



European Research Council
Scientific Council

Established by the European Commission

ERC SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL 70th PLENARY MEETING Lisbon, 4-5 April 2019

MINUTES

Scientific Council members present (in alphabetical order): Prof. Manuel ARELLANO, Prof. Jean-Pierre BOURGUIGNON, Prof. Paola BOVOLENTA, Prof. BUCKINGHAM, Prof. Eveline CRONE, Prof. Lene HAU, Prof. Andrzej JAJSZCZYK, Prof. Tomas JUNGWIRTH, Prof. Michael KRAMER, Prof. Kurt MEHLHORN, Prof. Barbara ROMANOWICZ, Prof. Martin STOKHOF, Prof. Nektarios TAVERNARAKIS, Prof. Janet THORNTON, Prof. Isabelle VERNOS, Prof. Michel WIEVIORKA and Prof. Fabio ZWIRNER.

Scientific Council members excused (in alphabetical order): Prof. Ben Feringa and Prof. Giulio SUPERTI-FURGA.

ERC Executive Agency staff present: Pablo AMOR, Jose LABASTIDA, Theodore PAPAZOGLU, Angela LIBERATORE, Laurence MOREAU, Alejandro MARTIN HOBDEY, Martin PENNY, Michel VANBIERVLIE, Anthony LOCKETT, Thierry PROST, Richard FRIZON, Carmen GARCIA FERNANDEZ, Franchesca SGRITTA, Madeleine DRIELSMA, Katia MEINKE, Sabine SIMMROSS, Severina SHOPOVA, Christine SCHIEL, Brigitte ETIENNE.

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

Rapporteur: Severina SHOPOVA, ERC Executive Agency.

1. Welcome of ScC Members, Plans and Goals of Meeting

Prof. Jean-Pierre BOURGUIGNON welcomed everyone and outlined the goals of the meeting. He welcomed Prof. Lene VESTERGAARD-HAU who was attending the plenary meeting for the first time and she briefly introduced herself.

Furthermore, Prof. Jean-Pierre BOURGUIGNON excused Prof. Ben FERINGA and Prof. Giulio SUPERTI-FURGA who could not attend the plenary meeting. Prof. Tomas JUNGWIRTH was able to attend the plenary meeting partially due to another engagement.

2. Adoption of the Agenda of the 70th Plenary Meeting of the ERC Scientific Council

The Draft Agenda of the meeting was approved by the Scientific Council.

3. Adoption of the Minutes of the 69th Plenary Meeting of the ERC Scientific Council in Brussels in February 2019

The Scientific Council approved the Draft Annotated Minutes of the previous plenary meeting.

4. Action Points Summary of the 69th Plenary Meeting of the ERC Scientific Council

The ERCEA1 informed the Scientific Council of the state of play of the action points from the previous Scientific Council plenary meeting.

5. Update on Recent Meetings and Activities

Prof. Jean-Pierre BOURGUIGNON reported to the ScC members on his recent trips and meetings and in particular his travel to Singapore. Prof. Jean-Pierre BOURGUIGNON gave a lecture entitled *“What it takes to “understand”. Looking for antidotes to Fake News”* and attended the opening of the NTU’s new Institute of Science and Technology for Humanity (NISTH), which was also attended by several high-level personalities.

Moreover, Prof. Jean-Pierre BOURGUIGNON travelled to Nairobi to have discussions with the African Academy of Sciences as regards the possibility to create an African Research Council (ARC), inspired by the ERC, for which there is a lot of interest at the moment, and to take part in a meeting of the Steering Committee of the Next Einstein Forum 2020, to be held there in March 2020, of which he is a member.

The Vice-Presidents reported from a number of recent meetings with European Commission representatives.

Finally, Prof. Fabio ZWIRNER noted an event that he attended, organised by the University of Pisa within the framework of the ERC=Science² project by Science Business, on the topic of the future of frontier research and Open Science, where he gave a keynote speech.

6. Update on the Negotiations of the Horizon Europe Proposal

The ERCEA gave an update on the state of play of the negotiations as regards the Horizon Europe proposal. The ScC was reminded that in May 2018 the Commission adopted its proposal for the next EU long-term budget and in June 2018 its proposal for Horizon Europe. A recap was given of the Three Pillars of the Horizon Europe framework programme. The ScC was also reminded of the next steps.

7. Communication Activities Update

The ERCEA reported on recent communication activities and events in the first quarter of 2019. In January and February, the ERC took part in the WEF Davos summit, the EP STOA/ERC event (Brussels) and the AAAs meeting (Washington DC), involving 26 ERC grantees. There were also many interviews, with the ERC President and grantees, and much coverage in mainstream and social media around these events.

Over 20 videos were produced generating 120 000 views; 68 ERC research stories were also published on the website.

The ScC was furthermore reminded of the events planned for 2019. There will be an ERC info day in Bucharest with the participation of Prof. Andrzej JAJSZCZYK and ERCEA staff in June, as well as an ERC event in Krakow in October, on the occasion of the ScC plenary meeting. Also noted was the forthcoming communication training for ScC members.

8. Meeting with Minister Manuel HEITOR

The Portuguese Minister of Science, Technology and Higher Education, Mr. Manuel HEITOR visited the ScC plenary meeting and addressed the ScC. He was accompanied by Prof. Helena PEREIRA, Vice-President of FCT. He presented his vision of the next framework programme Horizon Europe.

Prof. Jean-Pierre BOURGUIGNON thanked the Minister for sharing his views and his support for the ERC.

9. Reporting from Standing Committees, Task Forces and Working Groups

Prof. Isabelle VERNOS noted that, as her mandate is coming to an end in June 2019, she will be passing on the Chairmanship of the Gender Balance Working Group to Prof. Barbara ROMANOWICZ.

Unconscious bias training

The Gender Balance Working Group reported on two action points that the ScC had set at the last plenary meeting. Prof. Isabelle VERNOS proposal that the training on unconscious bias for the ScC members takes place in June was agreed by the ScC.

Gender Workshop

The Gender Balance Working Group came forth with a proposal for a Workshop on 'The gender dimension in research: Do better science and impact the whole society'. The ScC agreed on the proposed Workshop, which could take place in February 2020.

Follow up of the request by the ERCEA Scientific Department for guidance by the Scientific Council on the implementation of Open Access in ERC actions

The Scientific Council unanimously endorsed the presented document.

Update on the ERC ScC document on Open Research Data and Data Management Plans

The ScC approved the document.

10. Presentation of the Scientific Analysis of Projects (SAP) 2018 Exercise

The ERCEA gave an update on the results of the 2018 Qualitative Evaluation of ERC Completed Projects.

11. Operational Issues Reporting: Evaluation Analysis

Update on calls

The ERCEA gave a short update on calls, including the following: AdG 2018 Communication of results, StG 2019 Outcome of Step 1, SyG 2019 Outcome of Step 1, CoG 2019 Applications received and PoC 2019 Outcome of Deadline 1.

Allocation of Associated Contributions to the 2019 Calls

The ERCEA informed the ScC about the third country contributions to be added to the 2019 operational budget established by the ERC Work Programme 2019. The ScC discussed and provisionally allocated the additional funds.

Update on ethics

The ERCEA reported to the ScC on ethics review activities.

12. ERC Proposals/Grants Data Management

Ownership of data in SEP

The ERCEA gave an update to the ScC on recent discussions as regards data co-ownership in the submission and evaluation tool used for the Framework Programme (SEP)

Data retention policy state of play

The ERCEA gave an update on recent data retention policy discussions.

13. Operational Issues Reporting: Grant Management Activities

Update on Brexit and impact on the management of ERC grants

The ERCEA gave an update on the situation as regards Brexit and in particular, the impact for the management of ERC grants.

Portability of ERC grants

The ERCEA gave an overview to the ScC on portability of ERC grants.

14. Any Other Business

Essential Guidelines for ERC panel members

The ScC discussed the general guidelines given to panel members by ScC members before the start of the evaluation.

15. Closed Session

The ScC held a closed session under this agenda item.