



ERC SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL

48th PLENARY MEETING, BRUSSELS

2-3 December 2014

MINUTES¹

Scientific Council members present (in alphabetical order): Prof. Klaus BOCK, Prof. Nicholas CANNY, Prof. Sierd A.P.L. CLOETINGH, Prof. Tomasz DIETL, Prof. Daniel DOLEV, Prof. Athene DONALD, Prof. Pavel EXNER, Prof. Carl-Henrik HELDIN, Dr. Timothy HUNT, 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, Prof. Anna TRAMONTANO

Scientific Council members excused (in alphabetical order): Prof. Reinhard GENZEL, Prof. Matthias KLEINER, Dr. Barbara ENSOLI

ERC Executive Agency staff present: Pablo AMOR, Theodore PAPAZOGLU, Massimo GAUDINA, George TE KOLSTE, Mechtild MAY, Alejandro MARTIN HOBDEY, Anna LONNROTH, Marja HENNESSY, Maria OLIVAN AVILES, Ben TURNER, Laura PONTIGGIA, Severina SHOPOVA, Marie ROBERTI

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

Rapporteur: Severina SHOPOVA, ERC Executive Agency

TUESDAY 2 December 2014

Session 1

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

Prof. Bourguignon welcomed everyone and outlined the goals of the meeting.

2. Adoption of agenda and point summary of the 47th plenary meeting of the ERC Scientific Council in Zagreb on 21-22 October 2014

- The draft agenda of the 48th plenary meeting was adopted.
- The Minutes of the 47th plenary meeting of the ERC Scientific Council (ScC) were adopted without any changes.

3. Update on recent meetings and activities

3.1 ERC Board meeting on 12 November 2014

An update was given on recent meetings, including the last Board meeting.

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

4. ScC Standing Committees' update and ScC WGs reporting

ScC Standing Committees update

Committee on Panels (CoP)

The Chair of the CoP, Prof. Heldin, reported from the last CoP meeting on 1 December. The agenda of the last CoP meeting included the state of play of the evaluation panels' recruitment and the time that a panel member/chair has to wait from the end of his/her mandate until being allowed to serve again in an ERC panel.

The ScC also unanimously supported Prof. Bourguignon's proposal to become new Chair of the CoP as of January 2015, considering that the term of office of Prof. Heldin is coming to an end on 31 December 2014.

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

The Chair of the CoIME, Prof. Exner, gave a report from the last CoIME meeting on 1 December and in particular the discussions on cases of conflict of interest (Col) and scientific misconduct.

As the term of office of Prof. Exner is coming to an end on 31 December 2014, the ScC unanimously agreed Prof. Sebastian Galles to be the new Chair of CoIME. Prof. Sebastian Galles' nomination was put forward by the ERC President.

ScC Working groups reporting

Working group on Gender balance

The Chair of the WG, Prof. Vernos, gave a report from the WG meeting on 1 December 2014. The WG had an update from the project coordinator of the on-going CSA 2013 gender project, genDERC on the state of play of the project's work.

Working group on Widening European participation

The Chair of the WG, Prof. Kondorosi, gave a report from the last WG meeting on 1 December. The WG is discussing the participation of less performing regions and will also be collecting ideas from NCPs (national contact points) on such related issues.

Working group on Innovation and relations with industry

The Chair of the WG, Prof. Cloetingh, gave a report from the last WG meeting on 1 December, including recent discussions on the Proof of Concept (PoC) scheme, meetings with industry stakeholders and forthcoming events.

Working group on Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

The Chair of the KPIs WG, Prof Veugelers, noted that the next WG meeting was to take place on 3 December. Therefore, a report will be given at the next ScC plenary meeting.

Working group on Open Access

The Chair of the WG, Prof. Canny, gave a report from the last WG meeting on 1 December. In February 2015, the WG will invite a group of experts to share best practice examples related to research data management and sharing in the three domains.

4.1 Revised Open Access guidelines

The ScC members discussed and adopted revised open access guidelines.

5. Presentation of ERIS 1.0: ERC Research Information System

The ERCEA demonstrated the ERC Research Information System (ERIS) tool, intended to support the monitoring and evaluation of the ERC funding activities.

Session 2

6. Update on the ScC renewal by DG RTD

Jack Metthey, DG RTD, informed the ScC about the on-going renewal process. He reminded the ScC members of the ERC legal framework, including the relevant articles in the legislation dedicated to the appointment of the ScC members. With respect to the 2015 ScC renewal exercise, he noted that the independent Identification Committee has been completely renewed and started working in April. The statement of methodology of the Identification Committee is available on the ERC website and can be consulted.

7. Work Programme 2016: Orientation debate

The ERCEA presented the main issues for the Work Programme 2016, based on previous discussions by the ScC. Among the topics discussed were resubmission restrictions, open access-related issues, Proof of Concept (PoC) improvements, possible studies to be funded in 2016.

WEDNESDAY 3 December 2014

Session 3

8. Communication activities update

The ERCEA gave an update on recent communication activities. The ScC was informed that an advertisement in Science magazine has been published on 28 November on the ERC calls. Also, a one-month banner campaign has been launched on the Science career website.

An overview of the press coverage was given from the ERC information event in Croatia. In terms of other events with ERC participation, the following were mentioned: the Science Festival Genoa (first ERC participation); EURAXESS links ASEAN conferences in Singapore and Thailand; the ERC President's visit to Ireland where he gave a keynote address at the Royal Irish Academy and met ERC grantees; and the ERC President's visit to Edinburgh where he gave the prestigious MacCormick European Lecture and met with ERC grantees. Moreover, a number of ScC members attended the TEDx Brussels talks on 1 December in which several ERC grantees participated.

Furthermore, a number of upcoming events with ERC participation were listed. Some of those include the following: American Society for Cell Biology, Philadelphia (6-10 December); NCP meeting (11-12 December); World Economic Forum Davos (21-24 January); AAAS San Jose (12-16 February); Destination Europe (20 February) and the MIT European Career Fair (21 February).

The Communication strategy for 2015 was also presented to the ScC for discussion and decision. Three main pillars have been identified:

- Communicating about the ERC calls;
- Communicating about projects and researchers; and
- Communicating about the organisation and its impact.

The ScC agreed upon the proposed Communication strategy for 2015.

9. Operational issues reporting: evaluation and granting processes

State of play: Evaluation of ERC 2014 calls

The ERCEA gave an overview of the evaluations of the StG2014 and AdG2014 calls.

State of play: Granting

The ERCEA gave an update on the granting activities, including information on on-going grants from the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) and those already signed under Horizon 2020.

10. Any other business

- Commission President Juncker's investment plan

Prof. Bourguignon informed the ScC about the €315bn investment package of the European Commission President, Jean-Claude Juncker, intended to spur greater investment across the EU. The Scientific Council debated on the possible consequences on the ERC actions.

-Thanking Prof. Heldin, Prof. Exner and Prof. Dietl

The ERC President warmly thanked Prof. Heldin, Prof. Exner and Prof. Dietl for all their dedication and contributions.