NOTE

Subject: Summary conclusions of the GPC plenary meeting of 7 March 2017

The meeting was chaired by the GPC Chair, Mr Leonidas ANTONIOU and the GPC Vice-Chair, Mr Emmanuel PASCO-VIEL. The High Level Group for Joint Programming (GPC) drew the following conclusions:

1. Welcome by the Chair and approval of the provisional agenda

The agenda was approved as set out in document 1719/17 with some changes of the order of the agenda items.

2. Future of Joint Programming

a) Summary of the 2nd GPC Workshop on the Future of Joint Programming held in Brussels on 9 February 2017

Ms Kristine NATERSTAD (Norwegian delegation) presented summary discussions of the 2nd GPC Workshop on the Future of Joint Programming which was held in Brussels on 9 February 2017.
b) GPC input to the ERAC opinion on the interim evaluation of Horizon 2020 and the next Framework Programme

The Chair informed delegations that a workshop will be organised in Malta on 15 March back-to-back with the ERAC plenary which will be devoted to the presentation of key elements/inputs by each of the ERA-related groups, followed by a presentation by the rapporteur of the main structure for the planned ERAC Opinion.

The Vice-Chair presented the main points of the draft opinion which had been distributed to delegations prior to the plenary meeting, namely:

1. the evolution and the current situation of the Joint Programming Process (JPP);

2. the main challenges to the JPP:
   - coordination and governance,
   - commitment and participation,
   - JPIs sustainability,
   - impact,
   - global dimension - international cooperation

as well as the suggested measures to those challenges.

In the discussions which followed, delegations raised the following main points:

- The need to fully include the broad picture of the JPP, going beyond the JPIs.

- The importance of stressing the ambition and the potential of the JPP and to mirror them adequately in the clear political messages.
Some delegations advocated more emphasis on the achievements and the impact of the JPIs and the whole JPP.

A few delegations were of the opinion that a shorter document with more political messages should be drawn up.

Some delegations suggested a clear distinction between Horizon 2020 and the future Framework Programme.

The Chair concluded the following:

- An ad-hoc group (composed of DE, AT, NO delegations, Vice-Chair and a representative of the JPIs) will produce a short 2-page summary of the key messages to be presented by the Chair at the Malta workshop on 15 March.

- Delegations were invited to submit their comments in writing by 13 March.

- Delegations will receive a new draft opinion for their consideration at a later stage.

3. **GPC and JPIs input to the Horizon 2020 Work Programmes 2018-2020**

The Chair informed delegations that a letter concerning the GPC and JPIs' input to the Horizon 2020 Work Programmes 2018-2020 as well as the plans of all the ten JPIs were sent to DG Robert-Jan Smits. The Chair has received the reply of DG Smits. It was advised that the JPIs should follow up and promote their suggestions to the relevant Programme Committees of Horizon 2020.

Mr Joerg NIEHOFF (Commission) provided a presentation on the conditions and criteria for the support to the JPIs and ERA-NETs in the WP 2018-2020, concentrating on the approach taken by the Commission as well as on the headline criteria (justification of the Union intervention; budgetary issues and leverage effects; expected impacts on EU and national level).
4. Report of the MMI Task Force

Ms Anna Triandafyllidou, the Scientific Coordinator of the Migrants Migration and Integration (MMI) Task Force, presented the report of the Task Force.

The GPC considered that the presented proposal did not fulfil at this stage the minimum criteria for a new JPI. The following members were in favour: IT, FR, SE, EL. Also, the Norwegian and Turkish delegations declared their support.

Delegations were invited to send their comments relating especially to the minimum criteria to the Task Force. The Task Force was requested to reflect on further steps for the proposal on the basis of the comments in order to possibly present a new version of the proposal at a later stage.

Following a discussion on the minimum criteria for a possible new JPI, the Chair asked the Rapporteur of the Implementation Group 3 “Monitoring and evaluating JPIs” to prepare a summary table concerning the minimum criteria.

5. ERA national action plans and strategies

The Chair informed the delegations that:

- ERAC agreed that the follow-up on the implementation and monitoring of the national action plans should be done as a learning exercise for the ERA countries where they can learn from each other and share best practices. The aim of such an exercise would be to increase the efficiency of the research policies and actions in all ERA Countries.

- ERAC SB recommended that the proposed learning exercise/sharing of best practices should be organised on a regular basis and take place in workshops that would be organised back-to-back with the ERAC meetings, ideally in connection with the ERAC meetings in the countries of the Presidency.
• Therefore the first workshop will take place back to-back with the ERAC plenary on 15 March 2017 in Malta. The workshops will cover an exchange on topics that are already dealt with by ERA-related groups and subsequently look at other topics such as Priority 1 with monitoring of the roadmap as the core of this priority.

A new Task Force on national actions plans for priority 2a was established under the lead of Ms Petra ZAGAR (SI delegation). Delegations were invited to volunteer to join the Task Force.

6. Mutual Learning Exercise – state of play

Mr Martin Schmid (AT delegation), Rapporteur for the Mutual Learning Exercise, reported on the progress of the Mutual Learning Exercise on Alignment and Interoperability of research programmes under the H2020 Policy Support Facility. The importance of the dissemination event to be held in Brussels on 7 June 2017 was underlined.

7. GPC contribution to the ERAC Annual Report 2016


8. Priorities of the incoming Estonian Presidency in the area of R&I

The representative of the incoming Estonian Presidency provided a presentation on the priorities of the incoming Presidency in the area of R&I, indicating the key dates for the work in the Council, planning of the Research Working Party and major RDI events in Estonia.

9. AOB

The Chair recalled that the next GPC plenary meeting will be held on 6 June 2017.