



European Research Council
Scientific Council

Established by the European Commission

ERC SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL 71st PLENARY MEETING Brussels, 20-21 June 2019

MINUTES

Scientific Council members present (in alphabetical order): Prof Manuel ARELLANO, Prof Jean-Pierre BOURGUIGNON, Prof Paola BOVOLENTA, Prof Margaret BUCKINGHAM, Prof Eveline CRONE, Prof Ben FERINGA, Prof Andrzej JAJSZCZYK, Prof Tomas JUNGWIRTH, Prof Michael KRAMER, Prof Kurt MEHLHORN, Prof Barbara ROMANOWICZ, Prof Martin STOKHOF, Prof Giulio SUPERTI-FURGA, Prof Nektarios TAVERNARAKIS, Prof Janet THORNTON, Prof Isabelle VERNOS, Prof Michel WIEVIORKA and Prof Fabio ZWIRNER.

Scientific Council members excused (in alphabetical order): Prof Lene VESTERGAARD HAU

ERC Executive Agency staff present: Pablo AMOR, Mechtild MAY, Jose LABASTIDA, Theodore PAPAZOGLU, George-Eric TE KOLSTE, Angela LIBERATORE, Laurence MOREAU, Niki ATZOULATOU, Alejandro MARTIN HOBDEY, Martin PENNY, Michel VANBIERVLIET, Anthony LOCKETT, Thierry PROST, Philippe CUPERS, Laura PONTIGGIA, Elena TOMA, Matteo RAZZANELLI, Ben TURNER, Mike MUGABUSHAKA, Madeleine DRIELSMA, Severina SHOPOVA, Christine SCHIEL, Brigitte ETIENNE, Diane BASTIANELLI.

Chair of the meeting: Prof Jean-Pierre BOURGUIGNON, ERC President.

Rapporteur: Severina SHOPOVA, ERC Executive Agency.

1. Welcome of ScC Members, Plans and Goals of Meeting

Prof Jean-Pierre BOURGUIGNON welcomed everyone and outlined the goals of the meeting. He excused Prof Lene VESTERGAARD-HAU who had to take a leave of absence.

Furthermore, Prof Jean-Pierre BOURGUIGNON noted that Prof Ben FERINGA and Prof Kurt MEHLHORN could attend the plenary meeting on 20 June only, due to other engagements.

2. Adoption of Agenda of the 71st Plenary Meeting of the ERC Scientific Council

The Draft Agenda of the meeting was approved by the Scientific Council (ScC) with a minor change. The ScC agreed to add a point in the morning of 21 June on coming forth with a position on the implementation of Horizon Europe as regards the ERC. To that end, the operational reporting on granting activities was moved to the afternoon of 20 June.

3. Adoption of the Minutes of the ERC ScC 70th Plenary Meeting in Lisbon in April 2019

The Scientific Council approved the Draft Minutes of the previous plenary meeting.

4. Action Points Summary of the ERC ScC 70th Plenary Meeting

The ERCEA informed the ScC of the state of play of the action points from the previous ScC plenary meeting.

5. Preparation of the meeting with the DG Research and Innovation (R&I) Director General, Mr Jean-Éric PAQUET

The ScC members had a final discussion on the topics to raise during their session with the DG R&I Director General.

6. Meeting with Mr Jean-Éric PAQUET. DG Research and Innovation Director General

The ScC met with the DG R&I Director General, Mr Jean-Éric PAQUET, and had an exchange on a number of topics. Those included an overview of the recent overall developments, both political and related to Horizon Europe, as well as an update on recent interactions between DG R&I, the ScC and the ERCEA.

7. Update on Recent Meetings and Activities

Prof. Jean-Pierre BOURGUIGNON reported to the ScC members on his recent trips and meetings and in particular his travel to Japan where an event promoting the implementing arrangements the ERC has with two major Japanese research agencies was very successfully organised. Furthermore, he took part in a symposium of the Swedish Academy of Sciences in Stockholm and met there the new Swedish Research Minister. Finally, he travelled to Münster to attend the KoWi Annual Conference on EU Research and Innovation Funding, attended by more than 200 people.

Prof. Andrzej JAJSZCZYK reported from the ERC info day in Bucharest, which he recently attended, together with four ERCEA staff members.

8. Next Steps in the Preparation for Horizon Europe

The ERCEA gave an update on the state of play of the negotiations as regards Horizon Europe. It was noted that the legislation is more or less settled except for the budget. The Commission is now working to define the structure to implement the next Framework Programme.

9. Reporting from Standing Committees, Task Forces and Working Groups

The Standing Committee on Panels, the new Standing Committee PRIME and the Working Group (WG) on Open Access, Research Data Management and Open Science. More generally, WGs that recently met reported on their activities.

Moreover, the ScC was informed that Prof. Paola BOVOLENTA has agreed to be the next Chair of the Open Access WG as of 1 January 2020. The ScC endorsed the decision.

Prof. Michael KRAMER volunteered to be the next Chair of the Science Behind the Projects WG. The ScC agreed.

10. ERC Strategy Retreat Task Force "How to improve the WGs"

Prof. Kurt MELHORN reported on the work done by him and Prof. Eveline CRONE, together with the support of the ERCEA, on how to improve the functioning of WGs.

11. ERC Strategy Retreat Task Force "Panels restructuring"

The ERCEA reported on the state of play of the ongoing work related to possible panels restructuring and modalities of operation.

12. Operational Issues Reporting: Grant Management Activities

Due to the lack of time, a full report on the state of play of the granting activities was not given but the ERCEA. The Granting Department C assured ScC members that the finances are under control and, in terms of executed transactions, the Department is somewhere at mid-consumption. The ScC was also reminded that the legacy of Horizon 2020 in terms of payments will continue until the year 2027.

13. The ScC position on the ERC's implementation in Horizon Europe

See "Any Other Business".

14. Operational Issues Reporting: Evaluation Analysis

ERCEA Scientific Department gave an update on the **Call Calendar 2021** and an **update on current calls**, including **StG2019, CoG2019, AdG2019 and SyG2019 and PoC2019 Deadline 2**.

15. Communication Activities Update

The ERCEA Communication unit reported on recent and future communication activities and events. The big success of the Black hole image announcement was stressed as an impressive international collaboration, which filled the pressroom in Brussels with journalists applauding.

An update was given on the ERC Communication Stakeholders Survey, which is part of the ERC External Communication Strategy 2019. The aim of the survey of key multipliers and partners is to gauge current levels of awareness and perceptions of the ERC's funding opportunities in different countries. Moreover, it was noted that the survey could provide a baseline before the launch of Horizon Europe and help to scope future communication towards the potential applicants.

16. Presentation of the "ERC Association"

Prof. Axel CLEEREMANS gave a presentation on the state of play of the creation of an "ERC Association".

17. Any Other Business

The ScC discussed the implementation of the ERC under Horizon Europe.