In Europe, as well as globally, we face a number of societal challenges that no country or region can tackle alone. Addressing these so-called Grand Societal Challenges efficiently and effectively will require combined efforts and new ways of collaboration between countries.

In this context, the European Commission introduced Joint Programming Initiatives (JPIs) to the European Parliament and the Council of European Union in 2008. It is one of the priorities for implementing the European Research Area (ERA). JPIs are an intergovernmental process enabling European Member States and associated and third countries to participate in joint research programming activities that are strategically important and offer synergies. The objective is to better align the 5% per cent of research and innovation investments spent at national level. Member Countries participating in Joint Programming are expected to engage in concerted and joint research programming activities that are strategically important and offer synergies. The objective is to better align their portfolios not simply for funding research and innovation but also for delivering impact, improving efficiency of these portfolios not simply for funding research and innovation but also for delivering impact, improving efficiency of these programmes by taking advantage of national programmes, programmes by taking advantage of national programmes, extending their implementation measures and instruments to meet the needs of the respective research and innovation areas.

Joint Programming Initiative (JPI) were launched in the major research and development (R&D) fields. The alignment process (Fig 2) covers various phases, from setting joint objectives and finding a common vision concerning innovative solutions to define common priorities. This process is expected to engage in concerted and joint research programming activities that are strategically important and offer synergies. The objective is to better align their portfolios not simply for funding research and innovation but also for delivering impact, improving efficiency of these programmes by taking advantage of national programmes, extending their implementation measures and instruments to meet the needs of the respective research and innovation areas.

JOINT PROGRAMMING INITIATIVES

WHAT ARE JOINT PROGRAMMING INITIATIVES?

In recent years, the focus has been on developing and extending their implementation measures and instruments to fit the needs of the respective research and innovation areas.

The ten JPIs have regular exchanges and engage in mutual learning on areas of common interest, both thematically and operationally.

JOINT PROGRAMMING INITIATIVES – THE WAY FORWARD

For JPIs to become European hubs on a global scale for their respective societal challenges demands national commitment and transnational, European collaboration efforts. It requires policy, strategic and operational alignment not only among partner countries but also among various policy fields at the national level as well as between JPIs and European Commission activities, eg, the European Research Framework.
JPIs are building and maintaining communities – this is a long-term approach.

New forms of long-term collaboration between local, regional, national and European policy makers and actors that reduce fragmentation and increase the impact of national RD&I investments:
• Fostering and testing innovative approaches and science-policy investments: this needs a long-term approach.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATING IN JPIs?

Raising visibility of European competences and achievements on global societal priorities to benefit from differing countries;

Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda: These are essential in defining the common agenda and joint actions. They summarize the main ambition of JPIs, defining research and innovation priorities and guiding selection and development of implementation measures.

Joint Calls: Established by the JPIs, these are guided by the priorities of the Research and Innovation Agenda. For each of the calls, funding agencies individually decide their involvement and the budgets they commit, depending on their national priorities and pragmatic considerations.

Knowledge Hub: A “Knowledge Hub” is an innovative, tailor-made instrument, uniting complementary dimensions, networking, research and capacity building.

Data mapping: This provides scientists and policymakers with relevant data for evidence-based decision-making. Data mapping also helps inform development of the JPI’s Strategic Research Agenda. A call or research proposal that will follow from them. They identify relevant projects, helping individuals projects avoid repeating work and ensuring that research proposal remain well informed about possible data sources.

Joint Actions for research-performing organisations: These portfolios include joint actions for science and technology, aligned or shared infrastructure, projects that are building and maintaining communities.

Advised by shared infrastructure: Aligned or shared infrastructure in the JPI aim to provide scientific evidence for policy makers. This involves translating research results into policy recommendations, engaging external stakeholders to address the growing societal challenges and jointly developing policy measures.

Stakeholder involvement: Setting up a long-term research and innovation programme on societal challenges requires not only funding research and innovation projects but also strong stakeholder involvement. Appropriate models for involving stakeholders that recognize the complexity of the JPI priorities need to be established along the entire knowledge and innovation chain.

Programme management: Programme management covers a variety of actions for exploiting project results more effectively, strategic analysis of projects, generating added value for follow-up actions through results and data as well as supporting the RI community in building new partnerships and cooperation.

Advisory boards: Each JPI has developed its own governance structure according to the specific needs of the chosen challenge and research area. However, all share a common understanding of the main principles of JPI governance models (Fig. 4). Some have developed governance principles for sustainability, stakeholder involvement, and evaluating JPIs as a part of national RRI strategies.

Fig 1: JPI portfolio of instruments along the innovation policy cycle

Fig 2: JPI governance models