



Joint Programming is a research and innovation policy concept driven by societal challenges. Its aim is to tackle grand societal challenges through more efficient use of resources, by the alignment of funding at national level and through decreasing fragmentation in the European Research Area (ERA). There are over sixty active ERA-NETs, five Article 185 initiatives, ten Joint Programming Initiatives (JPIs), and six European Joint Programme Cofunds (EJPs); for an overview see our website jointprogramming.nl. This monthly newsletter provides in a nutshell up-to-date information for scientists, (research) policy actors, and other stakeholders.

Newsletter 16 March 2020

About us

The joint programming officers at Wageningen University & Research follow ERA policy and strategy, the JPIs, EJPs, Art. 185 and ERA-NET Actions, with a focus on those in the areas of the bioeconomy, food, and the blue and green environment. To support WUR and its Science Groups in engaging in the public research partnerships we provide information, liaise on the national as well as the European level, and ensure direct involvement. We work on alignment, valorisation and joint activities in FACCE-JPI, and are partner in management boards of FOSC, ERA-GAS and EJP Soil. Furthermore, we conduct a global science and policy mapping on microbiome research in frame of the International Bioeconomy Forum, are involved in work on Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) in ERA-NET partnerships, and are academic member in the European Bioeconomy Stakeholders Panel of DG RTD. You can follow us on [Twitter](#) and contact us at jointprogramming@wur.nl.

Editorial: Increasing transnational cooperation in the European Research Area

The European Commission's 'ERA - Tour des Capitales', is part of the process of refreshing the European Research Area (ERA) concept. From its conception in 2000 until now, it has been an overarching policy vision for Europe and has steered scientific cooperation and development in the Member States. The concept was originally adopted by the European Council to overcome fragmentation and isolation of national Research and Innovation (R&I) efforts and systems, and to reduce disparities in regulatory and administrative frameworks. Over the years, it has seen several other updates. The 2009 Lisbon treaty marked its implementation as a 'constitutional commitment' and the joint responsibility of both the European Commission and the Member States.

Implementation of the ERA has been strongly supported through the European R&I Framework Programmes. And with effect: ERA policy has greatly enhanced collaboration, mobility and scientific excellence in Europe. Transnational cooperation between national research funders and policy makers has stimulated joint actions on common challenges and priorities and -to some extent- alignment of national research agendas. The various partnerships (ranging from Joint Programming Initiatives to ERA-NETs and EJPs) have supported these developments. But progress of the ERA had slowed down over the past years. The Member States, through the European Research Area and Innovation Committee ERAC, have addressed several of the underlying causes and came up with main goals and policy priorities for a renewed ERA vision. In the 2019 'Opinion on the future of the ERA' the major issues are described: "There are still major disparities among countries and regions in Europe [...]. The insufficient co-evolution across Europe has led to a geographical concentration of R&I pockets of excellence, leaving other regions behind." Also:

“The ERA policy framework did not succeed in driving sectoral ministries towards a transdisciplinary R&I-driven ‘directed’ policy change on global challenges at EU and national level, such as climate, energy or agriculture [...]”

In order to mend these deficits, ERAC urges three main goals to be set: to be “*wholly inclusive and collaborative, and increase Research Quality throughout Europe*” to be “*seamless and connected, and drive Europe’s competitiveness*”, and third, to “*be inspiring and open, and contribute to wider European policy objectives*”. These goals require strong political commitment of the Member States and an truly inclusive approach, including societal actors. They basically call for national governments to step up, increase transnational collaboration, integration and a stronger focus on societal challenges while speeding up the translation of (basic) knowledge into impact. Ingredients that are at the basis of the new partnership approach in the upcoming Horizon Europe framework. The new ERA Communication is expected in June and Horizon Europe will likely support further development. In addition, Member States are apt to be called upon to improve efforts on solving structural challenges at the national level in order to reach the ERA goals.



Dorri te Boekhorst
Policy advisor

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Workshop held on ‘Supporting the preparation of future European Partnerships’

The European Commission, together with ERA-LEARN, organised a workshop on 9 and 10 March that aimed to support the preparation of the future European Partnerships with Member States. The participants were representatives of candidate Partnerships, national representatives from ministries and funding agencies and Commission services. Together, they discussed on critical issues and bottlenecks. These include amongst others, uncertainties on governance, commitments, synergies and management.

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Research consortia and partnerships respond to COVID-19 research needs

In the past few weeks, the European Commission has rapidly mobilised new funds for research projects addressing the full spectrum of needs to combat COVID-19. Through Horizon 2020 two special calls for research were launched with a total budget of EUR 47,5 million. Seventeen projects have been selected and notified at the beginning of March. In addition, on March 3rd, a special fast track call for research proposals was announced by the Innovative Medicines Initiative, a public-private partnership between the EU and the pharmaceutical industry. The total committed funding is expected reach up to EUR 90 million, half of which provided by the EC. Deadline for submission is March 31st.

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Harvesting SCAR working group studies

The Standing Committee for Agricultural Research is a long-standing source of advice on European agricultural and wider bioeconomy research, along with being a catalyst for the coordination of national research programmes. SCAR delivers through various (working) groups, each with its own responsibilities but, ultimately, reporting to the six-monthly plenary meeting of the official national delegates of the thirty-seven members. From 2017 to 2019, an impulse was provided through CASA, a support action for SCAR on a number of challenges. In frame of this impulse, 17 studies were conducted to support the working groups. The studies are available online.

[Read more](#)



EJP Soil kicks off

The new European Joint Programme Cofund on Agricultural Soil Management recently held its kick-off meeting in Orleans. The overall goal of EJP Soil is to foster climate-smart sustainable agricultural soil management. The programme is integrating a wide network of existing national stakeholders to build a sustainable European integrated research system. The EJP is currently rolling out its Year One Roadmap, including an inventory of the research gaps and the knowledge needs, and a base line of the current State-of-Art. During the kick-off meeting, possible research topics for the first internal joint call were prioritised.

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FACCE SURPLUS looks back at successful transnational cooperation

One of the first ERA-NETs that started under the H2020 Cofund scheme, FACCE SURPLUS, has ended in February. The partnership of 23 countries and regions, together with the European Commission, was established as one of FACCE-JPI's implementation actions. It looks back at three successful calls for research in support of different integrated food and non-food biomass production and transformation systems. In addition, the network has also been particularly productive in communicating and disseminating the outcomes of the research to the relevant stakeholders through a wide range of communication tools.

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Workshop on global 'Gaps and challenges in microbiome research in food systems'

On the 4th of March, MicrobiomeSupport held a trans-sectoral workshop gathering the results of a comprehensive global mapping activity, a 'Common Ground' workshop and analysis of specific Research & Innovation agendas. During the workshop, the results of the mapping, that involved analysis of policies, strategies, research programmes, networks and infrastructures were presented. Stakeholders were consulted concerning identification of challenges, gaps and actions that should lead to future research and innovation agendas on microbiomes in food systems.

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FIT4FOOD2030 webinar on Responsible Research and Innovation in the food systems

FIT4FOOD2030 supports the development and implementation of the European Commission's FOOD 2030 policy framework. The initiative has recently created a free webinar series titled: '*Towards sustainable food systems through Research and Innovation*'. The series aims to advocate for responsible research and innovation and system thinking for food system transformation. The series targets a range of stakeholders, varying from local, regional and national policy makers to food chain actors and non-governmental organisations. There will be four webinars in total.

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Joint Research



Joint research to address Mediterranean' water, agriculture and food security challenges

The Partnership for the Mediterranean Area, PRIMA, stimulates joint actions on the complex and multidimensional interlinkages of water, agriculture and food security challenges. One of the yearly activities of PRIMA are its competitive calls, and the ones for 2020 are open. The Section 1 Calls focus on Water Management, Agro-Food Value chain, Farming Systems and the Water-Ecosystem-Food Nexus. Total indicative allocated budget is EUR 33 million. The Section 2 Multi-topic Call has an indicative allocated budget of EUR 38 million. Deadline for pre-proposal submission is April 1st for Section 1, and April 15th for Section 2. Full proposal deadline is September 2nd for Section 1, and September 16th for Section 2.

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EJP Rare Diseases Networking Scheme

The European Joint Programme Cofund on Rare Diseases has a dedicated 'Networking Support Scheme' that encourages sharing of knowledge on rare diseases and rare cancers of health care professionals, researchers and patients. The scheme allows for applicants to apply for a budget of a maximum of EUR 30,000 per event, to organise a transnational European or international event to share and disseminate knowledge. The date of the application should be 6 to 12 months before the proposed date(s) of the networking event. Applications will be collected every three months and the eligibility will be checked. The Netherlands participates in this networking scheme.

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Networking to combat Antimicrobial Resistance stimulated

The Joint Programming Initiative on antimicrobial resistance (JPIAMR) has opened its 10th call: 'JPIAMR Network Plus 2020'. The network call aims to support networks that develop and implement activities focusing on AMR within the domains of Human health, Animal health and the Environment. Networks are encouraged to bridge multiple areas as needed, and to incorporate their activities within the JPIAMR-Virtual Research Institute (JPIAMR-VRI). Budget available per network is EUR 50,000-100,000, total available budget is around EUR 940,000. The Netherlands is one of the funding partners. Deadline for submission of proposals is April 6th.

[Read more](#)



New research called for on 'Equality and Wellbeing across Generations'

The Joint Programming Initiative on demographic changes: 'More Years, Better Lives' has announced a new call for research proposals, expected to be launched on April 6th. The Joint Call 2020 aims to support policy in reducing inequality in the face of demographic change. Proposals for research should improve understanding of how demographic change is altering the implicit contract between generations and how policy can ensure that change reduces inequality instead of increasing it. Funding organisations from eleven countries (AU, BE, CA, DE, ES, FI, FR, LV, NO, SE, UK) have indicated commitment to the call.

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ERA CoBioTech pre-announces a third call for transnational research proposals

The ERA-NET on biotechnologies has pre-announced joint research on 'Bio-based replacement products, technologies and processes'. This third call for research projects will be launched in the second half of March 2020 and focuses on sustainability throughout the entire value chain. Research projects are expected to facilitate the replacement of a specific product, technology or process which involves either fossil-based or other unsustainable feedstocks, or unsustainable industrial processes, such as intensive production methods. At least nine funding organisations from BE, DE, EE, ES, FR, NO, SI, RU and TR are contributing to this single-stage call with an indicative budget of over EUR 7,3 million. The closing date will be in mid-June.

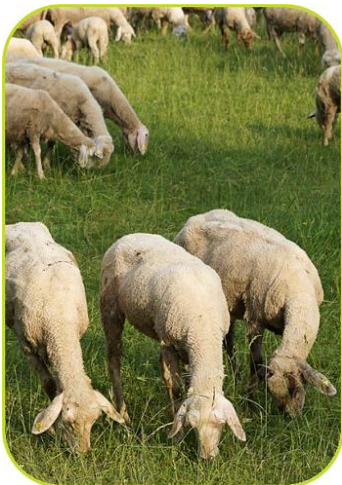
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Phytosanitary research collaboration and video contest in the International Year of Plant Health

Euphresco has started the 2020 cycle of discussions for project ideas. Euphresco projects start as ideas, based on national priorities and proposed by the partners. A list of 2020 suggestions is now available and expressions of interest can be sent to the coordinator. The proposed 2019 research topics have led to 14 collaborative projects between organisations in 35 countries in total. In frame of the International Year of Plant Health, Euphresco and the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies of Bari launch a call for a video competition '*Plant Health TV: Research that helps Plant Health*'. Interested scientists are invited to submit a short video by the 1st of July.

[Read more](#)



New research on GHG emission reduction in livestock systems

The results of the 2018 joint call of the ERA-NETs FACCE ERA-GAS, SusAn and ICT-AGRI are now fully online available. In total, eight projects are funded under a call 'Novel technologies, solutions and systems to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions in animal production systems'. Total provisionally reserved budget was around EUR 17 million, brought together by partners from 20 European countries, including the Netherlands, and 4 Associated and Third countries. Wageningen researchers participate in two of the eight funded research projects, as coordinator (Climate Care Cattle Farming Systems – CCCFarming) and partner (Manure management for methane mitigation - M4Models).

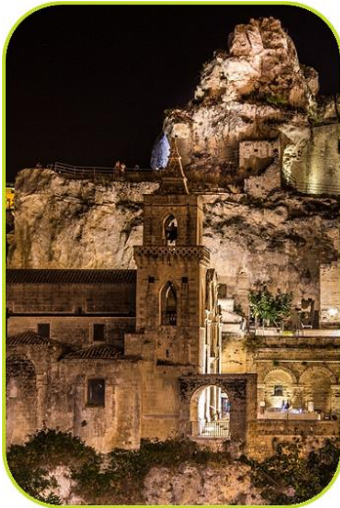
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Thirteen innovative projects for ocean sustainability awarded funding

In 2018, the Belmont Forum, the Joint Programming Initiative on 'Healthy and Productive Seas and Oceans' and Future Earth joined forces under a Collaborative Research Action on Transdisciplinary Research for Ocean Sustainability. In this frame, a call for joint research proposals was launched by 16 funding organisations across the globe. The aim was to bring together researchers and other expertise to promote innovative solutions for the sustainable use of ocean resources and climate change mitigation. The results were published recently: 13 consortia were funded with a total of over EUR 14 million (plus in-kind contributions). The projects range from restoring coral reef biodiversity to biochemical cycling and research on extreme events..

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New research on 'Conservation, Protection and Use' of cultural heritage

The 2019 call for transnational research, launched by the Joint Programming Initiative on Cultural Heritage and Global Change (JPI CH), has resulted in 10 proposals elected for funding. In one of the projects: *CRYSTINART; Crystallization damage at the interfaces of artworks*, Dutch researchers are involved. The 'Conservation, Protection and Use' joint call is the 5th call of a series of joint transnational calls within the context of the JPI Cultural Heritage.

[Read more](#)

Calls (soon) open for submission*

- [Urban Accessibility and Connectivity call](#) - closing date pre-proposals: **17 March**, closing date full proposals: **22 September**;
- [Urban Migration call](#) - closing date pre-proposals: **26 March**, closing date full proposals: **4 September**;
- [MarTERA third call](#) - closing date pre-proposals: **27 March**;
- [ERA-NET Cofund ICRAD call](#) - closing date pre-proposals: **31 March**, closing date full proposals: **5 August**;
- [ERA-NET HDHL-INTIMIC prevention of unhealthy weight gain call](#) - closing date pre-proposals: **3 April**, closing date full proposals: **10 July**;
- [PRIMA Section 1 Call](#) - closing date pre-proposals: **1 April**; closing date full proposals: **2 September**;
- [JPIAMR Network Plus 2020 call](#) - closing date full proposals: **6 April**;
- [JPI-HDHL targeted nutrition call](#) - closing date proposals: **7 April**;
- [JPI-HDHL targeted nutrition call](#) - closing date proposals: **7 April**;
- [ERA-NET Cofund SusCrop second call](#) - closing date pre-proposals: **9 April**, closing date full proposals: **10 September**;
- [PRIMA Section 2 Call](#) - closing date pre-proposals: **15 April**; closing date full proposals: **16 September**;
- [JPI Water, Oceans and AMR AquaticPollutants call](#) - closing date pre-proposals: **16 April**, closing date full proposals: **14 August**;
- [AquaticPollutants 'Knowledge transfer of research' call](#) - closing date full proposals: **16 April**.
- [ERA CoBioTech third call](#) - closing date full proposals: **mid-June**;
- [JPI MYBL Equality and Wellbeing across Generations call](#) - *expected to open 6 April; no closing dates set yet.*

***Please take note that submission deadlines may be subject to change, especially in pre-announcements of calls.**

Upcoming Activities



Cultural Heritage and Climate Change: New challenges and perspectives for research

With this title, the Joint Programming Initiatives on Climate and on Cultural Heritage are organising an expert workshop together. The aim of the workshop is to identify and discuss potential cross-priorities on two topics. One is 'Impact of Climate Change on Cultural Heritage' and the other is 'Cultural Heritage for sustainable development'. The workshop will take place in Paris on April 8th.

[Read more](#)



Filling the knowledge gaps in animal disease control

On April 29th, a symposium is organised in Brussels on animal health research gaps. The event aims to bring together scientists, policy makers, and representatives from the animal health industry, funding bodies and stakeholder organisations to enhance collaboration for animal health and discuss research priorities. It will also serve to couple research gaps and road maps with recent and future animal health funding initiatives (e.g. ERA-NET ICRAD, Horizon Europe). The symposium is organised by DISCONTTOOLS, in collaboration with the International Research Consortium on animal health (STAR-IDAZ IRC) and is hosted by Animal Health Europe.

[Read more](#)



BONUS Forum 'Successes of the past for the future'

On the 21st of October, the 8th and final Forum of the Article 185 Initiative on the Baltic Sea region - BONUS will take place in Berlin. The last projects of the joint Baltic Sea Research and Development Programme calls will be finishing this autumn. The programme ran between 2012 and 2017 and funded a total of 48 projects, worth close to EUR 100 million. During the Forum the BONUS community will look back at past highlights and look forward to the future.

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Water JPI third Annual International Conference

On November 17th and 18th, the German Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) will host the third Water JPI Conference in Mülheim an der Ruhr. This will be done in the frame of the German Presidency of the Council of the European Union. The overarching motto will be 'From Research into Practice: pollutants, pathogens and antimicrobial resistances in the water cycle'. With this focus, the conference underpins the recently started Water JPI ERA-Net Cofund AquaticPollutants and aims at connecting the various endeavours of the Water JPI in this research area. In frame of the conference, a European-wide competition called 'Junior Water Jump - Digital solutions for control of pollutants, pathogens and antimicrobial resistances in the water cycle' is foreseen to be taking place as well.

[Read more](#)

Events Calendar

This calendar displays events related to Joint Programming and / or the Bioeconomy.

Is your event not in our calendar yet? Please e-mail the details to jointprogramming@wur.nl

Please take note that due to developments related to COVID-19, upcoming events may become cancelled. Check the events' website regularly.

[To the events calendar](#)

Upcoming events:

31 March - 2 April	BANOS Strategic Orientation Workshop
8 April	Cultural Heritage and Climate Change expert workshop, Paris
27 - 29 April	SusAn Early Career Research seminar, Italy
29 April	DISCONTTOOLS workshop, Brussels
17 June	HDHL international conference, Brussels
27 June	World Microbiome Day
21 October	BANOS Final Forum, Berlin
17-18 November	Water JPI third Annual International Conference, Mülheim an der Ruhr
Autumn	FACCE-JPI 10 Year Anniversary Event

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Ideas for the website or the newsletter?

Suggestions for news items?

Questions about joint programming?

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