



European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

ERC SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL

37th PLENARY MEETING, LIMASSOL

4-5 October 2012

MINUTES

Scientific Council members present (in alphabetical order): Prof. Nicholas CANNY, Prof. Sierd CLOETINGH, Prof. Tomasz DIETL, Prof. Daniel DOLEV, Prof. Carlos M. DUARTE, 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. Anna TRAMONTANO, Prof. Isabelle VERNOS

Scientific Council members excused (in alphabetical order): Dr. Claudio BORDIGNON, Prof. Mathias DEWATRIPONT, Prof. Henrietta MOORE, Prof. Christiane NÜSSLEIN-VOLHARD

ERC Secretary General: Prof. Donald DINGWELL

ERC Executive Agency staff present: Pablo AMOR, José LABASTIDA, Theodore PAPAZOGLU, Mechtild MAY, Alejandro MARTIN HOBDEY, Massimo GAUDINA, Maria OLIVAN AVILES, Maud SCELO, Severina SHOPOVA, Marie ROBERTI, Laura PONTIGGIA

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

Advisor of the Chair: Dr. Thomas KÖENIG

Rapporteur: Severina SHOPOVA, ERC Executive Agency

THURSDAY 4 October 2012

Session 1

1. Welcome speech and presentation by the hosts

A welcome speech was given by the Permanent Secretary of the Planning Bureau together with a presentation on the research and innovation system of Cyprus by the Director of Research Promotion Foundation.

Session 2

2. Welcome, introduction of new members, plans and goals of meeting

Prof. Nowotny welcomed everyone to the meeting and outlined the main discussion points.

3. Adoption of agenda of the 37th plenary meeting in Limassol and the point summary of the 36th plenary meeting of the ERC ScC in Brussels on 20 and 21 June 2012

- The draft agenda of the 37th plenary meeting was adopted.
- The minutes of the 36th plenary session of the ERC Scientific Council (ScC) were adopted without any changes.

4. Update on recent meetings and activities

4.1 ERC Board meetings on 9 July and 12 September 2012

An update was given on recent meetings, including the Board meetings on 9 July and 12 September 2012.

5. Update on the state of play of Horizon 2020

An update was given by the ERCEA on the state of play of the Horizon 2020 negotiations in both the Council and the European Parliament (EP). The main amendments tabled in the EP ITRE (Industry, Research and Energy) Committee, as well as the Council's Research Working Group were presented, including information on the issues which have been agreed and those still open. Moreover, a special European Council (Heads of State) is planned to take place on 22 and 23 November 2012 to finalise the multi-annual financial framework which may define the overall funding of the Horizon 2020 programme.

6. ScC Retreat preparation

Prof. Nowotny gave an overview of the main topics to be discussed during the forthcoming ScC retreat.

Closed session

After the discussion point 6, ScC Retreat preparation, the ScC had a closed session.

Session 3

7. Communication activities update

The ERCEA gave an update on recent activities, including on some new striking projects. Also reported was the very wide coverage of the last StG results, with more than 200 articles following the publication of the results by the ERCEA. The good contacts with a growing number of journalists and the important role of Commission press officers in the Member States were underlined.

Publication of flyers and brochures as well as new tools on the ERC website, including a new section on statistics, were presented. In terms of forthcoming events, a number of those were mentioned, including the Neuroscience annual meeting in New Orleans, US (between 13-17 October 2012) and Falling Walls in Berlin, Germany (9 November 2012). As for the "ERC goes Global" campaign, over 15 countries are to be covered in 2 years. Press releases are issued before each visit, the latest one being on the Secretary General's visit to Russia. The good media coverage following the Taiwan visit in July 2012 was also mentioned.

With respect to widening participation events, the visits from the Polish NCN in June and the workshop held in Bulgaria in September were mentioned. In addition, two ERC grantees

presented their work at the informal Competitiveness Council meeting in Cyprus in July 2012. Also a number of interviews were planned with ScC members on the occasion of the ScC plenary meeting on 4-5 October 2012 in Limassol, Cyprus.

Looking into 2013, the main communication focus would be, among others, on the transition to Horizon 2020 and in particular on a transparent communication related to the 2014 calls and Work Programme, as well as on widening participation, on the global campaign, on the renewal of the ScC members and on the dissemination of a growing number of results and striking projects.

Prof. Nowotny underlined both the quality and quantity of the communication activities, including the actions in social media.

8. Operational issues

8.1 State of play: Granting

The ERCEA gave an update on the granting processes and performance. The consumption of payment credits between January and September 2012 was reported with a significant increase of activity. Moreover, more final scientific and financial reports will be reaching the ERC as of 2013 and their evolution over the years to come was mentioned.

8.2 State of play: ERC-2012-SyG call

The ERCEA gave an update on the state of play of the evaluation of the Synergy grant call. It was noted that the applicants passing to Step 2 have been informed about their results on 2 October 2012 and interviews have been scheduled for 12-14 November 2012 in Brussels.

8.3 State of play: ERC-2012-StG call

An update was given by the ERCEA on the StG2012 call. All results have been communicated to the PIs and published on the ERC website. It was the largest call ever in terms of budget (around 800M euros). An update was also given on the 2013 calls preparation. The publication date of the StG and AdG 2013 calls was 10 July 2012 with calls opened on 11 July 2012. Publication of the CoG (consolidators) call is 7 November 2012. Furthermore, a discussion on interdisciplinary proposals and the first Horizon 2020 calls in 2014 took place as well.

8.4 State of play: ERC-2012-AdG call

An update was given by the ERCEA on the state of play of the AdG2012 call Step one evaluation together with a report on the panel recruitment for the AdG2013 call.

8.5 ERC-2012-PoC call

The number of proposals received at the second deadline of PoC2012 was reported.

Session 4

9. ScC Standing Committees update

The Committee on Conflict of Interest, Ethics and Scientific Misconduct (CoIME) presented the ERC scientific misconduct strategy. The Chair of the Committee, Prof. Exner presented a summary of it. The ERC Strategy on Scientific Misconduct is based on the presumption that the host institutions of the ERC applicants and grant holders have the primary responsibility for the detection of scientific misconduct and for the investigation, and adjudication of any breaches of research integrity that may arise. Notwithstanding the above, all concerns about potential scientific misconduct or suspected breaches of research integrity concerning an ERC applicant or project will be addressed by the ERC within the applicable legal and procedural framework in close collaboration between the CoIME and the ERCEA Director. In particular, the ERC will, through its Executive Agency, take appropriate follow-up actions, as indicated in this document, whenever there is sufficient evidence that scientific misconduct has taken place. The strategy will be published on the ERC website.

Prof. Exner also gave an update on recent scientific misconduct cases and the state of play of their treatment.

10. Working groups update

10.1 Working group on Innovation and relations with industry

The Chair of the WG, Prof. Rostrup-Nielsen, gave a short report on on-going work and the discussions of the WG during the meeting on 4 October 2012 in Limassol. He also noted a number of meetings he recently attended. Also, activities to facilitate the meeting between PoC grantees and industry/potential investors are on-going, with two events planned in the next few months.

10.2 Working group on Gender balance

The Chair of the WG, Prof. Lago, gave a short report of the WG meeting on 4 October 2012 in Limassol. Moreover, she mentioned the forthcoming European Gender Summit on 29-30 November 2012 in which she will participate as a speaker. Furthermore, an update on the state of play of the gender CSA2012 call was noted as well as information on the gender CSA2013 call, which was published on 2 October 2012.

10.3 Working group on Open access

The Chair of the WG, Dr. Tim Hunt, gave an update on on-going work. The WG is planning a Workshop in February 2013 on "Open access infrastructures in Social Sciences and Humanities". The objectives of the workshop are to get acquainted with existing open access infrastructures for the Social Science and Humanities (including their scope, business models and operational strategies) and to inform the ERC Open Access WG on recommendations of disciplines specific repositories for the Social Sciences and Humanities.

11. Any other business

No items were discussed under this point.