

ERAC-GPC 1301/15

NOTE

Subject: Mandates for GPC Implementation Groups (IG)

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The GPC Implementation Groups (IG) shall have the objective to advise the GPC on the practical implementation of the recommendations provided for by the GPC ad hoc Working Groups (WG) on: Alignment; GPC and JPIs; Framework Conditions; Measuring JPIs Progress and Impact. Furthermore they shall, on request of the GPC, take effective action in implementing those recommendations.

The IGs shall be set up for a maximum period of 1 year starting in February 2015 and can be extended for equal period upon approval of the GPC Plenary.

The GPC Rules of Procedures shall be applicable to the IGs. The IGs are free to invite representatives of JPIs, stakeholder organisation or other experts to collaborate.

The GPC Vice-Chair will, together with the Chair, the IG Rapporteurs, the Commission representative and the General Secretariat, ensure an appropriate coordination of the work of the IGs.

1. IG “Fostering and Mentoring JPIs”

General Description:

The IG “Fostering and Mentoring JPIs” shall build on the key recommendations of the WG on “Framework Conditions” and “GPC and JPIs” and oversee their implementation. It shall focus on the cooperation between the different stakeholders (JPI, Member States (MS)/Associated Countries (AC), GPC and EC and on the implementation of Framework Conditions. This shall include supporting the JPIs in implementing the full Joint programming cycle, including those issues that have not received sufficient attention so far, such as use of knowledge, knowledge transfer or innovation. While respecting the specificities of the different challenges and different methods of implementation, the guiding principle shall be that JPIs are part of an overall Joint Programming Process (JPP) and have been tasked by the Council with a well-defined mission.

Due to its crosscutting nature the IG shall liaise with the other IGs to ensure consistency in relation to identified steps to be taken and avoid duplication

Work Package 1: Implementation of WG Recommendations

Milestone 1: The IG shall consider the WG Reports on “Framework Conditions” and “GPC and JPIs” and identify for the GPC the practical steps to be taken and by whom, in order to implement as much as possible their recommendations;

Milestone 2: To advise the GPC the order and timing by which the recommendations should be implemented, taking into account any necessary sequencing of implementation steps (including in relation to other IGs to ensure a coherent choreography);

Work Package 2: Establishing a forum for exchange of information/and coordination between JPIs and between JPIs/GPC/European stakeholders

Many of the difficulties and challenges JPIs are facing are similar. An institutionalised forum shall help to communicate problems, possible solutions/best practices, need for support, and in general make the JPP more transparent. The forum shall mainly work by electronic means and meet when necessary. Meetings should be organized back to back with meetings of other fora or events as much as possible. It shall be chaired by a representative (Chair) of a JPI. The IG will define further details.

Milestone 1: The IG shall ensure that such a forum will be established together with the JPIs and the EC, involving the ERA Learn 2020 project.

Milestone 2: The IG shall represent the GPC in the forum and make the necessary initiatives on behalf of the GPC plenary.

Work Package 3: Advancement of implementation of Framework Conditions

While JPIs should in principle be free with choosing the methods for implementation the WG shall focus on areas which did not get sufficient attention so far and areas where JPIs could work together in finding solutions to common problems/ challenges. Work shall be done in close collaboration with the JPIs and using i.a. the ERA-Learn 2020 project to deliver support to the JPIs.

Milestone 1: The IG shall identify, together with the JPIs, which areas need increased attention and in which areas collaboration/common approaches are useful and where support can be given through the ERA-Learn 2020 Project or other means.

Milestone 2: On the basis of Milestone 1 the IG shall work on concrete steps to advance the Implementation of Framework Conditions

2. IG “Alignment and Improving Interoperability”

General Description:

The IG “Alignment and Improving Interoperability” shall build on the key recommendations of the WGs “Alignment” and “Framework Conditions”. It shall focus on the advancement of Alignment in the context of Joint Programming as defined by the Alignment WG as well as on improving the interoperability of national and European programmes and activities.

Work Package 1: Advancement of Alignment in the context of Joint Programming

Important WG recommendations to be implemented:

1. MS should clarify their efforts to reach national commitment and a coordinated approach for institutional and project-based funding.
2. Although a national top-down programme/strategy may facilitate alignment, it is essential to develop systems that promote alignment also when systems are based on a bottom-up approach.
3. JPIs should look into aligning all actions spanning the programming cycle: from joint foresight, development of the SRA to joint processes of research practices, funding, implementation and ex-post evaluation
4. Good practices of alignment should be further developed and eventually become best practices, shared among JPIs and promoted throughout Member States
5. JPIs should become platforms for strategic programming and foresight for Member States working jointly together according to the identified good practices for alignment.
6. The European Commission should facilitate the process of alignment in Joint Programming by mapping, monitoring and evaluating the synergetic actions taken in the domains of societal challenges

The Alignment of national and European strategies and research programmes with Strategic Research Agendas developed within JPIs must be pro-actively supported. Ministries and funding organisations from MS/AC must participate actively in the alignment process and must take transnational collaboration into account when planning and implementing of research strategies and programmes. In addition the EC must take the JPP and initiatives into account when designing and implementing strategies and programmes; the Framework Programmes are a major element in funding research on societal challenges in Europe and therefore must be part of the alignment process.

Milestone 1: Develop strategies, instruments and methods to boost alignment both from both the JPI and the MS side with input from JPIs, MS, the EC and other stakeholders.

Milestone 2: Implementing the instruments and methods to boost Alignment which have been developed together with JPIs, MS, the EC and other stakeholders

Work Package 2: Improving the interoperability of national and European programmes and activities

WG recommendation to be implemented:

- The degree of divergence of rules and procedures for funding R&I throughout MS and AC is such that it considerably impedes transnational collaboration in the ERA. The WG therefore calls for steps towards simplification of these rules and procedures, and for developing common guidelines on terminology, rules and procedures for R&I funding, to be applied throughout the ERA on all levels on a voluntary basis. The Horizon 2020 funding rules could be used as a basis for the discussion on such common guidelines.

The divergence of terminology, rules and procedures for funding R&I throughout MS and AC is a considerable obstacle for Joint Programming and for transnational collaboration in the ERA in general. To spur the interoperability of national research systems, programmes and activities concrete steps need to be implemented.

Milestone 1: Develop options for reducing the divergence of terminology, rules and procedures to be proposed to the Council

Milestone 2: Initiate/Support/Facilitate the implementation of options selected by the Council

3. IG “Monitoring JPIs”

General Description:

The whole idea of Joint Programming was developed with the aim of impacting on major challenges which cannot be realistically and successfully tackled at single-country level. Now, when several years elapsed since the process was launched and the 10 JPIs are operational since 3 to 5 years, a monitoring process has to be set up in order to ‘measure’ the impact that each JPI, that the GPC, and that the JPP as a whole had on the selected challenges. Obviously, the output of the other two IGs represent the main source of input to the IG “Monitoring”, but other sources (e.g. the To-Cowork Project, the ERA-Learn, various sets of statistics and databases), including the work done by the previous WG on “measuring JPI’s progress and impact”, will be considered. As a result of the monitoring activity, a set of minimum conditions for JPIs to be used both for possible new JPIs, as well as for the assessment of existing JPIs will be established, as recommended by the WG on Framework Conditions.

Work Package 1: JPI assessment

Important WG recommendations to be implemented:

WG recommendation to be implemented:

- The purpose of the self-assessment as well as of the Evaluation foreseen in 2015 is not to undertake a ranking of JPIs, but to assess the success of all JPIs and their development in respect to the Visions that were presented to the GPC for their initial selection, their strategies and to the Council Conclusions which launched them.

The EC will commission an assessment of the 10 JPIs. This assessment will be crucial for the continuation of the JPP. It is therefore important that the GPC is involved in the preparation of the Assessment. The IG “Monitoring JPIs” shall act on behalf of the GPC.

Milestone 1: Contributing to the preparation of the JPI assessment

Milestone 2: Monitoring the JPI assessment and intervene if and where necessary

Work Package 2: Evaluation for performance and impact of JPIs and the JPP

Milestone 1: Propose to the GPC a form to measure the performance and impact of JPIs and the JPP

Milestone 2: Set up the evaluation of the performance and impact of JPIs and the JPP together with the Commission

Work Package 3: Development of Minimum Conditions for JPIs

The WG on Framework Conditions recommended the establishment of minimum conditions for JPIs to be used both for possible new JPIs, as well as for the assessment of existing JPIs. While leaving the methods for the implementation of Framework Conditions up to the JPIs, certain elements of the Framework Conditions need to be implemented in order to qualify as a JPI.

Milestone 1: Establishment of a set of Minimum Conditions to be proposed to the GPC for discussion and adoption.
