



European Research Council
Scientific Council

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ERC SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL 67th PLENARY MEETING, Heraklion 16-17 October 2018

MINUTES

Scientific Council members present (in alphabetical order): Prof. Jean-Pierre BOURGUIGNON (skype), Prof. Klaus BOCK, Paola BOVOLENTA, Prof. Margaret BUCKINGHAM, Prof. Andrzej JAJSZCZYK, Prof. Tomas JUNGWIRTH, Prof. Eva KONDOROSI, Prof. Michael KRAMER, Prof. Kurt MEHLHORN, Prof. Barbara ROMANOWICZ, Prof. Giulio SUPERTI-FURGA, Prof. Janet THORNTON, Prof. Isabelle VERNOS, Prof. Reinhilde VEUGELERS, Prof. Michel WIEVIORSKA, and Prof. Fabio ZWIRNER

Scientific Council members excused (in alphabetical order): Prof. Christopher CLARK, Prof. Eveline CRONE, Prof. Athene DONALD

ERC Executive Agency staff present: Pablo AMOR, Mechtild MAY, Jose LABASTIDA, Theodore PAPAZOGLU, Angela LIBERATORE, Laurence MOREAU, Niki ATZOULATOU, Alejandro MARTIN HOBDEY, Martin PENNY, Michel VANBIERVLIET, Anthony LOCKETT, Laura PONTIGGIA, Elena TOMA, Carmen GARCIA FERNANDEZ, Matteo RAZZANELLI, Ben TURNER, Mike MUGABUSHAKA, Madeleine DRIELSMA, Severina SHOPOVA, Christine SCHIEL, Diane BASTIANELLI.

Chair of the meeting: Prof. Klaus BOCK, ERC Vice President

Rapporteur: Severina SHOPOVA, ERC Executive Agency

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

Prof. Jean-Pierre BOURGUIGNON could not attend the meeting for personal reasons and asked Prof. Klaus BOCK to be the Chair. Prof. Jean-Pierre BOURGUIGNON joined the ScC via Skype for two agenda items, namely "Update on the Negotiations of the Horizon Europe proposal" and "Initial Orientations for the Work Programme 2020".

Prof. Klaus BOCK welcomed everyone and outlined the goals of the meeting. He also excused Prof. Christopher CLARK, Prof. Eveline CRONE and Prof. Athene DONALD who could not attend the plenary meeting.

2. Adoption of Agenda of the 67th 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 66th Plenary Meeting of the ERC Scientific Council in Leuven in July 2018

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

4. Action Points Summary of the 66th Plenary Meeting of the ERC Scientific Council

The ERCEA/A1 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. Klaus BOCK confirmed that the two plenary meetings outside Brussels in 2019 will take place in Lisbon (Portugal) in April and Krakow (Poland) in October. Moreover, he informed the ScC that

Prof. Janet THORNTON has decided to step down from the ERCEA Steering Committee and that Prof. Margaret BUCKINGHAM has offered to replace her.

6. Update on the Negotiations of the Horizon Europe Proposal

The ERC President joined the Scientific Council via skype and gave an update on recent developments as regards the negotiations of the Horizon Europe proposal.

7. The ERC Monitoring and Evaluation Strategy 2009-2018

The ERCEA/A1 gave an overview of the ERC Monitoring and Evaluation Strategy 2009-2018. The ScC was reminded that it is entrusted legally to monitor the quality of operations and evaluate the programme implementation and achievements, as well as to make recommendations for corrective or future actions. In 2013 and in line with this strategy, the Key Performance Indicators Working Group (KPI WG) was created by the ScC to look into the robustness of (headline) indicators, causality and attribution, and the ex-post assessment of the quality of the peer-review selection process. The KPI WG also set up an Expert group for Monitoring and Evaluation working on topics like counterfactual issues and control groups, SSH performance, impact on careers, bibliometrics and patents, etc. Three impact studies have been produced, namely on the funding landscape, scientometrics and the impact on careers. Later on, the "Science Behind the Projects" analysis was performed by the Agency and a relevant WG was established by the ScC. More recently, the evaluations of the pilot-SyG and PoC funding schemes were noted and a Study on Career Impacts of ERC funding was launched.

8. Revision of the ERC Monitoring and Evaluation Strategy

Prof. Reinhilde VEUGELERS presented a proposal for a revised ERC Monitoring and Evaluation Strategy. Prof. Reinhilde VEUGELERS stressed that the monitoring and evaluation activities enable the ScC to report on results and achievements and help to continuously improve its scientific strategy. The revised Monitoring and Evaluation strategy would take stock of the KPI WG aims set in 2013 and its achievements so far, as well as help to be ready for the Horizon Europe framework on Monitoring and Evaluation, setting the ERC's own goals and indicators.

The ScC unanimously agreed with the revised ERC Monitoring and Evaluation Strategy.

9. Communication Activities Update

The ERCEA/A2 reported on recent communication activities, including the upcoming ERC online magazine, which features contributions from ScC members on different topics. Moreover, a review of communication objectives and KPIs had taken place with feedback from ScC members. In addition, the communication opportunities for 2019 identified so far were presented. Those included events, such as the WEF in Davos, the STOA-ERC Brussels event, the AAAS meeting in Washington, the GRC meeting in Sao Paolo, and the Summer Davos in China, to name a few. The ScC members were asked to inform the Communications unit if there are major events, which are missing in the planning and at which the ERC should be present.

10. Reporting from Standing Committees and Working Groups

The Standing Committees on Conflicts of Interest (CoIME) and Panels (CoP) reported on their recent activities.

11. Budget Task Force update

Prof. Janet THORNTON, Chair of the ScC Task Force on Budget Allocation informed the ScC that the Task Force will present its findings for discussion by the ScC at the December plenary meeting.

12. The SyG 2018 call: First Analysis of the Submission/Evaluation Exercise

The ERCEA presented a first analysis of the submission/evaluation exercise of the SyG2018 call.

13. Panels Restructuring

Prof. Klaus BOCK introduced the point, in the absence of the ERC President, and noted that the last possibility for changes to the panels' structure in view of the first calls of the next FP would be

in September 2019 as the panels are recruited two years in advance. A discussion is already planned with panel chairs in February and it should be carefully prepared in order to get useful feedback on the issue.

14. Initial Orientations for the Work Programme 2020

The ScC was informed of the decision by the ERC Board to move the calendar for discussion on Work Programme 2020 forward by one plenary meeting compared to previous years, such that the first orientation debate would take place in October instead of December. The ScC discussed several points, among which were the budget distribution among the funding schemes in 2020, the SyG resubmission restrictions and the review of the Proof of Concept (PoC) scoring system.

15. Renewal of StC and WGs (Chairing, Participation, Coverage)

Considering the end of term of several ScC members in December 2018, the ScC discussed the replacement of the chairs of several WGs and Committees as of January 2019. . In addition, it was decided that a more general discussion about the role of the ScC sub-structures will take place at the December plenary meeting.

16. Operational Issues Reporting: Granting Process

The ERCEA gave an update on the state of play of the granting processes.

17. Operational Issues Reporting: Evaluation Analysis

The ERCEA gave an update on the state of play of the evaluation processes.

18. Any Other Business

-Inauguration of the Fotis Kafatos Evaluation Center on 13 December

The ScC members were informed about the Inauguration Ceremony of the Fotis Kafatos Evaluation Centre, which will take place on 13 December after the plenary meeting. The event will start at 17:30.

-Thanking the host

Prof. Klaus BOCK thanked Prof. Nektarios TAVERNARAKIS for the hospitality and the excellent conditions provided for the meeting as well as all side events and dinners.