



BLACK SEA HORIZON



Bi-regional STI Dialogue

*Report on opportunities and barriers to include RTI programmes from
Black Sea countries in COFUND ERA-NETs*

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Abstract	Participation in ERA-NET Cofunds and JPIs constitutes an essential step for a closer cooperation with the European Research Area, which is of particular importance and relevance for the Associated to H2020 countries. The deliverable reports the results of a coherent set of activities to create awareness about the advantages from the participation of non-EU Black Sea countries in ERA-NETs/JPIs and to provide assistance for the promotion of such participation.
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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AC	Associated Countries
ASM	Academy of Science of Moldova
BSH	Black Sea Horizon
CIP	Centre for International Projects
CSA	Cooperation and Supportive Actions
ERA-NETs	European Research Area Networks
ERA-NET Cofund	European Research Area Cofunding Networks
ERA-NET Rus	Coordination of MS/AC S&T programs towards and with Russia
EU	European Union
EU MS/AC	European Union Member States and Associated Countries
FET	Future Emerging Technologies
IncoNet EaP	STI International Cooperation Network for Eastern Partnership Countries
FP7	7th Framework Programme for Research and Development
HSE	National Research University – Higher School of Economics
IEF	State organization “Institute for Economics and Forecasting”, Ukrainian National Academy of Sciences
JPI	Joint Programming Initiative
JPI MYBL	JPI More Years, Better Lives
MON	Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation
NAS RA	National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia
NASU	National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine
NCPs	National Contact Points
P2P	Public to Public partnership
R&I	Research and Innovation
SDF AZE	Science Development Foundation under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan
SRNSFG	Shota Rustaveli National Science Foundation
RFBR	Russian Foundation for Basic Research
STI	Science, Technology and Innovation
WP	Work Programme

1. Executive Summary

Active involvement in ERA-NETs Cofunds¹ & Joint Programming Initiatives (JPIs) constitutes an important element for participation in the ERA, especially for the Associated to H2020 countries but also for other countries in the Black Sea region. In that respect, the Black Sea Horizon project implements activities to promote the inclusion of funding agencies from non-EU Black Sea countries in ERA-NET/JPI schemes, including monitoring of participation and assistance to agencies. The whole activity focussed in particular on ERA-NET/JPI calls under WP 2016-2017 and WP 2018-2019.

The activity included the organization of a dedicated workshop (Baku, 13-14 October 2016) where the advantages from the participation in ERA-NETs/JPIs were presented along with the modalities for participation in ongoing or forthcoming such projects. In a second step, a two-round communication with respective agencies from the non-EU Black Sea countries took place (spring and fall 2017) to identify the specific interests of each country and agency, as well as to promote the participation and assist wherever necessary.

There is common interest to participation in ERA-NETs which is expressed clearly in concrete attempts made by each agency and organisation. While these efforts are continuing, currently the participation to active ERA-NET/JPI networks is rather low: AM (0), AZ (1), GE (1), MD (6), RU (6) and UA (3), with different obstacles and challenges reported by each country:

- Armenia: The concept of Cofund has been received positively by the national stakeholders and funding program owning organisations. Scarcity of funds and complexity of multinational programmes have come forward as the main

¹ ERA-NET Cofund under Horizon 2020 is designed to support public-public partnerships, including joint programming initiatives between Member States, in their preparation, establishment of networking structures, design, implementation and coordination of joint activities as well as Union topping-up of a trans-national call for proposals. It is based on the merger of the former ERA-NET and ERA-NET Plus actions and is implemented by using 'programme co-fund actions'. It allows for programme collaboration in any part of the entire research-innovation cycle. (<https://www.era-learn.eu/manuals-tools/p2p-in-h2020>)

For the sake of clarity, throughout the text `ERA-NET` will be used to refer collectively to ERA-NET Cofunds but also still active ERA-NET and ERA-NET Plus networks.

difficulties for participation. For this reason, currently the bilateral programmes are prioritised by the funding agencies and organisations;

- Georgia: There are well-defined initiatives for a co-ordinated participation in several ERA-NETs. These initiatives are currently set back by the budgetary inflexibility of major agencies;
- Moldova: Moldova is an exemplary case with an increasing trend of participation and targeted activities towards this purpose. The current structural reforms in the public STI organisations/institutions and the regulatory framework may put active participation and maximisation of its benefits under risk of discontinuation;
- Ukraine: There are uncoordinated initiatives at the level of institutions, and currently perspectives for a positive development remain weak. The major obstacle is the ongoing strict financial regulation on the currency transfers which discourages the participation to schemes involving international monetary movements;
- Russia: The ERA-NET instrument is highly appreciated in Russia by the agencies and relevant stakeholders which are already participating in several networks. Especially, the 'ERA.Net RUS Plus' is considered a good instrument for multilateral cooperation with EU as it involves 20 EU/AC and 4 Russian funding agencies/organisations. .

In contrast to the limited participation figures in ERA-NETs and JPIs (with the exception of Russia as mentioned above), the funding agencies and respective ministries in the Black Sea region recognise the advantages from participation in such schemes that were also highlighted throughout the current activity and are summarized here:

- Higher success rates within the ERA-NET Cofund calls compared to H2020 calls (10-15% success);
- No additional budget needed as already existent budgets can be re-allocated to relevant ERA-NET schemes;
- Return of the budget allocated for ERA-NET Cofunds via the participating national researchers;

- Improvement of the administrative performance by acquiring experience and harmonisation with the STI systems of the European Research Area.

The BSH project implemented a coherent set of activities to create awareness about the advantages from the participation in ERA-NETs/JPIs and to provide assistance for the promotion of such participation.

2. Introduction

A key objective of the BSH project is to increase the collaboration of the research communities within the Black Sea region and with researchers in all the other EU MS and countries associated to Horizon 2020. In that context and among other tasks, BSH included a series of activities to create awareness about the advantages and modalities for the participation in ERA-NET Cofunds and JPIs, as well as for promoting such participation through assistance towards the respective funding agencies in the Black Sea region. It should be noted that participation in ERA-NET Cofunds and JPIs constitutes an essential step for a closer cooperation with the ERA, which is of particular importance and relevance for the Associated to H2020 countries.

3. Methodology

Input for this report was received from a dedicated workshop and from a two-round communication exercise with relevant funding agencies, as follows:

Baku Workshop:

The project organised the “*Workshop for the Participation of Non-EU Black Sea and Eastern Partnership Countries in Thematic COFUND ERANETS & JPIs*” (13-14 October 2016; Baku) with the aim to raise awareness towards participation to ERA-NETS/ JPIs. The Workshop provided in-depth insights for policy-makers and stakeholders about the benefits, challenges and obstacles arising from the participation in ERA-NET Cofunds and JPIs, and concluded with advices for a successful involvement in such schemes.

Two-rounds of communication, consultation, coaching (early and fall 2017):

During the first months of 2017 and again in fall 2017, a series of communication, consultation and coaching activities took place targeting non-EU funding agencies in Black Sea. The funding agencies² were contacted in order to inform them about the

² National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia (NAS RA) , Science Development Foundation under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan (SDF AZE), Shota Rustaveli National Science Foundation (SRNSFG), Centre for International Projects (CIP), Russian Foundation for Basic

open calls under H2020 (WP 2016-2017 and WP 2018-2019). In addition, the agencies were asked to express any intentions of participation so that the project could offer specific assistance. The agencies also provided input about the current state of participation in ERA-NETs/JPIs, expectations and recent developments and an overall assessment of the participation in Cofund activities. The communication involved written, skype or telephone contacts between the task leader and the corresponding agency.

The ERA LEARN 2020 project's website (<https://www.era-learn.eu>) was utilised as source for identifying the forthcoming calls in WP 2018-2019 which were cross-checked with the official EC disclaimers. This particular site also provides digital tools for identifying active ERA-NETs/JPIs networks and the current participation of Black Sea region countries.

4. Workshop in Baku with conclusions on opportunities and barriers

The “*Workshop for the Participation of Non-EU Black Sea and Eastern Partnership Countries in Thematic COFUND ERANETs & JPIs*” took place on 13-14 October 2016, in Baku. The meeting was organized by the Centre for Regional & International STI Studies & Support – CeRISS and the Science Development Foundation under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan- SDF AZE.

The workshop aimed to serve both as an informative meeting about ERA-NET/JPI schemes and a networking opportunity between funding agencies of EU Member States and of the Black Sea/EaP region. The workshop involved sessions of exchange of experience between ERA-NET and JPI representatives and funding agencies from the Black Sea and EaP countries; processes and commitments for participation; assessment of perspectives for participation (See Agenda in Annex D).

During the workshop specific challenges and obstacles for the participation of non-EU BS region countries were highlighted:

- Unclear/non-existent national STI priorities or lengthy lists of priorities;
- Lack of culture of co-funding for some organisations might be an obstacle for participation;
- Availability of funding to be committed;
- Staff capabilities and knowledge of the processes within the funding agencies;
- Alignment among different funding agencies within a country can be complicated;
- Strong commitments in multilateral calls could lead to minimal budgets for bilateral cooperation (which, in some instances, might be more productive in terms of output and results);
- Difference amongst the national funding rules, the legal basis and the current internal legislative procedures can challenge the involvement in calls/;
- Expectations of the researchers with regard to the call topics, the percentage of funding, etc.

The workshop concluded with recommendations for a successful involvement of non-EU Black Sea countries to the ERA-NET/JPI schemes. The following recommendations were reported:

- Initial participation as an observer could contribute to the familiarization with the scheme;
- A clear view of national/institutional research capacities is necessary for estimating the “realistic” expectations in calls;
- A Strategy for involvement in P2Ps needs to be developed, associated to long-term commitments,
- A clear definition of the appropriate funding partner is necessary;
- A clear and synergetic internal agreement between relevant organisations and public bodies needs to exist;

- Clear definition of participation criteria should be available;
- Even a small number of participations in calls is a success since they create a certain learning opportunity;
- Several non-EU countries possess considerable experience and knowledge about ERA-NETs/JPI that can be at least partly accessible or shared.

In addition, the discussions during the workshop revealed several advantages the participation in ERA-NETs/JPIs present for the participating countries:

- Success rate within ERA-NET Cofund calls is much higher than within the typical H2020 calls where competition has become too high (10-15% success rates);
- Co-funding from national authorities does not necessarily need an additional budget: already existent budgets dedicated to international cooperation can be partially re-allocated to co-fund relevant ERA-NET schemes;
- In practice and in most of the cases, the funds for ERA-NET Cofund returns back to the national researchers participating in the ERA-NET calls;
- Participation in ERA-NET contributes to the improvement of the administrative performance at the national level by acquiring experience and harmonisation with the STI systems of the European Research Area.

5. Main Findings from the communication exercises with relevant agencies

5.1. First round- early 2017

During the first round of contacts, there were 43 active networks of ERA-NETs and 10 JPIs while the WP 2016-2017 had still 36 ERA-NET Cofund open calls. The following replies were obtained during the first round of communication with agencies and organisations of non-EU countries in the region:

5.1.1. Armenia

Despite the discussions between NAS RA and State Committee of Science for participation in thematic ERA-NETs or JPIs, there is still no distinct intention from NAS RA to join such schemes.

5.1.2. Azerbaijan

No developments have been reported in Azerbaijan.

5.1.3. Georgia

SRNSFG expressed its close interest to participate in such initiatives. However, difficulties exist since the agency is financed directly by the Ministry of Education and Science and therefore uncertainties exist restricting the agency's full-fledged commitment in such multilateral schemes. Nevertheless, in the budget preparation for 2018, SRNSFG will ask for a budget line to be allocated to ERA-NET/JPI schemes. To assist in this task and upon agency's request, the BSH project provided information about amounts allocated by similar organisations in EU for the participation in ERA-NETs/JPIs. This input/insight was to be utilised during the meeting with the Ministry of Education and Science, and SRNSFG International Scientific Board in July 2017.

Regarding other agencies' intentions in Georgia, there has been no further information. The BSH project was encouraged to communicate in particular with the Georgia Innovation and Technology Agency (GITA), which organises award schemes for supporting technology transfer and research commercialization but this initiative did not bring any results.

5.1.4. Moldova

The Centre for International Projects (CIP) reported that the Academy of Sciences of Moldova (ASM) was having internal consultations about the preparation of Letters of Intent for the following JPIs:

- JPI More Years, Better Lives (JPI MYBL);
- JPI Urban Europe;
- JPI Climate.

In addition, following the Workshop in Baku, CIP attended the *JPI MYBL 2016 Rome Conference*³ in order to find out more about the participation options in the respective JPI and discuss further steps. In addition, CIP was invited to participate in a workshop of JPI Urban Europe (Vienna, March 24).

5.1.5. *Ukraine*

The Institute for Economics and Forecasting (IEF) asked the Ministry of Education to consider participation in ERA-NET and JPI schemes. The initial reaction by the Ministry was positive but the formal financial regulations on currency transfers proved extremely discouraging for further steps. The regulations do not easily allow cash transfers to be done with foreigners in case of participation to such schemes. A concrete example has been the *Space Research Institute under NASU and National Space Agency of Ukraine* (SRI) which had a highly negative experience due to this hard regulation within the ERA-PLANET network.

5.1.6. *Russia*

RFBR is well aware of the ERA-NET/JPI's benefits and has been participating in these schemes for some time. The agency was interested in one of the projects represented at the Baku Workshop (JPI Cultural Heritage), but budgetary limitations did not allow any new participation.

The Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation (MON), also represented in the Baku Workshop, has already participating in ERA-NETs (ERA.Net RUS Plus, SUMFOREST) and is generally positive in participating to such schemes. At the time of the communication, MON was planning to take part in ERA.NET RUS Plus 2nd call as well. In addition, MON has a special program to support Russian researchers participating in H2020 and ERA-NETS.

Russia is a particular case within the BS region. It has a specific ERA-NET to cooperate with EU (ERA.Net RUS Plus), which involves approx. 25 funding agencies. This ERA-

³ See <http://www.jp-demographic.eu/news/jpi-mybl-conference>

NET already involves major Russian STI funding agencies (RFBR, FASIE, MON, Ural, Siberian and Far Eastern Branches of Russian Academy of Sciences and approx. 20 EU/AC funders. Such vast representation gives to Russia and EU a good opportunity and instrument for multilateral cooperation through the ERA-NET scheme. Taking into consideration that many "thematic" ERA-NETs/JPIs have lower number of participating countries they often look less attractive to Russian funders, so they prefer to increase the budget in the ERA.Net RUS Plus project (or add specific topics of mutual interest) rather than engaging in other ERA-NETs.

5.2. Second round - Fall 2017

The second round of communications started right after the official announcement of the new calls under the WP 2018-2020 end of October 2017. This WP includes 9 calls in 3 thematic areas with a budget amounting to 99M€ in total for 2018 (See Annex A) plus another 89M€ in 2019 for 4 calls under the Societal Challenges (See Annex B).⁴

In November 2017 there were 94 active ERA-NETs/JPIs networks. Within these networks, the participation of the non-EU BS region countries varies but is generally low: AM (0), AZ (1), GE (1), MD (6), RU (6) and UA (3). More details can be found in Annex C.

The findings of the second round are as follows:

5.2.1. Armenia

Discussions are ongoing with national stakeholders and program owners regarding the participation in ERA-NETs falling under the country's priorities but no concrete steps have been recorded at that stage. Out of these discussions with stakeholder organizations, lack of funds and complexity of multinational programmes have come forward as the main difficulties for participation. While the concept of CO-FUND has

⁴ The data for H2020 WP 2018 and WP 2019 are retrieved from ERA LEARN 2020 web page. See WP 2018: <https://www.era-learn.eu/h2020-calls-for-p2p/2018-era-net-cofund-csa> (Accessed on 1 December 2017) ; WP 2019 <https://www.era-learn.eu/h2020-calls-for-p2p/2019-era-net-cofund-csa> (Accessed on 1 December 2017)

been received positively, due to the aforementioned problems the bilateral programmes are prioritised by the funding agencies and organisations.

Wide dissemination of information and promotion of the existing JPIs by NAS RA (i.e. targeted mailing and face-to-face meetings with representatives of relevant ministries and agencies, universities, State Committee of Science, etc.) has not yet led to a substantial progress.

5.2.2. Azerbaijan

No specific developments were reported in Azerbaijan

5.2.3. Georgia

SRNSFG had already defined several priority areas for participation in ERA-NETs in 2016. Despite this initiative, the cuts in the national budget for STI (-10%), put an obstacle to the Foundation to further proceed with such activities in 2017. Currently, the foundation is in the process of establishing a special office focusing on EU framework programmes and other international opportunities. The office will also be responsible for activities related to ERA-NETs and JPIs.

Due to financial restrictions in the public funding of SRNSFG, it was not possible to create a budget line for co-funds in the budget of 2017. Unlike EU MS which are encouraged to use European Structural and investment funds to uphold the 20-30% financial commitment, Georgia has no access to those funds and without such access, it is considered to be quite challenging to make use most of these key instruments.

Nevertheless, there are currently discussions with relevant stakeholders and search for partners to participate in the WIDESPREAD call: Support to JPI Urban Europe-H2020-WIDESPREAD-2018-2020. Besides this concrete development, there is also strong interest for participation in the following JPIs:

- Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change (FACCE)
- JPI Cultural Heritage and Global Change: A New Challenge for Europe
- JPI Urban Europe - Global Urban Challenges, Joint European Solutions
- JPI Antimicrobial Resistance - The Microbial Challenge - An Emerging Threat to Human Health

- JPI Healthy and Productive Seas and Oceans

The decision for participation to the above JPIs depend on available public resources and, in the meanwhile, consultations are taking place with relevant stakeholders and respective Ministries.

Being a recently associated to H2020 country, Georgia desires to obtain further information and guidance on procedures, opportunities and obligations emerging from participation in ERA-NETs/JPIs. Even online methods such as webinars are considered to be greatly supportive.

5.2.4. Moldova

Moldova is currently preparing to participate in JPI Climate in addition to 6 ERA-NETs/JPIs in which it is already involved.

Within JPI Climate, Moldova is already related to networks such as:

- ERA4CS ERA-NET Cofund (network of JPI Climate- & AXIS) - ASM's participation will be announced in 2018.
- SINCERE- (CSA to support JPI Climate) – the Institute of Ecology and Geography (ASM) is under process of joining the network.

Moreover, while ongoing discussions to participate in JPI Urban and JPI MYB continue, there are also preparations to participate in ERA-NET and CSA proposals under the new calls of the WP 2018-2020.

CIP considers that participation in ERA-NETs/JPIs and in their activities, as well as in the regional calls, is very important and contributes much to the development of consortia for further involvement in H2020. Consequently, these activities are valued more in comparison to bilateral projects and agreements. Another benefit under the ERA-NETs is having access to independent evaluation processes organized outside of the country, since in a small country like Moldova, internal evaluation processes are prone to create conflicts of interest.

Moldova's R&I landscape is currently experiencing a radical reform which increases the worries about the continuation of the already existing involvement in ERA-NET/JPI networks. In addition to the dissolution and/or reconfiguration of the public R&I organisations and institutions, the regulatory framework of the national financial contributions are also under change bringing extra uncertainty into the system.

5.2.5. Russia

The ERA.Net RUS Plus is used as the sole co-fund instrument in Russia to collaborate with EU partners. From the beginning in 2013, the overall aim of the ERA.Net RUS Plus has been to encourage durable partnership, develop and strengthen the coordination of national research activities as well as to further enhance transnational funding of research between EU and Russia. Currently, ERA.Net RUS Plus comprises 24 partners from 15 countries. The network has successfully implemented joint calls for transnational and scientifically excellent research projects in nanotechnologies, environment/climate change, health, social sciences and humanities during 2014-2016 (20M€).

With 63 funded projects out of which 45 in S&T (Nanotechnologies, Environment/Climate Change, Health, Social Sciences and Humanities) and 18 in Innovation, with a financial volume of 20 M€ from the national and regional funding parties and the European Union, the ERA.Net RUS Plus is considered to be a huge success. It has become not only the largest geographical ERA-NET, but also a flagship and leading initiative in the EU-Russia scientific cooperation. Based on this success and great demand, a second joint call is now being implemented. The second call round, the 'ERA.Net RUS Plus Call 2017', will continue the support of 'Innovation projects' (no sub-topic pre-defined) and 'S&T projects' in the following five thematic fields: nanotechnology, robotics, health, environment/climate change, social sciences and humanities.

The political benefits of the ERA.Net RUS Plus initiative (and its forerunner Era.Net RUS project) are also considered to be undeniable and multifaceted. The projects have provided invaluable support for transnational networking and coordination of bilateral research programmes, contributed to mutual learning, joint strategy development and thematic priority setting, as well as joint funding activities among EU Member

States/Associated Countries and Russia. Under the initiative, the Funding Parties involved have learned to align their different funding and evaluation procedures and mechanisms for a common goal of contributing to scientific excellence in thematic areas deemed as common research priorities.

HSE will consider calls in WP 2018-2020 in which EC top-up funding is possible and the BSH project has already provided the requested information on these calls.

5.2.6. Ukraine

In Ukraine the situation is quite challenging and problems exist in participating to ERA-NETs/JPIs networks and projects especially in terms of: lack of finances, poor equipment and inefficient communication with potential partners. The perspectives for a positive development remain weak, especially with the new cuts in the national budget for STI and government's reticence in engaging to financial obligations in international STI projects. It must be mentioned that tough financial regulations, which are elaborated in section 5.1.5, are still intact and prevent Ukrainian researchers being co-ordinators in projects. The only positive development is the recent completion of the participation to the ERA-PLANET by the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (NASU) having tackled the aforementioned regulatory difficulty.

6. Conclusions

By the announcement of the WP 2018-2020, the participation to active ERA-NET/JPI networks is ranging at very low figures: AM (0), AZ (1), GE (1), MD (6), RU (6) and UA (3).

In contrast with low participation figures, the regions' funding agencies and respective ministries recognise the advantages from such participation which were also highlighted throughout the current activity:

- Success rates within ERA-NET calls are much higher than within the normal H2020 Calls where competition has become too high (10-15% success rates in most Programmes);

- Co-funding from national authorities does not necessarily need an additional budget: already existent budgets can be re-allocated to co-fund relevant ERA-NET schemes;
- In practice, the budget for ERA-NET Cofunds returns back to the national researchers participating in the ERA-NET calls;
- Participation in ERA-NET contributes to the improvement of the administrative performance at the national level by acquiring experience and harmonisation with the STI systems of the European Research Area.

The state-of-affairs presents a set of initiatives taken by the agencies which in some cases are met with certain barriers and/or uncertainties. Consequently, in each country the reasons behind participation levels and prospects for growing involvement differ:

- Armenia: The concept of Cofund has been received positively by the national stakeholders and funding program owning organisations. Scarcity of funds and complexity of multinational programmes have come forward as the main difficulties for participation. For this reason, currently the bilateral programmes are prioritised by the funding agencies and organisations;
- Georgia: There are well-defined initiatives by the major funding agencies at the organisational and ministerial level for a co-ordinated participation in several ERA-NETs. These initiatives are currently set back by the budgetary inflexibility of major agencies;
- Moldova: Moldova is an exemplary case with an increasing trend of participation and targeted activities towards this purpose. The current structural reforms in the public STI organisations/institutions and the regulatory framework may put active participation and efforts for maximising its benefits under the risk of discontinuation;
- Ukraine: There are uncoordinated initiatives at the level of institutions but currently perspectives for a positive development remain weak. The major barrier is the ongoing strict financial regulation on the currency transfers which

discourages the participation to schemes involving international monetary movements;

- Russia: The ERA-NET instrument is highly appreciated in Russia by the agencies and relevant stakeholders. Especially, the 'ERA.Net RUS Plus' is considered a good instrument for multilateral cooperation with EU as it involves 20 EU/AC and 4 Russian funding agencies/organisations..

The BSH project implemented a coherent set of activities to create awareness about the advantages from the participation in ERA-NETs/JPIs and to provide assistance for the promotion of such participation. This effort should continue since participation in ERA-NETs and JPIs is an essential element of the ERA that is of particular importance especially for the Associated to H2020 countries.

ANNEXES

Annex A. ERA-NET Cofund, EJP Cofund & CSA in WP 2018⁵

Topic identifier & Title	Instrument	Budget	Call closure
Excellent Science			
Future and Emerging Technologies			
FETPROACT-03-2018: FET ERA-NET Cofund	ERA-NET Cofund	6M€	18 December 2018
FETFLAG-02-2018: ERA-NET Cofund for FET Flagships	ERA-NET Cofund	10M€	17 April 2018
Societal Challenges			
SC1 - Health, demographic change and wellbeing			
SC1-BHC-04-2018: Rare Disease European Joint Programme Co-Fund [RTD]	EJP Cofund	55M€	18 April 2018
SC1-HCO-04-2018: ERA-NET to support the Joint Programming in Neurodegenerative Diseases strategic plan (JPND) [RTD]	ERA-NET Cofund	5M€	18 April 2018
SC2 - Food security, sustainable agriculture and forestry, marine and maritime and inland water research and the bioeconomy			
BG-02-2018 Blue Bioeconomy Public-Public Partnership (ERA-NET-Cofund)	ERA-NET Cofund	8M€	13 February 2018
SC3 - Secure, clean and efficient energy			
LC-SC3-JA-1-2018: Joint programming actions to foster innovative energy solutions	ERA-NET Cofund	10M€	11 September 2018
SC1-HCO-04-2018: ERA-NET to support the Joint Programming in Neurodegenerative Diseases strategic plan (JPND) [RTD]	CSA	1M€	31 January 2018
SC6 - Europe in a changing world - inclusive, innovative and reflective Societies			
GOVERNANCE-14-2018: ERA-Net Co-fund - Renegotiating democratic governance in times of disruptions	ERA-NET Cofund	8M€	13 March 2018
Spreading excellence and widening participation			

⁵ Data retrieved from <https://www.era-learn.eu/h2020-calls-for-p2p/2018-era-net-cofund-csa> (Accessed on 1 December 2017)

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WIDESPREAD-02-2018: Support to JPI Urban Europe	CSA	1.5M€	13 November 2018
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Annex B. ERA-NET Cofund, EJP Cofund & CSA in WP 2019⁶

Topic identifier & Title	Instrument	Budget	Call closure
Societal Challenges			
SC2 - Food security, sustainable agriculture and forestry, marine and maritime and inland water research and the bioeconomy			
LC-SFS-20-2019 European Joint Programme on agricultural soil management (COFUND-EJP)	EJP Cofund	40M€	23 January 2019
SFS-31-2019: ERANETs in agri-food A. [2019] ICT-enabled agri-food systems B. [2019] Climate change and food systems C. [2019] International veterinary vaccinology	ERA-NET Cofund	21M€	23 January 2019
SC3 - Secure, clean and efficient energy			
LC-SC3-JA-5-2019: Joint Programming with EU and African partners for a R&I actions in the area of renewable energy	EJP Cofund	15M€	27 August 2019
SC4 - Smart, green and integrated transport			
MG-4-6-2019: Supporting Joint Actions on sustainable urban accessibility and connectivity	ERA NET Cofund	3M€	24 April 2019
SC5 - Climate action, environment, resource efficiency and raw materials			
SC5-21-2019-2020: ERA-NET Cofund action(s) for climate action, environment, resource efficiency and raw materials	ERA-NET Cofund	10M€	19 February 2019

⁶ Data retrieved from <https://www.era-learn.eu/h2020-calls-for-p2p/2019-era-net-cofund-csa> (Accessed on 1 December 2017)

Annex C. BS Region non-EU countries participation to ERA-NET/JPI networks
(November 2017)⁷

Armenia: NONE

Azerbaijan:

EUPHRESKO (self-sustained)						
Acronym	Full Name	Start	End	Funding Framework	Network Type	Countries
EUPHRESKO (self-sustained)	European Phytosanitary Research Coordination	1.4.2014		None	Other	51

Georgia:

Acronym/Name	Start / End	Funding Framework	Network Type	Countries
EUPHRESKO (self-sustained) European Phytosanitary Research Coordination	1.4.2014 -	None	Other	51

Moldova:

Acronym/Name	Start / End	Funding Framework	Network Type	Countries
WaterWorks2015: Water Works 2016-2020 in Support of the Water JPI (WaterWorks2015) - Sustainable water use in agriculture, to increase water use efficiency and reduce soil and water pollution	01/01/2016 31/12/2020	Horizon 2020	ERA-NET Cofund	22

⁷ Source: <https://www.era-learn.eu> (Accessed on 1 December 2017)

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WaterWorks 2014				
Water Works 2014-2019 in Support of the Water JPI	01/02/2015 31/01/2020	Horizon 2020	ERA-NET Cofund	19
EUPHRESCO (self-sustained)				
European Phytosanitary Research Coordination	01/04/2017 -	None	Other	51
ERA.Net RUS plus				
Further linking Russia to the ERA: Coordination of MS/ AC S&T programmes towards and with Russia	01/11/2013 31/10/2018	FP7	ERA-NET plus	16
Water JPI				
Water Joint Programming Initiative Water Challenges for a Changing World	14/04/2011 -		Joint Programming Initiative (JPI)	25
JPII Cultural Heritage				
Joint Programming Initiative (JPI) on Cultural Heritage and Global Change: A new challenge for Europe	03/12/2009 -		Joint Programming Initiative (JPI)	25

Russia:

Acronym/Name	Start / End	Funding Framework	Network Type	Countries
MANUNET III				
ERA-NET ON ADVANCED MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGIES	01/10/2016 30/09/2021	Horizon 2020	ERA-NET Cofund	12
M-ERA.NET 2				
ERA-NET for materials research and innovation	01/03/2016 28/02/2021	Horizon 2020	ERA-NET Cofund	33
EUPHRESCO (self-sustained)				
European Phytosanitary Research Coordination	01/04/2017 -	None	Other	51

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ERA.Net RUS plus Further linking Russia to the ERA: Coordination of MS/ AC S&T programmes towards and with Russia	01/11/2013 31/10/2018	FP7	ERA-NET plus	16
EUROTRANSBIO (ETB-PRO) self-sustained EUROpean programme for TRANS-national R&D&I. cooperations of BIOtech SMEs	01/01/2014 -	None	Other	9
IraSME (former EraSME) International research activities by SMEs	01/01/2011 -	None	Other	6
BONUS for the Baltic Sea Science - Network of Funding Agencies⁸	15/12/2014 -	FP6	ERA-NET Cofund	9
ERA CoBioTech⁹	01/12/2016 -	H2020	ERA-Net Cofund	17

Ukraine:

Acronym/Name	Start / End	Funding Framework	Network Type	Countries
GeoERA Establishing the European Geological Surveys Research Area to deliver a Geological Service for Europe	01/10/2016 30/09/2021	Horizon 2020	ERA-NET Cofund	31
ERA-PLANET The European network for observing our changing planet	01/01/2017 31/12/2021	Horizon 2020	ERA-NET Cofund	19

⁸ http://cordis.europa.eu/project/rcn/72891_en.html

⁹ <https://www.era-learn.eu/network-information/networks/cobiotech/cobiotech-cofund-call>

BLACK SEA HORIZON

EUPHRESKO (self-sustained)				
European Phytosanitary Research Coordination	01/04/2017 -	None	Other	51

Annex D. Baku Workshop Agenda

**Workshop for the Participation of Non-EU Black Sea and EaP Countries in Thematic
COFUND ERANETs & JPIs**

Baku, Azerbaijan, 13-14 October 2016

Venue: Boulevard Hotel Baku
Khagani Rustamov Street 4C

AGENDA

13 October 2016	
9:00 – 9:15	Registration
9:15 – 9:30	<p><u>Welcome</u></p> <p><i>Welcome Address & Short Overview of the purpose of the Workshop</i> Elchin BABAYEV, Director, SDF-AZ</p> <p>Martin Felix GAJDUSEK, Black Sea Horizon Coordinator, ZSI, Austria</p> <p>George BONAS, Scientific Coordinator of IncoNet EaP, Managing Director, CeRISS, Greece</p> <p>Welcome Address – Azerbaijan authorities</p> <p><u>Tour de Table</u> Brief Presentation of all the participants</p>
9:30 – 10:15	<p><u>Session I: COFUND ERANETs & JPIs as a Scheme of research cooperation beyond the EU</u></p> <p>- ERA tools for Public-Public Partnerships – Strengthening the international dimension in the EU’s Neighbourhood Joerg NIEHOFF, DG Research & Innovation – <i>Participating through Skype call</i></p> <p>- Presentation of the platform ERALEARN 2020 – Schemes of Participation Roland BRANDENBURG, ERA-LEARN 2020 Coordinator, FFG, Austria</p> <p>- Presentation of the feasibility study for the participation of non-EU BS & EaP countries to COFUND ERANETs & JPIs CeRISS, Greece</p>
10:15 – 11:15	<p><u>Session II: ERANETs & JPIs in practice</u></p> <p>- Marcus VAN LEEUWEN, Member of Management Board, JPI Urban Europe, NWO, Netherlands</p> <p>- <i>Platform of Bioeconomy ERANET Actions: activities, aims and objectives</i> Martin GREIMEL, Member of PLATFORM, Federal Ministry of Agriculture, forestry, environment and water management, Austria</p>

	<p>- JPI Cultural Heritage. A challenge for Europe. State of the art Cristina SABBIONI, JPI Cultural Heritage, Italian Ministry of Culture, Italy</p> <p>-Q&A – 15 mins</p>
11:15 – 11:45	Coffee Break
11:45- 12:45	<p><u>Session II: ERANETs & JPIs in practice (continued)</u></p> <p>- Peter HAHN, JPI “More Years, Better Lives – The Potential and Challenges of Demographic Change”, VDI/VDE-IT, Germany</p> <p>- Alexandre FERNANDES, JPI Climate, Senior Science Officer at the Central Secretariat, Belgium</p> <p>- Roland BRANDENBURG, Coordinator of M-ERA.NET (2), FFG, Austria</p> <p>- Q&A - 15 mins</p>
12:45 – 13:45	Lunch Break
13:45 – 15:15	<p><u>Session III: Non-EU BS & EaP Funding Agencies – Programmes’ funding, participation and experience in previous ERANETs & JPIs</u></p> <p>- Experience from participation of Moldova in Water JPI – Academy of Sciences of Moldova (ASM) and JPI Cultural Heritage – Ministry of Culture of the RM Igor SEROTILA, Head of Policies Department, Academy of Sciences of Moldova - Centre of International Projects (CIP), Moldova</p> <p>-Experience from participation of Belarus in ERANET MARTEC II & ERA-NET Transport Natallia YANKEVICH, Head of Unit, National Academy of Sciences of Belarus (NASB), Belarus</p> <p>- Experience from participation of Russia in ERANET RUS Yaroslav SOROKOTYAGA, Division Director, Russian Foundation Basic Research (RFBR), Russia</p> <p>- Experience from participation of Georgia in BS-ERANET Nikoloz BAKRADZE, Consultant in International Affairs, Shota Rustaveli National Science Foundation (SRNSFG), Georgia</p> <p>- Experience from Ukraine in ERANETs Stella SHAPOVAL, Deputy Head of Department, Head of Division of S&T Cooperation, Ministry of Education and Science – MESU, Ukraine</p> <p><u>Guiding questions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which were the benefits of participation; • Which were the obstacles for participating; • Which was the overall assessment of the ERA funding schemes until today;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concrete / clear tips and hints towards integration in the multilateral funding initiatives <p>- Q&A - 15 mins</p>
15:15 – 15:45	Coffee Break
15:45 – 16:45	<p><u>Session IV: Open Discussion on perspectives of possible participation of non-EU BS countries to COFUND ERANETs/JPIs</u></p> <p>Moderators: Martin Felix GAJDUSEK, Black Sea Horizon Coordinator, ZSI, Austria</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Modalities for the participation - Stages in the development of an ERA-NET/JPI that a country can be involved - Necessary commitment for participation - Assessment of perspectives for participation
16:45 – 17:00	<p><u>Closing remarks</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Martin Felix GAJDUSEK, Black Sea Horizon Coordinator -George BONAS, IncoNet EaP Scientific Coordinator -Elchin BABAYEV, Director, SDF-AZ
14 October 2016	
10.00 – 13.00	<p><u>Optional activity:</u></p> <p>Bilateral face-to-face meetings between funding agencies at the premises of SDF-AZE</p>