



European Research Council
Scientific Council

Established by the European Commission

ERC SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL
46th PLENARY MEETING, OSLO

17-18 June 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, Alejandro MARTIN HOBDEY, Anna LONNROTH, Marja HENNESSY, Maria OLIVAN AVILES, Ben TURNER, Laura PONTIGGIA, Severina SHOPOVA, Marie ROBERTI, Madeleine DRIELSMA

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

Rapporteur: Severina SHOPOVA, ERC Executive Agency

TUESDAY 17 June 2014

Session 1

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

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

2. Adoption of agenda and point summary of the 45th plenary meeting of the ERC Scientific Council in Brussels on 25-26 March 2014

- The draft agenda of the 46th plenary meeting was adopted.
- The Minutes of the 45th plenary meeting of the ERC Scientific Council (ScC) were adopted.

3. Update on recent meetings and activities

ERC Board meetings on 30 April and 4 June 2014

An update was given on the content and conclusions of these two recent Board meetings.

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

4. Communication activities update

The ERCEA gave an update on recent events, including the final national Horizon2020 launch events in Italy and Turkey where Prof. Bourguignon and Prof. Kondorosi represented the ERC, respectively. Moreover, press coverage and media activities were reported, including the award ceremony and scientific seminar, which celebrated the funding of the 4000th ERC grantee in Brussels on 6 June 2014 in the presence of the DG RTD Director General, the ERC President, and the ERCEA Director. Audio-visual material development and the redesigning of the ScC page on the ERC website were presented as well.

In addition, an overview was given from the last NCP meeting, which took place on 21-22 May in Brussels.

In terms of participation at international events, the ERC has been at the AACR (American Association for Cancer Research) in San Diego, USA (5-9 April) and the AAG (Association of American Geographers) in Tampa, USA (8-11 April). ERC will also participate for the fourth time at ESOF. This year's theme is "Building bridges between science and society", and "Engaging young people on science and innovation topics". The ERC presence will be strong with 40 ERC grantees attending, several members of the ScC and ERCEA staff. A short calendar of some of the main forthcoming events was also shared with the ScC members.

5. Science 2.0

Jean-Claude Burgelman, Head of Unit at DG RTD/A6, gave a presentation to the ScC on Science 2.0, a systematic change in the modus operandi of science and research, which affects the whole research cycle and its stakeholders. In preparation of the call for contributions to be made soon by DG-RTD, he outlined as main drivers the following:

- Digital technologies enable changes similar as Web 2.0 to the internet;
- Exponential growth of data;
- Globalisation and growth of the science community;
- Need to address faster the Grand Challenges;
- Rising expectations of citizens towards science;
- Demand for accountable, responsive and transparent science;
- Digital "natives" entering the research population.

A discussion, during which individual members of the Scientific Council provided comments and feedback, followed the presentation. It was pointed out that, while the environment and the tools are changing, the essence of the scientific method remains the same. The ScC members added some drivers and challenges, such as unemployment, accountability and quality control, which are particularly important.

Session 2

6. Work Programme 2015

The ScC discussed a number of outstanding issues related to the finalisation of the Work Programme 2015 text, including the allocation of budget between domains, project time allocation and other actions. The decision was made to abolish the boundaries between domains for the allocation of the budget.

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Session 3

7. Election of two Vice-Presidents to take office on 1st January 2015

The ScC held a short closed session to discuss the candidatures (in the absence of the individual members who expressed their interest) for the future Vice-Presidents positions.

8. ScC Standing Committees and Working groups

8.1 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 in particular cases of scientific misconduct and conflict of interest (CoI). Some concern panel chairs serving on Advisory Boards and other policy-making bodies. A case of a panel chair serving as a high governmental executive was spotted and it was recommended that the President contacts the person and asks them to step down.

Committee on Panels (CoP)

The Chair of the CoP, Prof. Heldin, reported on recent activities of the Committee, including the revision of the panel descriptors, which has been finalized.

8.2 ScC Working groups reporting

Working group on Strengthening International Participation

Prof. Bourguignon, acting Chair of the WG, reported on the meeting, which took place on 16 June 2014 in Oslo prior to the ScC meeting. The WG members were updated on the recent participation of Prof. Bourguignon in the Global Research Council (GRC) meeting in China and a workshop in Brussels on grand challenges in international research cooperation. Also, ERCEA reported on the state of play of existing bilateral agreements with NSF and South Korea as well as on prospective countries with which similar agreements could be signed. In addition, an update on ERC communication activities overseas was given.

Working group on Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

The Chair of the WG, Prof. Veugelers, reported on recent activities of the WG, including on studies commissioned by the WG.

Working group on Gender balance

The Chair of the WG, Prof. Vernos, gave a report on recent activities of the Gender balance WG. She presented the Gender Equality Plan 2014-2020, which was adopted by the ScC.

Working group on Widening European participation

The Chair of the WG, Prof. Kondorosi, gave a report from the meeting, which took place on 16 June. A number of activities are planned, including analysis on trends in participation. Moreover, a letter to Science Ministers (of countries benefiting from the structural funds) has been sent by the ERC President regarding structural funds possible usage for research. A similar letter will be sent to scientists as well.

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 noted that the increased number of PoC proposals called for more experts to be mobilised. Also, recent meetings of the WG included one with the European Round Table of Industrialists representatives and the PoC evaluators. In terms of forthcoming activities, the PoC "elevator pitch" event on 4 July in Brussels was noted and preparations for it are on-going.

Working group on Open Access

The Chair of the WG, Prof. Canny, gave a report on recent activities of the Open access WG. He recalled the recent Global Research Council (GRC) meeting in China, attended by the ERC President, and the GRC Action Plan towards Open Access to Publications that had been adopted at the GRC Summit 2013. He also mentioned the Review of the implementation of this Action Plan. In terms of forthcoming activities of the WG, an ERC workshop is being organised in Brussels on 18 and 19 September 2014 on 'Research Data Management and Sharing'.

9. Operational issues reporting: granting and evaluation processes

State of play: Granting

The ERCEA gave an overview of the new ERC grant agreement in Horizon2020 and an update on the state of play of the granting activities.

State of play: Evaluation of ERC 2014 calls

The ERCEA gave an overview of the state of play of the evaluation of the StG2014 and CoG2014 calls.

10. Synergy grant calls evaluation

Three ScC members volunteered to get involved in the Synergy Grant programme evaluation process.

11. Any other business

Invitation to host an ScC plenary meeting in France in 2015

Prof. Bourguignon mentioned an invitation he received from France to host a ScC plenary meeting in 2015 there and the ScC agreed.

Thanking Rector Ottersen and Prof. Stenseth for their hospitality

Prof. Bourguignon thanked Rector Ottersen for providing excellent facilities for the ScC meeting and a great welcome event, and Prof. Stenseth for his contributions to the wonderful organisation of the ScC plenary meeting in Oslo and the invitation to the Norwegian Academy.