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AN INTERVIEW WITH THE NEW DIRECTOR RTD B JEAN-DAVID MALO ON P2PS

This year Jean-David Malo was welcomed as the new Director for Open Innovation and Open Science at DG RTD, overseeing also the future P2P approach of DG RTD. Here he shares his views on the main issues for the future of P2Ps and how the P2P community can create real added value for Europe. He is cognisant of the Joint Programming and ERA-NET Cofund evaluations and the Horizon 2020 interim evaluation and says these can signpost how we can go about making P2Ps more relevant and future proof.

Five key issues emerge from the evaluations, says Jean-David. First, P2Ps are no longer in an experimental phase, but are embedded in a complex European research & innovation landscape: we need to find where they will thrive. Second, discussions are often overly instrument based and we

should instead identify the right ambitions for P2Ps. This leads on to the third issue, that of the EU and Member States identifying the most relevant topics to achieve the desired impacts. Fourth the nettle of governance must be grasped. “We have too many overlaps between the active P2Ps and their linkages with both national R&I policies and Horizon 2020 need to be strengthened,” says Jean-David. “Finally, the current model of decentralised and devolved financing is perceived by many stakeholders as a main impediment for more efficient and effective P2Ps.”

Before becoming director, Jean-David was head of the unit for SMEs, financial instruments and state aid, which included responsibility for [EUROSTARS](#), one of the P2P Article 185 initiatives. He is enthusiastic about the ability of P2Ps to complement in



a smart way national and EU R&I policies and thus contribute to better coordination within Europe. P2Ps can nurture real EU added value. They can deliver science and innovation-based solutions for societal challenges, because these often necessitate strong cooperation at Member State level.

“Here P2Ps might be often better suited than EU level initiatives,” he explains. Also, for the establishment of European communities in new and emerging fields, P2Ps often are ideally configured to be at the vanguard, making the first steps towards networking and cooperation within Europe. P2Ps also build better connections among regions in Europe. “Eventually P2Ps should be not only excellence driven but also relevance driven, notably for the implementation of the smart specialisation

strategies that have been developed in most European regions,” says Jean-David.

Already, he is looking forward to this year’s annual Joint Programming conference, to be held November 7th to 8th in Brussels. The conference will help pave a future path forward for P2Ps. A strong involvement of stakeholders is the key philosophy of EU policies, Jean-David emphasises, and this is especially important for R&I policies and P2Ps. The conference title makes clear its aims and plot line, “Co-designing the future of P2Ps,” and will welcome a diversity of inputs. “We will organise the conference in a way that will give everybody the chance to have a say – I hope that all your readers will make use of this unique opportunity,” says Jean-David.

“ONE HEALTH” – A EUROPEAN JOINT PROGRAMME FIGHTING FOODBORNE ZOOSES

An interview with Andre Jestin, coordinator of the European Joint Programme Cofund on Zoonosis

Some diseases move between animals and people. It’s a fact of life. You can become infected by eating contaminated foodstuffs or through direct contact with infected animals. Examples in food include *Salmonella* bacteria and hepatitis A virus and avian flu.

Bacteria and viruses move between countries and across continents. Domesticated animals, wild birds or illegal imports can carry them into Europe. However, we do not have to sit back and do nothing in the face of zoonotic diseases – those that move from animals to people. Europe can be better prepared by being quicker to identify threats and outbreaks and taking coordinated actions to protect citizens.

This is the thinking behind a new European Joint Programme Cofund on Zoonosis under the title “One Health”. The initiative will provide direct support to regional/national policies to mitigate foodborne diseases, notably by developing surveillance tools and help to harmonise the use of new diagnostic tests across Member States. The EJP will integrate medical, veterinary and food scientists. This will prove crucial in addressing the public health concerns of consumers and other stakeholders throughout the food chain.

European Joint Programme (‘EJP’) Cofund – a new instrument under Horizon 2020

EJP Cofund is designed to support coordinated national research and innovation programmes. The EJP Cofund aims at attracting and pooling a critical mass of national resources on objectives and challenges of Horizon 2020 and at achieving significant economies of scales by adding related Horizon 2020 resources to a joint effort. Participating entities are typically research funders or governmental research organisations participating on the basis of their institutional funding. Their participation has to be mandated by the

“owner” of the programme, the national/regional authorities in charge. EJP Cofund offers a large degree of flexibility to define and implement a joint programme with a duration of 5 years, based on annual work plans. Member States can design the programme with an appropriate range of activities, from direct research to calls for proposals (financial support to third parties) and coordination and networking activities, including training activities, demonstration and dissemination activities.

Member States have their own research programmes in these areas, but they need to be further integrated. A network of governmental research groups including reference labs will click together in a consortium of 34 full members from 20 countries. The structure will include one medical and one veterinary institute from each Member State. This will build on a European network already in place after an FP6 Network of Excellence effort.

“We have been preparing a proposal and it has been submitted for an April deadline,”. “This will be evaluated by independent evaluators, with the result expected in July.” He emphasizes that the proposal is based on the One Health approach and will bring together experts from life sciences, medicine, vet medicine, animal science and environmental sciences.

“It is a 5 year initiative with a total budget of 90 million Euro that brings together national programmes with cofund-

ing from the Framework Programme, says André Jestin, coordinator of the cofund on zoonosis and scientific advisor to the French Agency for food, environmental and occupational health safety so there’s a 50 per cent contribution from the European Commission and 50 per cent from Member States, though the contributions are in-kind from the institutional funding of the partners and so Member States don’t need fresh money,” says André.

The topic of zoonosis deserves a mid- and long-term perspective, he adds, and the European Joint Programme format is well suited for this time horizon. Joint initiatives envisaged include information dissemination, education and training, and access to strains collections, biobanks, experimental facilities and databases. Short-term missions will be launched and workshops and summer schools held.

EVALUATION OF ARTICLE 185 INITIATIVES

The Commission is currently carrying out an in-depth analysis of the different Article 185 initiatives. Expert groups are evaluating the AAL2, Bonus, EDCTP2, EMRP and EMPIR as well as Eurostars2 initiatives. In addition a meta-evaluation, chaired by the former BMBF state secretary Professor Frieder Meyer-Krahmer, takes stock of the experiences in their preparation, implementation and supervision, and assesses

how the use of Art. 185 can best contribute to the current policy developments. The evaluation package is part of the interim evaluation of Horizon 2020. The results are expected to be published in October 2017, in the form of a Commission Staff working document summarising the overall assessment on the use of Art.185 as well as the individual evaluations.

CONDITIONS AND CRITERIA FOR SUPPORT TO JPIS AND ERA-NETS IN THE WP 2018-20

The two recent evaluations on Joint Programming and ERA-NET Cofund, both identified as a major shortcoming the missing link to the overall policy context and the strategic priorities and recommended to develop clear conditions and criteria for the use of the instrument. The Commission (DG RTD) has developed a set of criteria that was presented on a number of occasions in Programme Committees. The general line is that all ERA-NET Cofund actions should be clearly linked to the strategic orientations of the WP 2018/20. In order to increase overall impact of the networks they will in general be requested to implement additional joint calls without co-funding as well as other activities. It will be important to demonstrate how non-duplication and clear synergies/division of labour with other

activities of Horizon 2020 and existing P2P initiatives is ensured. Participating states will need to make clear financial commitments when suggesting topics, with a minimum requirement to mobilise for each Euro of Union contribution at least 5 Euro of national contribution to the calls and other activities. The approach allows for certain flexibility and recognises that requests from JPIs and mature ERA-NETS need to be more ambitious than new topics. The discussions on ERA-NET topics take place in the different thematic configurations of the Programme Committee.

For further details see: https://www.era-learn.eu/manuals-tools/p2p-in-h2020/practical-documentation/20170119-WP2018_20_jn.pdf

LOOKING FORWARD TO THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The annual Joint Programming event on 7 and 8 November 2017 in Brussels will focus on the future of P2Ps under the motto “Co-designing Public-Public Partnerships for the next Framework Programme” to emphasise the collaborative approach in involving stakeholders for the future design.

Day one will build on the outcomes of the H2020 interim evaluation (Lamy group, Commission Communication, Art.185 evaluations) and the responses of Member States, European Parliament and stakeholders. It will allow participants to contribute to the current political discussion. This will inform them for the interactive session dealing with a number of horizontal issues on which they will have the opportunity to provide input and give feedback.

Day two will focus on ERA-LEARN activities, starting with a plenary session that presents results of the pilot activities on impacts at project level and a policy paper on the P2P anniversary: “15 years of P2Ps – impacts at national and European level”. The parallel sessions will address the support that ERA-LEARN is planning to provide from 2017 on for P2Ps in the same thematic field. It builds on the positive experience with PLATFORM for the P2P networks (ERA-NETS, JPIs, Art.185 initiatives) in the bioeconomy field.

Please block the date, registration will open in early September.

HEADLINE FACTS AND FIGURES

Did you know that:

- 510 P2P calls closed by the end of 2016
- Around 5,300 projects have been funded by P2P calls
- There are an average of 5 participant per P2P funded project
- P2P projects have an average value of 1.9 million
- The average requested funding for P2P projects is €70,000

Based on the project data available, the countries involved in (and coordinating) the highest number of P2P projects are: Germany, France, Spain, Sweden, UK and Netherlands.

This matrix highlights the span of cooperation between the P2P project participants.

	Austria	Belgium	Bulgaria	Croatia	Cyprus	Czech Republic	Denmark	Estonia	Finland	France	Germany	Greece	Hungary	Ireland	Italy	Latvia	Lithuania	Luxembourg	Malta	Netherlands	Poland	Portugal	Romania	Slovakia	Slovenia	Spain	Sweden	United Kingdom	
Austria																													
Belgium	27																												
Bulgaria	2	3																											
Croatia	4	1	1																										
Cyprus	3	4	2																										
Czech Republic	21	20	1	6																									
Denmark	27	33			1	5	34																						
Estonia	7	8	1	1		10	21																						
Finland	45	27			5	58	85	35																					
France	88	117	3	4	9	85	93	20	110																				
Germany	194	130	7	5	10	113	168	39	208	467																			
Greece	4	9			9	7	9		9	40	34																		
Hungary	11	5		1		16	5	4	12	21	27	2																	
Ireland	5		1	3	1	6	9	2	8	21	28	3	1																
Italy	47	57	2	4	7	72	77	16		222	261	27	15	19															
Latvia	4	5						13	9	10	5	17		1	2	9													
Lithuania	8	3			1	1	17	5	17	13	26	1	2	1	5	7													
Luxembourg	5	7			1	2	3	2	4	13	14	1	1	1	7	1	1												
Malta									1	1	1	2																	
Netherlands	60	72	1	3	10	54	99	7	85	189	349	10	10	12	2	4	9	9											
Poland	19	22		3	2	22	31	13	38	51	106	8	4	6	41	9	13	1			30								
Portugal	13	20	1	2	7	14	14	4	18	62	85	8	6	8	44	1	5	3	1										
Romania	10	13	1	1	2	13	9	3	14	28	37	7	6	1	31	1	1												
Slovakia	8	3				19	8	1	17	26	29	6	9	1	19			1											
Slovenia	31	11	1	4		28	21	9	32	46	59	9	8	6	39	4	3	2											
Spain	53	65	5	5	17	5	51	13	77	240	32	27	16	12	176	7	6	6	1		123	48	76	38	18	36			
Sweden	53	38	3	1	8	33	126	28	135	137	240	12	6	13	88	15	22	5			101	48	33	12	12	27	89		
United Kingdom	62	63	2	2	10	93	123	14	114	231	374	19	16	18	168	6	6	6			212	43	35	16	21	34	130	89	

What's new in ERA-LEARN 2020?

What does the ERA-NET community say about the overall experience in participating in ERA-NETs?

The ERA-NET instrument supports public-public partnerships in their preparation, design, implementation and coordination of joint activities (including joint calls where the instrument provides top-up funding to the national contributions made available) oriented at coordinating national and regional strategies and programmes in certain areas of common interest. ERA-NETs have enjoyed different forms of support since they first appeared in FP6. From ERA-NET actions in FP6 to ERA-NET Plus in FP7 and the latest version, the ERA-NET Cofund in Horizon 2020. The total public funding triggered by the joint calls enabled by ERA-NETs since 2004 reaches €3.5 billion and this figure excludes the joint calls organised by the Horizon 2020 ERA-NET Cofund actions. Participation of countries has increased over the years with the average number of countries represented in Cofund actions reaching 16 instead of 10 under the FP7 ERA-NETs. Call budgets also increased substantially from an average €21.6 million v €19 million for FP7 ERA-NET Plus and €7 million for ERA-NETs.

While there is always room from improvement in relation to implementation of the instrument and due to changes from one version to the other, participants feel really comfortable to note that overall they have benefited from the ERA-NET instrument over the years. They have come to appreciate the 'internationalisation' of their research communities which in some cases has even led to improved capacities and better performance in applying for other calls for proposals (as Horizon 2020). They have also appreciated the knowledge exchange which led to improved practices in managing international research programmes and significantly stress the importance of raising visibility and awareness of certain policy issues that were overlooked before.

Interestingly, our analysis has shown that solving societal challenges is not a matter of research alone, but also of influencing European / international agendas. As a result, to achieve their ultimate goal, ERA-NETs need to focus on excellence, but at the same time, they need to pursue objectives beyond that, by increasing efforts to attract policy attention and support primarily at the national level so that they become influential actors at the European/ international arena.

Overall, it is largely acknowledged that the ERA-NET instrument contributes to achieving a critical mass of resources and durable cooperation among countries. Despite the financial crises since 2008, the public funding

of transnational research by ERA-NET and ERA-NET Plus actions has been growing steadily since the first calls in 2004. The Union funding of ERA-NETs has created substantial effects on research coordination with the average leverage effect increasing from 6 in FP6 to more than 10 in FP7. In addition, ERA-NETs promote international collaboration beyond the EU more successfully than Horizon 2020.

Yet, there are still certain conditions that can act as demotivators for participating in ERA-NETs. These may relate to internal, institutional or organisational conditions (e.g. lack of staff or strategic thinking), as well as the overall national research and innovation system (such as limited funds or incompatibility of research topics with national priorities, incompatible national rules, etc.). They may also refer to the specificities of the instrument, the network or the consortium characteristics (e.g. bad management, lack of openness and trust, etc.).

ERA-NET actions have achieved a great deal in creating critical mass around certain research areas and in establishing durable cooperation across agencies and countries going beyond the EU. At the same time, there are certain ERA-NET actions that enjoy a high level of national alignment in the fields of common interest. These can act as role models for the rest in fully exploiting the ERA-NET instrument for aligning national/regional research strategies.

If you wish to read more please visit <https://www.era-learn.eu/publications/other-publications> and download the 'Updated Policy Brief on the Impacts of Networks 2016'.

Foresight Training II

The second ERA-LEARN 2020 Foresight Training took place in Vienna in February. The aim of this training course was to empower management structures of Public-Public-Partnerships in their endeavour to develop, align and update their Strategic Research (and Innovation) Agendas in the trans-national context of Joint Programme Initiatives. For further information see: <https://www.era-learn.eu/events/era-learn-training-course-using-foresight-in-public-public-partnerships-p2ps-1>

A third Foresight Training will take place on 26th – 27th of September 2017. See save the date below.



Annual summary report on good practices in the implementation of JPIs

This first annual summary report on good practices in the implementation of JPIs presents four case studies that have been conducted in the ERA-LEARN 2020 project.

Three case studies deal with the issue of Stakeholder Involvement at various stages of the Joint Programming cycle and one case study deals with the implementation of Open Knowledge Policies within JPIs:

- The case study “**JPI Climate Guidelines on Open Knowledge Policies**” provides information on the process of establishing and disseminating open Knowledge Policies within a JPI.
- The case study “**Co-creation of a Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda in a Joint Programming Initiative - A New Stakeholder Involvement Approach of JPI Urban Europe**” demonstrates how a co-creational process design can be used to integrate the perspectives of heterogeneous stakeholders across different countries when setting up a strategic research and innovation agenda (SRIA).
- The case study “**JPI Oceans Explores the Potential of Foresight Exercises**” shows how a participatory, stakeholder involving foresight process can serve as a tool to identify future research needs, challenges and solutions.
- The case study “**Bridging the gap towards Innovation - The Water JPI Activities on Stakeholder Involvement**” provides information on the Water JPI approach to address the complex challenge of stakeholder involvement (SHI) throughout the policy cycle of a JPI with different activities and instruments.

See the report at: <https://www.era-learn.eu/publications/other-publications/annual-summary-report-on-good-practices-in-the-implementation-of-jpis>

New functionalities on www.era-learn.eu

PDF generator

To collect information individually we developed a PDF collector. You can select interesting pages and add it to a single pdf file for later reading. Please try the “Add to Pdf” icon on our website.

E-mail notification

We established a new monthly email alert which shows you new content which has been added in the last month. The alert is individually customizable. You can select which topics you are interested in and adjust the notification interval.

Country report

The ERA-LEARN database contains a lot of information about the countries. There are new country reports for each country available which contain all the details. E.g Did you know that France cooperates in 4 networks with Japan?

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>

Save the date:

Implementing ERA-NET Cofund

This annual workshop will be organized by ERA-LEARN on 21-22 September 2017 in Berlin. The workshop will provide guidance for new ERA-NET Cofund coordinators and core partners. The participants will be introduced to the ERA-NET Cofund scheme, the ERA-LEARN 2020 website and the ERA-LEARN online toolbox. Interactive Group Work sessions will focus on the management and financing of the consortium as well as the implementation of a cofunded call. The workshop is free of charge but the participants will have to cover their own travel expenses. Participation is limited and persons who are active in implementing new ERA-NET Cofunds will be given priority. Programme and registration tool will be available here: <https://www.era-learn.eu/registration/ws-cofund-2017>

Foresight Training III:

Application of foresight processes for trans-national coordination of strategic research and innovation, VI-ENNA, 26-27 September 2017

The aim of the ERA-LEARN 2020 training course is to empower management structures of Public-Public-Partnerships in their endeavour to develop, align and update their Strategic Research (and Innovation) Agendas in the trans-national context of Joint Programme Initiatives.

The target groups for this training are:

- Representatives from JPI management and governing bodies responsible for implementation of Strategic Research Agenda and for evaluation;
- Policy makers in preparation of an ERA-NET Cofund, ERA-NET Cofund Managers and Managers of Article 185 Programmes;
- Participants from countries with less experience in trans-national joint programming.

Further information is available at: <https://www.era-learn.eu/events/era-learn-training-course-using-foresight-in-public-public-partnerships-p2ps-2>

Application for registration is open on the ERA-LEARN 2020 website at: <https://www.era-learn.eu/registration/foresight-training>