

## **Towards an effective ERA Framework for JOINT PROGRAMMING**

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### Introduction

The grand societal challenges are a critically important arena where the global competition will be of considerable magnitude and impact.

Several such grand challenges have been identified and associated Joint Programming Initiatives have been initiated by Member States. They are now at different stage of readiness or preparation.

### JPIs in execution or preparation (1)

Neurodegenerative Diseases/Alzheimer's - to find cures for neurodegenerative diseases and to enable early diagnosis for early targeted treatments.

- Proposed by Fr + De; Pilot JPI; Council approval; first joint call.

Agriculture, food security and climate change – to enhance sustainable food security under climate change, based on an integrated food systems perspective and to promote environmentally sustainable growth and intensification of agricultural systems.

- Proposed by Fr + UK; Commission recommendation; Council approval; first joint call.

### JPIs in execution or preparation (2)

A healthy diet for a healthy life – to support motivation, ability and opportunity to consume a healthy diet from a variety of foods, have healthy levels of physical activity and to decrease incidence of diet-related diseases.

- Proposed by NI + De; Commission recommendation; Council approval.

Cultural heritage & global change – to support preservation and conservation of the Europe's cultural heritage in its tangible, intangible and digital forms, as an important component of individual and collective identity.

- Proposed by It + At; Commission recommendation, Council approval; CSA initiated.

### JPIs in execution or preparation (3)

More years, better lives – to support development of living conditions, both at individual and societal level, facilitating active, healthy life of the ageing population.

- Proposed by De; Commission recommendation; Council approval.

Antimicrobial resistance – to combat increasing population of patients with risk factors (immunocompromised), increasing transmission of resistant strains; to develop reservoirs of resistance genes in farm animals and in the environment; novel antimicrobial agents.

- Lead by Se; Commission recommendation; Council approval pending.

### JPIs in execution or preparation (4)

Water Challenges for a Changing World – to develop common public research programme dealing with water issues in the coming bio-based economy, anticipated to emerge in the 21st century.

- Lead by Es + Ni; Commission recommendation; Council approval pending.

Healthy & Productive Seas and Oceans – to reduce the negative effects of human activities which, together with effects of climate change, leads to degradation of marine ecosystems and put seas and oceans under enormous pressure.

- Proposed by Es, Be + No; Commission recommendation; Council approval pending.

### JPIs in execution or preparation (5)

Urban Europe - to fundamentally rethink and manage the dynamics of urban development in Europe, and to sustain and enhance urban areas as a place of vitality, liveability and accessibility.

- Proposed by At + It; Commission recommendation; Council approval pending.

Connecting Climate Knowledge for Europe - to reach a global agreement on the extraordinary efforts required to combat or avoid negative consequences of climate change.

- Proposed by De + At; Commission recommendation; Council approval pending.

### GPC Opinion:

The key obstacles the ERA faces in gaining a competitive advantage include:

- The investment in RD&I activities is still far from the 3% goal;
- The critical mass is difficult to realize;
- The level of participation by small and less RD&I intensive MS/AC and regions in cross-border cooperation is insufficient.

### The way forward

The policy measures included in the ERA Framework should support effective cross-border operations and transnational research, while at the same time stimulate the efforts to engage MS/AC in a meaningful participation in these activities in a manner that is conducive to reaching the goal of excellence and relevance in research.

### Conclusions (A)

The ERA Framework should stimulate development of an effective EU research and innovation policy strategy for cross-border cooperation, with structures and processes to design, implement and monitor policy actions, strengthening world class research in a coordinated manner at and between MS/AC and EU levels and with other policy areas.

### Conclusions (A)

1. Research collaboration across borders between all the stakeholders, namely the research performing organisations, research and innovation funding organisations as well as private sector (industry, SME), should be encouraged wherever appropriate.
2. In particular, development of shared perspectives and visions, together with the definition of strategic research agendas and its innovation activities should be supported.

### Conclusions (A)

3. Impact metrics and criteria should be developed and comprehensive evaluation undertaken, so that there could be an objective assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of European research and innovation systems.
4. Account should be taken of the quality of research, its impact on the grand challenges of our society, the competitiveness of industry and the economic growth.
5. Potential for contribution to exploitation and full utilisation of the intellectual capital of all MS/AC should also be considered.

### Conclusions (A)

6. The role of the Commission should focus on support and provision of incentives for joint development of strategic research agendas and as appropriate innovation activities, and coordination and implementation of joint programmes.
7. It should be based on the positive experiences and well-established networks of programme owners in ERA-Nets and other coordination measures in FP6 and FP7.

### Conclusions (B)

To encourage wider participation by MS/AC in Joint Programming initiatives, supporting measures aiming for effective alignment, implementation and coordination of their research, and as appropriate innovation, programmes should be available at the EU level.

### Conclusions (B)

1. Less RD&I intensive MS/AC should be encouraged to participate in a review of national policies and scientific and innovation programmes, with the objective to develop, where not available, or enhance national programmes to make them compatible with regard to the ERA initiatives (namely JPIs) on major societal challenges.
2. Less RD&I intensive MS/AC should be encouraged to use cohesion (structural) funds at their disposal as a contribution to JPIs or other forms of transnational co-operations.
3. Meaningful partnership between countries at different levels of RD&I intensity, wishing to participate in the ERA initiatives (namely JPIs) should be encouraged. An organisational support, extended use of existing funding and incentive funding provided at the EU level could be made available for such undertakings.