



European Research Council
Scientific Council
Established by the European Commission

ERC SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL

54th PLENARY MEETING, BRUSSELS

16-17 February 2016

MINUTES

Scientific Council members present (in alphabetical order): Prof. Klaus BOCK, Prof. Margaret BUCKINGHAM, Prof. Athene DONALD, Dr. Barbara ENSOLI, Prof. Thomas JUNGWIRTH, Prof. Mattias KLEINER, Prof. Eva KONDOROSI, Prof. Mart SAARMA, Prof. Michael KRAMER, Prof. Nuria SEBASTIAN GALLES, Prof. Nils Christian STENSETH, Prof. Martin STOKHOF, Prof. Janet THORNTON, Prof. Isabelle VERNOS, Prof. Reinhilde VEUGELERS, Prof. Michel WIEVIORKA, Prof. Fabio ZWIRNER

Scientific Council members excused (in alphabetical order): Prof. Christopher Clark, Prof. Barbara Romanowicz

ERC Executive Agency staff present: Pablo AMOR, Theodore PAPAZOGLU, Massimo GAUDINA, Jose LABASTIDA, Georges Eric TE KOLSTE, Mechtild MAY, Alejandro MARTIN HOBDEY, Anna LONNROTH, Martin PENNY, Thierry PROST, Angela LIBERATORE, Maria OLIVAN AVILES, Niki ATZOULATOU, Severina SHOPOVA, Marie ROBERTI

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

Rapporteur: Severina SHOPOVA, ERC Executive Agency

TUESDAY 16 February 2016

Session 1

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

Prof. Jean-Pierre Bourguignon welcomed everyone to the meeting and excused Prof. Christopher Clark and Prof. Barbara Romanowicz who could not attend the plenary.

Prof. Jean-Pierre Bourguignon outlined the goals of the meeting.

2. Adoption of Agenda

The draft agenda of the 54th plenary meeting was adopted.

3. Adoption of the Minutes of the 53rd Plenary Meeting of the ERC Scientific Council in Brussels on 3-4 December 2015

The Minutes of the 53rd plenary meeting of the ERC Scientific Council (ScC) were adopted without any changes.

4. Action Points Summary of the 53rd Plenary Meeting of the ERC Scientific Council

Prof. Jean-Pierre Bourguignon reviewed the state of play of the action points from the last ScC meeting.

5. Update on Recent Meetings and Activities

5.1 ERC Board meetings on 18 December 2015 and 2 February 2016

A short report was given from the past Board meetings and recent trips and meetings of Prof. Jean-Pierre Bourguignon, which included, among others, the World Economic Forum at Davos, the Destination Europe and the MIT European Career Fair in Boston, and the AAAS annual meeting in Washington, as well as several meetings at NSF and NIH.

6. Visit of Robert-Jan Smits, Director General of DG RTD

Mr Robert-Jan Smits, Director General of DG RTD, attended part of the meeting of the ScC. He was accompanied by Mr Kurt Vandenberghe, Director of Directorate A at DG RTD.

They discussed a number of points with the ScC, including the functioning of the new centralized IT system, the renewal of the ScC membership and the forthcoming publication of the ERCEA Director post, as well as the calendar and framework of the multiannual financial framework (MFF) revision.

Looking into the future Framework Programme, the Director General indicated that the preparations should build on the Horizon 2020 interim evaluation.

The ScC members thanked the Director General for his availability to visit the ScC on the occasion of a plenary meeting and expressed their wish to have such discussions more often.

7. Scientific Assessment of Projects

The ERCEA gave an update on the outcome of the 2015 exercise on the qualitative evaluation of completed ERC projects and the plans for the 2016 exercise. The methodology, results and conclusions were discussed, together with some recommendations from the members of the panels set up for this occasion. The reviewers were high level scientists, selected and invited by the ScC Vice-Presidents and 25 panels were formed.

As regards the 2016 exercise, budget has been reserved in the Work Programme 2016. Due to limited resources, however, not all of the completed projects can be evaluated. Therefore, there is a need to construct an adequate methodology allowing drawing conclusions at the programme level.

The ScC congratulated the ERCEA for the good work and agreed with continuing with the 2016 exercise.

Session 2

8. Work Programme 2017

The ERCEA gave an update on the Work Programme 2017 timetable and proposed issues/changes for the consideration of the ScC, including an overview of the 2015 calls, together with some projections for 2016.

The topics addressed by the ScC during the discussion included the possibility of extending the CoG eligibility window, the conditions for the use of additional funding per grant and for the other actions that may be included and funded by the Work Programme 2017.

Furthermore, the ScC was reminded of the timeline for the approval of the Work Programme, as well as the evolution of the ERC calls' budgets.

9. ScC Standing Committees Reporting and Update

Committee on Panels (CoP)

The Chair of the CoP, Prof. Jean-Pierre Bourguignon, reported on the last meeting of the CoP and the discussions on panel members' recruitment.

Committee on Conflicts of Interest, Scientific Misconduct and Ethical Issues (CoIME)

The Chair of the CoIME, Prof. Nuria Sebastian Galles, reported that CoIME will meet after the end of the plenary meeting and will therefore report at the next ScC plenary meeting in April 2016.

10. Working groups Reporting and Update

The Chairs of the various Working groups reported on their activities.

Working Group on Widening European Participation

The Chair of the WG, Prof. Eva Kondorosi, reported that an ERC regional widening European participation event is being organised in March in Krakow, Poland. The preparations are ongoing. In addition, Prof. Eva Kondorosi spoke of last year's meeting of the Young Academy of Europe and the *Academia Europaea* and a possible training programme, which they are organising this year, to which Ukrainian representatives will be invited, among others. Also, an ERC widening event could be organised once more information is available about the agenda of the forthcoming Slovakian Presidency.

Working Group on Gender Balance

The Chair of the WG, Prof. Isabelle Vernos reported on the last WG meeting. The main agenda item was an update on the findings of a project doing some gender analysis, called *gendERC*. The project will end in February 2016 and a final report is expected in the near future.

The WG is also discussing other gender related possibilities linked to the Work Programme 2017 and will come forth with suggestions.

Finally, the WG was informed by the ERCEA on the forthcoming meeting of the Global Research Council (GRC) in May 2016 in New Delhi, India. One of the topics for discussion is Gender Equality and a joint statement on the issue is being put together by the organisers, which will be agreed upon at the meeting.

Working group on Open Access

The Chair of the WG, Prof. Martin Stokhof, reported on the open session on the implementation of the Open Research Data Pilot, organised by the WG on 15 February 2016. The session has been followed by a meeting of the WG.

Prof. Martin Stokhof also noted a number of recent and upcoming events, organised in the context of the Dutch Presidency of the EU, which he had attended or was going to attend.

The WG also presented a revised version of the document "*Open Access Guidelines for research results funded by the ERC*" to the ScC. The ScC added one small linguistic change and then adopted the revised version of the Guidelines.

Prof. Martin Stokhof also announced that Prof. Margaret Buckingham who had been an observer to the WG so far would join the WG as a regular member.

Working Group on Increasing International Participation

The Chair of the WG, Prof. Jean-Pierre Bourguignon, noted that the WG needs to meet in the near future. He also mentioned that he is exploring the possibility to sign implementing arrangements with Canada and Australia and to possibly sign with NIH an implementing arrangement similar to the one signed with the NSF.

Working group on Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

The Chair of the KPIs WG, Prof. Reinhilde Veugelers, reported from the discussions at the last WG meeting. Those included the preparations for a study on the impact on research careers. The WG also discussed classifying publications and projects and the H2020 mid-term review calendar and contribution that the ERC should prepare.

The WG also discussed the results of the impact study on “*Comparative scientometric assessment of the results of ERC funded projects*”, which was finalised last year. The WG proposed that the four reports, containing the presentation of the study results, be published on the ERC website. The ScC agreed with this proposal.

Also, Prof. Janet Thornton will join the KPI WG as a member.

Working Group on Science behind the projects

The Chair of the WG, Prof. Nils Stenseth, reported that the WG will meet after the end of the plenary meeting. Also, he informed the ScC that brainstorming meetings involving the full ScC will be organised before the ScC April plenary meeting, followed by a half day workshop at the ScC June plenary meeting again with the full ScC and ERCEA scientific officers attending. Also, Prof. Nuria Sebastian Galles will join the WG.

WEDNESDAY 17 February 2016

Session 3

11. Operational issues Reporting: Evaluation and Granting Processes

Update on Granting

The ERCEA gave an update on the state of play of the granting processes, including the achievements in grant implementation in 2015 and the planning of granting operations for the year 2016.

Update on Evaluation

The ERCEA gave an overview of the state of play of the 2015 and 2016 calls. Regarding the 2016 call, the ScC was also reminded of the StG2016, CoG2016 and AdG2016 evaluation calendars.

12. Communication activities update

The ERCEA gave an update on recent communication activities, including some highlights in January-February 2016 in the press. In terms of major upcoming events, the GRC meeting in New Delhi, India, the Annual meeting of New Champions in Tianjin, China, and ESOF 2016 in Manchester, were mentioned. Moreover, the ScC was informed about the press coverage

on the StG2015, CoG2015 and PoC2015 published results. Some examples of ERC projects in the press were shared as well. Furthermore, a new ERC corporate video has been designed and it was shown to the ScC. The ERC website has received in 2015 557.285 visitors with UK, Italy and Germany, the first top three countries.

Also, two communication projects have started, with the aim of highlighting ERC results: one led by Science Business, ERC=Science², which was introduced by the Science Business Director, Mr Richard Hudson.

13. Any Other Business

ScC April 2016 Plenary Meeting

Prof. Jean-Pierre Bourguignon and Prof. Klaus Bock informed the ScC that a half day retreat/closed session will be organised for the ScC in the afternoon of 13 April in Copenhagen. Therefore the WGs and Standing Committees meetings will take place in the morning of 13 April and in the afternoon of 15 April.