



PLATFORM

Platform of bioeconomy ERA-NET Actions

(H2020 Grant number 652635)

REPORT

Master Class on Inclusiveness

May 10th-11th, 2016, Vienna



Organised by WP1 - Practice: Efficient, effective, and inclusive organisation of ERA-NET activities

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Kim Turk, MIZS
Christine Bunthof, Wageningen UR

Organiser at the Master Class
Task leader for Fostering Inclusiveness
PLATFORM Coordinator

May 2016

1. Welcome and Introduction

The Master Class was opened by Martin Greimel, the organiser of the Master Class, presenting the Agenda (see Annex I) and organisational issues.

He invited Gerhard Mannsberger, the Director General of the Forestry department of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management, for some welcome words. Mr. Mannsberger highlighted the development of the European Framework Programmes and stressed the importance of the Member States to support the Commission in its attempt to coordinate research activities in some areas. One of these areas is the Bioeconomy and although Austria is not a frontrunner in this topic, he appreciates the intention of Platform and encourages those countries that are not so active. He also points to the fact that Austria has historically played a mediator role for most of the so-called Low Performing Countries¹. An abstract of his speech is provided at the end of this report (see Annex III).

Christine Bunthof, the coordinator of the Platform project, welcomed the participants and gave an introduction of Platform highlighting the most important developments of the European Research Framework Programmes and the history of the ERA-NET financial instrument. She pointed out the results already achieved during the FP7 PLATFORM and those achieved since the establishment of H2020 PLATFORM. She also explained what Platform will deliver till the end of the project and how these deliverables could be used to improve the performance of research funding institutions and programme managers.

Following the welcome a tour de table gave participants the opportunity to introduce themselves to the audience and to bring forward topics of interest they wished to learn more about in the Master Class. Although the participants had very different backgrounds and ERA-NET experience (see Annex II; participants list) there was a shared wish to exchange information and benefit / learn from each other – especially among those participants new to the ERA-NET scheme.

All presenters agreed that their presentation will be publicly available on the Platform website.

¹ LPC: 'Low R&I Performing Countries' or 'Widening Countries' are distinguished by having a low Composite indicator of Research Excellence (with a corrective threshold of 70% of the EU average) as reported in "Research and Innovation Performance in EU Member States and Associated Countries 2013". http://ec.europa.eu/research/innovation-union/pdf/state-of-the-union/2012/innovation_union_progress_at_country_level_2013.pdf

These are: Member States: Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia. Associated Countries (subject to valid association agreements of third countries with Horizon 2020): Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Faroe Islands, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, Turkey and Ukraine.

To serve the ultimate objectives of the actions of the Horizon 2020 programme 'Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation' it is necessary to target those which are low performing in terms of research excellence. The term is used in other R&I contexts as well. Also for the purpose of the inclusiveness activities in PLATFORM workplan, the term LPC is used.

2. Setting the scene

Presentation and discussion of results from Task 2.2 Fostering Inclusiveness

As the Master Class is closely related to Platform's Task 2.2 *Fostering Inclusiveness*, the task leader Kim Turk presented the overall objective of the task, i.e. to encourage better participation of public funding and programme management organizations from LPCs and to measure the performance of LPCs by looking at:

- the participation of LPCs in bioeconomy ERA-NETs
- the role of LPCs when participation is secured (type of activity they perform, participation in joint transnational calls and their success rate, etc.)
- the experience LPCs have with ERA-NET participation

Based on surveys and related questionnaires performed the task should:

- identify good performers in the bioeconomy ERA-NET initiatives
- use them as a positive example when targeting those countries that continue to perform low.

Kim warned not to draw conclusions only on simple statistics as this is misleading. Several LPCs are members of ERA-NET initiatives but are not active (not Work Package or Task leader or not participating in the joint calls for research proposals), while other LPCs concentrate on a few ERA-NET Initiatives but are very active participants. The survey revealed several reasons why active LPCs participation in bioeconomy related ERA-NET initiatives is low. The main reasons are:

1. Lack of national funding
2. Administrative burdens
3. Missing strategies regarding Public-Public-Partnership involvement
4. Lack of a systematic approach / unclear national priorities / criteria for ERA-NET participation (need to institutionalize the ERA-NET process)
5. Lack of coordination among national funding agencies
6. Insufficient experience with ERA-NET initiatives.

Joint calls are very important activities of ERA-NETs, and a part of the questionnaire focussed on the participation of LPCs in ERA-NET calls. Recommendations were presented about how to increase the success rate for LPCs in joint calls for research proposals by:

- Organizing special events to share experience with newcomers on encountered difficulties and best practices
- Encouraging meeting organizations in LPCs with side events for researchers
- Inviting funding agencies from non-participatory LPCs as observers in joint call activities
- Adjusting the EC co-funding rate according to country status (more flexibility in budgetary procedures)
- Providing partnering tools to find collaborators
- Allowing in-kind contributions for LPCs
- Ensuring that joint calls include research topics relevant to LPCs (e.g. including more basic research too; taking into consideration smart specialization strategies of LPCs)
- Ensuring a geographic balance in consortia (as a specific requirement for consortium composition)
- Using a wildcard system (invitation to full proposal stage)
- Encouraging consortia to include LPCs in the full proposal stage (if no LPC is included in first stage)
- Including mobility schemes for LPCs as an evaluation criterion
- Giving preference to proposals with LPCs if proposals equally scored

Additionally ERA-NETs providing NCPs with information on call topics in advance would be appreciated.

General recommendations were drawn for public research funding and managing organisations, ERA-NET initiative coordinators/proposers and the EC:

- Invite organizations to join the consortium early, not as last minute additions (many times the reason for the lack of more active involvement)
- Formally invite LPCs by targeting high level officials
- Raise awareness among decision makers - organise a high-level event to promote ERA-NET initiatives
- Pro-actively give LPC members in a Work Package/Task leadership responsibilities, thus giving the LPC partner more importance in the consortium
- Devote Work Packages to Inclusiveness, give Work Package leadership to an LPC

- Increase the number of experts from LPCs involved in the ERA-NET (Strategic Advisory Board, Scientific Evaluation Board)
- Invite funding agencies from not-participating LPCs as potential partners to observe ERA-NET activities (by attending meetings with covered costs), allowing them to join the consortium at a later stage (possibly by securing enough funding for their participation)

As a conclusion Kim Turk stated:

Treat LPCs as equals, but understand and be sensible towards their difficulties, providing additional support when needed!

The draft report of Task 2.2 was sent to the participants before the meeting. This draft report is available as Master Class background document on the PLATFORM website.

Following Martin Greimel explained who were invited for this Master Class and how invitations were handled: a list of potential invitees had been set up based on:

- Decision makers from funding organisations from Low Performing countries (LPC) that already participated in former FP 6 and FP 7 ERA-NET initiatives
- Coordinators of bioeconomy ERA-NETs already actively addressing LPCs or interested to do so
- National contact points (NCP) for Bioeconomy research from LPCs
- Programme Committee delegates of H2020 Societal Challenge 2 (Bioeconomy) and Members of the Standing Committee on Agricultural Research (SCAR) from LPCs
- Platform project and expert advisory group members

As save the date message with information about the Master Class was sent to 60 invitees in January 2016, the official invitation was emailed at begin of March and two reminders were sent (end of March, mid-April). Furthermore, it was promoted at an event of the Bio-NCP Network Biohorizon through an emailing of its coordinator. The deadline for registration was 29 April. As of 25 April there was almost no registration and therefore the organiser of the Master Class phoned several invitees. Explaining again the importance and aim of the Master Class he could convince quite a few invitees to attend the Master Class. As a result, the organiser not only stressed in the Master Class the importance of the topic but also questioned if the topic is always appreciated by the concerned countries and institutions. He encouraged the participants to debate this issue during the next 1,5 days.

During the discussions several participants reported equal experiences when trying to set up Workshops, Training, Mobility and Master Classes for LPCs (JPI Climate, WoodWisdomNet, COST, low participation from LPCs in PPP events organised by the EC).

Suggestions were made about how to overcome the low response:

- Organise the event back to back with other important events
- The venue should be in an LPC
- Address researchers in LPCs to push their national funding and management organisation for more active participation
- Address high level policy makers to push their institutions for more active participation
- Provide sufficient budget for invitees (travel and accommodation reimbursement)

3. EC initiatives focusing on Inclusiveness

Reports from EC initiatives with a focus on Inclusiveness

The organisers of the Master Class invited institutions (EC DG RTD, COST) and Research projects (BioHorizon, MIRRIS, ERA-LEARN, Danube Inco.net) dealing with inclusiveness issues to present their experiences.

Stefan Weiers from DG RTD B5 presented the Widening Participation Pillar of H2020. He introduced the different Programmes under this pillar: Twinning, Teaming, ERA-Chairs, COST,... and presented obstacles why some countries experience low participation and success in the EC framework programmes:

- Insufficient national R&D investments
- Lack of synergies between national research systems and the EU research landscape
- Differential wage level between countries (methodological implications, brain drain due to lower payment to researchers)
- System learning effects
- Existing networks constituting barriers to entry
- Large projects can be problematic for small countries and new actors
- Problems with information, communication and training

He focused his presentation on the COST programme, which receives half of its budget from the widening pillar of H2020 and is obliged to spend this budget on measures dedicated to LPCs.

He explained how COST contributes to widening:

- Proven success record for integration of new players from less RTD performing countries into European research activities
- Dedicated Inclusiveness Policy with a gender, career stage and geographical (widening countries) component
- Low hurdle entry gate for excellent researchers from widening countries due to openness and bottom-up principle
- Openness of networks allows easy access for newcomers
- Established network of COST National Co-ordinators (CNC) to mobilise national research communities
- Connecting pockets of excellence
- In Horizon 2020 particular commitments to foster participation from inclusiveness/widening countries
- Widening will be a strategic priority for the governance board of COST (i.e. CSO - Committee of Senior Officials)
- But: No closed shop or silos exclusively for less research performing countries!

Challenges include:

- Still untapped potential for COST participation in LPCs
- However, possible saturation effects in smaller LPCs
- Lack of institutional support to take leadership roles in the COST network, thus performance is still poor, especially in leading projects
- Lack of national funding for underlying research
- Reluctance of LPC institutions to take over grant holder responsibilities
- Awareness raising in LPCs
- Need to develop strategic initiatives at the benefit of LPCs

Nicole Schmidt from the FFG presented outcomes from an analysis of LPC participation in COST and challenges reported in a questionnaire forwarded to COST National Contacts. An Action Plan is presently under discussion and is foreseen to be implemented in autumn 2016.

During the lively discussion COST's potential to introduce "soft measures" like training and best practise guidelines for researchers to join ERA-NET research proposals, empowering LPCs to take leadership positions through capacity building and mentoring (by teaming up with experienced institutions), providing opportunities to increase the number of meetings in LPCs thus increasing visibility was tackled. It was proposed that COST widens its portfolio of instruments as none of the existing COST instruments fits such measures. Additionally, a

closer collaboration between COST and ERA-NET initiatives (similar to the COST – JPI matchmaking) was proposed.

Ursula Bodisch from the H2020 ERA-LEARN project introduced the project. The aim of the project is to support the P2P community, the joint programming process, and the ongoing optimisation of P2P networks through:

- web-based information, learning and support platform with toolbox
- monitoring and impact assessments of P2P networks
- assessments and benchmarking of current approaches to alignment & exploration of options for new modalities
- distribution of relevant information: newsletters, calls, publications
- workshops, trainings, conferences, supporting documents

ERA-LEARN is not specifically dedicated to LPCs but has developed some tools e.g. a P2P Partner search tool (available since March 2016), background and statistic information regarding P2P that could help raise LPCs performance in future ERA-NET initiatives. In the last Annual Joint Programming Conference (January 2016) one session was dedicated to “Widening Participation in P2P”. An overall recommendation from that session for LPCs was to select some initiatives in accordance with the national Smart Specialisation Strategy and build trust and political commitment. She also raised awareness of the possibility of an in-kind contribution for participating in ERA-NET initiatives.

Since the project is already preparing a follow up project, the Master Class proposed to include LPC partners in the coming project as ERA-LEARN presently has no LPC partner in the core consortium.

Finally, Bozena Podlaska, coordinator of the BioHorizon NCP network and member of the Platform Expert Advisory Group, acquainted the participants with the Bioeconomy related NCP network activities.

The BioHorizon project is a CSA for the BioNCPs: the National Contact Points for H2020 Societal Challenge 2 (SC2): “Food Security, Sustainable Agriculture and Forestry, Marine, Maritime and Inland Water Research and the Bioeconomy” and the Key Enabling Technology (KET) “Biotechnology”. An important objective of the BioHorizon project is to support NCPs in their role to simplify access to H2020 calls and other European instruments, including ERA-NET initiatives.

In terms of LPC activities BioHorizon:

- organises regional brokerage events with a focus on LPCs
- finances a staff exchange programme for less experienced countries to learn about info day organisation, proposal preparation and checking, IPR, etc.
- has set up an e-mentoring programme, webinars
- offers best practise guidelines (soon available)
- provides travel grants for researchers from LPCs to brokerage events at the SC2 infodays in Brussels.

During the discussion the problem was raised that in many small countries, including in many LPCs only a small number of delegates represents the country in a lot of different EC initiatives. This creates a one-man orchestra and if this person is ill or overworked then the performance is rather low. Participants emphasised that the representation of LPCs in the EC initiatives could improve by having more individuals involved, so that tasks such as PC SC2, PC SC5, etc. for other parts of H2020, SCAR, partner in JPI, partner in ERA-NETs, ESFRI committee member can be distributed to share the work, and to create better embedding within the country with national programming.

Additionally, the wording was discussed. Different wordings are used by different European initiatives dealing with widening and inclusiveness: Low performing countries, Inclusiveness targeted countries, Widening countries, EU 12/13. It was stressed that especially the term LPC is counterproductive as it emphasises the lowness of the R&I performance (which is in some cases merely statistics due to being a small country, or due to choosing to focus). Such negative wording is demotivating and can act as a self-fulfilling prophecy. A future-looking term that would encourage persons to make the most of opportunities can contribute to the ultimate goals of the widening participation initiatives. Halfway through the Master Class the suggestion to stop using the wording LPC all the time was highly appreciated, and we changed towards using instead the term HPC: High Potential Countries.

4. LPC experiences from ERA-NET initiative coordinators

Martin Felix Gajdusek - involved in the SEE-ERA-NET/ Plus dedicated to South East Europe and the FP 7 MIRRIS project that tries to mobilise institutional reforms in Research and Innovation Systems - presented inside from both sides: the coordination of an ERA-NET dedicated to a specific group of LPCs and an EC initiative that concentrated on inclusiveness.

He highlighted how important personal contacts are, bringing up an example that before they started the SEE-ERA-NET Plus they appointed an expert from the project team to visit all ministries in the South East Europe countries involved to explain the concept of an ERA-NET Plus. This led to building trust and therefore the EC top-up funding could be spent in a way that made it possible to fund many more projects than if it would have been distributed proportional.

Outcomes from the MIRRIS project pinpointed some shortcomings for LPCs.

Researchers:

- Low Economic reward/wages/incentives of researchers
- Lack of attractiveness of FP7/H2020 funding in comparison to Structural Fund funding and/or, when available, to other national or bilateral schemes (less bureaucracy, less selection criteria, no or less international dimension)
- No willingness in taking responsibility of administrative management (lack of time, little or no access to a project office support) or project leadership

Programme owners/ministries/funders:

- Weak involvement in European networks, which very often plays a role in generating ideas for projects and facilitating partnerships
- Difficulty to join (and remain) existing EU15 excellence consortia
- Difficulty to maximize information and experience to influence and address the participation to the working committees
- No sectorial focus/strategy to support FP7/H2020 stakeholders
- Lack of cooperation between ministries
- No leverage on diaspora and on successful applicants to coach the other potential participant

Structural issues:

- Geographical disadvantages (far away from Brussels)
- Limited national R&D budget, and in many countries in particular the private investment in R&D
- Uncertainty of national funding mechanism of University and National Research Centres
- Lack of “systemic” support to applicants
- Limited resources to NCP (often voluntary)
- Weak capacity of drafting proposals (cost of paying a consultant is often prohibitive)
- Brain drain (less excellent researchers in EU13 than in EU15 due to diaspora) and weak presence of foreign researchers (key to mobilise partnerships)

In a vivid discussion the evaluation system of ERA-NET initiatives was found to be a key instrument for promoting LPC participation. It was recommended that a certain percentage of external evaluators should come from LPCs. This would enable more networking between the experts and strengthen the LPCs point of view as well as bringing more insight into the ERA-NET system for the involved countries. Additionally, the problem of funding administrative procedures (e.g. call administration) under the new Cofund system was discussed. Many LPCs don't have the possibility, respectively are not willing to fund administrative procedures.

Next in the programme Mika Kallio shared the experiences of the Wood-Wisdom-Net programme (WWN 1 and 2 and WWN Plus) regarding the involvement of LPCs. WWN has set up several measurements within the last twelve years to increase the participation of LPCs:

- Gathering information on relevant national funding programmes and research organisations from LPCs relevant for the ERA-NET initiative topic (e.g. forestry, wood, pulp research)
- Organising non-partner workshops bringing together members of Wood-Wisdom-Net with representatives from potential new partner countries
- Arranging a dedicated session at the Forest Technology Platform conference (back-to-back conference) with a special focus on involvement of new partner countries

- Setting up a Visiting programme for programme managers, including participants from LPCs (one-day visiting programmes in connection with WW-Net meetings)
- Joint calls with other ERA-NETs that had already LPC partner on board
- Cooperation with other actors, networks (e.g. FTP, Platform) to increase partnership with LPCs
- Encourage non-participating countries to join ERA-NET funded research projects as 3rd countries

He concluded that including LPCs in a well working network takes time but is much easier than setting up a total new network with LPCs. Contacting research organisations in the LPCs and supporting them to push their national ministries/funding organisations to join an ERA-NET initiative brought a high success rate.

Stefan Vetter - representing the project manager of the Core Organic Network (since 2004) Ulla Sonne Bertelsen - emphasized that those networks that have a longer history (WWN, Core Organic, ...) constantly could increase the participation of LPCs. In Core Organic the participation of LPCs was especially boosted by an encouraging letter from the Danish minister to his colleagues from the LPCs.

CORE ORGANIC has drawn recommendations from the experience in the administration of joint calls for research projects and the following evaluation:

- Set limits for quota of pre-proposals in relation to the respective national funds in the Consortium Agreement
- Define in the guideline which countries are expected to be in risk for low number of applicants and encourage to include them (this stimulates drawing in LPCs, among other)
- Evaluate if the allocated funds match the expected financial burden of applicants!
 - Increase funding
 - Amend national rules
 - Set restrictions
- Funding bodies with oversubscription rate > 3 were asked to consider withdrawing from projects and/or request reduction in budgets (5 funding bodies) – no demands
- Countries risking not to be able to spend their funds (3 partners ≤ 1 x) – consortia are invited to add a partner from this country, if the project as a whole will gain from it
- If partners are withdrawn by funding bodies, consortia are invited to add a partner from identified countries (with subscription factor, ≤ 2 x)

Those recommendations help to remediate the often experienced low success of LPCs when joining a call and the following frustration to come home empty-handed.

5. Experiences from successful LPC funding organisations

Baiba Rivza shared the experience of the involvement of Latvia in ERA-NET initiatives. Latvia was already well presented in FP 6 and could gradually raise the participation during FP 7 whereby an especially high number of participation could be observed in the Bioeconomy area (9 out of total 21 ERA-NET research projects were funded by Bioeconomy related ERA-NET initiatives). Together with Dace Tirzite (Latvian Academy of Sciences) who is together with Baiba active in the participation of Latvia in bioeconomy ERA-NETs, she drew the following conclusions and recommendations:

- Integration of Latvian research institutions in European Research Area
- Opportunity to work together with experienced colleagues from other countries
- Democratic approach in the elaboration of call themes (invite LPC representatives for specifying call topics)
- Non-bureaucratic style of administration
- LPCs need more effective tools for partner research
- Organizations of conferences or brokerage events before the calls (with travel budget foreseen for LPC participants)

An overall conclusion was that distributing research budget is only a part of the success of participating in ERA-NET initiatives; a much higher value is the possibility to access networks, learning about EC procedures and other “soft values”.

The Slovenian experience was presented by Kim Turk. She already received the title: *Ms ERA-NET in Slovenia* which points to her large contribution to the success of Slovenia regarding participation in ERA-NET initiatives. She illustrated the many EC instruments (JPI, JU, Art 185, ERA-NET, COST, JTI ...) that are relevant for research and should be handled by ministries and funding bodies. For small countries this is a big challenge and leads to an overload as often one person is responsible for almost all instruments.

Her presentation demonstrated the advantage for Slovenia when participating in ERA-NET initiatives from a researcher perspective and a funding organisation perspective, summarizing that active participation increased the integration and visibility of Slovenian science in the EU significantly. She also pinpointed some challenges:

- National legislation is not adapted to transnational cooperation
- Human resources and funding are limited
- Lack of an internationalization strategy
- Lack of set national research priorities
- State aid rules
- Moving up the TRL² scale (don't transform ERA-NET initiatives into an Innovation instrument)

and gave some token of advice to less experienced LPCs:

- ERA-NET Schemes are a very suitable mechanism for LPCs and their research communities to become involved in transnational activities!
- Convince the decision makers: promoting the added value of ERA-NETs is a must!
- Choose wisely the ERA-NETs you participate in (less can be more!)
- Assume an active role in an ERA-NET: a must for knowledge transfer and capacity building
- Share your problems and ask for help!
- Tune into the ERA Portal Austria (<https://era.gv.at/>)
- For the bioeconomy area: participate in PLATFORM activities and follow the project and news for and on bioeconomy ERA-NETs on www.era-platform.eu.

² The use of Technology Readiness Levels (TRLs) as a measurement of the maturity level of particular technologies is a new development in Horizon 2020. This measurement system provides a common understanding of technology status and addresses the entire innovation chain. By evaluating a technology project against the parameters for each Technology Readiness Level, one can assign a TRL rating to the project based on its stage of progress. There are nine technology readiness levels; TRL 1 being the lowest and TRL 9 the highest TRL.

6. Final words

This report is full of valuable recommendations and proposed measures drawn from survey, analysis and the Master Class on Inclusiveness. The organisers encourage all responsible policy makers to carefully read them and to act upon the challenges and opportunities of inclusiveness.

Some key messages:

- Mind the effect of wording! Low Performing Countries (LPC) may be High Potential Countries (HPC)
- Communicate the success stories and not only the challenges
- Highlight that simple statistics only measure a small part of the success rate and that “soft measures” are very important
- NCPs are encouraged to play a bigger role in promoting the ERA-NET scheme
- Treat LPCs as equals, but understand and be sensible towards their difficulties, providing additional support when needed
- Better coordination between those initiatives supporting LPCs is needed
- Everything is difficult before it is easy

A final tour the table closed the Master Class and Martin Greimel thanked all participants for their valuable inputs. A list with all email addresses has been distributed after the meeting and all presentations were made publically available on the PLATFORM website.

Annex I - Programme of the Master Class

Tuesday 10 May

- 10.00 Registration and welcome coffee
- 11.00 Opening of meeting (*Martin Greimel (BMLFUW)*)
- 11.05 Welcome (*Gerhard Mansberger (Head of Forest Department BMLFUW)*)
- 11.15 Introduction on PLATFORM (*Christine Bunthof, project coordinator PLATFORM*)
- 11.45 Tour de table

All presentations are followed by a moderated round table discussion

- 12.15 Presenting and discussing the results of Task 2.2 Fostering Inclusiveness (*Kim Turk, MIZS*)
- 13.30 **Sandwich Lunch**
- 14.15 Summarizing morning and presenting approach organisation and invitations for the Master Class (*Martin Greimel*)
- 14.30 COST's new Strategy on Inclusiveness
 - i. History of the COST scheme and COST actions (*Stefan Weiers, European Commission, DG RTD B5 Spreading of Excellence and widening participation*)
 - ii. COST's Inclusiveness strategy (*Nicole Schmidt, FFG*)
- 15.45 **Coffee break**
- 16.15 The ERA-LEARN project and activities, including website and database (*Ursula Bodisch, ERA-LEARN*)
- 17.00 NCP experiences of LPC countries (*Bozena Podlaska, coordinator of the BioHorizon NCP network*)
- 17.45 End of day 1
- 20.00 **Dinner at Wiener Heurigen**

Wednesday May 11

- 9.00 Welcome to Day 2 (*Martin Greimel*)
- 9.15 SEE-ERA.NET PLUS experiences including participation LPC countries in calls and MIRRIS experiences (*Martin Felix Gajdusek, project leader SEE-ERA.NET PLUS*)
- 10.15 Experiences of two ERA-NET Initiative coordinators with LPC participation
 - i. Experiences WoodWisdomNet+ (*Mika Kallio, MMM*)
 - ii. Experiences CORE Organic (*Stefan Vetter, BMLFUW*)
- 11.15 **Coffee break**
- 11.45 Report from successful LPC participants
 - i. Latvia (*Baiba Rivza, Latvian academy of Agricultural and Forestry sciences*)
 - ii. Slovenia (*Kim Turk, MIZS*)
- 13.15 Final tour de table
- 13.45 Closing remarks (*Kim Turk and Martin Greimel*)
- 14.00 **Sandwich Lunch**

Annex II – List of participants

Name	Organisation	Org. Country	(Primary) Network
BODISCH, Ursula	FFG	AT	ERA-LEARN 2020
BUNTHOF, Christine	Wageningen UR	NL	PLATFORM / FACCE / ERA-GAS
BYTYQI, Hysen	University of Prishtina	XK	NCP Kosovo
GAJDUSEK, Martin Felix	ZSI	AT	SEE-ERA.NET PLUS / MIRRIS
GREIMEL, Martin	BMLFUW	AT	PLATFORM / SUMFOREST
HARTL, Martina	BMWFV	AT	
HÖGLINGER, Andrea	FFG	AT	NCP coördinator Austria / COST
KALLIO, Mika	MMM	FI	WoodWisdomNet
KONICKOVA, Nada	Technology centre AS CR	CZ	BioHorizon / NCP Czech Republic
KUPSTAITIS, Nerijus	Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania	LT	SUMFOREST
LITAUSZKY, Rita	FFG	AT	NCP Austria
MANSBERGER, Gerhard	BMLFUW	AT	
PODLASKA, Božena	IPPT PAN	PL	BioHorizon
PODSEDNICEK, Milan	Ministry of Agriculture Czech Republic	CZ	SAFEFOODERA
RIVZA, Baiba	LAAFS	LV	SUMFOREST
SCHMIDT, Nicole	FFG	AT	COST
SIROCCO, Anna	ZSI (Intern)	AT	
TURK, Kim	MIZS	SI	PLATFORM / ERA-MBT / ARIMNet2 / SUMFOREST / WWN+
VETTER, Stefan	BMLFUW	AT	CORE Organic
WEIERS, Stefan	EC DG RTD B5	EU	

Annex III – Welcome speech by G. Mannsberger

Welcome to the Master Class on Inclusiveness

Vienna, 10/11 May 2016

Dear Participants,

It is common knowledge that research and innovation is the key to a prosperous economy and a wealthy society. But it is no secret that research is also expensive and investments in research are risky. Therefore it is of utmost importance that research is supported by public money. The European Union has acknowledged this long ago and supported research activities through the European Framework Programmes since 1984 with an exponential increasing budget. While most of the Framework Programme budget is dedicated to the support of direct research activities the Framework Programme always supported Coordination of research as well. Especially in Europe Coordination of research activities is a key issue because without an alignment of national research activities lots of overlaps and gaps exist and as societal challenges grow bigger no individual member state is able to fund the necessary research by itself.

Therefore the European Commission extended its coordination activities during the 6th Framework Programme (2002 to 2007) and introduced the ERA-NET instrument.

The instrument fits especially in the area of bioeconomy that is per se a research area that includes topics from a wide range of themes and coordination of those themes and topics is crucial for the success of the bioeconomy concept.

I have learnt that this 2 days event has the aim to encourage those countries that have not participated in Bioeconomy related ERA-Net activities very much to engage them more intensively. As Austria historically always had close relations with most of those countries it is a great pleasure to have this event in Vienna and I would like to warmly welcome you and wish you a great success.