

**Statement of the 10 Chairs of Joint Programming Initiatives, April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016, subsequent to the Final Report of the Expert Group on “Evaluation of Joint Programming to Address Grand Societal Challenges”**

*In 2015, the European Commission asked an expert group to assess the progress made by the 10 JPIs currently running and to compare them to 4 other “mature” P2P initiatives. The report was published in March 2016. The 10 JPI Chairs welcome this evaluation and thank the Commission and the Evaluation Committee for their work. The JPIs see this report as an opportunity to take stock of current strengths and weaknesses and to work over the next few months internally, within the JPIs, across JPIs and with the European Commission and the GPC to accelerate the development and ability of the European Research Area to tackle grand challenges, including the affirmation of the JPIs’ role as an essential and effective strategic mechanism in the process.*

*Having considered the report and experience of the JPIs to date, the Chairs of the 10 JPIs recognise that beyond the considerable progress<sup>1</sup> accomplished, barriers still exist which need to be removed in order to have the necessary elements in place to deliver impact on the respective societal challenges. JPIs are the strategic hubs for Joint Programming on Grand Societal Challenges in Europe and by bringing together national and European level funding organisations to develop shared strategies they are essential actors in the creation of the European Research Area. JPIs should not be seen as a funding instrument alone – but as strategic platforms for alignment in the broader sense, using different instruments and other innovative approaches to achieving their strategic goals, in conjunction with the Commission’s tools. The report shows opportunities in the high leveraging effect which the Commission instruments have achieved in “maturing” the JPIs and P2Ps when partnering with them.*

*The JPI chairs believe that inter-comparisons between the JPIs, on the basis of this evaluation report, should not be used to judge their progress as they differ in complexity, maturity and scope. However the JPIs face many common issues. The JPI chairs recognise the need to work collectively to address the challenges identified in the evaluation.*

*The timing of the report is particularly important in view of the preparation for the next framework programme. In this regard, the JPI Chairs would welcome the opportunity for a formal dialogue with the EC to discuss thematic priorities and to provide insight and reflection on instruments, frameworks for cooperation, and the role of JPIs in achieving the European goals. Such a dialogue between the EC and the JPIs would provide a more strategic approach to the development of the ERA.*

**Building on the evaluation and the statement made by JPI Chairs for the “Lund Revisited” conference, December 4th, 2015, the 10 JPI Chairs<sup>2</sup> JPIs will:**

- Strive to increase the political commitment of MS, as well as increase the commitment and cooperation within and between all the MS and associated countries, whatever their date of arrival in the EU. However this can only be achieved through collaboration and cooperation with the GPC and ERAC, the Member States and other relevant bodies;
- Contribute collectively to the coherent elaboration of national ERA roadmaps and to the next framework programme to address as efficiently as possible societal challenges;
- Improve national coordination structures to involve all relevant stakeholders (Ministries, Research Funding Organisations, Research Performing Organisations, Universities, GPC representatives...);
- Strive toward better consideration of innovation and impact in all activities, taking a more proactive role in engaging end-users as well as policymakers, in order to bring sustainable solutions to the societal challenges and support evidence-based policy making;

<sup>1</sup> incl. planning, strategy, internal national alignment, funding, programme, alliance, network, evaluation, reporting, training, infrastructure, dissemination, impact

<sup>2</sup> Ph. Amouyel, P. Byrne, N. Goetke, M. Héral, C. Montgomery, A.P. Recchia, E. Beem, I. Schaedler, M. Ulfendahl, P. Monfray

- Provide baselines and scales for measuring the whole JPI alignment process;
- Recalling the substantial Commission instruments' leveraging effect, strengthen, simplify and shorten interactions between EC and all the JPIs to enable the development and the maintenance of a sustainable partnership. In this regard, the JPI Chairs would welcome further dialogue with the EC to explore the implementation of the recommendations contained in the expert report;
- Seek to maximise efficiency in operational aspects of joint programming;
- Motivate national key actors with a sufficient level of representativeness to accelerate the decision making process;
- Strengthen cross-JPI interactions to better share knowledge, methodologies, best practices, taking into account and working together with the GPC, the SFIC, the ERAC, the EC, and the ERA-LEARN 2020;
- Develop European synergies for knowledge-based solutions and policies, where relevant, with EC Directorates-General beyond Research, Science & Innovation and with others European initiatives, as well as with European Council and Parliament;
- Favour international opening of JPIs, because societal grand challenges are Global.