



European Research Council
Scientific Council

Established by the European Commission

EUROPEAN SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL 85th PLENARY MEETING 7-8 April 2022, Brussels, BE

MINUTES

Scientific Council members present (in alphabetical order): Maria LEPTIN (ERC President), Genevieve ALMOUZNI (online), Paola BOVOLENTA, Eveline CRONE, Ben FERINGA, Mercedes GARCIAL ARENAL, Gerd GIGERENZER, Liselotte HØJGAARD, Dirk INZE, Andrzej JAJSZCZYK, Eystein JANSEN, Chryssa KOUVELIOTOU, Kurt MEHLHORN, Giovanni SARTOR, Nicola SPALDIN, Jesper SVEJSTRUP, Nektarios TAVERNARAKIS, Alice VALKÁROVÁ (online) and Milena ŽIC FUCHS.

Scientific Council members excused (in alphabetical order): Laszlo LOVÁSZ.

ERC Executive Agency staff present: Laurence MOREAU, Jose LABASTIDA, Anthony LOCKETT, Mila BAS-SANCHEZ, Angela LIBERATORE, Eleni ZIKA, Victor LOSADA, Josefina ENFEDAQUE, Philippe CUPERS, Alejandro MARTIN HOBDEY, Lino PAULA, Niki ATZOULATOU, Anisoara ULCELUSE-PIRVAN, Anita KUCHARSKA, Nikola CAR, Philippe VIJGHEN, Gwennael JOLIFF-BOTREL, Ben TURNER, Laura PONTIGGIA, Dace RAMBAKA, Dagmar MEYER, Anna PELAGOTTI, Elena TOMA, Elena VOLPI, Eleni CHATZICHRISTOU, Madeleine DRIELSMA, Noëlie AUVERGNE, Marcin MONKO, Filipa FERRAZ DE OLIVEIRA, Veronica MARTINEZ OCANA, Alice RAJEWSKY, Monique SMAIHI, David KRASA, Line VOLKERS, Simona ROMAGNOLI, Agnes KULCSAR, David KURZ, Srdjan PERKO, Carmen GARCIA FERNANDEZ, Konstantia VIGLI-PAPADAKI, Angela WITTELSBERGER, Rumen TINKOV, Giuseppe BAMBARA, Alejandro RODRIGUEZ RAMOS, Miguel PESQUERA, Erica MORI, Roberta MAGGIO, Agni KORTSIDAKI, Wieland STAESSENS, Evangelos MADEMLIS, Katja MEINKE, Sabine SIMMROSS, Andrea POLYAK, Severina SHOPOVA and Brigitte ETIENNE.

Chairs of the meeting: Maria LEPTIN (ERC President)

Rapporteur: Severina SHOPOVA, ERC Executive Agency.

Thursday 7 April 2022

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

The ERC President welcomed everyone to the meeting and outlined the main points to be discussed during the plenary meeting. Maria LEPTIN welcomed the appointment of three new ScC members, Chryssa KOUVELIOTOU, Giovanni SARTOR and László LOVÁSZ. Chryssa KOUVELIOTOU and Giovanni SARTOR introduced themselves. László LOVÁSZ was excused as he had another commitment and could not attend the plenary meeting.

2. Adoption of the Agenda of the 85th Plenary Meeting of the ERC Scientific Council

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

3. Adoption of the Minutes of the 84th Plenary Meeting

The Draft Minutes of the previous plenary meeting were approved by the ScC.

4. Action Points Summary of the 84th Plenary Meeting

The ERCEA informed the ScC on the state of play of the various action points from the previous ScC plenary meeting in February. It was noted that all action points had either been completed or were in progress.

5. Update on Recent Meetings and Activities

Eveline CRONE reported that she recently attended the ERC 15th Anniversary event organised by CNRS in Paris on 28 February.

Nektarios TAVERNARAKIS reported from his recent meetings, including on the following:

- 8th Global Biodata Coalition (GBC) Board meeting on 1 March;
- Event on the occasion of the French National Institute for Sustainable Development Days 2022 on 4 April in Marseille (attended virtually);
- Meeting of the Heads of International (Biomedical) Research Organisations (HIROs) on 5 April.

Andrzej JAJSZCZYK reported from recent meetings and activities as follows:

- ERC information webinar on Slovakia online on 23 February;
- An online meeting of 20 Rectors of Polish medical universities on 25 March;
- A forthcoming ERC information day on Romania in May;
- A forthcoming meeting of the European Physical Society in Paris in early June.

Maria LEPTIN reported from her recent meetings and activities as follows:

- Meetings with various politicians and Commission officials in Brussels, including Commission Vice-President Maroš ŠEFČOVIČ, Commission Vice-President Věra JOUROVÁ, Member of the European Parliament Eva KAILI, Head of Cabinet of Commission Vice-President Dubravka ŠUIČA, Colin SCICLUNA and Head of Unit DG RTD Jacques VERRAES;
- Meetings with delegations from Japan and Turkey;
- Meetings with representatives from LERU and the German Rectors' Conference;
- A UKRI (UK Research and Innovation) event on narrative CVs in the UK (virtual);
- A visit to Denmark for the 100th Anniversary of the Niels Bohr Institute, which included a meeting with the Danish Minister of Higher Education and Science;
- Meetings with the Director of the London School of Economics and the Provost of Imperial College in London, and a visit to the Royal Society; an informal meeting with the Crick Institute Director, Paul NURSE;
- Meeting with Katja BECKER, President of the DFG (German Research Foundation).

6. Measures related to the Russian invasion of Ukraine

The ERCEA Director reported that the war in Ukraine had consequences for research, particularly for beneficiaries in Russia and for panel members from Russia. The ScC had published a statement on the situation in Ukraine. The ERCEA updated the ScC on the ERC initiative for refugees, which the ERC President had launched. A call to the ERC grantees had been initiated to ask if they were planning to hire researchers and encourage them to share such information so that it could reach Ukrainian researchers. The ERC ScC had included already in its Work Programme 2023 a provision on asylum seekers.

7. State of play of Horizon Europe implementation

– *Update on the association of third countries*

The ERCEA reminded the ScC that under the last EU research programme there were 16 associated countries and they had all been asked to associate again to Horizon Europe, plus the UK. Most of those countries had re-associated. However, negotiations between the EU and Switzerland and the UK had not resulted in their association. UK participants were still allowed to apply but the ERC could not sign a grant agreement with them as long as the UK was not associated.

In addition, a new possibility had been opened in Horizon Europe for more countries outside of Europe to associate if they met the criteria defined in the legislation. The Commission had identified six countries, Canada, New Zealand, Australia, Singapore, Japan and South Korea as possible candidates.

– ***Update on reporting templates***

The ERCEA reported on the longstanding discussions between the ERC and DG RTD on the reporting templates.

8. Revision of the Ethics Review process

The ERCEA gave an update on the ethics 'continuous improvement' project.

9. Communication Activities update

The ERCEA reported on recent communication activities. The following were highlighted:

- Upcoming online ERC information webinars;
- Announcement of three new ScC members;
- Announcements about the granting schemes;
- Publication of the ScC statement on the situation in Ukraine and the ERC initiative for refugees.
- Redesign of the ERC website.

10. Update from the ScC Standing Committees and Working Groups

The various Standing Committees and Working Groups that met recently reported on their activities.

– ***Standing Committee on Panels***

Maria LEPTIN reported from the last meeting of the CoP during which the recruitment of panel members and panel chairs was discussed.

– ***Standing Committee COIME***

Eveline CRONE reported from recent activities of CoIME.

– ***Standing Committee PRIME***

Nektarios TAVERNARAKIS reported from recent activities of the PRIME Committee, including ongoing studies that the Committee was supporting.

– ***WG Gender and Diversity Issues (GDIWG)***

Geneviève ALMOUZNI reported from the last GDIWG meeting on 9 March.

– ***WG on Open Science***

Paola BOVOLENTA reported from recent activities of the Open Science Working Group, which had met on 25 March.

– ***WG Science Behind the Projects***

Dirk INZE reported from recent activities of the SBP Working Group.

– ***WG on Innovation***

Kurt MEHLHORN reported on recent activities of the Innovation Working Group.

– ***WG on Widening European Participation***

Andrzej JAJSZCZYK reported from recent activities of the Widening European Participation Working Group.

11. Task Force on Research Assessment

Maria LEPTIN and the ERCEA updated the ScC on recent discussions in the Task Force on Research Assessment, which had been set up in December 2021. Maria LEPTIN informed the ScC that Nicola SPALDIN had agreed to join the Task Force.

12. Update on the Conference on the Future of Europe

Maria LEPTIN and the ERCEA reminded the ScC members of the background on the Conference on the Future of Europe. It was noted that the EU was consulting with its citizens by involving them in a series of citizens' panels and having representatives from every member state. Several topics had

been identified as part of the Conference, such as Health, Democracy, Migration etc. Efforts had been made by the ERC President and the ScC, together with the scientific community for the importance of research to be explicitly mentioned on the agenda of the Conference. The conference was due to finish in May and it would deliver a list of recommendations and each of the EU institutions would then have the rest of the year to respond to those recommendations.

Friday 8 April 2022

13. Lump sums

The ERCEA Continuous Improvement project team gave an update on the discussion on the lump sums.

14. ERC Visiting Fellowship Programme: analysis of outcomes

The ERCEA gave an update on the ERC Visiting Fellowship Programme. The ScC members were reminded that the ERC was promoting the efforts of national and regional authorities that set up and fund mobility programmes to allow potential ERC applicants to visit and gain experience with ERC-funded teams.

15. Operational Issues Reporting:

– *Grant activities, results 2021 and forecast 2022*

The ERCEA gave an update on the granting activities, results for 2021 and forecast for 2022.

– *Update on calls*

The ERCEA gave an update on the AdG2021 results, CoG2022 submissions, SyG2022 Step 1 results and PoC2022 evaluations.