



ERC SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL

45th PLENARY MEETING, BRUSSELS 25-26 March 2014

MINUTES¹

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

Scientific Council members excused (in alphabetical order): Prof. Klaus BOCK

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

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

Rapporteur: Severina SHOPOVA, ERC Executive Agency

TUESDAY 25 March 2014

Session 1

1. Welcome of Scientific Council (ScC) members, plans and goals of meeting

Prof. Bourguignon welcomed everyone and outlined the goals of the meeting. He also excused the ScC member who could not attend the plenary.

2. Adoption of agenda and point summary of the 44th plenary meeting of the ERC Scientific Council in Brussels on 3-4 February 2014

- The draft agenda of the 45th plenary meeting was adopted.
- The Minutes of the 44th plenary meeting of the ERC Scientific Council (ScC) were adopted.

3. Update on recent meetings and activities

Prof. Bourguignon reported to the ScC on a number of meetings/event that he recently attended. The main list of the meetings is the following:

- Participation to a public hearing of the ITRE committee of the European Parliament on 12 February 2014;

¹ If any necessary changes in the point summary are proposed, a written proposal in advance will be appreciated.

- Participation at the Science Europe Seminar on the European Research Area in Bath on 24-25 February 2014;
- Participation to the high level Commission meeting to prepare the communication on “Research and Innovations as a new source of economic growth” on 4 March 2014.

Prof. Exner reported on his participation at the ERC event in Romania on 5 March 2014.

Prof. Donald, Prof. Veugelers and Prof. Bourguignon also reported on their participation at the Innovation Convention on 10-11 March 2014.

3.1 ERC Board meeting on 21 February and 17 March 2014

An update was given on recent Board meetings.

4. Report on the meeting of the Steering Committee on 26 February 2014

A report was given from the last Steering Committee meeting. Prof. Dietl and Prof. Cloetingh, who are members of the Steering Committee, gave an overview of its composition, meetings frequency and types of discussions that took place. Prof. Bourguignon took part as an observer at the invitation of the Chair, Robert-Jan Smits.

5. ScC Standing Committees update

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 and the cases of scientific misconduct discussed.

Committee on Panels (CoP)

The Chair of the CoP, Prof. Heldin, reported on the activities of the Committee and its recent meetings. Among some of the issues currently discussed by the CoP were re-invitations of panel members and the size of panels, as well as the use of panel recruitment statistics.

Session 2

6. Definition of the Procedure to evaluate the Synergy Calls

The ScC discussed an evaluation of the two Synergy grant (SyG) calls, which will be taking place, including how to organise the evaluation exercise and to define its timeframe.

7. Definition of a Procedure to perform a qualitative Evaluation of completed projects

The ScC discussed the possibility for a qualitative evaluation of completed ERC projects to be conducted by a dedicated panel of external experts.

8. Towards an ERC public seminar series

The ScC discussed possible ways of organising a series of ERC public seminars showing results of ERC projects with the aim of enhancing the ERC visibility. Suggested types of events included TEDx conferences, partnerships with science museums and festivals, TV and radio shows, series of web movies.

9. Work programme 2015

The ERCEA informed the ScC on the timeline in terms of drafting and adoption of the Work programme 2015. Also, the ScC had a discussion on a number of topics, some of which included the following:

- Budget allocation per funding scheme;
- Indicative budget allocation per scientific domain;
- Open access-related issues;
- Gender balance-related issues;
- Support to monitoring, evaluation, outreach and dissemination activities.

14. ERCEA state of play

The agenda item 14 was originally envisaged on the agenda for 26 March but was instead covered earlier, at the end of the first day of the plenary meeting.

The ERCEA/Department D (Resources and Support Department) informed the ScC on the activities of its various Units. Those included an overview and update on the administrative budget, IT tools development and management, human resources, infrastructure and document management as well as programming, monitoring, legal matters and risk management.

WEDNESDAY 26 March 2014

Session 3

10. Revised composition of Working Groups

The ScC discussed the composition of the Standing committees and Working groups (WGs). The ScC members were requested to inform the respective Chairs of the WGs and the ERCEA ScC Secretariat in case they would like to join a working group. Following that the composition of all Standing committees and WGs will be finalised.

11. Actions in relation with Widening European Participation

As a result of a number of internal discussions Prof. Bourguignon proposed to the ScC to send letters to the scientific community and to Research Ministers encouraging the use of structural funds in order to increase the respective research capacity. The ScC agreed with the proposal.

12. Reports on Working Groups

Working group on Open Access

The Chair of the WG, Prof. Canny, gave a report on recent activities of the Open access WG. Those included two conferences that he recently attended as well as a number of presentations given to the Open access WG by invited speakers. Moreover, a workshop on (Open Access to) Research Data is being organised by the WG to take place in September 2014 in Brussels.

Working group on KPIs (Key performance indicators)

The Chair of the WG, Prof. Veugelers, gave a report on recent activities of the WG, including the setting up of an expert group on programme monitoring and evaluation.

Working group on Gender balance

The Chair of the WG, Prof. Vernos, gave a report from the last meeting of the Gender balance WG. She noted that the WG has finalised the report from the Gender Workshop, which took place in December 2013 and is currently revising the Gender equality plan 2007-2013. Moreover, members of the WG are participating in various important meetings on the topic of gender, such as the European Gender Summit and ESOF2014 (where a dedicated gender session is being organised).

Working group on Innovation and relations with industry

The Chair of the WG, Prof. Cloetingh, gave a report on recent activities of the WG. He reiterated how important it is to keep the link with industry. A meeting is envisaged with the European Round Table of Industrialists (ERT) as well as a "PoC elevator pitch" event in July 2014. Moreover, on 8 April a meeting with the PoC panel members will take place.

13. Communication activities update

The ERCEA gave an update on recent communication activities, including events, media coverage and press releases. The event dedicated to the farewell of Prof. Nowotny and welcoming Prof. Bourguignon in February was also mentioned. Among the other recent events with ERC participation the following were noted: AAAS 2014 in Chicago in February; the Innovation Convention in March; and the EURAXESS road show in Poland also in March. Moreover, Horizon2020 launch events are continuing and ERC is actively participating in most of them.

14. ERCEA state of play

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15. Operational issues reporting: granting and evaluation processes

State of play: ERC 2014 calls

ERCEA gave an overview of the ERC 2014 calls status for the Starting and Consolidator grants as well as for the Proof of Concept.

16. Any other business

Invitations to host ScC plenary meetings

Prof. Bourguignon mentioned a few invitations he received from institutions to host ScC plenary meetings.