



**WaterWorks2015 Work Package 7
Combined Roadshow Report**

Date: 04/06/2018

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Background

WaterWorks2015 has been designed to support the implementation of the Joint Programming Initiative “Water Challenges for a Changing World” (Water JPI). WaterWorks2015 responds to the Horizon2020 (H2020) Societal Challenge 5 2015 Call Topic Water-3 [2015]: **Stepping up EU research and innovation cooperation in the water area.**

The objective of Task 7.3 Alignment, is to target specific recommendations of the 2014 GPC Report on Alignment, and seeks to increase the alignment of National Water RDI Programs of the Water JPI member’s countries. Monitoring case studies are being carried out at national and EU level.

Task 7.3

- Leader : EPA
- Participants : ANR, MINECO, FCT, UEFISCDI, JUELICH, IWT, MOST, CDTI, FNR, RPF, MIPAAF, WRC

Definition

The definition of a roadshow in the context of WaterWorks2015 Work Package 7 is an event (both public, as well as including face-to-face meetings with relevant funders/ministries) to raise the profile and awareness of the Water JPI in a country with a low-level of involvement, in order to encourage greater **buy-in** from the relevant national stakeholders resulting in increased participation in the Water JPI activities.

Action

Three “Roadshows” were organised in 2017 to further disseminate the Water JPI, meet with the relevant key stakeholders and present the outcomes of the other Case Studies. Latvia and Austria were selected based on their negative response to the 2015 Alignment Survey Question 10: *Is the Water JPI's Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda used to inform the agenda/programme?* Estonia was selected as a candidate country for this case study. These roadshows were carried out in-kind by ANR and the EPA in:

- Latvia (ANR - May 2017)
- Austria (ANR - September 2017)
- Estonia (EPA/ANR - October 2017)

Copy of the presentations and reports are saved on the Intranet at: [Task7.3 Case Study 3 Roadshows](#)

Outcomes

The outcomes from this case study are to facilitate the targeted countries to take the Water JPI Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) [Water JPI SRIA](#) on board when considering its national Water RDI funding. The assistance of the targeted countries’ representative on the Water JPI Governing Board or WaterWorks2015 consortium was essential to this case study.

Expected outputs:

- Raising the profile of the Water JPI SRIA.
- Facilitating the uptake of the Water JPI SRIA when considering national Water RDI funding in the targeted country.

Note: The assistance of the targeted countries representative on the Water JPI Governing Board or WaterWorks2015 consortium will be essential to this case study.

Recommendations

A number of key recommendations resulted from the discussions at the workshops and they are summarised as follows:

- The creation of a mirror groups/clusters for the Water JPI
- For these countries to become more active members of the Water JPI
- There is a need for greater support to facilitate inputs from their national researchers.
- There will be greater participation from national researchers to the Water JPI for example in the knowledge hubs and exploratory workshops.
- There needs to be focussed and policy relevance of the Water JPI research, in particular with relevance to the Water Framework Directive (WFD) requirements.
- It is crucial not to only identify but represent end-users communities in the knowledge hubs.
- The Water JPI needs to align more with national programmes and strategies.
- Ensure strong connectivity with existing networks of excellence.

APPENDIX

Latvia Report

(29-31 May 2017)

Austria Report

(6 September 2017)

Estonia Report

(24 October 2017)



Latvia Report

Date: 29 – 31 May 2017

Location: Riga, Latvia

The Joint Programming Initiative on “Water Challenges for a Changing World”, **Water JPI** (www.waterjpi.eu), was launched in 2010 and later formally approved by the European Council in December 2011. The Water JPI membership comprises a total of 20 Member countries and 4 Observer countries, which collectively represent 88% of European public Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) investment in water resources.

Latvia is one of the 4 Observers, without any participation in Water JPI activities, and has expressed interest in the current Water JPI activities to assess a more active participation in the future.

The mission has been organised around:

- A workshop for exchanging with national policy and decision makers regarding interests and opportunities to participate and/or join the Water JPI for:
 - o Identification of cooperation options and national interests, strategies, priorities
 - o Reflection of the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda in the Latvian context
- Bilateral meetings with the Ministry of Education and Science, the Ministry of Agriculture and some Universities (Latvia University, Riga Technical University).

Attendees

Name, Surname	Institution
Dominique Darmendrail	WATER JPI Coordination
Inga Jēkabsons	Ministry of Education and Science
Ieva Griķe	Ministry of Education and Science
Kaspars Karolis	Ministry of Education and Science
Gunta Šlihta	State Education and Development Agency
Iveta Teibe (P)	Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development
Inese Bārtule	Ministry of Agriculture
Kristine Sirma	Ministry of Agriculture
Tālis Juhna (M)	Riga Technical University
Kamila Gruškeviča (P)	Riga Technical University
Jānis Rubulis	Riga Technical University
Sandis Dejus	Riga Technical University
Didzis Ustups	Institute of Food Safety, Animal Health and Environment - "BIOR"
Olga Valciņa (P)	Institute of Food Safety, Animal Health and Environment - "BIOR"
Aija Dēliņa (P)	Latvian University
Raimonds Kasparinskis	Latvian University (Geography Department)
Ainis Lagzdīņš (P)	Latvian University of Agriculture

Main Water Challenges in Latvia

- Water quality in old distribution networks (all from Soviet times)
- Waste water treatment for small communities
- Eutrophication vs. nutrients inputs from diffuse pollution sources
- Flood risk reduction (no water scarcity issue)
- Emerging pollutants (pharmaceuticals in particular) with a challenge in the inventory of sources
- Recovering water supply and sanitation plants after intentional / terrorist attacks
- Monitoring of the water resources quantity and quality
- Soil quality (10% of the territory with peat with different levels of degradation), impacting decontamination processes, ecology...
- All country supplied by GW except Riga (surface water, recharge plant).

The Research programmes in Latvia and its connection to JPIs

The Latvian' smart specialisation strategy identifies five priorities areas:

- 1) Knowledge-based bio-economics;
- 2) Bio-medicine, medical technologies, bio-pharmacy and biotechnologies;
- 3) Advanced materials, technologies and engineering systems;
- 4) Smart energy; and
- 5) Information and communication technologies.

Measure No. 5 foresees engagement with certain JPIs as a Member, to align Latvian RDI programmes with JPIs. The [National ERA Roadmap, 2016 - 2020](#) consists of 35 measures to bring the Latvian research system into line with EU standards, to synchronize Latvian research with the EU Member States systems, and to strengthen capacity to address major societal challenges:

The Ministry of Education and Science has therefore assessed the ten JPIs in terms of match-making with their national programmes, relevance to environment policies, interest of other thematic ministries and Latvian research capacities.

The Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development and Ministry of Agriculture expressed their own interests in participating, in particular, for getting solutions for complying with EU sectoral policies.

The Ministry of Education and Science has joined five JPIs: Water, FACCE, Urban Europe, Healthy Diet Healthy Live and Cultural Heritage, with funding coming from:

- National RDI funds of the Ministry of Education and Science, when participating in ERA-NET Cofund activities
- Structural funds when participating in calls without EC top-up or to other activities (2,2 M€ for 2018 – 2023 for all actions).

Mapping of the Latvian Research Communities in the Water area

The Ministry of Education and Science has done a mapping of the Latvia research communities. 11 universities and institutions have declared interest in the Water JPI Activities. Four of them were present at the workshop, presenting their competences and infrastructures:

Research Communities	Competences	Infrastructures
Latvian University of Agriculture (LUA)	Agricultural runoff monitoring and modelling at different scales (from experimental plots to field, small catchment and river basin)	Infrastructures at the four scales. Considered as national infrastructures (possible access to be discussed)
Latvian University (LU)	Ecological quality of surface water water quality and long-term changes GW resources and quality Water treatment solutions	Pilot for water treatment
Riga Technical University (RTU)	6 major thematic areas of which energy and environment, cities and development (city as a system): Land observatory, environmental monitoring, hydro- models, drinking water treatment, water quality in distribution, waste water treatment (domestic and industrial) Prototyping up to TRL 4 - 5	Labs, hydraulic laboratory (city loop), biotechnical lab., mobile lab for field testing
BIOR	Food and environment, hygiene, veterinary medicine & animal health, fisheries Long term monitoring (physical – chemical – biological), from single species to ecosystem approach	Fish farm infrastructure Aquaculture expertise centre

Key Conclusions

Considering the interests, the Latvian representatives proposed as follow-up actions to:

- 1) Create a mirror group for the Water JPI (Water Cluster Latvia) with approximatively the same institutions representation (plus possibly another research institution).
 - a. D. Darmendrail to send "Mirror Groups" survey result and in the future proposed Terms of Reference (completed the 31st of May).
- 2) Become a more active member:
 - a. The Ministry of Education and Science will discuss with this group the most important activities to join.
 - b. They will then send a letter with the name of the GB Member and technical advisor(s) (they had a lot of questions about the situation in other countries), and most probably apply to be full member.
 - c. D. Darmendrail to send email with governance scheme (done the 31st of May) and all future activities in calls, TAP and Knowledge Hubs (done the 1st of June)
- 3) Support inputs from Latvian researchers:
 - a. To the Water JPI Project Database
 - b. To the annual update of the Water JPI Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda ([SRIA](#)) (cf. their national challenges)
 - c. To the online platform on "Infrastructures"
 - d. To the evaluation of RDI projects (as experts in their fields of expertise)
- 4) Assess rapidly how to use the structural funds for all possible activities:
 - a. D. Darmendrail informed them about the ERALEARN workshop on this topic (email the 30th of May).
- 5) Contribute if invited to the Estonian JPI side event, back to back with the Nature Based Solutions conference to be held on 24-26 October 2017, in Tallinn:
 - a. D. Darmendrail to check with Ivo Krustok (Estonian Ministry of Environment) and Alice Wemaere (Irish EPA).



Austria Report

Date: 6 September 2017

Location: Vienna, Austria

The Joint Programming Initiative on “Water Challenges for a Changing World”, **Water JPI** (www.waterjpi.eu), was launched in 2010 and later formally approved by the European Council in December 2011. The Water JPI membership comprises a total of 20 Member countries and four Observer countries, which collectively represent 88% of European public Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) investment in water resources.

Austria is one of the 14 partners, which joined at the beginning of the Water JPI, with a low profile participation in Water JPI activities so far (mainly by in-kind contributions – hosting the GB meeting in November 2016 and back to back meetings, representation of the JPI activities in special events). It has expressed interest in the current Water JPI activities to assess a more active participation in the future.

The mission has been organised around a bilateral meeting with the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management to exchange with the key water policy and decision makers regarding interests and opportunities to participate and/or join the Water JPI and to identify cooperation options and national interests, strategies, priorities.

Attendees

Name	Surname	Institution
Robert	Fenz	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management
Robert	Konecny	Environment Agency Austria
Kristina	Schaufler	Environment Agency Austria
Dominique	Darmendrail	Water JPI Coordination

Main Water Challenges in Austria

In the light of the Water Framework Directive (WFD) implementation;

- Hydromorphological issues, ecological status;
- Floods protection
- Agriculture pollutions: nitrates, pesticides

The Research programmes in Austria and its connection to JPIs

The Ministry of Science is operating through the Austrian Science Foundation with annual and thematic calls. In past discussions, it was stated that the follow-up of the Water JPI activities should be gone through the sectorial policy ministry. Within the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management funds exists for special calls in applied research linked with the implementation of the Water Framework Directive (WFD)

(<https://www.bmlfuw.gv.at/english/agriculture/Education/Research.html>).

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management is the representative of the Water JPI in Austria. The Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management has a special fund for research in water challenges.

Mapping of the Austria Research Communities in the Water area

Since the 2014 mapping exercise completed under the first CSA, resulting in the formation of a water technological platform with:

- Objectives: Support and alignment of water research in Austria
- Partners: Universities and water research institutions initially, industry may join later, Umweltbundesamt (Environment Agency Austria) acts as coordinator
- Funding: Ministry of Science and Research
- Weblink: not established yet, platform was only launched in July 2017
- Possibilities for connection to the Water JPI: National alignment of water research, strengthening national water research, link with key partner institutions on both European and global levels, harmonisation of approaches and relevant research topics, increase competitiveness of Austrian water research, increase visibility of Austrian water research, link with Water JPI.

Austria (EEA) is also leading a project in the European Water Initiative East+, supporting water policy development in Eastern countries (Belarus, Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan). This could serve for further development of the international cooperation.

Key Conclusions

The Austrian representatives proposed the follow-up actions :

- 1) To become a more active member of Water JPI:
 - a. Internal discussions will be held in the upcoming weeks to confirm their interest and their contribution to the Water JPI activities, in particular:
 - b. Possible connection between the special fund of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management.
 - i. Contribution to the knowledge hubs under development (as policy – makers, or via Austrian experts' participation).
 - ii. Proposal of activities – see point 3.
- 2) With the current change in the governance of the Water JPI, the contribution of the Austrian membership will also be discussed.
 - a. The fee calculation and the options for contributions were clarified during the meeting.
 - b. To support this internal discussion, D. Darmendrail to send email with remaining issues on the sustainability of the JPI to be adopted at GB Meeting in November 2017 (Delft, the Netherlands).
- 3) Support participation and inputs from Austrian researchers:
 - a. To the knowledge hubs and exploratory workshops.
 - b. To the Water JPI Project Database
 - c. To the annual update of the Water JPI Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda ([SRIA](#)) (cf. their national challenges)
 - d. To the online platform on “Infrastructures” via the Water technological platform
 - e. To the evaluation of RDI projects (as experts in their fields).

- 4) Assess the opportunity to take part:
 - a. In special Water JPI activities around policy making, to better fine-tune the JPI activities to the needs of policy and implementation (in particular the European Water Framework Directive):
 - i. Informing us about the identified needs,
 - ii. Representing end-users' communities in knowledge hubs
 - iii. In connecting Water JPI to key needs of the Danube River Commission.



Estonia Report

Date: 24th October 2017

Location: Tallinn, Estonia

Report Date: 3rd January 2018

Introduction

The Joint Programming Initiative on “Water Challenges for a Changing World” the **Water JPI** (www.waterjpi.eu), was launched in 2010 and later formally approved by the European Council in December 2011. In October 2017, the Water JPI membership comprises a total of 20 Member countries and four Observer countries, which collectively represent 88% of European public Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) investment in water resources.

Involvement in the JPIs activities by Estonia and other Eastern European countries has so far been low. Estonia participation is as follows:

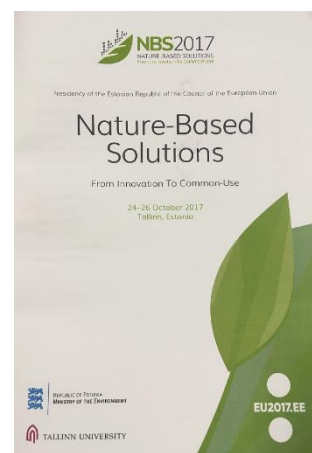
ERA-NET	Status
Alzheimer and other Neurodegenerative Diseases (JPND)	-
Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change (FACCE) JPI	Full member
A Healthy Diet for a Healthy Life (JPI HDHL)	Observer
Cultural Heritage and Global Change: A new Challenge for Europe (JHEP)	Observer
Urban Europe – Global Urban Challenges, Joint European Solutions (JPI Urban Europe)	-
Connecting Climate Knowledge for Europe (CliK'EU – JPI Climate)	Observer
More Years, Better Lives -The Potential and Challenges of Demographic Change (JPI MYBL)	-
Antimicrobial Resistance: The Microbial Challenge – An Emerging Threat to Human Health (JPI AMR)	Observer
Water Challenges for a Changing World (JPI Water)	Full Member
Healthy and Productive Seas and Oceans (JPI OCEANS)	Full Member
BiodivERsA ERA-NET (ERA-NET covering the range of activities of a JI for the domain Biodiversity, ecosystem services and Nature-based Solutions)	Full Member

One of the reasons for this is the lack of awareness of the role and functioning of JPIs among the related research community and government officials. The Estonian EU Presidency organised in October 2017 a conference related to Nature Based Solutions. As the conference targeted to bring together researchers, entrepreneurs and government officials from Estonia and other European countries, a side event dedicated to JPIs was organised back to back to disseminate information about JPIs activities.

In addition, there were bilateral meetings between Estonian Ministries and the Water JPI, Climate, Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change JPI (FACCE JPI), JPI Urban Europe as well as the ERA-NET BiodivERsA.

Nature-Based Solutions NBS2017 – JPI Workshop

A Joint Programming Initiatives (JPI) and BiodivERSA workshop was held on the 24th October 2017 as a side event to the *Nature-Based Solutions: From Innovation to Common-Use* Conference. The workshop was organised by Ivo Krustok (Estonian Ministry of Environment MoE-EE) and Ülle Napa (Estonian Research Council) in collaboration with Elve Lode (Tallinn University).



There were approximately 40 participants including speakers from 15 countries at the workshop. The affiliation category breakdown is shown in Figure 1.

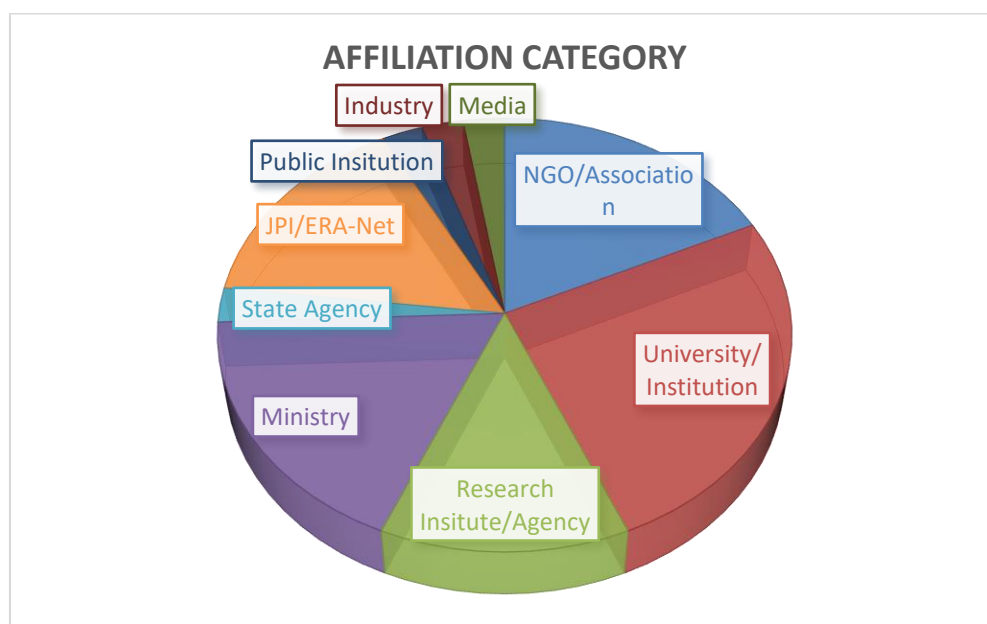


Figure 1: Participants by Affiliation Category

Presentations outlining the different perspectives were delivered as follows:

- European Commission – Brigit de Boissezon
- Water JPI – Dominique Darmendrail
- JPI Ocean – Petra Manderscheid
- JPI Climate – Petra Manderscheid
- FACCE JPI- Hartmut Stalb
- JPI Urban Europe – Marko Perdih
- BiodivERSA - Xavier le Roux



The presentations were followed by a breakout session where six roundtables allowed discussions with the attendees:

- 1) Ranking of the themes of the current Nature-Based Solutions conference by priority
- 2) To what extent challenges of different nature-based solutions could be a further incentive for their involvement in different JPIs/BiodivERsA
- 3) Which other thematic challenges are they facing in their own country that should be considered by different JPIs / BiodivERsA
- 4) Which types of activities proposed by the JPIs are they interested in? How would they like to join?

All presentations and outputs of the roundtables will be available on the [NBS conference website](#).





The breakout sessions discussed four questions and feedback was presented on the following:

1. Ranking the themes of the current Nature Based Solutions conference by importance.

There were five roundtables, each chaired by a representative of the JPIs/ERA-NET. Each group was asked to discuss and rank the importance of the different themes A-H. The feedback is summarised in Table 1.

- A. Blue-green infrastructure in smart cities;
- B. Integrated water management through natural systems;
- C. Information Communication Technology as a supporting tool for nature-based solutions and ecosystems;
- D. Ecological restoration through eco-innovation;
- E. Nature-based solutions in a circular economy;
- F. Linking nature-based solutions to sustainable development goals;
- G. Think Nature programme;
- H. Well-being and public engagement.

Table 1: Summary of feedback on the themes of the Nature-based Solutions conference

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Water JPI		X		Tool	Sub-theme	Sub-theme	“as a given	
Climate/Oceans JPI		X			X			X
FACCE JPI	X				X			X
JPI Urban Europe	X				X		X	
BiodivERsA				X - Planet	X - Profit			X - Public

There was also an opportunity to identify themes missing from the list proposed for the nature-based solution conference. They were identified as follows:

- The potential of nature-based solutions in climate change adaptation;
- Good practice and learning mechanisms, nature-based solutions should give solutions for better life conditions, environment;
- The role of communication;
- Long-term plan for systemic transformations / changes for the future (30 years), to generate actual transition to better environment and well-being through nature-based solutions;
- Economic linkages between environmental and social aspects;
- The connection between cities – peri-urban areas – rural areas:
 - Global governance of nature-based solutions;
 - Co-creation and co-design;
 - Implementation models of nature-based solutions.
- Nature-based solutions for urban design – dependent on the size of the cities (one size doesn't fit all);
- Interaction with Human Health (not only a question of well-being) and Ecosystems; and
- The value (including cultural) of water for designing marketable nature-based solutions.

2. To what extent challenges of different nature-based solutions could be a further incentive for involvement in different JPIs/BiodivERsA?

Each group discussed how the challenge of nature based solutions could be an incentive for greater involvement in ERA-NETs. The discussion points are summarised below:

- Internationalisation of activities / cooperation;
- Knowing how small or medium scale enterprises can engage;
- Using nature-based solutions to link different stakeholders, e.g. academic-economic;
- Knowing how Eastern European / Associated countries could join to benefit from the experience of JPI member countries and to be able to harmonize their funding rules;
- Developing stakeholders' involvement in the processes (beside the researchers; in preparation of the calls and as applicants); and
- Having a "Super JPI" for addressing cross-cutting and interlinkages issues.

3. Which other thematic challenges are they facing in their country that should be considered by different JPIs / BiodivERsA?

The groups considered the different national thematic challenges and a summary of them is presented below for the different ERA-NETs to consider.

- Appropriate financing system on the long term for nature-based solutions and for research and innovation in this area;
- Climate change is the biggest challenge and driver for nature-based solutions;
- The benefits of nature-based solutions as well as climate services to be shown, benefit not only in terms of society but broken down to individual users or groups: need for business model and methodology to calculate the benefit;
- The NBS are not always the solution. Explore their maximum possibilities and integration as a global solution;
- Inclusive governance for the changes in cities – how to involve citizens, local communities, including minorities and migrants;
- The important thing is that nature-based solutions are not viewed as the only solution, more technological solution, biomimicry etc. should also further be explored and supported in addition to nature-based solutions;
- Water as a public good – its value (including cultural value);
- Connection between Human Health and nature-based solutions;
- Risk approach for nature-based solutions, for balanced decisions having a global perspective;
- Social acceptance of solutions and decisions;
- The science – policy interface; and
- The use of social networks / media (quality of the data received).

4. Which types of activities proposed by the JPIs are they interested in? How would they like to join?

Different activities of interest were discussed and summarised below:

- The different opportunities need to be better explained to provide higher impact;
- To provide input in the agenda setting and programming and to participate in joint open calls, knowledge transfer activities;
- The JPIs to act as mediators to bring the communities together – in the case of nature-based solutions as well as for other cross cutting issues;
- Internationalization;
- Engagement with small or medium scale enterprises; and
- A joint mapping exercise (EC, all JPIs, BiodivERsA) on what is done on nature-based solutions for developing a common vision of the research and development initiative needs in that area.

Bilateral Meeting with Estonian Ministry Representatives

The JPIs and BiodivERsA held a bilateral meeting with the Estonian Ministry representatives to further develop an understanding of their research needs and current priorities. Those in attendance are listed in Table 2.

Table 2: List of representatives at the bilateral meeting with the Estonian Ministry

Name, Surname	Institution	Name, Surname	Institution
Indrek Reimand	Ministry of Education and Research	Xavier Le Roux	BiodivERsA
Ado Lõhmus	Ministry of Environment	Petra Manderscheid	JPI Climate
Ivo Krustok	Ministry of Environment	Hartmut Stalb	JPI FACCE
Olavi Petron and Toomas Kevvai	Ministry of Rural Affairs	Marko Perdih	JPI Urban Europe
Silver Lätt	Estonian Research Council	Padraic Larkin and Dominique Darmendrail	Water JPI

1. Ministry of Education and Research:

The Ministry of Education and Research representatives outlined their research interests and priorities. Their main transnational cooperation interests are Networking and High Level Standards. They indicated that Estonia needs transnational/international cooperation as their capacity is limited. Their research objective is to build a “reasonable framework”.

Estonia is most active in BiodivERsA, JPI Oceans, FACCE JPI, and Water JPI but they consider that overall there are too many Public-to-Public Partnerships in the current Funding Programs, and so they must prioritise their involvement, based on a strategic approach and considering thematic priorities and actual added value and impact.

They informed the meeting that the Education and Research Ministry provides the framework while the policy ministries (i.e. Environment, Rural Affairs) decide on the Estonian participation in ERA-NETs based on topics of interest, impact and funds available. The Estonian Research Council is currently mapping all international cooperation engagements. Ivo Krustok is also involved in a programme to align Estonian policies and ministries.

Following this strategic analysis, the Estonian Research Council will continue to support the Estonian participation in multilateral activities (ERA-NETs, JPIs etc.).

The EU Presidency, in Estonia is:

- Mapping the landscape and preparing for future Funding Programs;
- Preparing conclusions for the European Union Competitiveness Council (1st December 2017), with a couple of messages: call for simplification, avoid closed clubs as seen in some parts of Horizon2020, and more openness to international cooperation; and
- Involved in the preparation of the Council Conclusions and provision of ideas for the European Research Area Committee ad-hoc Group (to be established in the upcoming months),
- And the intention to include JPIs space into the forthcoming missions' picture drawn by the European Commission (Action for JPIs / BiodivERSA).

2. Ministry of Environment:

The Ministry of Environment is involved in Water JPI and Oceans as full members, and as an observer in Climate JPI. They would like to have a more long-term continuity in their participation.

The Ministry considers that where JPIs meet national priorities in accordance to their policy activities:

- they can add value to the national programmes and strategies;
- leverage their competences; and
- support their connection to the existing networks of excellence.

Estonia is currently analysing this potential, which has been so far under-used. A priority is to link to the circular economy strategy (ensure potential commitment).

3. Ministry of Rural Affairs:

The Ministry of Rural Affairs only has a small budget and therefore only a small portion of it for ERANETs. The criterion for participation is that the proposed joint action matches the national scientific competences and has a high relevance for national agriculture. There is a focus on soil hence the connection with FACCE JPI activities, the EJP Soil proposal and have a continued interest in MACSUR.

They are also calling for simplification, regarding the participation in JPIs which should be more understandable.

Action: An input note from JPIs and BiodivERSA based on this discussion was to be prepared for the Competitiveness Council Meeting 1st December 2017. A proposed text is outlined below.

Proposal for “Input Note from the Represented Initiatives”

European Joint Programming Initiatives and similar operational partnerships like BiodivERsA play an important role in structuring the complex research landscape in Europe and are major tools in fulfilling the ERA, by coordinating and aligning national RDI programmes which represent roughly 90% of the public RDI expenditures in Europe, around a shared vision and a strategic agenda.

They deal with the diversity of national RDI programmes and rules and contribute to cohesion by focusing on the scientific potential of partners rather than on the size and economic strength of the member countries.

These multilateral partnerships are mission-oriented: aligning national programmes and coordinating them to the European agenda, providing knowledge for evidence-based decisions on grand challenges, transferring knowledge and expertise to the different stakeholder communities engaged in solving these challenges (policy-makers, economic sectors, problem owners, etc.).

These multilateral partnerships plead for a real simplification of the complex European RDI landscape and of related processes (reduced administrative burdens, long term cooperation tools, access to the whole tool box for financing the activities).

Key Conclusions

The workshop event was well received by the participants. A presentation to the Groupe de haut niveau pour la Programmation Conjointe (GPC) meeting on the 4th December 2017 went very well and generated positive feedback from Austria, Greece, Slovenia and Romania.

Others now look to this workshop as a template to follow:

- Greece: looking to do the same for PRIMA;
- Austria: willing to continue under their EU presidency;
- Romania: mentioned the connection to infrastructures elaboration. Attraction of local funds – local research communities; and
- JPI Oceans looking for more synergistic partnerships, but questions on the regionalization of some initiatives (Blue MED, PRIMA, BONUS, Galway – Atlantic) Vs. the global dimensions (same challenges in most regions), remains an issue.