



Joint Programming is a research and innovation policy concept driven by societal challenges. Its aim is to tackle grand societal challenges through more efficient use of resources, by the alignment of funding at national level and through decreasing fragmentation in the European Research Area (ERA). There are over sixty active ERA-NETs, five Article 185 initiatives, ten Joint Programming Initiatives (JPIs), and six European Joint Programme Cofunds (EJPs); for an overview see our website jointprogramming.nl. This monthly newsletter provides in a nutshell up-to-date information for scientists, (research) policy actors, and other stakeholders.

Newsletter 15 April 2020

About us

The joint programming officers at Wageningen University & Research follow ERA policy and strategy, the JPIs, EJPs, Art. 185 and ERA-NET Actions, with a focus on those in the areas of the bioeconomy, food, and the blue and green environment. To support WUR and its Science Groups in engaging in the public research partnerships we provide information, liaise on the national as well as the European level, and ensure direct involvement. We work on alignment, valorisation and joint activities in FACCE-JPI, and are partner in management boards of FOSC, ERA-GAS and EJP Soil. Furthermore, we conduct a global science and policy mapping on microbiome research in frame of the International Bioeconomy Forum, are involved in work on Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) in ERA-NET partnerships, and are academic member in the European Bioeconomy Stakeholders Panel of DG RTD. You can follow us on [Twitter](#) and contact us at jointprogramming@wur.nl.

Editorial: Small-scale changes in a global food system

My social media timeline shows many food-related messages these days. Because of the Covid-19 pandemic, local producers, resellers and restaurants are stuck with their fresh products. To minimise their losses, many started to offer their produce directly to the local community through various social media channels. Products are often offered based on trust: they are left in an open storage to be picked up and paid for by app or cash. I notice that many people around me care about the local businesses and help prevent the products from going to waste by purchasing them and by sharing the message. A small-scale change in the food system, driven by the need and flexibility of the producers, the availability of a wide range of online tools and the willingness of the local community to participate.

The current crisis has a huge impact on our food value chain. The world economy is forced to slow down, which also impacts our food system from the lowest to the highest level. The United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organisation - FAO, expects disruptions across the full range of the food system. Labour-related disruptions, limited access to inputs, disturbances in global and regional supply chains, reduced consumer access to nutritious food and changes in the price. A worrisome prospect that is fortunately accompanied with a message from the FAO in which they provide governments with tools designed to keep the food value chain alive. Also the European Commission is taking various actions across the wide range of our food system to prevent disruptions. The president of the European Commission shared in a video message that the EC will tolerate 'no disruption, whatsoever' in the food sector. Farmers are supported by the EC and actions are taken to guarantee that high quality affordable food continues to flow into the single market.

When I started working for FOSC (the ERA-NET Cofund on Food Systems and Climate), a pandemic was not the first type of crisis that would have come to mind when thinking about the various challenges we are facing in feeding our world population. However, Covid-19 is starting to make it very clear how vast and interconnected our food system really is. We are depending on each other to make it work. We can expect more crises in our food system in the future, possibly simultaneously as well. Too much or too little water, loss of arable land, pest resistance, loss of valuable insects, reduced availability of agricultural inputs: the challenges are plenty. And all of it on the world stage where prices and fair distribution of food are of major importance.

A robust food system needs the input, participation and willingness of nations, organisations and citizens. It depends on transnational joint cooperation to function well, and to get prepared for future uncertainties. The FOSC ERA-NET aims to contribute to such cooperation, and has an interesting approach in this. Twenty-one countries from three continents cooperate in the 2019 call for proposals. FOSC-funded research projects are not limited to a single sector, but aim to cover the complete system. From producer to consumer and from agronomy to economics. FOSC is focused on more than research. Stakeholders are invited to participate in events and FOSC encourages the research projects to reach out to the local stakeholders as well. The involvement of growers, industry and consumers to keep the food value chain going during the Corona crisis, is promising. Amidst the current turmoil, seeds are sown for changes. Transnational, joint systems research that actively involves the relevant stakeholders can support in creating a resilient and sustainable global food system and may help to make changes towards this goal.

On behalf of the joint programming team, stay safe, stay healthy!



Martine Vernooij,
Policy officer

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Stakeholders co-create R&I agenda for the Baltic Sea and North Sea regions

During an online session at the 2nd of April, close to 100 participants confirmed the broad themes of the future Baltic and North Sea Research and Innovation Programme (BANOS SRIA). Participants represented policy makers, funders and institutions dealing with marine, maritime and socio-economic issues, together with the scientific community of the 13 Baltic and North Sea countries. The BANOS SRIA will ultimately provide the basis for the future BANOS calls for interdisciplinary and transnational projects that will seek to generate new knowledge and innovation in support of the decision-making in the Baltic and North Sea regions on governance, commitments, synergies and management.

[Read more](#)



One Health cooperation in COVID-19 diagnostics

While the world faces the COVID-19 global pandemic, many consortium partners in the European Joint Programme Cofund on One Health (One Health EJP) play key roles in managing the situation at the national level across Europe. Veterinary laboratories have large experience in the diagnosis of infectious diseases, also under emergency situation, and can therefore be tremendously supportive in diagnostics. The EJP provides updates of how partners get involved and highlights how One Health co-operation has been established across Europe.

[Read more](#)



JPI MYBL: European and international collaboration is more necessary than ever

In a statement in response to the COVID-19 outbreak, the Joint Programming Initiative on demographics (JPI MYBL - 'More Years, Better Lives') calls for intensifying European and international collaboration. The issues of demographic change and the ageing population is explicitly addressed: *"While many older people can enjoy a long and healthy life, we have been reminded of the fact that older people are also more vulnerable to disease and illness"*. In addition to ongoing efforts, the JPI foresees for the longer term a *"massive scientific task to analyse the effect of the pandemic on health and well-being of populations, with focus on social and demographic conditions"*.

[Read more](#)

Joint Research



ERA CoBioTech third call for transnational research proposals open

The ERA-NET on biotechnologies invites joint research on 'Bio-based replacement products, technologies and processes', that focuses on sustainability throughout the entire value chain. Research projects are expected to facilitate the replacement of a specific product, technology or process which involves either fossil-based or other unsustainable feedstocks, or unsustainable industrial processes. With future applications / translation in mind, projects are advised to bring industrial partners on board. Funding organisations from BE, DE, EE, ES, FR, NO, SI, RU and TR are contributing to this single-stage call with an indicative budget of over EUR 7,3 million. Full proposal closing date will be June 30th.

[Read more](#)



New research on 'Cultural Heritage, Identities & Perspectives'

The Joint Programming Initiative on Cultural Heritage and Global Change (JPI CH) has announced a new research opportunity: '*Cultural Heritage, Identities & Perspectives: Responding to Changing Societies*'. Proposals should focus on the role of heritage in society from different (inter-)national perspectives and value systems. Cross-disciplinary collaboration is encouraged in order to combine knowledge and expertise from across the sciences and arts. Applicants are invited to combine questions or perspectives under five topics described. A total amount of EUR 6,5 million will be available. The Netherlands is participating in this call. Proposal submission deadline is September 22nd.

[Read more](#)



SUSFOOD2 and CORE Organic Cofund joint call in next phase

The full-proposal submission phase of the joint call '*Towards sustainable and organic food systems*', of the two ERA-NETs closed recently. Following 60 pre-proposal submissions, a total number of 29 full proposals were submitted. They include collaboration of more than 150 researchers and were focused on four call topics, which all received submissions. The proposals are currently being assessed and evaluated. Final selection decisions are expected in June. The foreseen budget commitment for this call is around EUR 9,5 million.

[Read more](#)



One additional research project will start on microplastics in the ocean

A 6th project will be funded under the joint call on microplastics in the marine environment. This call was launched at the end of 2018 by twelve JPI Oceans member countries, Latvia and Brazil. It aimed for transnational research projects to study the sources, distribution and impact of microplastics in the marine environment. In addition to the 5 already funded projects, RESPONSE; a research project focusing on the fate and biological effects of microplastics and nanoplastics in marine ecosystems, will start soon. A joint virtual kick-off meeting will be organized in May 2020 to facilitate exchange and synergies between the projects.

[Read more](#)



Food Systems and Climate ERA-NET updates

With the call for pre-proposals closed in February, the FOSC ERA-NET is in the stage of scrutinising pre-proposals before inviting projects for full proposal submission. The ERA-NETs first co-funded trans-continental call for research proposals will support basic and applied research and is focused on the interactions between climate change and food systems: assessing the consequences of climate change on agri-food markets and developing sustainable and resilient food value chains in the context of changing food needs and patterns. Meanwhile, the ERA-NET is building its other activities, which includes -amongst many others- a stakeholder mapping. The ERA-NET has published a flyer recently, explaining the initiative, its scope and ambitions.

[Read more](#)

Calls (soon) open for submission*

- [MarTERA third call](#) - closing date pre-proposals: **24 April – extended deadline**;
- [ERA-NET HDHL-INTIMIC prevention of unhealthy weight gain call](#) - closing date pre-proposals: **7 May**, closing date full proposals: **31 July – extended deadlines**;
- [PRIMA Section 1 Call](#) - closing date pre-proposals: **6 May – extended deadline**; closing date full proposals: **2 September**;
- [JPIAMR Network Plus 2020 call](#) - closing date full proposals: **28 May – extended deadline**;
- [JPI-HDHL targeted nutrition call](#) - closing date proposals: **12 May – extended deadline**;
- [ERA-NET Cofund SusCrop second call](#) - closing date pre-proposals: **28 April – extended deadline**, closing date full proposals: **10 September**;
- [PRIMA Section 2 Call](#) - closing date pre-proposals: **13 May – extended deadline**; closing date full proposals: **16 September**;
- [JPI Water, Oceans and AMR AquaticPollutants call](#) - closing date pre-proposals: **18 May – extended deadline**, closing date full proposals: **14 August**;

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- [AquaticPollutants 'Knowledge transfer of research' call](#) - closing date full proposals: **18 May – extended deadline**.
 - [ERA CoBioTech third call](#) - closing date full proposals: **30 June**;
 - [JPI CH Cultural Heritage, Identities & Perspectives](#): Responding to Changing Societies – closing date full proposals: **22 September**;
 - [JPI MYBL Equality and Wellbeing across Generations call](#) – *call launch is postponed – no date set yet*.

***Please take note that submission deadlines may be subject to change, especially in pre-announcements of calls.**

Upcoming Activities



European Partnership on Urban Transitions: invitation for co-designing workshop

The Joint Programming Initiative Urban Europe is organising a ‘AGORA Virtual Dialogue: From ambitions to local actions - Co-designing a programme for urban research, innovation and experimentation’ on the 5th and 6th of May. In an invitation, the JPI welcomes urban practitioners, change makers and people who want to drive urban transitions to discuss how to step up the game for driving transitions towards sustainable and liveable urban areas. The aim is to design a programme for research, innovation and action based on concrete ‘real’-life challenges. The outcomes of the workshop will feed the R&I programme of the proposed partnership ‘Driving Urban Transitions to a Sustainable Future’ under Horizon Europe, which Urban Europe is working on together with the European Commission.

[Read more](#)



JPI Urban Europe Policy Conference 2020

On November 11th and 12th, the Joint Programming Initiative on Urban Europe will organise its 5th Policy Conference in Brussels. Titled ‘Stepping up the game - Driving Urban Transitions’ JPI EU invites stakeholders to this forum to exchange on the opportunities for, and needs of, cities and urban municipalities in the coming transformation. “*On the backdrop of the EU green deal and the Urban Agenda for the EU, Europe is now working on an ambitious strategy to become the first climate-neutral continent, and ensuring liveability, prosperity and well-being for all people in the process. To reach these ambitious goals, urban transformations play a crucial role*”.

[Read more](#)

Events Calendar

This calendar displays events related to Joint Programming and / or the Bioeconomy.

Is your event not in our calendar yet? Please e-mail the details to jointprogramming@wur.nl

Please take note that due to developments related to COVID-19, upcoming events may become cancelled. Check the events' website regularly.

[To the events calendar](#)

Upcoming events:

29 April	DISCONTOOLS workshop, Brussels
5-6 May	Virtual dialogue on urban transitions
17 June	HDHL international conference, Brussels
27 June	World Microbiome Day
21 October	BANOS Final Forum, Berlin
11-12 November	JPI Urban Europe Policy Conference 2020, Brussels
17-18 November	Water JPI third Annual International Conference, Mülheim an der Ruhr
Autumn	FACCE-JPI 10 Year Anniversary Event
Autumn	SusAn Early Career Research seminar, Italy - <i>postponed</i>

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Ideas for the website or the newsletter?

Suggestions for news items?

Questions about joint programming?

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