



FACCE – JPI position on its interactions with the European Commission in Horizon 2020

Following the JPI conference held in Dublin on February 28 – March 1, FACCE- JPI hereby summarises its position on its future interactions with the European Commission in Horizon 2020.

We strongly welcome the emphasis given to JPIs as actors in Horizon 2020 and in the building of the European Research Area. We are pleased that European Commission intends to support JPIs in aligning national research programmes and in implementation of their Strategic Research Agendas (SRA) as described by Commissioner Geoghegan-Quinn. Building on the strong and fruitful relationship with the Commission, we intend to continue this positive interaction for Horizon 2020 and initiate a dialogue across all aspects of H2020 and also within the EIP on Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability and the Bioeconomy strategy. With H2020 we see opportunities to create new positive ways of working.

FACCE – JPI launched its Strategic Research Agenda (SRA) on December 5, 2012. The SRA describes the 5 core research themes of the JPI as well as short-, medium- and long-term priorities. To go to the next step, FACCE – JPI is now elaborating its first Implementation Plan for 2013 – 2015 based on the short- to medium-term priorities set out in the SRA.

The Implementation Plan will serve as a key support document for the future activities of FACCE – JPI: on the one hand, the alignment of national programmes and on the other hand, the interaction with the European Commission on Horizon 2020.

Based on our work on alignment, FACCE – JPI foresees 4 different categories of research areas:

- 1- Topics where there is a lot of activity already funded in each country: therefore these are current priority areas where networking and alignment of national projects and programmes can be readily achieved through knowledge hubs and other means.

FACCE JPI is now developing a detailed methodology dealing with the first category (process and toolbox).

- 2- Topics in which only a smaller number of countries have active national research projects: therefore these are priority areas for focused alignment, or the need for capacity building in some countries.

- 3- Emerging topics, which will require new approaches such as ideas laboratories/sand pits or creative workshops.
- 4- Priority topics where there are few/insufficient national projects and programmes. These are priority areas to stimulate new research projects and programmes. This could be done through a variety of approaches, e.g. new joint calls between JPI member countries, joint calls with existing ERA-Nets, new topics introduced into H2020 work programmes (e.g. new project topics, new ERA-NETS...) or through our own proposed ERA-NET + if successful.

The former three will be areas for alignment of national programmes while the latter will be the basis for our dialogue with the European Commission for implementation through Horizon 2020. In the implementation of the SRA, FACCE – JPI sees a particular role for existing and new ERA-NETS. This is because ERA-NETS are seen as one important way to achieve implementation.

ERA-NETS are particularly important for FACCE – JPI as it is the only JPI with a large number of thematically related ERA-NETS (20 at the beginning of Horizon 2020). Three different options exist for using ERA-NETS to achieve implementation.

- If an existing ERA-NET already addresses one of the FACCE-JPI SRA short-term research priorities, FACCE – JPI will explore if implementation can be achieved through this ERA-NET.
- If there is no ERA-NET already in existence for a research need clearly identified as an urgent priority in the SRA, FACCE – JPI would propose an ERA-NET to the Commission and be responsible for developing the proposal and coordinating the ERA-NET.
- For research areas where coordination between countries is less mature and where an increase in coordination would be beneficial, FACCE – JPI could highlight this to the SCAR and a SCAR CWG could be formed to explore an area including the possibility of new ERA-NET.

To contribute to the implementation of the SRA, the overall aim of FACCE would be to have a maximum of approximately 5-7 ERA-NETS, which have been identified as priority areas for coordination by countries, under the responsibility of FACCE – JPI over the duration of Horizon 2020. These ERA-NETS would share governance structures and mechanisms thus minimizing administrative costs. Top-up research funding from the Commission would be used efficiently to increase research funding. This approach will lead to an efficient means of addressing the SRA and building the ERA.

Consequently, for the FACCE – JPI Secretariat to undertake the coordination of both alignment of national programming and the organisation of ERA-NET calls, the JPI welcomes the possibility of financial support under Horizon 2020, in the form of a CSA, which will cover these two aspects of coordination. A single overall CSA would deliver efficiency savings both at European Commission and national level.

FACCE – JPI Secretariat

March 4, 2013

ANNEX 1. FACCE-JPI achievements and next steps

The FACCE JPI Strategic Research Agenda (based on 5 scientific core themes) was published on December 5.

We have already started implementation through joint actions:

- In April 2012 FACCE-JPI member countries have contributed € 15 million to align ongoing national modeling efforts of 65 groups across 17 countries through a Knowledge Hub (research, building capacities and coordination) on “A detailed climate change risk assessment for European agriculture and food security”. Additional modeling efforts and participation are foreseen by more countries in the future.
- Launch in January 2013 of an international call on climate change mitigation, involving 11 JPI countries (7million euros in new money) plus the USA, Canada and New Zealand (short term action core theme 5).
- Response to the topic of the European Commission for an ERA-NET Plus: 18 JPI countries will participate in the proposed ERA-NET Plus on “Climate smart agriculture: adaptation of agricultural systems in Europe”. The estimated budget from the JPI members exceeds 14 million euros (core theme 4).
- Preparation of common calls with the ERA-NETs BiodivERsA (core theme 3).
- Preparation of an international call on food security and land use change with the Belmont Forum to be launched in April 2013 (core theme 1) ...

We are planning additional future activities through Working Groups (GB members, with the support of the Secretariat):

- Alignment of national programmes. A Working Group is developing a methodology for alignment.
- As suggested by the Commission at our last Governing Board meeting, we seek a role for FACCE-JPI in the process of identifying and delivering new ERA-NETs under H2020. A working group of the Governing Board met on February 12, 2013 and their conclusions are reflected in the section above.

