



European Research Council  
Scientific Council

Established by the European Commission

## ERC SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL

### 47<sup>th</sup> PLENARY MEETING, ZAGREB

21-22 October 2014

#### MINUTES<sup>1</sup>

**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, 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. Martin STOKHOF, Prof. Isabelle VERNOS, Prof. Reinhilde VEUGELERS, Prof. Michel WIEVIORKA, Prof. Anna TRAMONTANO

**Scientific Council members excused (in alphabetical order):** Prof. Nils Christian STENSETH

**ERC Executive Agency staff present:** Pablo AMOR, Jose LABASTIDA, Massimo GAUDINA, Alejandro MARTIN HOBDEY, Anna LONNROTH, Martin PENNY, Thierry PROST, Maria OLIVAN AVILES, Ben TURNER, Boris KRAGELJ, Dagmar MEYER, Madeleine DRIELSMA, Severina SHOPOVA, Marie ROBERTI

**Former ERCEA DPO:** Nadine KOLLOCZEK

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

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

### TUESDAY 21 October 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 member who could not attend the plenary.

##### 2. Adoption of agenda and point summary of the 46<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting of the ERC Scientific Council in Oslo on 17-18 June 2014

- The draft agenda of the 47<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting was adopted.
- The Minutes of the 46<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting of the ERC Scientific Council (ScC) were adopted.

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

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

#### **3.1 Update on ERC Board meetings (7 July, 17 September and 14 October 2014)**

An update was given on recent Board meetings. Prof. Bourguignon also reported from several meetings he had with various stakeholders.

### **4. 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 conflict of interest (CoI) and scientific misconduct. Also discussed was whether more information could be provided on the ERC website on CoI.

#### **Committee on Panels (CoP)**

The Chair of the CoP, Prof. Heldin, reported on recent activities of the Committee, including the panels' recruitment for 2015.

### **5. Presentation of data protection policies and obligations**

The former ERCEA DPO (Data Protection officer) gave a presentation to the ScC on data protection policies and obligations. The DPO informed the ScC on how to process personal data in accordance with Regulation (EC) 45/2001 on the protection of personal data. The main actors, namely the "data subject" and the "controller", were explained, together with their rights and responsibilities. Other subjects were information on data security and practical examples of the impact of data protection on business operations. Moreover, the role of the EDPS (European Data Protection Supervisor) was outlined and possible consequences of non-compliance with Regulation (EC) 45/2001 were explained.

The DPO advised the ScC that according to Article 24 of the Regulation (EC) 45/2001 on data protection, each community institution and body should appoint a DPO.

The DPO then gave an overview of recent developments in the area of data protection relating to research.

## **Session 2**

### **6. ScC Working groups' reporting**

#### **Working group on Widening European participation**

The Chair of the WG, Prof. Kondorosi, gave a report from the meeting, which had taken place on 20 October. On the occasion of the Zagreb plenary meeting, the WG had also organised a meeting with stakeholders from Croatia, Slovenia and Serbia to discuss how to strengthen the participation of researchers based in their countries in ERC competitions.

#### **Working group on Open Access**

The Chair of the WG, Prof. Canny, gave a report on recent activities of the Open access WG. The recently organised Workshop on research data in Brussels had been much appreciated by all participants. The Chair of the WG also reported on a Workshop on long-text format

publications that had been organised jointly with STM a week before the Zagreb meeting and which had been very informative.

Prof. Canny informed the ScC that Prof. Ensoli has decided to join the Open access WG.

### **Working group on Innovation and relations with industry**

The Chair of the WG, Prof. Cloetingh, gave a report on recent activities. He noted the PoC "elevator pitch" event, which had been organised together with Science Business on 4 July in Brussels and had been a success. It had been also attended by the DG RTD Director General. Furthermore, in September an ERC delegation headed by Prof. Cloetingh and Prof. Bourguignon and including ten ERC-supported Principal Investigators had attended the so-called "Summer Davos" in Tianjin, China, organised by the World Economic Forum. There had been a session on science for business, which had been well attended. Also a number of interviews had been organised.

### **Working group on Strengthening International Participation**

Prof. Bourguignon, acting Chair of the WG, reported on recent activities, in particular regarding bilateral arrangements between the ERC and third countries.

### **Working group on Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)**

Prof Veugelers reported on recent activities of the KPIs WG and the discussions at the last meeting on 20 October. An update was given on actions and studies that the WG is currently working on. Also, the WG was still looking for ScC members to join the group.

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

The Chair of the WG, Prof. Vernos, gave a report from the meeting on 20 October 2014. The WG had a presentation and a discussion on a gender project, ERCAREER, which had been finalised earlier this year.

## **7. ScC brainstorming session**

The ScC had a brainstorming session during which a number of topics were discussed. Prof. Bourguignon shared some feedback he had received from applicants, grantees and stakeholders during his recent trips.

The ScC discussed the environment created by the new Commission and its structure, as well as the likely new Research Commissioner. The ERC had been identified as a priority during his hearing at the European Parliament, which was a positive sign.

## **WEDNESDAY 22 October 2014**

### **Session 3**

#### **8. Communication activities update**

The ERCEA gave an update on recent activities, including coverage in the media and social networks of the three Nobel Prize winners who were also ERC grantees. Moreover, during the International Congress of Mathematicians (ICM) in August, two ERC grantees won Fields Medals. The congress had been attended by both Prof. Bourguignon and Prof. Exner and press activities had been organised. The ERC had also been represented at the World Congress of Sociology by Prof. Wieviorka who had given a plenary speech. An ERC stand and information sessions had also been organised. Furthermore, Sir Tim Hunt had recently visited Serbia and had spoken at scientific institutions in Belgrade, Novi Sad, Negotin and Zajecar. There had been very positive media coverage with over 15 media items.

Furthermore, a call for proposals had been published to identify novel ways to highlight ERC projects and reach out to a wider public with a deadline 16 December and a budget of 1.6 million euros for the years 2015-2018 (for up to two grants).

A number of upcoming events were mentioned with ERC participation, among those Genoa Science Festival, Euraxess Asean conferences, TEDx Brussels talks with ERC grantees and the American Society for Cell Biology congress.

#### **9. "Science behind projects": project outcome**

The ERCEA reported on an internal analysis, which has been performed by its Scientific Management department with the aim of better mapping the science funded by the ERC.

#### **10. Operational issues reporting: granting and evaluation processes**

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

The ERCEA reported on granting activities, including an update on the activities between January and October 2014.

##### **State of play: Evaluation of ERC 2014 calls**

The ERCEA reported on the state of play of the 2014 calls, including an update on the Starting grants (StG), Consolidator grants (CoG), Advanced grants (AdG) and Proof of Concept (PoC).

#### **11. Any other business**

No items were discussed under this point.