

DATE CHANGE: Annual Joint Programming Conference, 14-15 January 2016, Brussels

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Following the cancellation of our Annual Joint Programming Conference on 24/25 November due to the security situation in Brussels ERA-LEARN is happy to inform you that the conference will now take place on 14 and 15 January 2016 in Brussels.

The programme remains basically the same, possibly with some minor changes concerning the speakers depending on their availability.

Those that had registered for the November date are currently requested to confirm their participation.

Some additional places are available, with priority given to representatives of the JPIs, the Art.185 initiatives and the ERA-NET Cofund consortia.

Registration is open under: https://www.era-learn.eu/registration/registration_conference

NEW Partnering tool available to assist in building or joining consortia

ERA-LEARN provides a partner search tool for the WP 2016/2017 ERA-NET Cofund and CSA calls. Organisations interested in joining core consortia can register their request to join, for specific calls, and leave basic background and contact data. Core consortia or organisations intending to lead and organize proposals for specific calls can do likewise – looking for additional consortium partners. The function is accessible via: <https://www.era-learn.eu/h2020-calls-for-p2p/p2p-partner-search>



CLIMATE SERVICES ERA-NET SET FOR 2016 LAUNCH

An interview with Patrick Monfray, JPI Climate Chair and ERA4CS Coordinator

January will see the start of a new ERA-NET COFUND on Climate Services. The initiative – European Research Area for Climate Services (ERA-NET ERA4CS) – will mobilise around 75 million euro (with EC support).

ERA4CS is also the first initiative to mix cash and in-kind contributions. The new ERA-NET will embrace 13 research funding organisations and 28 research performing organisations and it will deal with climate services in broad sense, not just physical climate.

There will be openings for national organisations but also researchers and users from NGOs and industry to get involved (depending national rules). It will involve 16 member states, 13 being JPI Climate members.

“Climate services” is defined widely for this ERA-NET: it connects scientific knowledge about climate with the diverse needs of users, including governmental organisations, industry and citizens. The ERA-NET aims to boost a research translation layer for climate adaptation, mitigation and disaster risk management, allowing regions and key economic sectors to

develop opportunities and strengthen Europe's leadership.

“We are now entering a phase after scientists have launched the warnings about climate change. Now there will be a new phase involving progressive climate actions,” says Patrick Monfray, JPI Climate Chair and ERA4CS Coordinator, research director at CNRS and program manager at ANR, France.

This broad sweep takes in the need to look at climate variability, change and impacts and customized them so that they are relevant at a national, regional and even city level. “It is not enough now to look at climate change scenarios at a large scale, but we must look at issues like flooding in a city and see how future scenarios play out and how we can adapt. How can we design levees or take other measures suitable for a 50-year time scale, as land use changes,” Monfray explains.

There will be a kick-off event starting on January 19th in Paris and then a large open call will be launched in March 2016. This call will be opened for four months to give time for the construction of new consortia.

Two paths

The ERA-NET will be unique in taking two separate paths, though with two complementary topics. First, there will be an “in kind” topic, consisting of 28 separate research performing organisations and the European Commission. The funding pot will be around 40 million euro.

This topic will work to better meld together the research component of different national climate services. It will develop common tools and methodologies, and probe climate scenarios, variability and uncertainties, while providing information on local impacts for some key sectors. Overall, this topic will seek to drive better alignment and institutional integration in Europe.

Second, there will be a “cash” topic consisting of 12 research-funding organisations and the Commission. This will have around a 30 million euro pot to hand and will seek to launch action-oriented projects and co-develop projects for the needs of specific user groups. This will be achieved by funding small (half a million euro) to medium (5 million euro) sized projects.

“What we’ve started to do is build trust and synergy at a European scale between different funding organisations and research performing organisations with complementary and trans-national topics in the one joint call,” says Monfray.

The plan is to translate climate knowledge into practical outcomes. “We are interested for example in insurance and the evolution of climate damage,” says Monfray. “This is not only an issue involving climate, but it is about how sectors of society are exposed to extremes in climate and how society can better adapt.”

Climate change complicates this need to adapt, by moving the goalposts, but Monfray is at pains to point out that climate vulnerability is not just related to global warming. For millennia societies have had to deal with floods, storms or unexpected dry spells.

“We are vulnerable to climate when it comes to seasonal variability, yearly changes and inter-decadal variability. We remain poorly adapted in many ways to such variability, even without climate change,” Monfray points out. The challenge is now greater due to climate change, but European society must still improve its ability to deal with such variability.

Beyond usual suspects

In order to harness a wide range of actors and expertise, the official launch of the call in March will try to engage communities beyond the usual

suspects that might be expected to get involved in such consortiums. The ERA-NET organisers will also attend the biennial Adaptation Futures conference in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, on May 10th-13th, 2016.

“We will have a kick-off in Paris in January and then we are planning to launch the call in March. We plan to close the call for pre-proposals at the end of June. That is four months, which is longer than would be usual, but the idea is to give time for new consortiums to be built,” Monfray notes. “We want to allow time for new connections to form between field actors, businesses and scientists in Europe and allow for collaborations between people who don’t know each other, but have ideas that they can develop together.”

An Internet research-matching system will be constructed for the ERA-NET so people can post ideas online and consortiums can come together and attract key people in this way. It is important that various disciplines, including from the social science and humanities, are attracted to the “cash” topic call [or open topic, as it is also called]. Consortiums must involve at least 3 different member states.

For the “in kind” topic call [or closed topic, as it is also called], Monfray says the ambition is for research directors of the 28 research performing institutions (mandated by their Ministry) to come together and have discussions. They can probe which common topics they are interested in and how they might work together on common interests for better institutional integration and alignment. The Commission will provide around one-third of the funding for such projects.

Road ahead

ERA4CS will run for five years. With pre-proposals scheduled for June, decisions will be made in Autumn 2016 and full proposals will need to be submitted by the end of 2016. A final decision on projects will be made in spring 2017 and projects launched in summer. Projects will run for three year and will then be follow-up and evaluated by the ERA-net by 2020.

ERA4CS will also engage in additional activities, initiating partnerships with JPI Climate and other key European initiatives as others relevant JPIs, Copernicus and KIC-Climate, and international ones such as Future Earth, the Global Framework for Climate Services and the Belmont Forum. Again, the goal here will be to move towards a common vision and multi-year strategies beyond 2020.

EXPERT GROUP EVALUATION OF JOINT PROGRAMMING

The Commission has established an Expert Group to carry out an Evaluation of Joint Programming to address Grand Societal Challenges. Whilst there has been much activity since the endorsement of the concept by the Council five years ago, notably through the evolution of 10 Joint Programming Initiatives (JPIs), there is a general feeling that the Joint Programming Process needs a renewed push to develop its full potential. The purpose of the evaluation was therefore to take stock of the current situation and how it is developing. It has four objectives:

1. Evaluate the progress made in Member (and Associated) States on Joint Programming in addressing societal challenges
2. Assess the current commitment and progress to align national research programmes to the common priorities
3. Define success criteria and identify success factors/ bottlenecks
4. Consider priorities for operational follow-up for Member (and Associated) States, JPIs and their stakeholders and the European Commission

Over the summer, the Expert Group reviewed the substantial body of documentary evidence that had been produced to monitor and support the implementation of the JPIs. Additional evidence was gathered through a survey of national policy stakeholders and selected follow on interviews. In addition, the relevant Commission Directors with responsibility for the societal challenge domains of the JPIs were also consulted. The 10 JPIs and four other ERA networks assisted by producing Fact Sheets, providing data on joint calls, participating in interviews and validating the analysis of the experts.

The Expert Group has also taken note of emerging insights from the ERA-LEARN 2020 work on alignment typologies and impact assessment of public-public (P2P) networks. Its interim conclusions were presented at the high level 'Lund Revisited' conference on Tackling Societal Challenges and will be discussed at a workshop session during the rescheduled ERA-LEARN 2020 annual conference in January. The final report of the Expert Group is expected to be completed in early 2016.

EXPERT GROUP ON ERA-NET COFUND

Under Horizon 2020, ERA-NETs merge the former ERA-NET and ERA-NET Plus into a single instrument with the central and compulsory element of implementing one substantial call with top-up funding from the Commission. The focus of ERA-NETs is shifting from the funding of networks to the top-up funding of single joint calls for transnational research and innovation in selected areas with high European added value and relevance for Horizon 2020 (policy-driven approach).

ERA-NETs are supported in the Commission Work Programme 2014 – 2015 with Euro 240 million, leading to an additional investment from the participating states estimated at least of Euro 560 million. Around half of the Union funding is directly or indirectly related to JPI topics.

The Commission will set up an expert group to assess the first ERA-NET Cofund actions under Horizon 2020, identify critical issues that need to be addressed and propose if necessary adjustments. The group will be composed of five independent experts and will work from December 2015 to June 2016.

The main purpose of the expert group is to:

- Assess the efficiency (including aspects such as preparation, implementation and supervision) of ERA-NET Cofund actions in the context of Horizon 2020;
- Assess the relevance and appropriateness of the instrument in the context of Horizon 2020;
- Assess the coherence with other instruments that are aimed at supporting programme level collaboration between Member States;
- Assess the effectiveness of the ERA-NET Cofund instrument and its contribution to Horizon 2020 objectives;
- Assess the EU-added value of the ERA-NET Cofund instrument.

The experts will make recommendations to address policy and operational issues in the context of Horizon 2020 and recommendations aiming to adapt the instrument in the context of the preparation of the next framework programme.

NEW ERA-LEARN P2P news posting and event promotion – now open to all P2P stakeholders

The ERA-LEARN platform www.era-learn.eu now includes a news and a calendar section. P2P network coordinators and interested parties are invited to publish news items and event announcements with relevance to the P2P community. The website is currently visited by more than 4.000 stakeholders per month, mainly from the core P2P target groups in research and innovation ministries and administrations, and their implementing agencies.

Event publication:

<https://www.era-learn.eu/events/@@add-event>

News publication:

<https://www.era-learn.eu/news/@@add-newsitem>

NEW GUIDANCE MATERIAL IN THE ERA-LEARN 2020 ONLINE TOOLBOX

ERA-LEARN 2020 launched the new web-based platform in July 2015 as a successor to the previous NETWATCH platform. Apart from sustaining a comprehensive database of P2P networks and offering new sections on “Alignment” as well as on “Monitoring and assessment” it continues to provide support for the P2P community with its “Manuals and Tools” section.

In particular there is now a wide range of practical guidance and material on ERA-NET COFUND.

At <https://www.era-learn.eu/manuals-tools/p2p-in-h2020/practical-documentation> an upgraded version of the **Model Consortium Agreement for ERA-NET-Cofund** is available. In the new version further examples and clarifying notes were added on how to deal with certain aspects of setting up and running an ERA-NET-Cofund project; for example, the model CA includes four different options on how a consortium could share the project implementation costs, including the use and distribution of the “unit costs”. The new model CA also describes options concerning the mandatory cofunded call, addressing important issues such as the use and distribution of the Top-Up funding or the selection process, and it also offers options for the settlement of disputes. A whole paragraph on unforeseen losses (7.5 “Insufficient financial contribution of the Funding Authority”) was also included.

The model CA builds on experience accumulated by the first generation of ERA-NET Cofund projects. ERA-LEARN 2020 conducted a survey among these early networks and analysed the available call-documents and consortium agreements. Some of these practical experiences were put together in a report on **“First experiences of ERA-NET Cofund Projects”** which is also available in the toolbox.

The results indicate that the new ERA-NET Cofund scheme

is well understood. The 11 projects which started in 2014/15 have identified various approaches to deal with critical issues such as the financial management. Concerning the project implementation costs it appears that many consortia have agreed on a model where the costs of each partner are calculated, reported and reimbursed based on their real efforts in the project, quite similar to former FP7 ERA-NETs. Another finding is that around two thirds of the responding ERA-NET-Cofund-Projects have decided to put a certain percentage of the EU Top-Up in a balancing pot, which amounts to around 30 to 50% of the total EU-Top-Up, to fill potential gaps in the funding list and achieve a high number of funded proposals. On the other hand, the crucial question of how to cover the implementation costs of an ERA-NET-Cofund project in unexpected situations is up to now not included in any of the existing consortium agreements even though the real financial contribution of the EC is calculated on the basis of actual national funding, meaning that in unforeseen cases (such as failures of funded projects) the financial contribution of the EC might be not sufficient to contribute to the costs of the Cofund Action in the planned way.

Up to the point of the survey none of the “First round” ERA-NET Cofunds had reached the stage of reporting on the final ranking list towards the European Commission. ERA-LEARN 2020 will therefore further follow up on the experiences and update the report on an annual basis.

‘Lund Revisited’ Conference on Tackling Societal Challenges

In 2009, the Lund Declaration called upon Member States and European Institutions to focus and coordinate more of their research activities and resources on the Grand Societal Challenges of our time. During the past six years important steps have been taken. Horizon 2020 provides a clear focus on societal challenges, Member States and associated countries have engaged in the Joint Programming Process by implementing 10 Joint Programming Initiatives (JPIs) and some countries have embraced the concept of societal challenge research in their national systems.

The high level conference on 3-4 December 2015 was hosted by Lund University in Sweden and attracted over 200 participants from across Europe who discussed the current situation, the progress that had been made since the 2009 Lund Declaration and the way forward on Europe’s response to the

Societal Challenges.

A new declaration – the 2015 Lund Declaration – was presented and discussed. Its main message is that “Europe must speed up solutions to tackle grand challenges through alignment, research, global cooperation and achieving impact.” It identifies four priority areas, each with defined priority actions, and calls on all stakeholders to take these priorities into account in their field of responsibility:

- Europe needs clear political commitment to step-up efforts to align strategies, instruments, resources and actors at national and European level in order to address the grand societal challenges.

- This commitment needs to be underpinned by an excellent science base, world-class research infrastructures and a new generation of

researchers with the right set of skills, notably creativity, entrepreneurship and innovation

- Europe needs to connect with partners around the world, in advanced, emerging and developing countries to address the grand societal challenges in partnership and to attract the world’s best researchers and innovators and private sector investment

- Greater impacts on the challenges have to be achieved through involvement of the public sector and industry in knowledge creation, with a stronger focus on open innovation and the role of end-users

The Lund Declaration 2015, and the associated background paper, can be found at www.vr.se/lunddeclaration2015 along with details of the conference proceedings.

NEW OVERVIEW OF HORIZON 2020 P2P 2016/2017 WORK PROGRAMME

The Work Programmes for the years 2016/2017 were published by the European Commission on 14 October 2015 here. Please find the P2P specific topics in the table below and online: www.era-learn.eu/h2020-calls-for-p2p

Please note that ERA-LEARN 2020 provides a partnering tool to assist you in building or joining consortia: www.era-learn.eu/h2020-calls-for-p2p/p2p-partner-search

WP 2016

TOPIC IDENTIFIER & TITLE	INSTRUMENT; BUDGET	CALL CLOSURE
Excellent Science		
Future and Emerging Technologies		
FETPROACT-03-2016: FET ERANET Cofund in Quantum Technologies	ERA-NET Cofund; 10M€	12 Apr 2016
FETFLAG-01-2016: Partnering environment for FET flagships	ERA-NET Cofund; 8M€	1 Mar 2016
Industrial Leadership		
Nanotechnologies, Advanced materials, Biotechnology and Advanced Manufacturing and Processing		
NMBP-11-2016: ERA-NET on Nanomedicine	ERA-NET Cofund; 30M€	21 Jan 2016
NMBP-21-2016: ERA-NET on manufacturing technologies supporting industry and particularly SMEs in the global competition	ERA-NET Cofund; 30M€	21 Jan 2016
BIOTEC-01-2016: ERA-NET Cofund on Biotechnologies	ERA-NET Cofund; 30M€	21 Jan 2016
Innovation in SME		
Societal Challenges		
SC1 - Health, demographic change and wellbeing		
HCO-04-2016: Towards globalisation of the Joint Programming Initiative on Antimicrobial resistance [RTD]	CSA; 2M€	13 Apr 2016
HCO-06-2016: Towards an ERA-NET on public health research [RTD]	CSA; 2M€	13 Apr 2016
PM-05-2016: The European Human Biomonitoring Initiative [RTD]	EJP Cofund; 50M€	13 Apr 2016
SC2 - Food security, sustainable agriculture and forestry, marine and maritime and inland water research and the bioeconomy		
SFS-18-2016: Framework Partnership Agreement supporting Joint Actions towards Public-Public Partnerships in the Bioeconomy (Comment: the Programme Committee has been informed that the Commission plans to update the WP and withdraw this topic.)	Framework Partnership Agreement for ERA-NET Cofund	13 Sep 2016
SFS-19-2016: ERANET COFUND: Public-Public Partnerships in the bioeconomy A. Organic farming and food production B. Sustainable food production and consumption C. A knowledge platform for the intestinal microbiome	ERA-NET Cofund; 15M€	17 Feb 2016

WP 2016

TOPIC IDENTIFIER & TITLE	INSTRUMENT; BUDGET	CALL CLOSURE
SFS-25-2016: Support Action to a common agricultural and wider bioeconomy research agenda	CSA, 1-2M€	17 Feb 2016
SFS-41-2016: EU -Africa Research and Innovation partnership on food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture	ERA-NET Cofund; 10M€	17 Feb 2016
BG-5-2016: ERA-NET Cofund on marine technologies	ERA-NET Cofund; 10M€	17 Feb 2016
SC3 - Secure, clean and efficient energy		
EE-21-2016: ERA-NET Cofund actions supporting Joint Actions towards increasing energy efficiency in industry and services	ERA-NET Cofund; 5M€	15 Sep 2016
LCE-26-2016: Cross-thematic ERA-NET on Applied Geosciences	ERA-NET Cofund; 10M€	5 Apr 2016
LCE-34-2016: Joint Actions towards the demonstration and validation of innovative energy solutions	ERA-NET Cofund; 30.8M€	4 Apr 2016
LCE-35-2016: Framework Partne (Comment: the Programme Committee has been informed that the Commission plans to update the WP and withdraw this topic.)	Framework Partnership Agreement for ERA-NET Cofund	8 Sep 2016
SC4 - Smart, green and integrated transport		
GV-12-2016: ERA-NET Co-fund on electromobility	ERA-NET Cofund; 10M€	26 Jan 2016
SC5 - Climate action, environment, resource efficiency and raw materials		
SC5-11-2016: Supporting international cooperation activities on water	CSA; 2M€	8 Mar 2016
SC5-12-2016: Food systems and water resources for the development of inclusive, sustainable and healthy Euro-Mediterranean societies	CSA; 2M€	26 Jan 2016
SC5-17-2016: ERA-NET Cofund on Raw materials	ERA-NET Cofund; 5M€	8 Mar 2016
SC5-28-2016: Transformations to sustainability	ERA-NET Cofund; 3M€	8 Mar 2016
SC5-29-2016: Framework Partnership Agreement supporting Joint Actions towards a sustainable green economy in Europe and beyond (Comment: the Programme Committee has been informed that the Commission plans to update the WP and withdraw this topic.)	Framework Partnership Agreement for ERA-NET Cofund	8 Sep 2016
SCC-04-2016: Sustainable urbanisation	ERA-NET Cofund; 5M€	8 Mar 2016
SC6 - Europe in a changing world - inclusive, innovative and reflective Societies		
REV-INEQUAL-2016-3: Dynamics of inequalities across the life-course	ERA-NET Cofund; 5M€	4 Feb 2016
OTH 30. COST (p.128)	Specific Grant Agreements 2016: 20.68M€ 2017: 20.68M€	2016 and 2017
Spreading excellence and widening participation		
WIDESPREAD-2-2016: Support to JPI Urban Europe	CSA; 1.25M€	4 Feb 2016
OTH-2: COST (p.22)	Specific Grant Agreements 2016: CSA 20.28M€ 2017: CSA 20.28M€	2016 and 2017
Science with and for society		
SwafS-2-2016: ERA-NET Cofund - Promoting Gender equality in H2020 and the ERA	ERA-NET Cofund; 5M€	30 Aug 2016

WP 2017

TOPIC IDENTIFIER & TITLE	INSTRUMENT; BUDGET	CALL CLOSURE
Excellent Science		
Future and Emerging Technologies		
FETPROACT-02-2017: FET ERA-NET Cofund CHIST-ERA	ERA-NET Cofund; 5M€	24 Jan 2017
Industrial Leadership		
Nanotechnologies, Advanced materials, Biotechnology and Advanced Manufacturing and Processing		
EMPIR interim and EMRP final evaluation (p.104)	EXP; 0.11M€	
Innovation in SME		
Eurostars Joint Programming Initiative: Interim Evaluation (p.57)	EXP	0.12M€
Societal Challenges		
SC1 - Health, demographic change and wellbeing		
HCO-03-2017: To implement the Strategic Research Agenda on Personalised Medicine [RTD]	ERA-NET Cofund; 5M€	11 Apr 2017
HOA-03-2016: First interim evaluation of the EDCTP2 programme (p.72)	EXP; 0.15M€	30 Jun 2017
SC2 - Food security, sustainable agriculture and forestry, marine and maritime and inland water research and the bioeconomy		
OTHER-1-2017: Specific Grant Agreements (SGAs) for ERA-NET Cofund actions supporting Joint Actions towards Public-Public Partnerships in the Bioeconomy (p.172) A. Sustainable crop production B. Innovative forest-based bioeconomy C. GMO research D. Nutrition and epigenome E. Plant Molecular Factory (Comment: the Programme Committee has been informed that the Commission plans to update the WP and replace this topic with ERA-NET Cofund actions under the section calls.)	Specific Grant Agreements for ERA-NET Cofund; 29M€	3rd quarter 2017
OTHER-6-2016: Final evaluation of the Joint Baltic Sea research and development programme (BONUS) (p.178)	EXP; 0.15M€	Dec 2017
SC3 - Secure, clean and efficient energy		
SFS-36-2017: Co-fund on "One Health" (zoonoses - emerging threats)	EJP Cofund; 35M€	14 Feb 2017
OTHER-62: Specific Grant Agreements (SGAs) for ERA-NET Cofund actions supporting Joint Actions towards the demonstration and validation of innovative energy solutions (p.162) (Comment: the Programme Committee has been informed that the Commission plans to update the WP and replace this topic with ERA-NET Cofund actions under the section calls.)	Specific Grant Agreements for ERA-NET Cofund; 31M€	

WP 2017

TOPIC IDENTIFIER & TITLE	INSTRUMENT; BUDGET	CALL CLOSURE
SC5 - Climate action, environment, resource efficiency and raw materials		
OTH-7: Specific Grant Agreements (SGAs) for ERA-NET Cofund actions supporting Joint Actions towards sustainable green economy in Europe and beyond (p.88) (Comment: the Programme Committee has been informed that the Commission plans to update the WP and replace this topic with ERA-NET Cofund actions under the section calls.)	Specific Grant Agreements for ERA-NET Cofund 2017: 25M€	2nd quarter 2017
SC6 - Europe in a changing world - inclusive, innovative and reflective Societies		
CULT-COOP-10-2017: Culture, integration and European public space	ERA-NET Cofund; 5M€	2 Feb 2017
OTH-21: Horizontal support to joint programming (ERA-LEARN 2020) (p.121)	CSA; 3M€	2nd quarter 2017
OTH-30: COST (p.128)	Specific Grant Agreements; 2016: 20.68M€ 2017: 20.68M€	2016 and 2017
OTH-31: External Expertise, d) Meta-evaluation Art.185 initiatives (p.127)	Expert contracts; 0.1M€	2017
Spreading excellence and widening participation		
OTH-2: COST (p.22)	Specific Grant Agreements 2016: CSA 20.28M€ 2017: CSA 20.28M€	2016 and 2017

ABOUT ERA-LEARN 2020

The ERA-LEARN 2020 project facilitates learning among national and regional funding organisations in order to optimise their transnational activities, including P2P performance. The ERA-LEARN 2020 Toolbox is available at <http://www.era.learn.eu>

To register for the newsletter see <http://www.era-learn.eu>