

## Joint Programming Newsletter 14 October 2019

**Incl. new ERA-NET on infectious animal diseases on its way, celebrating 15 years in joint organic research and microbiomes in the spotlight at the European R&I days**

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# JointProgramming.nl

*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, six Article 185 initiatives, ten Joint Programming Initiatives (JPIs), and five 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 14 October 2019*

## 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, the International Bioeconomy Forum and other research programming initiatives. Furthermore, we established a platform of bioeconomy ERA-NET Actions, support the EU Standing Committee on Agricultural Research (SCAR) to increase visibility and European policy impact, 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: What microbiomes mean for healthy people and environments

Did you recently spot the commercial about a shower gel that is 'friendly for the microbiome on your skin'? Maybe you wondered what is meant with microbiome. Microbiomes are defined as the community of microorganisms (e.g. bacteria and fungi) in a given environment and how their activity influences the environment they are living in. As - we humans - contain more microorganisms than cells in and on our bodies, the microbiomes we encounter through eating our food and using (cosmetic) products, are important for our health.

At the recently held Research and Innovation (R&I) days, organized by the European Commission, it became clear that microbiomes are more and more considered important for human health and the environment we are living in. However, the research landscape that studies microbiomes is fragmented. This made me aware that the work we are currently doing, is really needed. In collaboration with other partners from the MicrobiomeSupport consortium, we are currently coordinating a global mapping exercise. We seek to understand the current research landscape for microbiome research in food systems and other environments, including human health. The MicrobiomeSupport consortium involves 20 European partners and 9 international partners and supports the working group 'Food Systems Microbiome' of the International Bioeconomy Forum. The results of the mapping exercise will set a basis for international R&I agendas for microbiome research in food systems, which may lead to joint transnational research.

After the R&I days, there were several questions that remained on my mind. Which microbiome environments are actually connected to each other? For example, can a soil microbiome influence human health via the food it produces? In addition, can the diversity in the food of farm animals influence human health? And I also left with the question how microbiomes are involved in solutions for problems that arise due to the climate and biodiversity crises. For example, microbiomes in soil are in connection with agricultural crops and may influence the response of crops to climate change perturbations. In addition, the diversity of the soil microbiome is influenced by the diversity of plants growing in the soil and also influence the growth of plant species via antagonistic or beneficial interactions. After the global mapping exercise, I hope to get more insight into the interconnectedness of disciplines that study microbiomes and how research on these microbiomes could contribute to tackle the current societal challenges.



Annelein Meisner  
Policy officer Strategy & Research

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## News

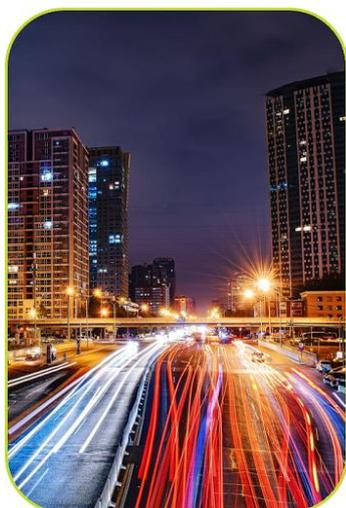
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### **The future of Cultural Heritage – a new partnership proposed**

The Joint Programming Initiative on Cultural Heritage and the Time Machine network have signed and published a joint statement for a Research and Innovation Partnership under Horizon Europe that will promote the future of our Cultural Heritage. In the statement, both advocate their alliance as combining a strong top-down commitment of Member States with a bottom-up initiative from the key actors in the European cultural heritage landscape. The proposed pan-European partnership would be well-suited to address grand scientific and technological challenges in social sciences and humanities, natural sciences, ICT and artificial intelligence for the big data of the past.

[Read more](#)



### **Consultation for upcoming joint research on ‘Urban Accessibility and Connectivity’ open**

JPI Urban Europe has opened an online consultation to refine the preliminary version of the text for an upcoming call, to be launched in December 2019. This new call will be launched under a new ERA-NET Cofund on ‘Accessibility and Connectivity’. The JPI invites stakeholders to respond to this open consultation on the call topics. At present, 21 national research and innovation funding agencies from 16 European countries (mainly members of JPI Urban Europe), have earmarked a global budget of about EUR 25 million, including co-funding of the European Commission. The consultation is available until the 23<sup>rd</sup> of October 2019.

[Read more](#)



### **JPI HDHL at the World Food Day High-Level event in Brussels**

World Food Day is celebrated every year around the world on the 16th of October, to raise awareness -and action- for those who suffer from hunger, and to stress the need to ensure healthy diets for all. The chair of the Joint Programming Initiative on ‘Healthy Diets, Healthy Life’ (HDHL); Martijntje Bakker, will be speaking at the *World Food Day 2019 - High Level Event*, organised by the European Commission as part of EU research and innovation policy *FOOD 2030*. The event can be followed online as it will be live-streamed.

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## 15 years of joint forces in organic research!

The ERA-NET CORE Organic celebrates its 15 Years Anniversary. Established in 2004, the network on transnational research in organic food and farming systems presently includes 27 European ministries and research councils. By joining the forces, the network supports focused and coordinated research and innovation efforts, covering the most important challenges along the organic value chains, including regulations for organic products. In 15 years' time, the partners have launched 7 transnational calls with 45 projects funded for around EUR 48 million.

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## MicrobiomeSupport exhibited at the Research and Innovation Days

As part of the European Research and Innovation Days, a specific science exhibition highlighted a number of research areas. The MicrobiomeSupport initiative and four specific projects showcased how microbiome research could be brought to the attention of the public at large. MicrobiomeSupport aims to be a key driver to implement FOOD 2030 strategies. It will facilitate multi-actor engagement to align, structure and boost research and innovation in the microbiome field and support the European Commission by coordinating the activities of the International Bioeconomy Forum working group 'Food Systems Microbiome'.

[Read more](#)

## Joint Research



## New ERA-NET on infectious animal diseases on its way

A new ERA-NET in the area of *international coordination of research on infectious animal diseases* is on its way. ICRAD brings together 28 interested funding parties from 19 countries, including 4 non-EU countries. Animal health is a key element to guarantee food safety and security, by means of competitive and sustainable livestock systems. Collaborations at the European and international levels are important for fighting infectious animal diseases, both in safeguarding human health and international trade. For the upcoming call, the network has a funding commitment of nearly EUR 24 million, including European Commission co-funding. The call pre-announcement is expected this month.

[Read more](#)



## Dutch researchers involved in joint research on GHG emission reduction

The three ERA-NETs FACCE ERA-GAS, SusAn and ICT-AGRI 2, launched a joint call for research in 2018 on '*Novel technologies, solutions and systems to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in animal production systems*'. It has resulted in new research projects. The Netherlands' funding agency NWO announced that in two of them, Dutch researchers from Wageningen University and Research are involved. Their projects will focus on a new method for estimating CH<sub>4</sub> emissions from manure, and on developing climate smart cattle farming systems reducing GHG and ammonia emissions.

[Read more](#)



## New cutting edge research on microplastics in the ocean

Five projects are selected for funding to conduct research on sources of microplastics, methods for identifying smaller micro- and (nano-) plastics and monitoring their circulation in marine systems and their effects thereon. This is the result of a joint call between twelve JPI Oceans member countries and Brazil. The total budget of the five projects is EUR 12.3 million with a requested part of EUR 8.4 million. Researchers from the United Kingdom, Canada and the Netherlands are participating with their own resources. The projects are expected to start in spring of 2020, and a joint kick off meeting will be organized early May 2020 in Oslo.

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## Calls open for submission

- [SUSFOOD2 and CORE Organic Cofund joint call](#) - closing date pre-proposals: **4 November 2019**
- [BiodivERsA 'Biodiversity and Climate Change' call](#) - closing date pre-proposals: **5 November 2019**

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## Upcoming Activities

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### AXIS projects Kick off meeting in November

The research projects funded through the ERA-NET AXIS (Assessment of Cross(X) - sectoral climate Impacts and pathways for Sustainable transformation), will hold their Kick off meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> of November in Brussels. AXIS aims to promote cross-boundary, cross-community research with the overall goal to improve coherence, integration and robustness of climate impact research and connect it to societal needs. The 2018 call on 'Climate impacts and pathways for sustainable transformation', had an indicative budget of EUR 15-17 million. Dutch researchers participate in six of the ten selected projects.

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### BBI JU Stakeholder Forum 2019

On 4 December, the Biobased Industries Joint Undertaking (BBI JU) will hold their Stakeholder Forum in Brussels. The one-day public event will bring together the bio-based industries community and facilitate open discussion on the impact, achievements and strategic direction of the Bio-based Industries Joint Undertaking (BBI JU) programme, as well as the latest developments in the bio-based industries sector. All stakeholders from the community are invited to join. Registration is possible until the 25<sup>th</sup> of November.

[Read more](#)

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## 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](mailto:jointprogramming@wur.nl)

[To the events calendar](#)

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### Upcoming events 2019:

16 Oct.	World Food Day livestream, morning: <i>European Bioeconomy: Regions, Cities and Civil Society</i> , afternoon: <i>FOOD 2030: Nourishing people and nurturing the planet through sustainable healthy diets for all</i>
22-23 Oct.	Water JPI Experts Workshop, Dublin
30 Oct.	JPI MYBL 'Demographic change, equality and wellbeing' Conference, Helsinki
5-6 Nov.	AXIS projects' kick-off meeting, Brussels
4 Dec.	BBI-JU Stakeholder Forum, Brussels

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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?

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