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NEWS FROM THE ANNUAL JOINT PROGRAMMING CONFERENCE: IMPACTS OF PUBLIC-PUBLIC PARTNERSHIPS - EXPECTATIONS AND EXPERIENCES

Impact and the longer term view

Understanding impact is massively important, considering the billions of euros being spent. "We really have to understand that before we spend too much more money," said Erik Arnold at the opening of the conference.

Arnold is chairman of the Technopolis Group and adjunct professor in research policy at the Royal Institute of Technology (KTH), Stockholm. He spoke about evaluation challenges of public-to-public partnerships, P2Ps, and questioned how well traditional impact analysis could handle P2Ps.

P2Ps are part of a bigger shift in devolving governance of research and innovation policy. This holds advantages, but also dangers, noted Arnold. "Long-term analysis shows the importance of the Framework's social and organizational impact and those are impacts we expect in P2Ps, way beyond the normal scientific, technical and industrial outputs."

He gave two examples from the US regarding timescales. A Department

of Defense study called Hindsight in the 1960s that showed that current weapons systems relied on ideas developed up to 20 years earlier. While a 1960s National Science Foundation study called TRACES looked at how 50 years of basic research underpinned five important civil innovations. The point being that impact at these scales is not going to be immediately obvious. "When we look at the P2Ps [and Framework Programmes] taking a long-term perspective is actually quite helpful," says Arnold.

When you delegate responsibility for programming and project selection to a P2P or a public-private partnership, be aware that there is a risk that the partnership will run the programme in its own short-term interest. Arnold stressed that this makes good governance all the more critical. "Early on we need to think is this working and does it conform to the programme model and is the governance right," he said.

ANNUAL JOINT PROGRAMMING CONFERENCE 2016 - MAIN MESSAGES

P2P Achievements

- **P2Ps have managed to mobilise and connect substantive resources across Europe and the world.** A lot have been achieved especially in terms of enhancing transnational collaboration of research. JPIs have become important and globally recognized knowledge hubs. Other P2Ps influenced national and European policies. Overall, P2Ps contributed visibly to delivering the ERA.

Assessing P2P impacts

- **The interim evaluation of Horizon 2020 and the formulation of the forthcoming framework programme provide the policy background at the national and EU level for demonstrating impacts from P2Ps.**
- Despite differences across the different types of P2Ps (JPIs, Art 185s, ERA-NETs, EJPs, ERA-NET Cofund, etc.) **a common impact assessment framework as under preparation by ERA LEARN 2020 covering both the network and project levels is feasible as well as desired.**
- The conference discussions provided a wealth of suggestions and recommendations in order to further work in this direction. Devising a **common set of indicators** is strongly recommended.
- **Impacts should be examined** at both the network and project levels as well as at national/European/International levels addressing both short-term and long-term perspectives as well as the needs of all relevant stakeholders (researchers, policy and business communities, civil society).
- **Visible Impacts could be demonstrated** on effective stakeholder involvement from the outset. A variety of communication means should be deployed to reach the diverse audiences in appropriate ways to increase visibility of impacts.
- **Challenges for impact assessment** are acknowledged, notably as many impacts (as in the area of health) may occur with a long-term time lag after the launch of a P2P. The research sectors addressed also need to be accommodated in a P2P impact assessment framework.

- **Exchanging experiences and spreading of good practices is important.** While ERA-LEARN 2020 can and should facilitate this, in particular by providing practical guidance and expertise on how to carry out impact assessment, P2Ps should resume their proper responsibility in making impact expectations and assessing their achievement integral part of the initiatives and their activities.

The future of P2Ps

- **P2Ps need a more strategic approach led by MS in collaboration with the EC; their potential in providing input to Framework Programmes topic definition better exploited.** The future design of P2Ps should shift from being instrument-driven to a more challenge/objective-driven approach. A strategic continuation of successful P2Ps with strong commitments from MS might be one way forward. At the same time, however, the missions and overall aims of P2Ps need to be revisited in order to manage expectations.
- The **P2P landscape needs to be streamlined** by establishing synergies among P2Ps in similar areas but also by deciding on the life cycle of P2Ps and possible entry-exit criteria. This would facilitate decision-making about selecting which P2Ps to join and which new ones can/should be formed. A differentiated approach towards the MS-driven JPIs from the other P2Ps may be valid, although EC support for P2Ps is important in all cases.
- **A new (policy) narrative needs to be developed for P2Ps that is underpinned by evidence/impacts and that will bring science closer to society** by pursuing missions related to solving societal challenges. The national Action Plans and ERA Road-maps reflect commitment of the MS and are encouraging in this regard, although the readiness level to get engaged in P2Ps is different across different countries.

ANNUAL JOINT PROGRAMMING CONFERENCE 2016 - SNAPSHOTS

Expectations and proliferations

Concern was expressed about the proliferation of instruments during a panel discussion. This looked at expectations for P2Ps and the role national policy makers should play.

A call for discussion was made at a Member State level on how to govern the networks and whether it is wise to continue to build entities that cannot be terminated.

The increasingly complex and diverse landscape of initiatives and instruments was also commented on by Taivo Raud, head of the research policy department at the Ministry of Education and Research in Estonia. He said it was challenging for national ministries to decide where to participate.

“No more instruments. There is no need,” agreed Evelina Santa-Kahle, deputy head of the ERA unit, Federal Ministry of Education and Research in Germany. Eric Regouin, of the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs, noted from the floor that European countries have simply accommodated P2Ps by creating new structures, rather than adapting or aligning national structures.

Santa-Kahle said European cooperation is still the best approach to societal challenges, but soft impact must be brought to the fore for JPIs. “JPIs are very good at creating trust and communities across Europe, which is the fabric of ERA. On the national level we tend to use JPIs as a hub towards sector policies.”

“Joint Programming has helped us better prepare the national landscape,” said Elisabeth Vergès, director of R&I strategy at the Ministry for Higher Education and Research in France. It also impacted at an international level, she added: “For example, France supported some topics in the G7 and G20 summit, which were topics from JPIs, so we have aligned our policy, European policy and international policy.”

Blueprint for an impact assessment

Effie Amanatidou of the University of Manchester set out a course for impact assessments. She used experience from the ERA-LEARN 2020 consortium and inputs from discussions at a workshop last May.

When evaluating networks, we should take into account how decisions are made, who participates and its evolution over time. “We need to understand that a network can produce a chain of impacts,” Amanatidou added.

Networks can impact members which can in turn impact their local environment or at a national or European level.

She discussed the usefulness of evaluation and impact assessment, which can include accountability, benchmarking, improving operation of an instrument, for policy feedback or improving the skills of a programme manager.

Amanatidou also discussed a “chain of impacts” identified using ERA-NET surveys run by ERA-LEARN in 2016. “To increase the chances of solving societal challenges you need increased quality of research but also cross-national coordination, synergies between European research agendas and strategic development.”

She warned that assumptions must be probed: these must be tested in an evaluation and can explain diverse levels of achievements of a network.

Metrology – impact of measurements

Paula Knee spoke about the impact of the article 185 for metrology, which brings together the National Metrology Institutes in Europe. Metrology is the scientific study of measurement, a field that can yield benefits to industry and society, especially through integration and standardization.

European Metrology Research Programme (EMRP) ran annual calls from 2009 to 2013, with 119 projects funded, with the finish line approaching in 2017. The European Metrology Programme for Innovation and Research (EMPIR) will start next year and run until 2024.

“We went through a pragmatic process and reviewed our objectives, looked at the needs the programme was addressing and developed a logic model, looking at what indicators we needed to assess to demonstrate impact and what tools we could put in a place to assess that,” Knee explained.

One way her programme weighed impact was by looking at early adopters. “If our research has gone beyond the research base and is starting to be used, then we have more confidence that in the longer term we will deliver outcomes with impact,” said Knee. Another critical outcome is integration for the European metrology landscape; already, the programme coordinates a significant proportion of national research funds for metrology research.

Three annual surveys of industrial participants already revealed evidence of 190m in sales of innovation products attributable to EMRP projects. And it contributed to 17 published and 103 draft standards.

“To have increased quality you need increased skill but also increased research investment and coordination. To have increased skill, you need collaboration and interdisciplinary research approaches and some other factors”

Impact case studies spotlighted

As one of the five work packages of ERA-LEARN 2020, impact is critical for us and there is a special place on our portal where you can find existing information, said Angus Hunter of Optimat Ltd and the ERA-LEARN consortium. With 5,000 P2P projects now committed, he noted, counting impact of all these projects is a necessity.

Hunter moderated an afternoon session on “Impacts at Project Level.” This hosted discussions from Roland Brandenburg, M-ERA.NET coordinator from FFG, Austria, and Paula Knee from EMPIR, article 185 on metrology. The session also featured two national efforts at impact assessment, one from the Netherlands and one from Finland.

The M-ERA.NET assessed funded projects used online questionnaires to all project partners after completion and again three years later. Brandenburg noted that there is a need to update the information on databases and to have as simple a system as feasible.

Knee followed up with a discussion on impact assessment. Some of the economic data gathered comes not from surveys, but case studies tracked down by a full-time time person. This person talks to project partners to pinpoint users, public agencies and industries.

Casper Zulim de Swarte of the Ministry of Economic Affairs in the Netherlands gave the results of a survey of Dutch participants in transnational bioeconomy projects funded by the EU and PSPs. Preliminary results indicate a significant impact of ERA-NETs on policy.

Hannele Lahtinen from the Academy of Finland – the main scientific funder in the country – talked delegates through an analysis of P2P collaboration completed just prior to the conference. A brief survey with just 8 questions was sent to 115 principle investors.

“We asked them about outputs of P2P collaborations,” explained Lahtinen. Top categories included production of new knowledge, new experimental tools and developing research contacts. Pls were also asked about the rationale behind applying for P2P funding.

Respondents highlighted ERA-NET ease of coordination. When asked what kind of funding scheme the Academy should support for international collaboration sake, the respondents highlighted national project funding and P2P funding programmes.

Bioeconomy in the shopfront

The bioeconomy session on day 2 set out some practical examples of experiences and achievements of a handful of networks. Heather McKhann of INRA in France noted the aims of FACCE-JPI and described its efforts to push impact on EU policies in the bioeconomy; food and nutrition security; climate and CAP.

She announced that a pilot workshop planned for March would pull together research projects in one area, in this case climate change, and information that would be useful for policy makers.

For impacts, the MACSUR Knowledge Hub had published scientific papers, contributed to books and reports, contributed to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), developed regional case studies to assist policy makers in the agri-food chain and presented at over 450 scientific conferences.

Kaisa Kononen of BONUS (Article 185), the Joint Baltic Sea Research Programme, then sketched out how her network contributed to the sustainability of fish stocks. Its work fed into the EU fishing quota, which sets the limits of fishing.

Martin Greimel of the Austrian Ministry of Agriculture noted there is no European forest policy, yet other policies influence forestry. He revealed the impact of the ERA-NETs FORESTERRA for the Mediterranean, Sumforest for Eastern Europe, and WoodWisdom for materials science.

For WoodWisdom, the project FireInTimber overturned a ban on 8-story wooden buildings in Europe. Last month in Vienna, construction started on a new 8-story building of wood started, a street level impact.

Luke Dalton of Defra, UK, spoke about the animal health and welfare ERA-NETs ANIHWA and EMIDA, which funded 58 transnational projects to the tune of 75 m. The database, skills and connections it built up helped frame the policy response and action when Europe was faced with an outbreak of Bluetongue disease in livestock.

Finally, Nicola Schultz of Juelich, Germany, looked at how the ERA-NET “Cofund on BioTechnologies” (CoBioTech) aims to propel Europe further forward in biotechnology. In terms of suggestions, McKhann suggested a JPI newsletter, together with targeted training and workshops on impact, working with ERA-LEARN. There were parallel sessions on health, environment and climate change and innovation and technology.

“Why they participate is the relevance of the topic and to widen existing national networks, which is not surprising in a small country, but we wanted to ask the researchers directly”

Christine Bunthof of Wageningen in the Netherlands described the PLATFORM forum for funders and programme managers in the bioeconomy field. Its ambition is to improve exchange and cooperation and boost impact on ERA and the European bioeconomy.

“This is a searchable database and you can make searches from a country point of view, funders, JPIs and also find publications,” she explained.

Health session

The health session presented a number of remarkable impacts from a number of networks in this field. The discussion was enriched by Erin Dunn from the CIHR of Canada, who is actively participating in a number of EU networks in health.

Within the ERA-Net on rare diseases (E-Rare) with 17 countries participating, the majority of European R&D funding in this field is well represented. As most countries have no specific programmes on rare diseases, E-Rare had a strong impact on the structured collaboration in Europe and beyond, increasing visibility and effectiveness of this research topic. E-Rare represents Europe in an global research consortium on rare diseases and successfully included patient organisations in the programme design.

The ERA-Net on brain-related diseases (NEURON) was able to collect 22 countries across Europe and beyond as partners. The very operational approach of NEURON is underlined by the fact that 50% of all projects involve patients and that common standards for material/data exchange have been developed and are applied across Europe, helping to provide better and more cost-effective therapies to patients that already in 2010 caused heavy costs of about 800 billion in Europe.

Anti-microbial resistance (AMR) is one of the key health challenges of our times. It is estimated that by 2050 the number of deaths caused by AMR will be higher than people dying from cancer. At the same time, the level of R&D funding is currently by a factor 10 lower in AMR than in cancer research. The JPI AMR is addressing this challenge by structuring and prioritizing the European research landscape, making it more efficient and effective whilst in parallel developing national AMR action plans in cooperation with health ministries. This year the “AMR model” has been recognized by the WHO and the UN General Assembly as blueprint for national AMR action plans across the globe. With partners in Argentina, Canada, Israel and Turkey, JPI AMR developed into a global knowledge hub in that field.

The effective treatment of tropical diseases is another global health challenge that is addressed by the European & Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP), a so called Art 185 initiative. The focus here is not research as such, but the effective development of new therapies by a better cooperation in designing and conducting clinical trials in Sub-Saharan Africa, a main victim of these diseases. With more than 100 clinical trials so far funded, the EDCTP had clear impacts on the number of WHO guidelines and national treatment policies for HIV, severe malaria and tuberculosis. In addition, EDCTP funded more than 3400 posts for qualified staff in Africa, contributing to better skills and competences in Africa.

View from the floor

We got the views of some attendees of the conference. Petra Zagar from Slovenia highlighted the “Impacts on policy and network level” session run on day one of the conference, moderated by Effie Amanatidou of the University of Manchester. “The conclusions really were that we need some step-by-step guidance on how to make assessments or achieve impact. All organisers and the Commission are aware that we are missing that,” she said.

She noted that her ministry would benefit from such a toolkit on assessing impact when deciding whether to go or continue with various P2Ps. It could be a task for the Commission or ERA-LEARN. “We all got a clear message from the Commission that impact will be crucial.”

Piotr Świątek, national contact point for energy in Germany, said there should be two meetings a year. “The issues for ERA-NETs and inter-governmental cooperation are very unique and complex set of problems.” He argued that a similar conference for programme owners only would be of value.

We have a project level and a programme level and of course the two should come together in a conference to discuss everything. “But we could have a satellite conference even, so that programme owners can discuss substantive issues without beneficiaries,” Świątek suggested.

Rachele Nocera at the Italian National Agency for New Technologies noted the distance between the needs of research performing organisations and governments in P2Ps. Researchers are not necessarily pushed to align their specific call to national programmes. “There is a certain disconnection. With P2P the goal is to align national research programmes, but at the end you get projects, and there is not yet a framework to create a network out of these projects, and so improve alignment.”



INTERVIEW: ANGELO RICCABONI DISCUSSES 'A NEW JOINT PROGRAMME FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION'

Next year will see the launch of a joint programme for the Mediterranean region. An Art.185 initiative will bind countries together and create a 400 million pot for funding transnational projects. It will create a new programme with a 10 year duration to create sustainable solutions for all.

"The Mediterranean is under great stress. There are so many major challenges that the region is a sort of laboratory, especially regards climate change"

"There are major challenges in the Mediterranean related to loss of biodiversity, temperature, agriculture, social change, and all in the context of climate change," says Angelo Riccaboni, who chairs the Sustainable Development Solutions Network and is leading the new programme. Countries signed up include Tunisia, Greece, Italy, Malta, Morocco, Spain and Portugal, all of which have announced contributions in cash. The Art. 185 initiative is called PRIMA, for Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area.

"We are on the same shore, we share the same history, we share the same future, and we need to work together. We are all in the same boat when it comes to problems we face," says Riccaboni. While the research landscape and political maps recognize boundaries, issues around water shortage do not. This was recognized at a Barcelona conference in 2012 that emphasized the need for partnership between the EU and its southern neighbours based on co-ownership, mutual interest and shared benefit.

This set the stage for an Art.185 initiative proposed by the Commission and now being negotiated between the European Council and the European Parliament. "If everything goes well we hope it will ready for next spring and launch its first calls in 2018," explains Riccaboni. It will sit firmly on

three pillars and drive cooperation forward for ten years – one pillar concerns efficient water use, the next sustainable agriculture and the third the food industry.

PRIMA has spotlighted food systems and water resources as being of most concern for participating countries. The "Arab Spring" in 2010 was sparked by riots over bread, a staple food and emblem of social stability. Moreover, water and sustainable food production are wrapped around in one conundrum – how to produce food without depleting this valuable resource, in a region where more than 70% of water resources are used for agriculture. Water is the most vulnerable resource in the Mediterranean, one of the most arid agricultural regions on Earth, with 180 million people in the Mediterranean basin classed "water poor."

"The Mediterranean is under great stress. There are so many major challenges that the region is a sort of laboratory, especially regards climate change," says Riccaboni, professor of management and governance at the University of Siena, Italy. His UN network supports the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and PRIMA will maintain a link to Agenda 2030. Today, Stakeholder inputs will sculpt the potential solutions to problems and help define the Strategic Innovation Agenda.



“We’re putting a lot of effort into stakeholder involvement. We want to know what civil society, what consumers, what producers need,” says Riccaboni. “A programme that can propose solutions and have impact, not just do research.” Meetings with stakeholders are scheduled for Egypt, Tunisia and Italy over the next few months, as well as national meetings.

During a recent consultation in the south of Spain, with top academics and representative of business, the level of participation and engagement impressed Riccaboni. “It’s clear the agriculture sector is keen on using water in a more efficient way,” he says, and this is tied up with employment and the economy of the region. Indeed, farmers and the food industry have emerged as crucial features of the Mediterranean economy and also as a key source of jobs.

Participating States will keep a hand on the wheel and adjust the scope and content of the programme to retain flexibility. “Innovation will be essential in order to deal with the challenges faced in the Mediterranean,” says Riccaboni. “We will need to push on from research to innovation to solutions and ensure solutions can be adopted by communities, enterprises and individuals.”

Commission proposed PRIMA, the first research partnership of its kind in the Mediterranean Area to develop much-needed novel solutions for sustainable water management and food production

PRIMA stands for Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area. The legal basis for PRIMA is Article 185 TFEU. This enables the EU to participate in research and development programmes undertaken by several Member States, including in the structures created for the execution of those programmes. The PRIMA initiative supports the sustainable management of water and food systems in the Mediterranean Area by pooling know-how and financial resources in a strategic re-

search partnership between the EU and Participating States. Its aim is to develop fully piloted and demonstrated joint innovative solutions that the Mediterranean region urgently needs. These would help to make the water and food supply in the region more efficient, cost-effective and sustainable, and solve related problems.

The Commission’s proposal already includes Cyprus, Czech Republic, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Malta, Morocco, Portugal, Spain and Tunisia. The participation of Germany and Jordan is under negotiation. As the initiative is evolving, more participants are expected to follow, both EU and non-EU countries. So far, the Participating States have committed around 200 million, matched by a contribution of up to 200 million from the Union through its current research framework programme Horizon 2020. Participating States can support the initiative by contributions in cash and/or in kind. The contributions by the Union and the Participating States will be managed by the DIS (Dedicated Implementation Structure) and the national funding bodies, respectively. The contributions centrally managed by the DIS are implemented in accordance with Horizon 2020 rules. For activities funded without Union contribution, financial and/or in-kind contributions by Participating States can be managed at either centrally or at national level.

The legislative proposal for PRIMA has already been transmitted to the Council and the Parliament both of which will need to approve it before the partnership is set up. At the same time, international agreements with countries not associated to Horizon 2020 are being negotiated. Currently, the countries concerned are Morocco, Lebanon and Egypt. Also, the PRIMA Implementation Structure (PRIMA-IS) is being established. The initiative is set to start in 2018 and will run for 10 years.

<https://ec.europa.eu/research/environment/index.cfm?pg=prima>

INTERVIEW: NIELS GØTKE TALKS 'EXPERT REVIEW OF ERA NET COFUND ACTIONS UNDER HORIZON 2020'

A panel of experts scrutinizing the first ERA-NET Cofund Actions under Horizon 2020 has drawn up a list of recommendations for the future. The panel wrestled with both strategic issues and more practical administrative concerns.

"We have lots of examples of countries facing big challenges, such as climate change, which they are not dealing with alone. This is an excellent argument for cooperation"

"We wanted to come up with ideas to optimize the co-fund scheme and perhaps feed into the next Framework Programme," explains Niels Gøtke, who chaired the expert group for the report, discussed at the Annual Joint Programming Conference in Brussels. The headline recommendation is that actions need to be underpinned by a comprehensive strategy in the thematic area and by strong synergies with other similar initiatives.

"You have to see the whole landscape of the different initiatives and instruments, such as Joint Programming Initiatives and article 185s, together," Gøtke emphasizes. The report praises the actions as building strong collaboration across European funding agencies. Simplification measures ushered in for Horizon 2020 were, it was noted, appreciated by the ERA-NET Co fund community: reduced reporting obligations, simplified financial report, for example.

But not everyone is satisfied. "Although it was decided that we should have a more simple scheme, it seems not all people involved think that this has happened with the ERA-NET Cofund," notes Gøtke. A major concern is a lack of clear communication and misunderstandings about financial aspects. Confusion was highlighted with respect to the flexibility for the internal al-

location of the European contribution. The report flagged the need to ensure that that contribution can be fully spent, by mobilising additional national funds for cofunded calls.

"The financial aspects are still quite complicated. And that the instrument is new has to be taken on board. But there is a lack of understanding of how they function and a wish that management costs should be included," Gøtke told attendees at the annual meeting in Brussels.

Complementarity and synergies with other ERA-NETs and partnering initiatives as well as the Framework Programme needs to be improved. Co fund actions are not adequately embedded in national policies or national strategies, which may reflect a lack of ambition to realize their potential by member states. The panel etched out a list to guide improvements in future.

First, the Commission should implement long-term strategies for the use of these instruments, involving states and relevant bodies. And Member States need to align them with their national strategies. "We have lots of examples of countries facing big challenges, such as climate change, which they are not dealing with alone. This is an excellent argument for cooperation," says Gøtke.

[“We could identify good practices which could be taken up by ERA-LEARN and talked about in workshops or training sessions”](#)

“There is still a lack of a system which can take onboard recommendations from the ERA-NETs and use them for policy objectives and embed them in national strategies.” There could be better link of ERA-NETs together and with other agencies in the same area, he adds.

Part of the fix is in longer term commitments in financial and political terms by Member States. “[Money allocated to ERA-NETs] seems quite stable for the EU15, but we need to strengthen public-to-public relationships if we are to build the European Research Area,” says Gøtke. There is a need to look at geographic representation and increase involvement of the 13 new Member States. Structural funds to assist participation by countries in the east and south could be considered.

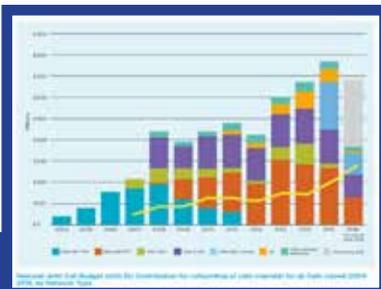
The report also calls attention to a need to improve sharing of knowledge, experience and good practices to boost implementation. ERA-LEARN 2020 should play a central role in organizing the process of knowledge sharing and documenting good practice. Gøtke says it is not that individual ERA-NETs are reinventing the wheel; different public institutions will have their own practices, but it’s possible for people to learn from each other. ‘We could identify good practices which could be taken up by ERA-LEARN and talked about in workshops or training sessions,’ Gøtke explains. ERA-LEARN can guide Member States and help partners in preparing and implementing ERA-NETS.

The panel also spoke to people from Third countries. “One thing that surprised me was how interesting the ERA-NETs seem to be for many of the Third countries. They view it as a good way to connect to Europe,’ says Gøtke. “It’s definitely an instrument that can be used more practically for getting contacts from outside the EU.”

Seen through the lens of the next Framework Programme, the analysis taps on a need to have public-to-public mechanism, but for it to be much more flexible and less focused on how much funding can be got out. It should permit a soft approach in areas where long-term financial support to management and coordination should be enough, but a strong approach for mature networks with strong commitments and high relevance where you have cofunding from the Commission.

The panel was asked in November 2015 to consult the main stakeholders involved in Co funds. They reviewed ERA-NET proposals, strategy documents, and previous analysis, but also set out an online survey addressed to 450 recipients, achieving a 50 per cent response rate. They conducted over 75 interviews involving ERA-NET coordinators, national representatives, Commission staff, JPI Chairs and others.

The report is entitled “Analysis of ERA NET Cofund actions under Horizon 2020.” Other panel members were Effie Amanatidou, Ioana Ispas, Daria Julkowska and Joaquin Serrano.



Events

Training: Using Foresight in Public-Public-Partnerships: VIENNA, 20-21 February 2017

ERA-LEARN 2020 offers the second training course on the application of foresight-processes for trans-national coordination of strategic research and innovation. The training course is organised as intensive 2-day personalised on-site seminar. Participants will have the opportunity to work on a real-case theme to learn how to apply a set of core techniques and reflect upon them.

Register at <https://www.era-learn.eu/events>

Save the date:

07-08 November, 2017: Annual P2P Event 2017

The Annual Public-Public Partnerships Conference will take place at the Management Centre Europe (MCE) in Brussels on 07-08 November 2017. Further details and programme to follow.

About ERA-LEARN 2020

ERA-LEARN 2020 is a support platform for the Public-Public-Partnerships (P2P) community and facilitates learning among national and regional funding organisations in order to optimise their transnational activities.

The ERA-LEARN 2020 platform is available at <http://www.era-learn.eu>

Register for the ERA-LEARN newsletter <https://www.era-learn.eu/newsletter>

What's new in ERA-LEARN 2020?

2nd Annual Report on P2P Partnerships (2016)

The 2nd ERA-LEARN 2020 annual report on public-public (P2P) networks in Europe covers the 12 month period from July 2015 to the end of June 2016. It also aims to present the cumulative and emerging position on joint calls since the launch of the P2P movement in 2003 and provides a spotlight on the Cofund instrument, presenting a picture of the investment and results of the Cofunds to date. <https://www.era-learn.eu/publications>

ERA-LEARN 2020 publishes New case studies on alignment of national research activities

The case studies cover current approaches to alignment as well as novel alignment modalities. In particular, they reveal innovative mechanisms for the funding, management and coordination of joint calls. They present specific approaches to institutional cooperation, essential pre-requisites for alignment at strategic/policy levels, and novel instruments for capacity building of researchers and sharing of research data, knowledge and infrastructure across countries. The case studies build the Typology of Alignment published by ERA-LEARN in 2015 <https://www.era-learn.eu/alignment/definition-typology> and their results have been discussed during the second alignment workshop "Practical Implementation of Alignment II – Novel activities, guidelines and Lessons Learnt" (23 November 2016). Case study reports are available at <https://www.era-learn.eu/alignment/current-approaches> and <https://www.era-learn.eu/alignment/novel-alignment-modalities>.

New section on other joint activities

Apart from implementing transnational calls P2P can decide to implement a range of other joint activities. The new ERA-LEARN section on Joint Activities provides concrete examples that have already been implemented by P2P networks. <https://www.era-learn.eu/joint-activities>

New functionality on ERA-LEARN 2020

The ERA-LEARN 2020 databases <https://www.era-learn.eu/network-information> have upgraded analysis and visualisation tools.

Interactive maps can now display the degree of networking of selected countries with other countries, or between specific organisations and other countries.

The filter functions for the database of networks, joint calls and funded projects have been improved as well. Databases can be searched for participants from defined countries or combination of 2 or more countries to identify frequent partnerships.

There are now more than 2000 transnational projects from more than 480 joint calls in the ERA-LEARN projects database <https://www.era-learn.eu/network-information/overview-projects>