

Taking Forward European Alignment of National Water RDI Activities

Challenges, Opportunities and Recommendations for Action

Water Joint Programming Initiative Alignment Workshop

Brussels, Belgium

22nd October 2014



Purpose:

To review existing alignment mechanisms and experiences (including those adopted by other transnational initiatives) leading to an operational plan for JPI Water alignment activities 2014/2015

Task Objectives:

- Examining opportunities for alignment
- Reducing duplication and fragmentation
- Increasing and monitoring coordination and collaboration

Structure of the day

Introduction and Context

Some National Programme Structures: The synergies and contrasts in programmes and funding models (Roundtable)

Experiences in transnational alignments: The lessons from other international initiatives and JPIs

Existing and new approaches to be taken forward in the Water JPI: Possible actions for 2014/2015 (Roundtable)

The Plan for Alignment Activities in 2014/2015: Final Recommendations and Prioritising the Actions



- **Section I - Introduction and Context (1 hour)**

The Welcome and Water JPI Status – Enrique Playan, Water JPI Programme Co-ordinator

Purpose of the Workshop and Structure of the day – Graham Leeks, Work Package Leader (Implementation)

GPC work on Alignment Activities across the JPIs – Julia Prikozovits, DG Research and Innovation, European Commission

Expectations for alignment in relation to the Water JPI – Panagiotis Balabanis, DG Research and Innovation, European Commission



Section II – Some National Programme Structures: The synergies and contrasts in programmes and funding models

Roundtable

- Current approaches to national programme development
- Existing national funding modes
- National research programme structures
- Bilateral and Multi-lateral links
- Alignment to SRIA priorities

Section II – Some National Programme Structures: The synergies and contrasts in programmes and funding models

For national funders represented at this meeting to hear brief summaries of how national programmes are currently developed, funded, structured and at what levels there are international interactions.

Country Representatives to briefly describe:

- Current approaches to national programme development (What driving national strategic priorities, bottom up or top down, lead-in times etc),
- Existing national funding modes (Responsive, Directed, Mixed)
- National research programme structures and scales (Substructures and Programme Management approaches)
- Alignment to SRIA priorities
- Engagement in international activities at individual / programme / national levels, including Bilateral and Multi-lateral links

All to discuss similarities and contrasts

Section III & IV – Experiences in transnational alignments: The lessons from other international initiatives and JPIs

- The Belmont Forum – Johannes Karte, Programme Director, Physics Mathematics and Geosciences, Deutsches Forschungsgemeinschaft
- Alignment as seen by The Joint Programming Initiative on Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change (FACCE) JPI – Heather McKhann, INRA
- Informal contributions from Climate, Antimicrobial Resistance and Oceans JPIs
- Discussion on lessons learnt in bilateral and multi-lateral international initiatives

Section V- Existing and new approaches to be taken forward in the Water JPI: Possible actions for 2014/2015

Roundtable

- Areas of potential linkage with other international initiatives (Flagging opportunities for joint working - alignment or other activities)
- Ways in which international co-production, operation and/or delivery could be facilitated in Water JPI
- Top five actions to enhance alignment
- Including at least one “novel” action

JPI Actions to achieve alignment of national policies/programmes

Timescale (S/M/L), Degree of Difficulty, Priority for Water JPI

- Networking and capacity building among research groups and stakeholders - eg Knowledge Hubs and Thematic groups
- Calibration and standardization of methodologies
- Identifying capacity building approaches to facilitate better networking across and between disciplines and researchers
- Any activity heavily building on large infrastructures or large institutionally funded players
- Definition of approaches that may facilitate wider access to national technology platforms or infrastructure, and promote the sharing of data and resources
- Institutional Alliances: Institutional cooperation, complementarity, sharing of infrastructure and staff
- Standardize – where possible - internal procedures in Member States where relevant for joint actions

JPI Actions to achieve alignment of national policies/programmes

Timescale (S/M/L), Degree of Difficulty (H/M/L), Priority for JPI (H/M/L)

- Focus on research areas where nationally funded research is existing aiming at building joint critical mass – eg centres of excellence
- Alignment leads to joint transnational calls (eg funded by ERA-NET Cofund) and joint transnational calls lead to alignment
- Development of transnational procedures for prioritizing, evaluation and decisions on funding
- Coordinated funding decisions in each country (time, amount and topic).
- Catalyzing development of national strategies
- Identifying capacity-building approaches to facilitate better networking across and between disciplines and researchers
- Linking, harmonizing and sharing information between investments under national programmes in the JPI research field

JPI Actions to achieve alignment of national policies/programmes

Timescale (S/M/L), Degree of Difficulty (H/M/L), Priority for JPI (H/M/L)

- National level dissemination/meetings (targetted to specific groups – National Comms Plans?)
- EU - European Parliament comms across all JPIs (Also Parliamentary Water group)
- Co-ord with other JPIs on national agency links

Section VI – The Plan for Alignment Activities in 2014/2015: Final Recommendations and Prioritising the Actions

What/Who/When (Target Dates)

Section VI – The Plan for Alignment Activities in 2014/2015: Final Recommendations and Prioritising the Actions

What/Who/When (Target Dates)

Short Term (next 6 months)

Medium Term (6-12 months)

Longer Term (Beyond WatEUr)

Monitoring / Measures of Success

- GPC developing a common approach for monitoring alignment.
- JPIs individually develop a strategy for monitoring their alignment activities:
The JPI should continuously define which good practices for alignment it will apply and then monitor the implementation of these. increase in partners in calls, stakeholder involvement, influence on H2020 agenda (?) etc.
- Member States individually develop a strategy for monitoring their own alignment activities
eg. How much change in national progs, priorities and activities since its commitment to the JPI and/or the adoption of the SRA.