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*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](http://jointprogramming.nl). This monthly newsletter provides in a nutshell up-to-date information for scientists, (research) policy actors, and other stakeholders.*

*Newsletter 3 July 2020*

## About us

The joint programming officers at Wageningen University & Research follow ERA policy and strategy, the JPIs, EJPs, Art. 185, ERA-NET Actions, and the new HEU Partnerships 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](mailto:jointprogramming@wur.nl).

## Editorial: Stop the spread

It is not new to mark that the current pandemic lays bare some of the fundamental weaknesses in our societies, and the way our systems are wired. Many also noted that the 'connected' world we are living in today, makes us vulnerable for systemic crises that can relatively easy spread. A third issue that has become painfully clear, is what the European Commission dubbed 'the disinformation challenge'. Most moderate news consumers will not have missed the struggle that scientists and media outlets have in reporting on developments. Part of this has to do with the high uncertainty, the novelty of threats, and the huge flow of information that is pouring out in the form of pre-prints right now. It will take the scientific community months (years?) to peer-review all the new findings, and to judge what research is up-to-par, and what not. The urgency to report preliminary findings on Covid-19 is clear, but can also create premature conclusions based on ill-designed methodologies and shaky results. This is the benign side of 'dis'-information.

Less benign is the spread of news that intentionally misleads readers and affects people's 'ability to understand reality'. Spending time on social media, the sheer volume of questionable information from unreliable sources can be quite baffling. The pandemic has amplified opinions, fears, conspiracy theories and distrust in institutions. In order to battle this disinformation, the World Health Organisation, the European Commission, as well as many national governments, have taken additional steps. In a 'Joint Communication' on June 10<sup>th</sup>, the European Commission and its High Representatives call upon the European Council, Parliament and Committees for "more coordinated action, in line with our democratic values, to address the risks [of disinformation] for open societies" as "Our common values and democratic institutions, including free expression and free and

*plural media, are keystones to the resilience of our societies to the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic*". The Communication includes a series of actions, building on the 2018 'Action Plan against Disinformation'.

While the current 'infodemic' is very visible, let's not forget the ongoing one with regard to the state of our environment and climate change challenges. I have no doubt it will rise again, once we pass the current crisis. Responsible Research and Innovation may offer a valuable chance to get all stakeholders - including citizens - more invested in science & innovation and thus raising trust and create armour against disinformation. The new mission approach the Commission also explicitly calls for more involvement and 'ownership' of citizens in combating societal challenges. Some positive final observations: the Eurobarometer -executed by the Commissions' Communication Directorate-General- is continuously monitoring public opinion through conducting regular surveys in all 27 EU Member States. The June report includes the latest numbers on trusted sources of information on Covid-19: scientists and (national) health authorities are the most trusted ones (41% and 34% respectively). Reassuring for the debate on environment and climate are polling numbers from a global Ipsos survey (held under 16,000 people in 18 major countries): three in four people expect their government to make 'protecting the environment' a priority when planning for the recovery of the pandemic. That is not bad at all, and consistent with 2019 Eurobarometer reportings that over 90% of the European citizens are worried about the environment and climate change and urges governments to take action.



Dorri te Boekhorst,  
Policy advisor

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## News

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### HEU Partnerships full proposals now online

The European Commission has started to replace several of the fiches for the proposed Partnerships under Horizon Europe with full proposals. So far, almost half of the fiches are replaced. These include three partnerships under the cluster Food, Bioeconomy, Natural resources, Agriculture and Environment: A European Partnership for '*rescuing biodiversity to safeguard life on Earth*'; one on '*a Circular bio-based Europe*'; and one on '*Water Security for the Planet (Water4All)*'.

[Read more](#)



### Consultation on the future Partnership on Biodiversity

Institutes and organisations could have their say in the European co-funded candidate Partnership '*Rescuing Biodiversity to Safeguard Life on Earth*', and provide feedback through an online consultation (now closed). The ERA-NET BiodivERsA, the European Commission's DG Research & Innovation and DG Environment have led its co-development. At the heart of this partnership is implementation of the EU 2030 Biodiversity Strategy.

[Read more](#)



### Public to Public Partnerships 2019 Annual report

ERA-LEARN has published its Annual Report on Public-Public Partnerships (P2P). It provides an updated picture of the evolving P2P landscape, highlighting examples of good practice from networks across the community as they seek to address specific challenges. The report also demonstrates the wider achievements of some long standing partnerships as well as introducing newer programmes that are beginning to implement joint activities.

[Read more](#)



### ERA-LEARN publishes 4<sup>th</sup> Country Report

The Country Report on *Participation of Belgium in European Research & Innovation Partnerships* was published recently. The reports provide an analysis of partnership participation and compare countries with others and with the EU averages. They also attempt to explain country performance in transnational collaborations within the context of the overall national situation regarding research and innovation systems.

[Read more](#)



## Water JPI Vision 2030 and updated SRIA published

The Joint programming Initiative on Water Challenges for a Changing World recently published its new vision and an updated Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda. The vision describes what the Water JPI aims to achieve in the next 10-year period. It sets out a roadmap for activities, taking into account main trends, key drivers and challenges in relation to our water resources.

[Read more](#)



## Microbiomes: a new definition published!

The latest contribution of the initiative that supports the International Bioeconomy Forums' *working group on Food Systems Microbiomes*', is a (re-)definition of the microbiome, which can be broadly used and ensures an accurate exchange on the topic within research circles. Ahead of World Microbiome Day, which took place on June 27<sup>th</sup>, MicrobiomeSupport published updated infographics, illustrating that microbes occur everywhere in the food system and explaining why they are important.

[Read more](#)



## New deadline video contest 'Plant Health TV'

In frame of the International Year of Plant Health, Euphresco and the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies of Bari, launched a call for a video competition '*Plant Health TV: Research that helps Plant Health*', earlier this year. Interested scientists are invited to submit a short video related to research that is conducted on plant health. The deadline for submission is extended to February 1<sup>st</sup> 2021.

[Read more](#)



## Pandemic! A one health view of emerging infectious diseases

The European Animal Health and Welfare Research Collaborative Working Group of SCAR and STAR-IDAZ, held a global, interactive webinar on June 30<sup>th</sup>. The meeting was focused on the role of veterinary sciences to prevent and cope with future animal and zoonotic pandemics. Following introductions, participants were encouraged to exchange on innovative ideas, actions and new tools in a roundtable discussion.

[Read more](#)



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## Analyses of joint research on Biodiversity and Health

A new ERA-NET BiodivERSA brochure analyses the results of the 2018-19 call on biodiversity and its influence on animal, human and plant health. 'A timely call in the current pandemic', according to the network, 'as the selected projects will deepen understanding of the relationships between biodiversity and health'. The booklet contains call process information as well as profiles of the selected 10 projects, amounting to over EUR 11.8 million of funding.

[Read more](#)



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## ERA CoBioTech Status Webinar Series 2020

The ERA-NET Cofund on Biotechnologies has organised a series of six webinars, to learn about the progress and achievements of 34 research projects funded by the network and its precursors. In the webinars, the projects presented their research, and contribution the optimisation of different parts of the value chains of various bio-based products used in everyday life.

[Read more](#)

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## Joint Research



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## Internal joint research open in EJP SOIL

The European Joint Programme Cofund on Soil Management, coordinated by INRAE with support of WUR, has opened an internal call for joint research. Overall objective is to fund projects open to EJP SOIL partners and linked third parties to fill research and development gaps identified by the EJP's 'Roadmap for EU Agricultural Soil Management research'. The indicative available budget amounts to EUR 15 million. The closing date for proposals is September 18<sup>th</sup>.

[Read more](#)



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## BlueBio calls for new research 'from harvesting to processing'

The ERA-NET Cofund on the Blue Bioeconomy launched a new call for research, targeting supply systems in the blue bioeconomy: *logistics and transportation - from harvest to processing*. Partners from BE, DK, EE, EL, ES, HR, IE, IS, LV, MT and NO, have made a budget of over EUR 11 million available. Participants from other countries can join with their own funding. Pre-proposal submission deadline is September 14<sup>th</sup>, for full proposals: February 15<sup>th</sup> 2021.

[Read more](#)



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## JPND ‘Personalised Medicine’ projects present themselves

The 2019 joint call for research on ‘Personalised Medicine’ of the Joint Programming initiative on Neurodegenerative Diseases, resulted in 18 selected projects. The results of the call were published at the end of 2019. The call, in which the Netherlands participated, mobilised around EUR 30 million including co-funding from the European Commission. In 10 of the 18 projects, Dutch researchers participate, in 3 as coordinator. Now, you can find the information on the projects on the JPND website.

[Read more](#)



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## AquaticPollutants joint call successful first round

Over 180 pre-proposals were submitted in response to the joint call on risks posed to human health and the environment by pollutants and pathogens present in the water. The requested funding totals EUR 179.5 million. The 26 countries partnering in this joint action of JPI Water, JPI Oceans, the JPI on Antimicrobial Resistance and the European Commission, are pooling resources of around EUR 24.2 million. After eligibility checks and evaluation, the best pre-proposals will be invited to submit a full proposal, with a deadline for submission on September 24<sup>th</sup>.

[Read more](#)

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### Calls (soon) open for submission\*

- [JPI MYBL Equality and Wellbeing across Generations call](#) – closing date full proposals: **14 September**;
- [EJP SOIL internal call](#) - closing date proposals: **18 September**;
- [BlueBio 'From Harvest to Processing' call](#) - closing date pre-proposals: **14 September**, closing date full proposals: **15 February 2021**;
- [JPI CH Cultural Heritage, Identities & Perspectives](#) - closing date full proposals: **22 September**;
- [JPI UE Positive Energy Districts and Neighbourhoods call](#) - closing date full proposals: **24 September**.

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

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## Upcoming Activities



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### Research and Innovation Days go virtual

The European Commissions’ annual event will be held from 22 to 24 September. This year a lot of focus will be on the European and worldwide response to the covid-19 pandemic and worldwide coordination of excellent science for global health, social and economic recovery. Building on the success of last year, the event will feature three days of intensive policy co-designing, thought-provoking panels and matchmaking opportunities.

[Read more](#)



## ERA-NET Cofund Monitoring & Reporting webinar

Save the date for a full day webinar focussing on monitoring and reporting of ERA-NET Cofunds. The webinar will be organised by ERA-LEARN and is scheduled for the 6<sup>th</sup> of October.

[Read more](#)



## Save the date: ForestValue 2020 Research Programme Seminar

The ERA-NET Cofund ForestValue will be organising its annual Research Programme Seminar in Berlin on the 17<sup>th</sup> of November. Researchers, policy-makers and stakeholders from across Europe, are expected to discuss the projects' main fields of work (such as advanced forest management, forest management strategies and valorisation). The event is particularly relevant for those working in the forest-based sector and experts in private and public institutions.

[Read more](#)

## Events Calendar

[The events 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](mailto:jointprogramming@wur.nl)

### Upcoming events:

15-16 September	SusCrop mid-term meeting, Denmark ( <i>internal meeting</i> )
22-24 September	European Research and Innovation Days, virtual
6 October	ERA-NET Cofund Monitoring & Reporting webinar, virtual
21 October	BANOS Final Forum, Berlin
11-12 November	JPI Urban Europe Policy Conference 2020, Brussels
17 November	ForestValue Annual Research Programme Seminar, Berlin
17-18 November	Water JPI 3 <sup>rd</sup> Annual International Conference, Mülheim an der Ruhr
October (date t.b.d.)	2 <sup>nd</sup> Biotech HUB meeting ( <i>postponed from May to October</i> )
Autumn	FACCE-JPI 10 Year Anniversary Event
Autumn	SusAn Early Career Research seminar - <i>postponed</i>
2021	FACCE ERA-GAS Stakeholder Event and final Research Programme Meeting - <i>postponed</i>
2021	HDHL international conference - <i>postponed</i>

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## Joint Programming officers at Wageningen University & Research:



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Ideas for the website or the newsletter? | Suggestions for news items? | Questions about joint programming?

Do not hesitate to contact us:



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