



EUROPEAN  
COMMISSION

European  
Research Area

# Towards Joint Programming in Research

Working together to tackle common  
challenges more effectively

European Commission  
Research Directorate-General

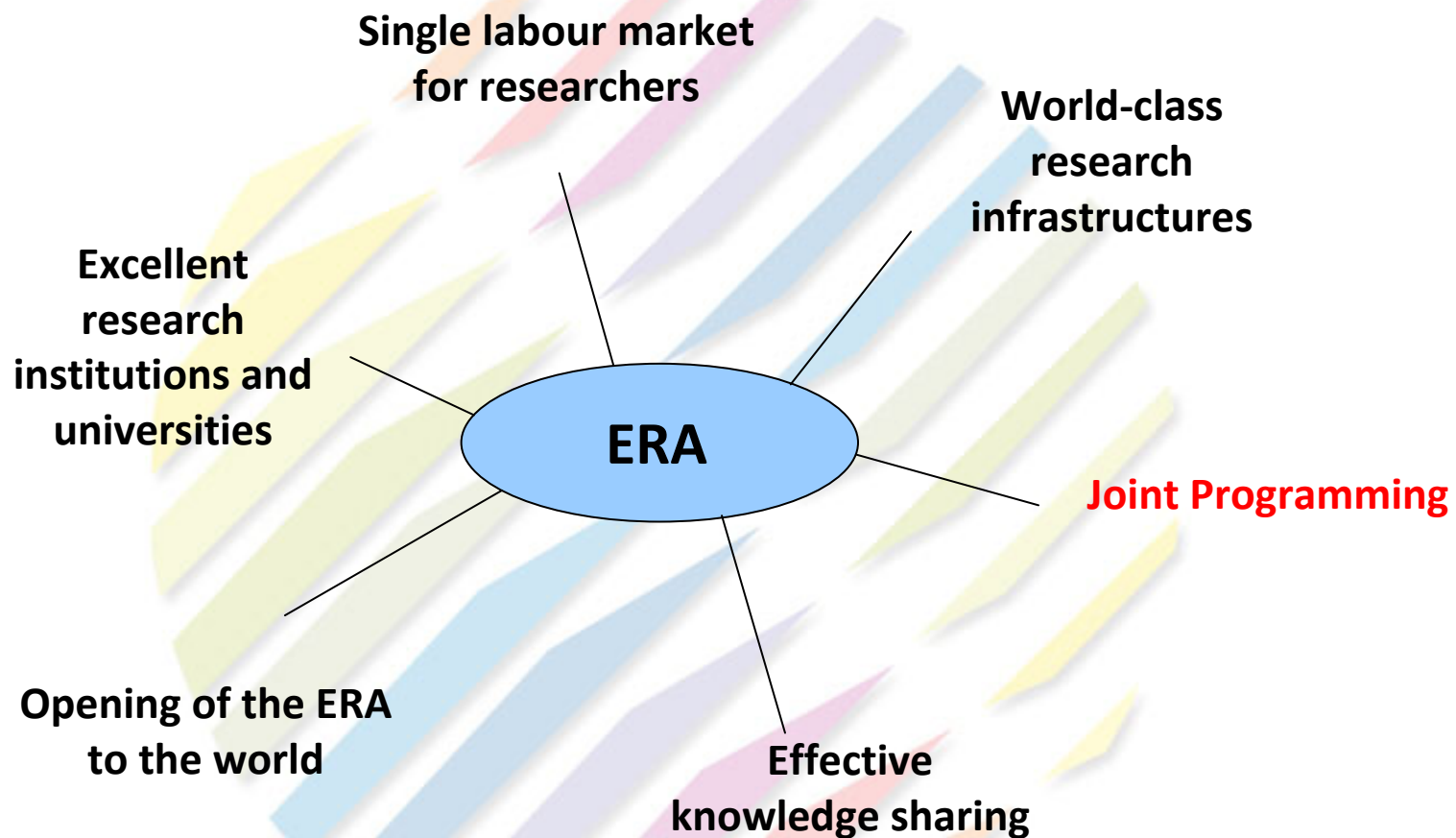
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2 June 2009

European Research Area

# European Research Area Building blocks



# Joint Programming in Research

## Key Challenges:

- Science and Technology must **contribute** to solving major societal challenges
- **Benefits not optimised** due to compartmentalisation of public research funding in the EU
- **National research programmes** have their place... but are **not equipped** to tackle major European societal problems by themselves

# Joint Programming in Research

## Response to challenges:

- Commission Communication on Joint Programming (July 2008)
- Council Conclusions adopted in December 2008

Definition of Joint Programming: Member States engaging

- **Voluntary** and on the basis of **variable geometry**
- ...in the definition, development and implementation of **common strategic research agendas**
- ...based on a **common vision** on how to address **major societal challenges**

# Joint Programming in Research

## What Joint Programming is **not**:

- it is not about asking for more power to the Commission
- it is not a new instrument for Community research
- It will not involve Community funding a priori

# Joint Programming in Research

Identifying the themes for Joint Programming:

- Creation of a **High Level Group** on Joint Programming to identify Joint Programming themes (following broad stakeholder consultation)
- **Criteria** to identify Joint Programming themes:
  - Effective commitment of Member States;
  - The theme is focussed and addresses a European/global challenge;
  - Clear and realistic objectives can be set;
  - Clear added value to existing situation in research financing;
  - Relevant stakeholders have been involved;
  - Potential of generating benefits for European citizens/ - competitiveness, and of increasing efficiency and impact of public R&D financing by involving the key public initiatives in the area.

# Joint Programming in Research

- P** ◆ **13/2, 15/4, 23/6/09** Meetings of Joint Programming Group
- H** ◆ **Throughout 2009** Consultation of Stakeholders by Member States, proposals to GPC
- A** ◆ **End 2009- 2010** Identification of Joint Programming themes by the group
- S**
- E** *Commission prepares proposal for Council Recommendation on the basis of themes identified by the Joint Programming Group*
- 1**
- P** ◆ **2010** Council adopts Recommendation, launching the selected Initiatives
- H**
- A** *Setting up of management structures, development of visions, drafting of the Strategic Research Agendas, pooling the resources, analysis of the potential of existing instruments or the need for new ones. Commission supports as deemed necessary.*
- S**
- E** ◆ **... by end 2010** Implementation. Launch of first joint activities, first report to Council
- 2**

# Joint Programming in Research

## Framework conditions:

Member States, supported by the Commission, to consider how best to address:

- A coherent approach on the peer review procedures;
- **A coherent approach for foresight activities** and for evaluation of joint programmes;
- A coherent approach to funding of cross-border research by national or regional authorities;
- Effective measures to ensure the optimum dissemination and use of research findings;
- Involvement of the various scientific and, where appropriate, industry communities.

# Joint Programming Needs

**Forward looking (horizon scanning) needs for each individual JP initiative:**

- **Each JP initiative should follow a 3 stage process** (*inspired by European Technology Platforms*):

1. Development of a **Common Vision** with long term objectives
2. Translate it into a **Common Strategic Research Agenda (SRA)** with SMART objectives, based on assessment of existing strengths and capabilities
3. **Implementation** of the SRA : Choose the appropriate mix of instruments from the toolbox of public research instruments (regional, national, poss. European?)



To develop a **Common Vision**, each JP initiative, requires forward looking (horizon scanning) activities

# Joint Programming Needs

**Forward looking (horizon scanning) activities are also essential for identifying future themes for JP initiatives:**

- **NOW** : selection of themes based on **national** consultative processes and existing expertise
- **IN FUTURE** : An **upfront sharing** of Forward looking activities could facilitate identification of “emerging trends” and “weak signals” to create a commonality of views and thus allow priorities and themes for Joint Programming to be more sharply identified and agreed sooner



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# Joint Programming in Research

**Thank you for your attention**

**Robert-Jan Smits**