Scientific Council members present (in alphabetical order): Prof. Klaus BOCK, Prof. Nicholas CANNY, Prof. Sierd CLOETINGH, Prof. Tomasz DIETL, Prof. Daniel DOLEV, Prof. Athene DONALD, Prof. Carlos M. DUARTE, Prof. Barbara ENSOLI, Dr. Daniel ESTEVE, Prof. Pavel EXNER, Prof. Reinhard GENZEL, Prof. Carl-Henrik HELDIN, Prof. Matthias KLEINER, Prof. Eva KONDOROSI, Prof. Helga NOWOTNY, Prof. Alain PEYRAUBE, Prof. Mart SAARMA, Prof. Nuria SEBASTIAN GALLES, Prof. Anna TRAMONTANO, Prof. Isabelle VERNOS, Prof. Reinhilde VEUGELERS

Scientific Council members excused (in alphabetical order): Dr. Tim HUNT

ERC Secretary General: Prof. Donald DINGWELL

ERC Executive Agency staff present: Pablo AMOR, Theodore PAPAZOGLOU, Massimo GAUDINA, José LABASTIDA, Alejandro MARTIN HOBDEY, Mechtild MAY, George TE KOLSTE, Maria OLIVAN AVILES, Ben TURNER, Severina SHOPOVA, Marie ROBERTI, Madeleine DRIELSMA, Samantha CHRISTEY, Sabine SIMMROSS

Chair of the meeting: Prof. Helga NOWOTNY, ERC Scientific Council

Advisor of the Chair: Dr. Thomas KÖENIG

Rapporteur: Severina SHOPOVA, ERC Executive Agency

TUESDAY 22 October 2013

Session 1

1. Closed session of the ScC

The Scientific Council started its plenary meeting with a closed session.

2. Welcome of ScC members, plans and goals of meeting

Prof. Nowotny welcomed everyone to the meeting and outlined the goals of the meeting.

3. Adoption of agenda and point summary of the 41st plenary meeting of the ERC Scientific Council in Bratislava on 18 June 2013

- The draft agenda of the 42nd plenary meeting was adopted.
• The Minutes of the 41st plenary meeting of the ERC Scientific Council (ScC) were adopted without any changes.

4. Update on recent meetings and activities

4.1 ERC Board meetings on 27 June, 18 September and 1 October 2013

An update was given on recent meetings, including the Board meetings on 27 June, 18 September and 1 October 2013 and the discussions that took place.

5. Working groups (WGs) and Standing Committees update

Working group on Gender balance

The Chair of the WG, Prof. Vernos, gave a short report from the meeting of the WG on 21 October 2013. The main point of discussion was the Workshop of 2 December 2013 in Brussels that is being organised by the WG. All ScC members are invited to participate in the Gender workshop. The WG had also a presentation by the ERCAREER project on gender (CSA 2012).

Moreover, other points raised during the meeting included an update on the state of play of the CSA 2013 gender project and on past and forthcoming events.

Working group on Innovation and relations with industry

The Chair of the WG, Prof. Cloetingh, gave a short report from the last meeting of the WG which took place on 21 October 2013. The discussions were focused on looking into the PoC success rates and extensions of grants, as well as the outcome of the small change in evaluation criteria, which has worked out very well.

Working group on Widening Participation

The Chair of the WG, Prof. Peyraube gave a short overview of the discussions during the last WG meeting on 21 October 2013. Prof. Peyraube and Prof. Nowotry reported on their participation at the "summer Davos" meeting in Dalian, China in September 2013. Moreover, Prof. Dingwell shared his observations from his last two trips of the Global Campaign to China and Australia and New Zealand. The WG members were also given an update on ERC cooperation arrangements with research organisations in third countries and a report on international communication activities.

Working group on Open Access

The Chair of the WG, Prof. Canny, gave a short report from the last meeting of the WG on 21 October 2013. He then presented the revised ‘Open Access Guidelines for researchers funded by the ERC’ that the WG had elaborated.

Concerning the choice of open access repositories, the Chair of the WG reminded the ScC that Europe PMC and arXiv have already been recommended as repositories in the life sciences (LS) and physical and engineering sciences (PE) domains respectively. For the social sciences and humanities (SSH) domain the opportunity will be given to selected repositories to give a presentation to the WG.
Working group on KPIs (Key performance indicators)

The Chair of the WG, Prof. Veugelers, gave a short report from the second meeting of the WG, which took place on 21 October 2013. She noted that concrete goals are currently being identified and the WG is focussing on setting up a monitoring and evaluation system, which provides support according to the ERC needs. To that end, priority is given to designing a methodology of ex-post assessment and quantitative and qualitative indicators.

ScC Standing Committees update

Committee on Panels (CoP)

The Chair of the CoP, Prof. Heldin, gave an overview of the discussions that took place at the CoP meeting on 21 October 2013. The main points raised, among others, included the AdG 2014 panels’ recruitment, including re-invitations, the selection of AdG 2014 panel chairs and the possibility of a new revision of the panel descriptors next year.

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

The Chair of the CoIME, Prof. Exner, gave a report on recent activities of the CoIME. He noted that the Code of Conduct for ERC independent reviewers, on which the CoIME has been working, is in the Commission pipeline for adoption as part of the H2020 Model Experts Contract package.

Session 2

6. Update on the Work programme 2014

The ERCEA gave an update on the Work Programme 2014, including the expected timeline for its adoption by the Commission.

The adoption for all Work Programmes is planned for December 2013, provided that the H2020 has been adopted by the co-legislators. There were no critical issues still open in the WP.

7. ERCEA Delegation Act and other documents

The ERCEA gave an overview on the state of play of preparation of the ERC-related legal documents. Those documents include the following:

- ERC Establishment Act (ERC Decision);
- ERCEA Establishment Act;
- ERCEA Steering Committee Decision;
- ERCEA Delegation Act;
- ERC Rules for Submission;
- H2020 Model Experts Contact;
- ERC Model Grant Agreement.

Specificities related to the respective documents were presented, together with the timeline for their approval. This was followed by lively discussion.
8. Communication activities update

The ERCEA gave an update on recent communication activities, including events and press coverage. The social sciences and humanities (SSH) conference in Vilnius (23-24 September 2013) was mentioned where all ScC members from the SH domain were present. The trip to China of the ERC Secretary General as part of the Global Campaign and ERC’s participation at the “Summer Davos” in Dalian, China were also highlighted. As forthcoming events at which ERC will be present several were noted, including among others, the Falling Walls Conference (9 November 2013, Berlin), the Launch event of the EU-Russia Year of Science (26 November 2013, Moscow) and Destination Europe (9-13 December, San Francisco). Also, in view of the launching of Horizon 2020 various events and ERC information days are being planned in EU member states and the provisional calendar of those was shared with the ScC.

Finally, a dedicated space has been created on the ERC website where information can be shared on the work of the ScC’ s Working groups and Committees. The ScC gave their agreement for the pages to go online.

WEDNESDAY 23 October 2013

Session 3

9. Visit of Mr. Robert-Jan Smits, Director General, DR Research and Innovation

The DG RTD Director General, Robert-Jan Smits attended the beginning of the morning session of the second day of the plenary meeting. Mr Smits gave an overview of the state of play of the Horizon 2020 negotiations, emphasising his full support to the ERC, the increase in the budget for the ERC and the ERC’s Scientific Council independence and the ERC’s autonomy, which has been preserved in the legislation.

Mr Smits then highlighted some of the challenges for the ERC in the years to come, including the oversubscription to the calls and the subsequent decrease in the success rate as well as the attractiveness of the ERC calls to the best researchers in Europe and the world.

Several members of the ScC reassured Mr. Smits that the ScC would continue to keenly monitor the trends.

Finally, both the ScC members and Mr Smits acknowledged the spirit of cooperation and mutual understanding which characterised their working relationship, and expressed their wish to continue such a fruitful cooperation in view of maintaining the specificities of the ERC.

10. Operational issues reporting

State of play: Granting

The ERCEA gave an update on the state of play of the ERC Grants portfolio, which stands now at some 4000 research project worth 7.5bn €. The implementation of the ERC projects is in full speed and the majority of final reports are expected in 2016 and 2017.

State of play: ERC-2013-AdG call

The ERCEA gave an update on the state of play of the AdG2013 call.
State of play: ERC-2013-SyG call

The ERCEA gave an update on the state of play of the SyG2013 call Step 2b interview stage.

State of play: ERC-2013-PoC call

The ERCEA gave an update on the state of play of the PoC 2013 first deadline.

11. Any other business

-ERC bilateral agreement with Korea

The ScC agreed to the signing of an Implementing Arrangement between the European Commission and the Ministry of Science, ICT and Future Planning of the Republic of Korea for Korean Researchers hosted by European Research Council grantees in Europe. The agreement is based on the model of the ERC-NSF agreement and has resulted from the Secretary General’s trip to Korea as part of the Global campaign. It has also been previously discussed by the WG on Widening participation.

-ScC plenary meetings in 2014

The ScC agreed the dates of its plenary meetings in 2014. Those are the following:

- 3-4-5 February;
- 24-25-26 March;
- 16-17-18 June;
- 20-21-22 October;
- 1-2-3 December.