



Workshop on Practical Implementation of Alignment II

Novel Activities, Guidelines and Lessons Learnt

23 November 2016, 2pm-5pm

MCE Management Centre Europe, Rue de l'Aqueduc 118, 1050 Brussel, room "Dublin"

1. Introduction to the workshop and existing knowledge

In December 2008, the Council of the European Union endorsed the concept of "Joint Programming" to promote the pooling of national research efforts in view of making better use of Europe's public R&D resources and tackling more effectively global (societal) challenges.¹ The practical implementation of Joint Programming mainly relies on alignment – a strategic approach undertaken by member states to modify their national research programmes, priorities or activities because of the adoption of joint research priorities in the context of Joint Programming. The objective is to improve the efficiency of investment in research at the level of member states and the European research area.²

Within the ERA-LEARN 2020 an 'Alignment Typology' was developed. Alignment actions across the entire research programming cycle include research planning, strategy, implementation, evaluation and reporting, training of researchers, research infrastructure and data, dissemination and uptake.

In the first workshop on 'Practical Implementation of Alignment' in September 2015, selected and interesting joint actions and cases of P2P leading to alignment were introduced and discussed. The aim was to share practicalities on the implementation of alignment to a broader audience of P2P. From September 2015 until October 2016 different case studies on practical implementation of especially novel approaches to alignment have been investigated and made public on the ERA-LEARN 2020 web-platform. The investigated cases cover joint actions leading to alignment along the entire research programming cycle.

2. Objective, expected outcomes and context of this workshop

The present workshop aims at the development of guidelines and lessons learnt for joint actions to achieve alignment. Based on a variety of investigated case studies, practical guidelines for P2P how to achieve alignment using specific joint actions should be developed. **Similar cases have been grouped into four clusters** mirroring joint actions to achieve alignment. The aim is to develop guidelines for alignment modalities that are grounded in at least three cases.

1. Achieving alignment via **Strategic and Policy Cooperation and Enhanced National (In-Country) Coordination**

Existing Case studies for learning: (1) [FACCE-JPI mapping exercise](#); (2) JPI Climate SRIA (Draft); and (3) the [development of a common position on alignment in Austria](#).

2. Achieving alignment via **cooperation and integration of national and transnational research and innovation projects and programmes**

¹ http://ec.europa.eu/research/era/what-joint-programming_en.html

² https://www.era-learn.eu/alignment/definition-typology/D4.1_ReportontheDefinitionandTypologyofAlignment_INRA_final_Nov2015.pdf

Existing Case studies for learning: (1) HERA ERANET, (2) The Article 185 European Metrology Research Programme, (3) Alignment of national AAL Programmes – Practical Implementation from the Austrian Perspective, (4) INFRAVATION ERANET PLUS

3. Achieving alignment **via institutional cooperation between research and innovation performing organisations**

Existing Case studies for learning: (1) European Energy Research Alliance (EERA); (2) ERA-NET Cofund The European network for observing our changing planet (ERA-PLANET); (3) ERA-NET Cofund ERA-NET Cofund European Research Area for Climate Services (ERA4CS) and (4) the Network of Centres of Excellence in Neurodegeneration (CoEN) (Draft).

4. Achieving alignment **via sharing of research knowledge, data and infrastructure**

Existing Case studies for learning: (1) FACCE JPI's Knowledge Hub MACSUR; (2) JPI Oceans' Shared Research Vessel; and (3) the Open Access Infrastructure for Research in Europe (OpenAIRE)

Case studies will be available for download <https://www.era-learn.eu/alignment>

Guiding questions for the discussion during the workshop

Question on **practical implementation**

1. What are **success factors** for this joint action to achieve alignment?
 - What activities should be put in place at strategic, financial and operational level?
 - What are the necessary pre-conditions?

Reflective Question

2. What are the **overall benefits** for JPIs or other P2Ps of this joint action to achieve alignment?

The event is organised in the context of the *ERA-LEARN 2020 Project* (<http://www.era-learn.eu/>) which aims to strengthen joint programming in Europe by giving practical advice to experts operating public-to-public partnerships.

The workshop results will be used to develop general guidelines how to achieve alignment using different types of joint actions. These guidelines will be public on the ERA-LEARN 2020 web platform.

The workshop will provide an opportunity to:

1. Share your experience as a pioneer with regard to specific actions aiming at alignment or learn from other P2P as a follower, especially from very novel activities.
2. Examine the strengths and weaknesses of selected alignment approaches, actions and instruments in an interactive setting together with other P2P members who are responsible for the same alignment actions.
3. Develop very practical guidelines how to achieve alignment via the four types of joint actions to transfer your knowledge to other P2Ps.
4. Think about which framework conditions from the European Commission in Framework Programme 9 would support each specific alignment activity.

3. **Target audience**

The workshop is targeted at **practitioners in P2P** concerned with alignment at both operational and strategic levels. Expected participants include representatives from all JPIs, representatives of investigated case studies and representatives of the Mutual Learning Exercise on Alignment. The event is expected to include approximately 30 participants.

4. Practical details

Place of the venue: MCE Management Centre Europe, Rue de l'Aqueduc 118, 1050 Brussel; room "Dublin"

5. Programme

Session 1. Introduction	
14:00-14:30	Introduction of the workshop aim Introduction of the joint actions to achieve alignment based on case studies The world café setting and the questions
Session 2. World Café	
14:30-15:30	Interactive discussion on the four tables I
15:30-15:45	Coffee break
15:45-16:15	Interactive discussion on the four tables II
Session 3. Reporting to audience	
16:15-16:55	Reporting from the discussions on the four tables
Session 4. Conclusion	
16:55-17:00	Next Steps

6. Contact:

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