming Process, the 2013 Dublin Conference on Joint Programming, as prepared by the Irish and French delegations. As a result, six most important issues under four major themes have been identified into which the GPC could engage effectively with. These are the following:

1. Ensuring a sustainable commitment of Member States and advancing in the implementation of the JPIs

- Alignment with SRAs (reflect on ways of aligning national and European strategies and research programmes with Strategic Research Agendas of JPIs and promote alignment)
- Securing commitment and engagement in Joint Programming (examine how best long-term commitment to JPIs can be maintained, and in particular how to build sustainability and trust in Joint Programming and in the JPIs; ensure greater involvement of national stakeholders into the JPI process)
- GPC and JPIs (pursue and deepen exchanges between the GPC and JPIs)

2. Promoting usage of improved Guidelines on Framework Conditions for Joint Programming

- Framework Conditions for Joint Programming (examine ways of developing the Framework Conditions Guidelines to make them more useful and used; collect experiences and distil out the most important issues for common actions)

3. Evaluating JPIs

- Measuring JPIs progress and impact (suggest methods for reviewing JPIs and plan for a more thorough evaluation of JPIs after the start of H2020)

4. Preparing for new challenges

- Future initiatives (consider a process for deciding on future challenges)

6. Updating the GPC work programme

- Discussion

It has been proposed that the GPC will convene ad hoc working groups with specifically defined mandates and deadlines to deal with the six areas identified under agenda item 5 (alignment with SRAs; securing commitment and engagement in JP; GPC and JPIs; Framework Conditions; measuring JPIs progress and impact; future initiatives). Delegates were asked to indicate volunteers to be the Rapporteurs or participants of the future ad-hoc working groups in an e-mail sent to the Chair and the GPC Secretariat by 7 July.

7. GPC functioning and working methods (as prepared by Peter Keet and Martin Schmid)

- **Introduction to the GPC workspace - presentation by the Austrian delegation**
- **Reflection Paper - presentation by the Dutch delegation**
- **Exchange of views**

Mr Martin Schmid, Austrian delegate, gave a presentation on the GPC workspace hosted by the ERA Portal Austria.

Mr Peter Keet, Dutch delegate, outlined the ideas presented in the reflection paper on the GPC functioning and working methods. Delegates were invited to send written comments to the reflection paper on the basis of which a new version will be prepared.

8. Joint Calls undertaken or planned by the JPIs

- **Information from the Commission**

Mr Giorgio Clarotti, the Commission representative, presented the outcome of the 2013 survey on the past, current and future JPI joint calls. In total 28 joint calls to be launched between 2011 and 2015 have already been identified, with a total commitment of some 250 to 300 M€ in public funding – most of these being committed from Member States.

9. Lithuanian Presidency programme

- **Presentation by the Lithuanian delegation**

Ms Neringa Kranauskienė, representative of the incoming Presidency, gave a presentation of the Lithuanian Presidency programme.

10. Any Other Business

Mr Herman van der Plas, the Commission representative, gave information on the state of play of the ERAC 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 Chair indicated that the GPC could provide a short written input by mid-September.

Ms Eva Stensköld, the Swedish delegation, proposed to present at the next meeting national strategies concerning how to work with Joint programming and national research strategies. Delegations welcomed the initiative and some of them indicated that they would also contribute on this subject.

The GPC Secretariat indicated that the Chair's and the Vice-Chair's term of office run until March 2014 and outlined the following deadlines for the election of the new GPC Chair and Vice-Chair:

1. List of eligible candidates is established by the GPC Secretariat.
2. At the next GPC meeting of 4 September the procedure is recalled.
3. The list of eligible candidates together with the document outlining the procedure for the election of the Chair and the Vice-Chair is sent to the GPC Members and Observers by 16 September.
4. The GPC Members and Observers send by 30 September the names of the people they would like to propose as the GPC Chair and Vice Chair. Each delegation can propose one name for each position.
5. The GPC Secretariat contacts the proposed people and invites them to provide a CV and a letter of intention.
6. The people wishing to become candidates provide the requested documents by 31 October, thus confirming the candidacy. The letter of intention should include a statement for which position the candidate seeks the nomination. It is possible to seek nomination for both positions.

7. The GPC Secretariat sends by 8 November the CVs and letters of intention received from the candidates to all the GPC delegations.
8. The election of the Chair and the Vice-Chair takes place at the GPC meeting of 5 December.
9. The new Chair and the Vice-Chair take over their duties as from March 2014 when the mandates of the current Chair and Vice-Chair will come to an end.

The Chair recalled the dates of the next GPC meetings: 4 September and 5 December 2013.