

Commitment to Alignment and Evaluation of Impact

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- What is Alignment in the JPP Context?
- Common misunderstandings
- Do we create societal impact?
- Why we need a paradigm change
- The importance of measuring impact
- How to move forward?

What is Alignment in the JPP Context?

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- Step 1: MS/AC jointly develop an SRIA (e.g. within a JPI)
- Step 2: MS/AC adapt their national research policy/funding activities or develop new activities taking the SRIA and the activities of other participating MS/AC into consideration (constant information exchange e.g. within a JPI)
- Step 3: MS/AC define joint actions to implement the SRIA (core task of a JPI)
- Step 4: MS/AC (within a JPI) measure progress and update the SRIA considering new developments

Are MS to align their entire research funding?

- Only mission driven research where a common European Agenda exists
- Not investigator driven basic research, neither industry driven applied research
- MS/AC are always free to follow national strategies

Is Alignment a goal in itself?

- The purpose of Alignment is pooling resources, sharing expertise and knowledge, increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of science and research in Europe

Is Alignment costly?

- Alignment should be saving money
- It is about pooling existing resources, division of labour, avoiding duplication

Do we create societal impact?

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By definition, mission-oriented research has the objective to create societal impact.

- It is not enough to just create new knowledge.
- It is about creating the required knowledge.
- It is about delivering the knowledge to those who need it and help them to understand new phenomena.
- We need to go all the way in order to create societal impact by inducing societal and technological innovation, smart regulation, standardisation ...

JPIs are doing all this, but they are still at an early stage.

Why we need a paradigm change

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- The only reasonable way to tackle the Grand Societal Challenges is to do it jointly.
- Doing it jointly requires aligning national activities.
- Aligning national activities requires a paradigm change.
- Therefore, for mission-oriented research, we need to
 - overcome the traditional way of organising our research funding following a purely national logic
 - act primarily in a transnational logic
 - focus on the real societal need for the wider public good rather than following a national intervention logic

The importance of measuring impact

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- We need to justify the resources invested (personal and financial).
- We need to build a convincing case to ensure sustainable commitment from political leaders.
- **Therefore measuring impact is vital.**
- **The traditional indicators and the available statistical data are not suited for measuring the impact of our interventions in the field of societal challenges.**
- **We are still at the beginning of developing effective tools and mechanisms for impact measurement.**
- The GPC has set up an Implementation Group to take care of this important issue.

How to move forward?

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- We need to think the JPP bigger
- We need JPIs to see themselves as European hubs for Alignment in their challenge area
- We need MS/AC and the EC to respect and use JPIs as European Alignment hubs
- We must give JPIs appropriate resources to fulfil this very ambitious role

- The GPC will, together with the EC and with support of ERA-Learn 2020 start a Mutual Learning Exercise on Alignment where the MS/AC/EC role regarding Alignment shall be designed

Thank you for your attention!

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