



European Research Council
Scientific Council

Established by the European Commission

ERC SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL

44th PLENARY MEETING, BRUSSELS

3-4 February 2014

MINUTES

Scientific Council members present (in alphabetical order): Prof. Klaus BOCK, Prof. Nicholas CANNY, Prof. Sierd A.P.L. CLOETINGH, Prof. Tomasz DIETL, Prof. Athene DONALD (partially), Dr. Barbara ENSOLI, Prof. Pavel EXNER, Prof. Carl-Henrik HELDIN, Prof. Timothy HUNT, Prof. Matthias KLEINER, Prof. Nuria SEBASTIAN GALLES, Prof. Eva KONDOROSI, Prof. Mart SAARMA, Prof. Nils Christian STENSETH, Prof. Martin STOKHOF, Prof. Isabelle VERNOS, Prof. Reinhilde VEUGELERS, Prof. Michel WIEVIORKA

Scientific Council members excused (in alphabetical order): Prof. Daniel DOLEV, Prof. Reinhard GENZEL, Prof. Anna TRAMONTANO

ERC Executive Agency staff present: Pablo AMOR, Theodore PAPAZOGLU, Massimo GAUDINA, José LABASTIDA, Alejandro MARTIN HOBDEY, Mechtild MAY, George TE KOLSTE, Anna LONNOROTH, Maria OLIVAN AVILES, Ben TURNER, Laura PONTIGGIA, Dagmar MEYER, Elena TOMA, Marie ROBERTI

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

Rapporteur: Severina SHOPOVA, ERC Executive Agency

MONDAY 3 February 2014

Session 1

1. Welcome, plans and goals of meeting

The new Chairman of the Scientific Council Prof. Bourguignon welcomed everyone, in particular the three new members of the Scientific Council (ScC) and outlined the goals of the meeting. He also excused the three ScC members who could not attend the plenary. The welcome was followed by a short introduction of the ScC members present.

Session 2

2. Scientific Council brainstorming in closed session

The ScC had a closed brainstorming session.

Session 3

3. Scientific Council brainstorming (strategy, approach, priorities)

The ScC began the discussion with topics related to the Work programme 2015.

Session 4

4. Scientific Council brainstorming (strategy, approach, priorities) continued

The ScC continued its brainstorming session from the previous afternoon. One of the main topics discussed included how to measure the quality of the scientific output of ERC funding at project level. The ScC also discussed the importance of maintaining the participation of excellent researchers in ERC competitions. Other issues brought up for discussion included overall budget allocation between the three domains, the language of submitted proposals and the weight of the project and the Principal Investigator's CV in the evaluation process. The ScC reiterated its commitment to continue working towards the improved participation of women researchers. Finally, the ScC decided to reach out to both the scientific community as well as the relevant public administrations of the regions in the EU that are currently under-represented to the ERC calls.

TUESDAY 4 February 2014

Session 5

5. Adoption of agenda and point summary of the 43rd plenary meeting of the ERC Scientific Council in Brussels on 3-4 December 2013

- The draft agenda of the 44th plenary meeting was adopted.
- The Minutes of the 43rd plenary meeting of the ERC Scientific Council (ScC) were adopted.

6. Update on recent meetings and activities

6.1 ERC Board meetings on 13 December 2013 and 20 January 2014

An update was given on recent meetings, such as the Horizon 2020 launch events, which were attended by some of the Board members.

7. Work programme 2015

The ERCEA informed the ScC on the timeline in terms of drafting and adoption of the Work programme 2015. The ScC had a general discussion on the Work programme 2015.

8. ScC Standing Committees and Working groups

8.1 ScC Standing Committees and Working groups update

ScC Standing Committees update

Committee on Panels (CoP)

The Chair of the CoP, Prof. Heldin, reminded the ScC members of the Committee's forthcoming meeting on 5 February.

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, including recent cases of scientific misconduct, which have been brought to the attention of the Committee.

Working groups

Working group on KPIs (Key performance indicators)

The Chair of the WG, Prof. Veugelers, gave a report from the meeting of the WG, which took place in the morning of 3 February 2014.

Working group on Open Access

The Chair of the WG, Prof. Canny, gave a short report on recent activities of the Open access WG.

Working group on Innovation and relations with industry

The Chair of the WG, Prof. Cloetingh, gave a short report on recent activities of the WG. He reiterated how important it is to keep the link with industry.

Working group on Gender balance

The Chair of the WG, Prof. Vernos, gave an update on recent activities of the Gender balance WG. A report is being prepared, following the gender workshop organised in December 2013 and a main action for the WG in 2014 will be to renew the Gender equality plan.

8.2 ScC Standing Committees and Working groups renewal and participation

The ScC had a discussion on the Standing Committees and Working groups (WGs) renewal and participation.

9. Communication activities update

The ERCEA gave an update on recent communication activities, including events and press coverage. Noted under recent events were the AGU meeting and Destination Europe in San Francisco and the Annual American Society for Cell Biology (ASCB) meeting in New Orleans, all in December 2013. In January 2014, ERC was present at the MIT European Career fair and Destination Europe, as well as at Davos. The ERC press conference with the Belgian Prime Minister at Davos was considered a success. In addition, an update was given on Horizon 2020 launch events in EU member states with ERC ScC members and ERCEA staff participation. Specific ERC info days are being organised in Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, Spain and Sweden.

Good media coverage of the ERC calls was reported. Recent press releases were focused on the new ERC President and new ERC Vice-President, as well as the three new ScC members.

New success stories and videos have been produced while other are in the making. Some upcoming events with ERC participation include AAAS2014 in Chicago in February and the Innovation Convention in Brussels in March.

10. Operational issues reporting: evaluation

State of play: PoC2013

The ERCEA gave an update on the PoC2013 call.

11. Any other business

No items were discussed under this point.