

Joint Programming Initiatives (JPIs)

0. HISTORY

In 2008, Joint Programming was launched by the European Commission as part of the European Research Area (ERA). It consists of a research and innovation policy concept driven by societal challenges. It aims at making better use of Europe's public research and development resources by pooling national research efforts. The goal is to tackle more effectively common European challenges that cannot be solved solely on the national level.

1. WHAT IS IT (ABOUT)?

Joint Programming Initiatives (JPIs) join both committed Member States and Associated Countries in order to develop and implement a joint Strategic Research Agenda. JPIs are linked to the European Societal Challenges. Through the alignment of national research programmes and funding, JPIs aim at bringing more focus. The Societal Challenges are considered topics in key areas too vast for one country to tackle solely. Consequently, the pooling of national resources should allow larger capacity for research and innovation. The participating Member States are the main funders of the Joint Programming Initiatives. The European Commission supports the establishment of organisational structures for specific initiatives in the form of Coordination and Support Actions ([CSA](#)).

JPI actions are voluntary, with a variable geometry basis – which implies that for each activity the set of participating countries can vary. This allows Member States to participate in line with their own national priorities. Actions implemented by JPIs can range from the organisation of joint calls to the establishment of an ERA-NET Cofund. As a result, JPI actions do not automatically or necessarily result in short-term research funding, whereas ERA-NET Cofunds have to put in place at least one compulsory research Call (for more information on ERANET, see leaflet on ERANET).

Joint foresight exercises allow the [High Level Group for Joint Programming \(GPC\)](#) members to identify priorities in specific areas or themes, which form the basis of JPIs. Final decisions are always taken on Council level. Important steps in the life cycle of a JPI are the agreement on a common vision and the establishment of a common Strategic Research (and Innovation) Agenda ([SRA](#), [SRIA](#)). Other steps relate to the implementation, monitoring and evaluation. The JPIs aim at aligning the national/regional research and innovation strategies with Joint (European) priorities as expressed in the SRA or SRIA, improving interoperability of national/regional instruments, and impacting on the national and European R&D&I systems and societal challenges.

2. WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

Calls for proposals are open to international consortia of researchers and research groups from academic and other organisations that have a strong focus on research. As JPIs get funding through a CSA from the beginning, it is important to join a JPI from the start. Consortia must include partners from countries participating in the call. Member States as well as Associated Countries can join the JPI. Specific eligibility criteria are provided in each JPI/call.

JPIs are based on member state driven activity.

Membership of a JPI is situated on country level. Both Member States and Associated countries can join the governing board of a JPI, which is the decision-making body for all matters concerning the JPI. Besides this, working groups within a JPI are responsible for developing

specific topics including an implementation strategy. The WGs consist of members of the governing board or their appointed representatives. The countries participating in the JPI sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and appoint the members of the governing board. In case the Belgian participation in the JPI does not involve the Federal level, an agreement is concluded between the participating entity or entities (on Community or Regional level) and the Federal level. The engagements of the different Belgian parties (contributions, representations ...) are to be stipulated in this agreement. As a consequence, Belgian participation in a call is possible if one of the Belgian governmental levels participates in the JPI. Until 2016, the BRAIN-be programme of BELSPO made it possible to participate in a JPI's call for proposals, according to the priorities of the thematic axes within this programme. In JPIs where one of the regional levels participates for the whole of Belgium, participants on the federal level (such as the Federal Scientific Institutes) can only obtain reimbursements for travel and lodging expenses.

To propose a new JPI, the participation of five interested countries is needed. At least fifteen interested countries (excluding observers) commit themselves to the new JPI or to the continuation of an existing JPI.

More information on the proposition of new JPIs can be obtained by contacting Lieve Van Daele (lieve.vandaele@belspo.be) or Frank Monteny (frank.monteny@belspo.be).

3. WHY PARTICIPATE (return)?

- JPIs foster cooperation with transnational partners in common and flexible initiatives
- They provide financing possibilities through ERANET / CSAs
- High quality of research through peer review and increased visibility of the organisation
- Participating in a JPI avoids duplication of research and improves the dissemination of results
- Better pooling of data and expertise
- Promoting cross-border mobility
- JPIs help overcome high start-up and operating costs and reduce costs for programme management
- Within the framework of a European team, you decide about the research themes for now and the future.

4. HOW TO APPLY?

If you'd like to know more about the possibility to join a JPI, you can check what are the ongoing JPIs in your domain and whether your country participates. Every partaking country disposes of at least one contact point who acts as a representative member in the JPI. If you are interested to join a JPI, you can contact this person in order to find out how you can participate. For federal institutions it is recommend to first contact the representative of the Federal Government (cf. table below) in order to check what is possible.

5. WHERE TO FIND INFORMATION AND HELP?

Belgian level

JPIs: http://www.belspo.be/belspo/brain-be/international_en.stm

Calls: https://www.belspo.be/belspo/organisation/call_nl.stm (calls for proposals)

<http://www.fwo.be/nl/mandaten-financiering/europese-programmas/jpi/>

<http://www.ncp.frs-fnrs.be/index.php/appels/programmation-conjointe>

European/International level

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/other/index.html>

<https://www.era-learn.eu/network-information/overview-jointcalls>

6. WHERE CAN I FIND BELGIAN PARTICIPANTS AND INSPIRING EXAMPLES?

Examples of Belgian projects financed within JPI through the BRAIN-be programme:

<http://www.belspo.be/belspo/brain-be/docum/BRAIN-be%20selection%20call%202015.pdf>

http://www.belspo.be/belspo/brain-be/themes_1_EcoBioHisto_en.stm (bottom of the page, JPI OCEANS)

http://www.belspo.be/belspo/brain-be/themes_6_Collect_en.stm (bottom of the page, JPI CULTURAL HERITAGE)

ANNEX: list of JPIs in which Belgium participates + contact point(s)

For people to contact on the federal level, see column "Representatives Federal Government"