

**ERC SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL****31<sup>st</sup> PLENARY MEETING, BUDAPEST****21-22 June 2011****MINUTES**

**Scientific Council members present (in alphabetical order):** Prof. Nicholas CANNY, Prof. Sierd CLOETINGH, Prof. Mathias DEWATRIPONT, Prof. Tomasz DIETL, Prof. Daniel DOLEV, Dr. Daniel ESTEVE, Prof. Pavel EXNER, Prof. Hans-Joachim FREUND, Prof. Carl-Henrik HELDIN, Dr. Tim HUNT, Prof. Norbert KROÓ, Prof. Maria Teresa LAGO, Prof. Helga NOWOTNY, Prof. Alain PEYRAUBE, Dr. Jens ROSTRUP-NIELSEN, Prof. Mart SAARMA, Prof. Isabelle VERNOS

**Scientific Council members excused (in alphabetical order):** Dr. Claudio BORDIGNON, Prof. Carlos M. DUARTE, Prof. Henrietta MOORE, Prof. Christiane NÜSSLEIN-VOLHARD, Prof. Anna TRAMONTANO

**ERC Executive Agency staff present:** Pablo AMOR, José LABASTIDA, Mechtild MAY, Theodore PAPAZOGLOU, Gabor NAGY, Alejandro MARTIN HOBDEY, Massimo GAUDINA, Maria OLIVAN AVILES, Laura PONTIGGIA, Jens HEMMELSKAMP, Sabine SIMMROSS, Severina SHOPOVA, Marie ROBERTI

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

**Advisor of the Chair:** Dr. Thomas KÖENIG

**Rapporteur:** Severina SHOPOVA, ERC Executive Agency

**TUESDAY 21 June 2011****Session 1****1. Welcome, introduction of new members, plans and goals of meeting**

The President of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Prof. József Pálinkás, welcomed the ScC members to Hungary and to the Academy.

**2. Adoption of agenda of the 31<sup>st</sup> plenary meeting in Budapest and point summary of the 30<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting of the ERC ScC in Brussels on 12 and 13 April 2011**

- The draft agenda of the 31<sup>st</sup> plenary meeting was adopted.
- The Minutes of the 30<sup>th</sup> plenary session of the ERC Scientific Council (ScC) were adopted without any changes.

### **3. Update on recent meetings and activities**

#### **3.1 ERC Board meetings on 16 May and 7 June 2011**

An update was given on recent meetings, such as the last Board meetings on 16 May and 7 June 2011.

### **4. Working groups update**

#### **4.1 Working group on International strategy**

The name of the Working group (WG) has been changed from WG on Third countries recruitment to WG on International strategy. The name change was approved by the ScC.

#### **4.2 International strategy**

The ScC discussed an ERC International strategy aiming at increasing the current number of ERC grantees from outside the ERA (European Research Area), as well as encouraging Europe-based researchers with international collaborations to attract high-quality individual scientists to come and start research in Europe.

The ERC is currently participating in a number of events, such as AAAS, ESOF and career fairs. High level bilateral meetings with national authorities are also being organised. Cooperation with science counsellors at EU Delegations, targeted site visits and the use of grantees as "testimonials" were mentioned as examples of good practices in support of an international strategy.

Moreover, the ERC will be working towards further developing its calls and establishing ERC contact points and "ambassadors", as well as implementing awareness raising measures and country specific strategies.

The ScC noted that more analysis is needed on mobility patterns in general and on making Europe more attractive. The non-ERA parts of Europe should be targeted and people should be encouraged to apply. Institutional linkages were identified as important and should be promoted.

#### **4.3 Working group on Gender balance**

Prof. Lago (Chair of the WG) reported on recent activities of the working group. The working group has received invitations to join various initiatives. The importance of the ERC's independence was stressed. Moreover, the ERC cannot sign any formal partnership agreements but collaborate with organisations and initiatives addressing gender issues.

The ScC requested some additional data such as the number of women who decline to be members of the panels, as well as the number of female remote referees.

#### **4.3 Working group on Relations with industry**

Dr. Jens Rostrup-Nielsen (Chair of the WG) gave an update on the activities of the WG. The Proof of Concept (PoC) option has received a number of applications. A meeting with the PoC evaluators has been scheduled for early July. The next meeting of the WG will be around the Riga ScC plenary in October 2011. It was also proposed that the name of the WG is changed to "Innovation and industrial relations". The ScC agreed on the proposal.

## **Session 2**

### **5. ERC Review follow up**

#### **5.1 ERC Task Force**

Prof. Nowotny gave an update on the developments related to the ERC Task Force. The final report of the Task Force is being finalized and will be sent to the ScC for agreement.

### **6. Update on communication activities**

The ERCEA/A2 gave an update on recent outreach activities in India and China. Prof. Peyraube was the ScC representative in China, visited a number of universities and took part in press activities. Forthcoming events in the US were also mentioned, including a Bio conference in Washington, ERC presentation at Georgetown University and a "get together" even with European researchers at the Polish Embassy. An event in Russia in July 2011 was noted, Joined European and National Astronomy meeting, at which the ERC will also be present.

The suggested by the Commission new name of the future Framework programme was announced during the meeting, Horizon 2020.

### **7. ScC Standing Committees update**

A report was given on the recent work of the Committee on Conflict of Interest, Ethics and Scientific Misconduct (CoIME) and the Committee on Panels (CoP) also gave an update on its work.

### **8. Supporting the ScC: Working modalities between ERCEA and ScC**

#### **8.1 Manual of Procedures**

The ERCEA reminded the ScC members of the established working modalities between the ERCEA and the ScC.

**WEDNESDAY 22 June 2011**

## **Session 3**

### **9. Operational issues**

#### **9.1 ERC Executive Agency update**

The ERCEA informed the ScC on the state of play of the ERC Executive agency's recruitment and logistics.

#### **9.2 State of play: Granting**

The ERCEA gave an update on the granting processes, including amendments and ex-post controls.

### **9.3 State of play: ERC-2011-AdG call/ERC-2011-StG call**

#### **Update on the ERC-2011-AdG call**

The ERCEA gave an update on the state of play of the ERC AdG call-2011 and the panel members' recruitment for the AdG 2012 call.

#### **Update on the ERC-2011-StG call**

The ERCEA informed the ScC on the StG 2011 call, including the final panel chairs meeting preparations. The status of the panel members' recruitment for the StG 2012 call was also reported.

### **10. Any other business**

No items were discussed under this point.