ERALEARN2020's Typology of Alignment

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Water JPI Second Alignment Workshop

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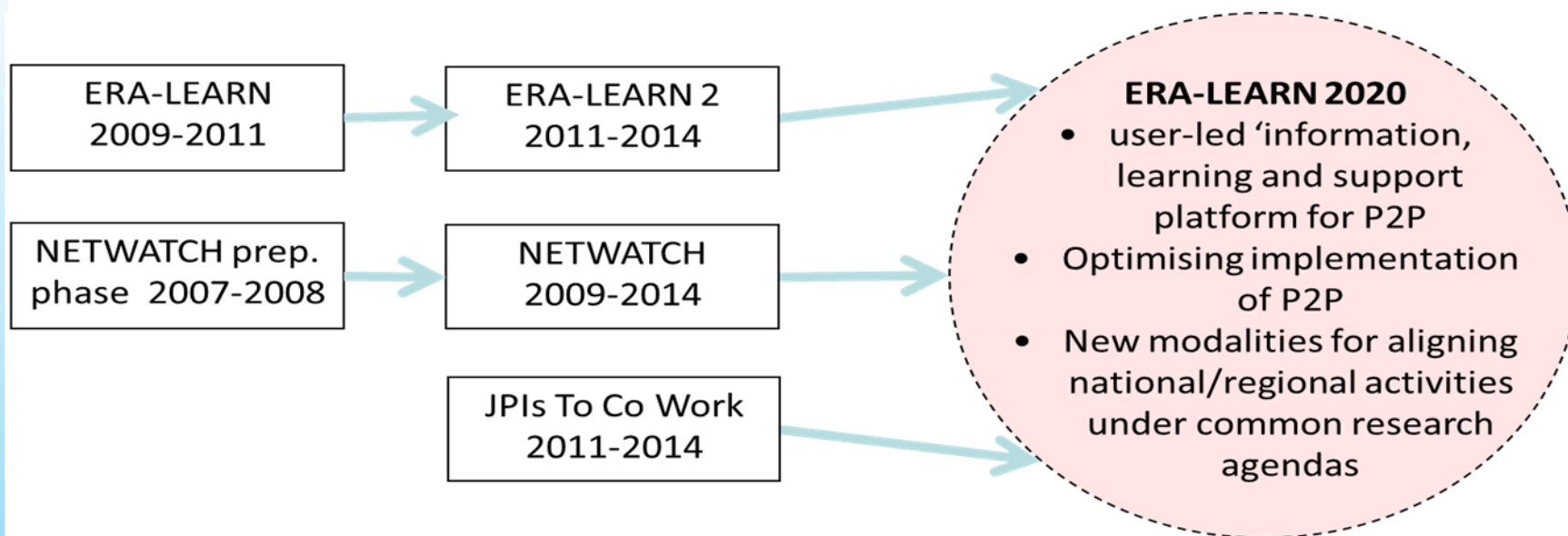# What is ERA-LEARN2020?

Project: Coordination and Support Action under Horizon 2020
Main objective: Learning and support platform for public-to-public partnerships
Timeframe: 2015-2017
Coordinator: Austrian Research Promotion Agency
Website: http://www.era-learn.eu

What is ERA-LEARN2020? (cont.)

Work Package 4	Analysis of existing and potential modalities for aligning national/regional activities under common research agendas	MIUR (Italy)
Task 4.1	**Definition and typology of alignment**	INRA (France)
Task 4.2	Assessment of current approaches to alignment	INRA (France)
Task 4.3	Exploration and assessment of novel alignment modalities	AIT (Austria)
Task 4.4	Investigation of alignment modalities at trans-regional level	MIUR (Italy)
Task 4.5	Comparative SWOT analysis of alignment modalities	UNIMAN (UK)

Objectives of the typology

- Develop a common understanding of what alignment is and **how it can be implemented** in public-to-public partnerships

- **Map and categorise** alignment actions/instruments currently in use, including those that promote alignment *across* P2Ps

- Identify **strengths and weaknesses** of different alignment actions/ instruments *(next step)*

Build on the work of the "Groupe de Programmation Conjointe" (GPC) to provide practical advice

GPC definition of alignment

"Alignment is the strategic approach taken by Member States to modify their national [research] programmes, priorities or activities as a consequence of the adoption of joint research priorities in the context of Joint Programming, with a view to improving the efficiency of investment in research at the level of Member States and the European Research Area".

(GPC Working Group on Alignment, 2014)

Overview of the typology

- Identifies **30 modalities** currently in use by public-to-public partnerships that facilitate alignment (« alignment actions»)

- Lists actions according to the **research programming stage** in which they usually occur

- Is constructed using an excel sheet with **12 different categories** (*gives the possibility to filter actions*)

- Is a **"living"** document that will be further improved

Typology structure

1. **Short description** of the action

2. **Overall approach** (strategic, operational, financial)

3. **Mode of cooperation** (e.g., programme integration, institutional cooperation, networking amongst researchers, etc.)

4. **Intensity** (1, 2, 3), e.g., network of RPOs vs. a joint research centre; shared use of existing infrastructure vs. establishment of a common infrastructure facility

5. **Available instruments** on which the action can rely (e.g., ERANETs, Knowledge Hubs, COST, open data strategy, etc.)

6. Existence of a **dedicated EU instrument** (yes/no)

7. **Financing** of the action (participating countries –cash, in-kind; and/or the EC)

Typology structure (cont.)

8. **Implementation** (short explanation of the steps usually involved and web link to further information)

9. **Actors involved** (policymakers, research financing organisations, research performing organisations, individual researchers)

10. **Benefits**/ **Strengths** (*to be further elaborated*)

11. **Weaknesses/ Challenges** (*to be further elaborated*)

12. **Examples**

Preliminary lessons learnt

ERA-LEARN2020 Alignment Workshop, 29 September 2015

- Alignment is **not only** about organising joint calls for research. Can be achieved via various joint actions and instruments !

- Different actions are often **complementary** to each other. Some can be conducted **in parallel** (e.g., launch of joint calls + establishment of researchers' network)

A lot is happening already! But there is room for further mutual learning

Preliminary lessons learnt (cont.)

- Many actions/instruments bring benefits **on several fronts:**

  - ✓ *Researchers' network*: allows for networking but also enables to coordinate research methods, co-publish scientific papers and gain greater visibility internationally (e.g., MACSUR knowledge hub)

  - ✓ *Research alliance*: allows for in-kind and project-based cooperation amongst RPOs but also facilitates the sharing of infrastructure and networking amongst researchers (e.g., UE Research Alliance)

- Long-term benefits outweigh the (immediate) costs

Key factors for success

- A combination of actions undertaken "**bottom-up**" (by researchers, research performing organisations) & "**top-down**" (by Ministries, research funding organisations)

- Strong **political commitment** (e.g., NordForsk's "common pot without fair return")

- **Mutual trust and consensus-building** at all levels (thanks to dialogue, consultations)

Main challenges to alignment

- Lack of **common understanding** (and terminology) of what alignment is and what benefits it brings

- **Weak inter-operability** of national rules and procedures for funding and executing research

- Very **diverse national research landscapes** (in terms of available funding, institutions, political context, etc.)

- **Weak in-country coordination** and dialogue on strategic research priorities

- Often: lack of national « **glue money** » to finance transnational coordination

Next Steps

Assessment of Current Alignment Actions and Instruments

- 10 case studies + synthesis report (June 2016)

- Strengths and weaknesses of this action for alignment in a P2P context

- Difficulties encountered during implementation

- Approx. time and resources needed to set up and implement it

- Key (internal/external) factors of success

- Suitability/ context (when can this action be best used)

Thank you for your attention!

Sample of case studies

Case	Action/tool to be examined	Programming cycle	Approach	Interviewee
FACCE-JPI Joint Mapping	Conduct of joint mapping	Research planning	Strategic	C. Bunthof
JPI Climate SRIA	Adoption of common strategic research priorities	Research strategy	Strategic	C. Deygout/P. Monfray
HERA ERANET	Organisation of a joint call (research alliance)	Research funding	Financial	tbc
Infravation ERANET	Organisation of a joint call (common pot funding mode)			
Urban Europe Research Alliance	Establishment of a research alliance	Research implementation	Operational	G. Hégron
MACSUR Knowledge Hub	Set-up of a network of researchers	Research implementation	Operational	M. Banse/ F. Brouwer

Case	Action/tool to be examined	Programming cycle	Approach	Interviewee
European Metrology Research Programme	Establishment of an integrated joint research programme via Article 185	All	Strategic, financial, operational	D. Jarvis
JPND International Network of Centres of Excellence	Coordination/harmonisation of scientific techniques and methodologies	Research implementation	Operational	tbc
JPI Oceans' research vessel	Sharing of research infrastructure	Research infrastructure and data	Operational and financial	J. Hanson/J.P. Moretti
OpenAire Platform	Open access to scientific knowledge	Research infrastructure and data	Strategic, operational	N. Manola