

EUROPEAN UNION
EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA
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High Level Group for
Joint Programming

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NOTE

Subject: Governance of the national JPI process

Delegations will find in the annex Governance of the national JPI process, as adopted by the GPC at its meeting on 29 April 2016.

Governance of the national JPI process

Mission

The implementation group for alignment and improved interoperability, IG2, was given the task to "develop strategies, instruments and methods to boost alignment from both the JPI and the MS side with input from JPIs, MS, the EC and other stakeholders". This deliverable focuses on objectives for national governance. The presence of a formalised national process for joint programming supports participation in these programmes and essential for alignment of instruments and processes between member states¹. Needless to say, this represents only a fraction of the mission-at-hand.

Process

IG2 consists of representatives from nine GPC member countries: Austria, Denmark, Estonia, Germany, Italy, Norway, Portugal, Spain, and Sweden. The 13 members have worked in close collaboration with the GPC vice-chair, as well as with representatives of the related ERA-LEARN initiative². The group has so far been active for nine months since February 2015, and has held six face-to-face meetings in that time, with a seventh scheduled for early December in Lund, Sweden, in conjunction with the Lund Revisited conference.

The work of the group is based on the GPC alignment working group report from 2014. In this report several experiences and recommendations for alignment at the JPI level are found. It also points to a lack of awareness and activities from the side of the member states, ie the governance for JPI. Thus the IG2 has in 2015 worked to build on these experiences and has in particular had a focus on the governance from the side of the member states. The IG2 group has collected additional input from the member states and the JPI to supplement what already can be found in the 2014 GPC Alignment report.

A mapping of national alignment and JPI procedures was performed by means of an online survey for all GPC members. This yielded a set of highly informative input from 22 countries. Replies to a handful of the included questions were of particular importance for the results presented in this document.

¹ Both member states and associated countries are referred to as member states throughout the document.

² ERA-LEARN is a support action (CSA) funded by Horizon 2020, as a support platform for the Public-Public-Partnerships (P2P) community. One initiative of ERA-LEARN is mapping of activities that promote alignment, eg the JPIs.

The mapping exercise also pointed to a number of national JPI policy and reporting guidelines documents from Belgium, Cyprus, Estonia, France, Germany, Norway and Spain. These were collected, thoroughly analysed and discussed. This provided additional valuable input to the formation of objectives for national governance, as well as for the broader IG2 mission. The three main general conclusions were the importance of:

- High level of national commitment
- Overarching inclusive national strategy
- Using the national budget as an instrument

In addition, IG2 is looking at previous GPC-meeting presentations of individual countries explaining their national system.

Introduction and reasoning

Alignment is crucial for realizing ERA and for better utilizing available resources. However, European alignment is a complex matter that is greatly complicated by the different member states' different research systems. Europe suffers from insufficient alignment both within the national research systems and between the systems of the member states. Individual member states are encouraged to step up their JPI governance, communication channels and strategies in order to achieve better conditions for transnational collaboration and more efficient use of Europe's common resources. This document provides a suggested general framework and incentives for accomplishing this.

The European alignment process involves a number of players, the main ones being national governments and funding agencies, the European Commission, multinational collaborations, stakeholder groups and of course the research community. Players specifically dealing with alignment include European thematic collaborations like JTIs, Article 185's, ERA-Nets and not least JPIs. Others work with alignment on a broader scale, like ERA-LEARN that among other initiatives are mapping and describing JPI activities that promote alignment.

A difference between JPIs and most collaborative EU instruments is that the initiatives are initiated and driven by the member states and not organisations. This means that JPIs are governed from a ministry level.

This document aims to work towards a common policy/common guidelines for best practise for national JPI governance. The aim is not to state how the national alignment should be achieved, but rather to describe the goal and find good arguments for the work towards efficiency and better alignment of tools and processes. Every country will have its own way to accomplish this.

Framework conditions for an effective national governance

One of the main objectives of national alignment is to have structured communication channels for exchange of experiences and raising issues all the way from the national JPI representatives via national communication networks to the GPC via the GPC representative. This demands the creation and maintenance of the necessary forums. The national governments are responsible for achieving this. A great deal can be learned from the JPIs and other international collaborations about the requirements and experienced best practices for such forums.

Based on such prerequisites the recommendations for further alignment are:

For the roles and responsibilities in the national JPI process

Concern of the government:

- commitment to the joint programming process in the context of ERA
- national governance of the JPI process
- financial support and steering
- priority setting for JPI involvement
- result assessment
- active participation in GPC
- appoint appropriate level representatives to JPI management boards
- interact and coordinate with the European Commission and the research framework program
- the national JPI engagement should be an integrated part of the national research system

Support to the government from the national JPI representatives:

- sharing best practice, continuous updates
- highlight benefits for society
- involving various stakeholders
- maintaining a continuous dialogue with the research community, industry and public sector
- annual reporting from each JPI is recommended/example of best practice
- sharing ways to overcome obstacles
- identifying obstacles that cannot be solved at the individual JPI level

For the communication between the government and the JPIs

- A member state should address the following issues: The national JPI governance structure should facilitate coordination at all levels: at ministry level, at research funding agency level, and at the research performer organisation level

- All relevant ministries have the joint responsibility to process shared experiences and formulate a common national policy for the JPIs
- All national parties of the JPIs are advised to set up a group for communication of common interests
- JPIs are of cross-sectorial nature and benefit from inter-ministerial advisory groups/interministerial dialogue including a ministerial contact point
- A national working group with representation from ministries as well as JPIs should exchange experiences which would then constitute the basis for policy making

The GPC representative(s) should participate in/drive the national JPI governance coordination

