

EUROPEAN UNION
**EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA
AND INNOVATION COMMITTEE**
**High Level Group for
Joint Programming**

Secretariat

**Brussels, 2 December 2014
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ERAC-GPC 1311/14

NOTE

Subject: GPC contribution to the ERA Roadmap

Delegations will find in the annex GPC contribution to the ERA Roadmap, as adopted by the High Level Group for Joint Programming (GPC) on 1 December 2014 via written procedure.

GPC contribution to the ERA Roadmap

Priority 2: Optimal transnational cooperation and competition

Priority 2a : Jointly addressing grand challenges

The mission of the High Level Group for Joint Programming (GPC) is largely coherent with ERA Priority 2a: “*Optimal transnational co-operation and competition – Jointly addressing grand challenges*”; in fact, the activities the GPC has been entrusted with, *i.e.* the launch of Joint Programming Initiatives (JPIs) to tackle jointly identified major societal challenges, in a way anticipated the contents of Priority 2a.

The GPC considers that, in relation to Priority 2a, following the principle of focusing on key issues as proposed by ERAC, the ERA Roadmap should mainly refer to the Council Conclusions of last February, which calls on the Member States (MS) to consider, *inter alia*, the issue of “*aligning, where possible, national strategies and research programmes with the strategic research agendas developed within the Joint Programming Initiatives to cope with major societal challenges and improving the interoperability between national programmes to facilitate transnational cooperation and sharing of information about activities in priority areas.*”

To be effective and efficient in streamlining its contribution to the Roadmap, which is conceived as a living document, GPC is planning to **focus on a limited set of key actions with practical implementation steps (milestones) to be achieved within a well-defined time frame.**

In particular, the 10 JPIs provide a reliable ‘test bed’ to verify the feasibility of two main objectives:

- to optimize means and modalities to achieve a significant alignment of national research strategies, programmes and activities with the research agendas jointly agreed at the JPIs level;
- to improve the interoperability between national research programmes, by developing mutual recognition of evaluation procedures and adopting common terminology, rules and procedures.

The ERA Roadmap could foresee for the GPC a duplex role of mentor for the initiatives resulting from the Joint Programming Process and a platform for the Member States and Associated Countries (AC), thus acting as an intelligent interface between policy and practice.

As a **mentor** for the initiatives, the GPC can provide a forum for the initiatives to exchange analyses and practices among themselves (mutual learning), and to inform the MS and AC Representatives about their successes and difficulties, advocating and/or maintaining commitment. It can further act as an intermediary to organize support to the initiatives for implementing the Framework Conditions/Joint Programming Functions.

As a **platform** for the MS and AC, the GPC could drive forward the process of alignment of national strategies, priorities and research programmes with the jointly agreed strategic research agendas to tackle major societal challenges, as well as an improvement in the interoperability of national research programmes, through the exchange of best practices and the common development of concepts and guidelines. It could furthermore collect and report information on the extent to which MS and AC are implementing these tasks.

Concluding statement. The ERA Roadmap is an excellent occasion to help clarifying the overall architecture of the joint programming process (JPP), where the GPC plays a crucial role by: i) mentoring and fostering the initiatives resulting from the process, promoting the adoption of shared framework conditions and thus building an enabling environment; ii) developing methods and instruments contributing to improve interoperability of national research systems and the progressive alignment of national research strategies, programmes and activities on grand challenges; iii) monitoring the progress of the whole JPP and its impact on the grand challenges. Within the JPP, the JPIs and other joint programming, cross-border initiatives represent the level of strategic thematic planning where the JPP is translated into operational programmes and activities for the support of which, **in synergy with national resources**, Horizon 2020 and, where appropriate, the European Structural and Investment Funds provide the repository ('toolbox') of funding instruments from where the initiatives can pick up the most appropriate tools for efficiently

and effectively achieving the required impact on the relevant challenges. In this context, the GPC constitutes also an adequate forum for the MS and AC to launch a debate on the modalities and conditions for the most effective financial support of the initiatives arising from the JPP, including from Horizon 2020.
