

**Analysis of ERA-NET continuation questionnaire on**

**Moving ERA-NET networks and their activities into a sustainable status - How to optimise an ERA-NET network and how to make it sustainable? (Can self-sustainability become a reality?)**

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## Executive Summary

In order to collect information and analyse the different ways of continuation of 71 FP6 ERA-NET projects after the termination of FP6 contracts, an on-line questionnaire was launched by the Unit B4 of DG Research and Innovation (DG RTD). The aim of the questionnaire was to ask the ERA-NET network coordinators to compare their current status (September 2010) to the situation at the end of their FP6 contracts (the FP6 contracts came to an end from 2008 onwards) with respect to partnership, activities, resources, methods and future perspectives.

This report provides an analysis, which helps to:

- map the current status of the 71 FP6 ERA-NETs
- compare the networks with and without EC funding for coordination after the FP6 contract
- analyse those 'ceased' networks

Main findings:

### General:

- **25% (18 out of 71) of the FP6 networks have been interrupted mostly due to a lack of available funding and national resources.** While half of them ceased to exist, the other networks try to find a way to maintain their networking either via other EU funded projects or preparing an FP7 project, in some case with a wider scope.
- **18% (13 out of 71) are still on-going FP6 ERA-NET contracts, which are looking carefully and cautiously into the future** due to uncertainties in the upcoming funding.
- **57% of the networks (39 out of 71) have been continued,** either with the further European Commission support for coordination under FP7 (34%) or without (23%) as self-sustained networks.

### Questionnaire:

- In general the ERA-NET networks have enlarged after FP6 contracts. Nevertheless, 82% of the country entries occurred in cases of ERA-NETs with a second EC funding under FP7.
- A **second ERA-NET contract** attracts countries into becoming full members or associated members, thus **helping to form a richer, enlarged partnership with more variable geometry.**
- **The main beneficiaries of this enlargement process are the new Member States and the EU 15 small Member States** (respectively 39% and 32% of the total).
- New Member States and southern Member States prefer to join the EU funded networks.
- Due to more limited resources, **networks without EC funding have to focus and scale down their activities.** The first activities to be abandoned are the ones aiming for long-term strategy planning (foresight/development of research agenda) and embedding in international cooperations or enlarging the networks with new countries.
- 50% or more of the networks with continued EC funding managed to launch joint calls more frequently than in FP6 and with larger budgets.

- As for the future, **62% of the networks forecast a potential growth** in terms of number of countries, size of calls and number of joint activities. To reach a network optimum, they essentially need time, further external funding and to overcome legal/financial barriers.
- Once the networks are optimal, **50% can become self-sustainable**.

## Methodology

The data collection was carried out by B4 through an on-line questionnaire addressed to 70 FP6 ERA-NETs. In total, 71 ERA-NETs had contracts under FP6. ERA-SAGE was terminated by the Commission before the end of the contract; therefore this project was not involved in the questionnaire.

The data collection occurred in September 2010. Out of the 70, 62 coordinators filled in the questionnaire after several reminders (89% response rate).

For the purposes of analysis, the networks were grouped into 4 different groups (Annex I: 4 groups for the purpose of analysis):

- 12 ceased networks
- 11 still on-going FP6 ERA-NETs
- 16 networks continued without EC funding for networking (self-sustained networks, FP7 ERA-NET Plus)
- 23 networks continued with EC funding for networking (FP7 ERA-NET, Art 185)

## I. Global picture

In order to present a global picture of all 71 ERA-NETs, Table 1 below complements the questionnaire with a short analysis of the current status of the 9 non-responding networks on the basis of information provided by the B4 project officers.

Table 1: current status of 9 non-responding networks

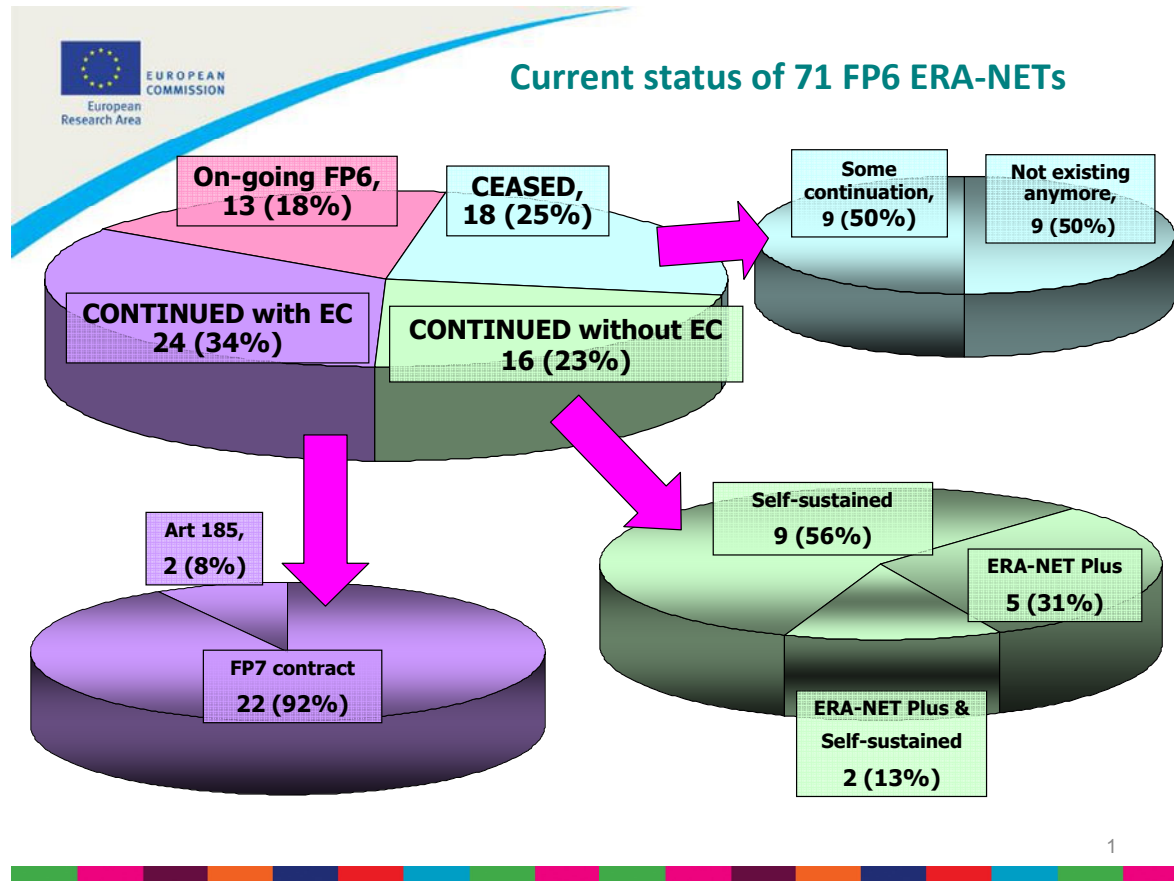
COMPLEXITY-NET	Still FP6 on going
ERA-IB	Still FP6 on going
ERA-SAGE	Ceased, terminated by EC
ETRANET	Ceased and some activities are still continuing, might continue under the MNT/MATERA umbrella
EULANEST	Ceased but the consortium wants to focus on Brazil, but failed to submit a proposal to WP2010
EUROPOLAR	Ceased
EURYI	Ceased
IWRN.NET CA	Ceased, overarching water ERA-NET proposal failed at call 2010
MARINERA	Merged into SEAS-ERA

The continuation routes of all 71 ERA-NETs are presented by Figure 1 below:

- 25% of the networks ceased to exist as ERA-NET - even though 50% declared some activities beyond FP6 contracts
- 18% still on-going FP6 ERA-NET contracts

- 23% networks continued without EC funding for networking (self-sustained networks, FP7 ERA-NET Plus<sup>1</sup>)
- 34% networks continued with EC funding for networking (FP7 ERA-NET, Art 185)

Figure 1: 71 FP6 ERA-NET continuation models



## II. Ceased networks

According to the Figure 1. above, 18 networks (one quarter of the 71 FP6 ERA-NETs) seem to come to an end, however a deeper analysis shows that in reality only 9 (13% of the total) were completely abolished, while the other half:

- still have some activities either through other EC-funded projects (Alliance-O, SUSPRISE) or without EC support (NewOSHERA, Work-inNET)
- are preparing for an FP7 ERA-NET (ERA-PG, EULANEST) or joining an 'umbrella' (covering a wider scope of the topics) ERA-NET (ETANET, IWRN.NET CA)
- merged (AMPERA)

<sup>1</sup> In case of ERA-NET Plus actions the EC funding is exclusively or mainly spent on topping up the joint call budget, therefore this form of financial support is not considered to finance networking/coordination activities. Two ERA-NET Plus actions declared themselves self-sustainable in respect to networking/coordination activities, the others finance it from own resources as well as external support.

## Reasons to stop

The questionnaire was answered by 12 ceased networks, and it shows that the main reason why they stopped was due to a lack of resources. In the absence of EC support as well as insufficient resources at Member States level some ERA-NET networks obviously cannot survive. In some cases, strategic decisions of key player countries contributed to stopping a network, as well as unsatisfactory coordination. Table 2 below describes the 3 categories of reasons to terminate a network.

Table 2: relevant and irrelevant reasons to stop

<b>Mostly relevant (50% of respondents indicated as main reasons)</b>	<b>Irrelevant as reason to stop (more than 75%)</b>	<b>For some networks relevant, for others irrelevant</b>
No further EC support available	Lack of understanding and positive cooperation experiences in the consortium	Lack of interest of majority of countries due to strategic choices made in certain countries for other ERA-NETs
Lack of resources (financial; staff at national level)	Lack of interest of majority of countries in the ERA-NET approach	Lack of leadership for coordination

## Revitalise the ceased networks

If the absence of financial support was the main reason to stop an ERA-NET, some of the networks could theoretically be reorganised by making fresh funding available. To the question "If opportunity arises, could the activities of the consortium be revitalised with the help of external funding?" 7 out of the 12 ceased networks (60%) responded yes.

When asked about the costs of revitalisation, the following answers were given:

- **€2 million** for scoping and landscaping exercises and further joint calls (ERA-PG)
- **€3-5 million** would be necessary to set up a new concept for cooperation between countries/research organisations/politicians. As in the field of H&FC (hydrogen & fuel cells) a technology platform exists, first of all the competencies of the H&FC platform and the ERA-NET has to be defined. (HYCO)
- Approximately **€100 000/ year** would be needed to establish a permanent Call Secretariat and call specific Call Steering Committees (NewOSHERA)
- **€2.5-3 million** is needed to maintain alive the interest in foresight activities together with parallel similar EU activities and shrink partnership to the most committed ones (FORESOCIETY)

## III. Comparative analysis of continued networks with or without EC funding for coordination

The following analysis focuses on two groups:

- 23 ERA-NET networks with EC funding for coordination under FP7 (referred to as 'with' networks)

- 16 ERA-NET networks without EC funding for coordination under FP7 (referred to as 'without' networks)

This chapter provides a comparison of the two groups and concludes on similarities as well as differences with respect to partnership, activities, resources, methods and future perspectives.

## Partnership

### Network level

Table 3: change in partnership at network level

	with	%	without	%
No change (the network is basically the same)	2	9	3	19
The network continues without certain partners that have left the network (withdrawal)	10	43	7	44
The network continues with additional partners (joined as a member)	21	91	7	44
The network continues, but certain member(s) became a kind of associate (changed from member to associate)	5	22	4	25
The network continues with additional associated countries (joined as associate)	5	22	1	6
Total	23		16	

The striking difference between networks 'with' and 'without' EC funding is that almost all the networks which received FP7 funding grew with new members (91%). Thus the second ERA-NET contract certainly contributed to increasing the partnership. Similarly true that a second ERA-NET contract attracts countries more likely to become associated (22%) than where there is no EC funding available (6%), therefore helping to form a richer partnership with more variable geometry.

Withdrawal at network level does not seem to be affected by the existence or absence of EC funding. In case of 43-44% of the networks there are countries which terminated their participation.

### Country level

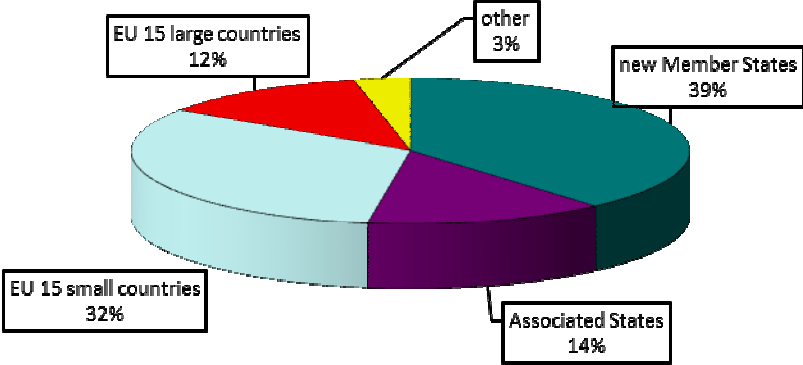
Table 4: number of countries joined, withdrawn or associated

Entries		
Joined as member	144	63%
Joined as associate	21	9%
Exists	43	19%
Changed from member to associate	21	9%
TOTAL number of changes	229	100%
OVERALL BALANCE (ENTRIES- EXITS)	122	

The overall balance is very positive, as countries joined ERA-NET networks in 122 cases for the first time after FP6 contracts ended. Compared to the 880-fold participation in FP6 (40 countries participated in average 22 projects<sup>2</sup>), it means a 15% increase ("fresh entries"). Nevertheless, 82% of this significant network enlargement taken place in the networks with continued EC funding.

In Figure 2 below, further analysis of the elevated participation shows however that new Member States and the EU 15 small Member States add up to 71% of the total (39% and 32% respectively)<sup>3</sup>.

Figure 2: share of the different country groups in the overall entry balance



<sup>2</sup> European Commission (2009) FP6 ERA-NET Study. Impact assessment of the ERA-NETs scheme under the Sixth Framework Programme", report prepared by Matrix Insight and Ramboll Groups

<sup>3</sup> New Member States: Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Cyprus, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia.

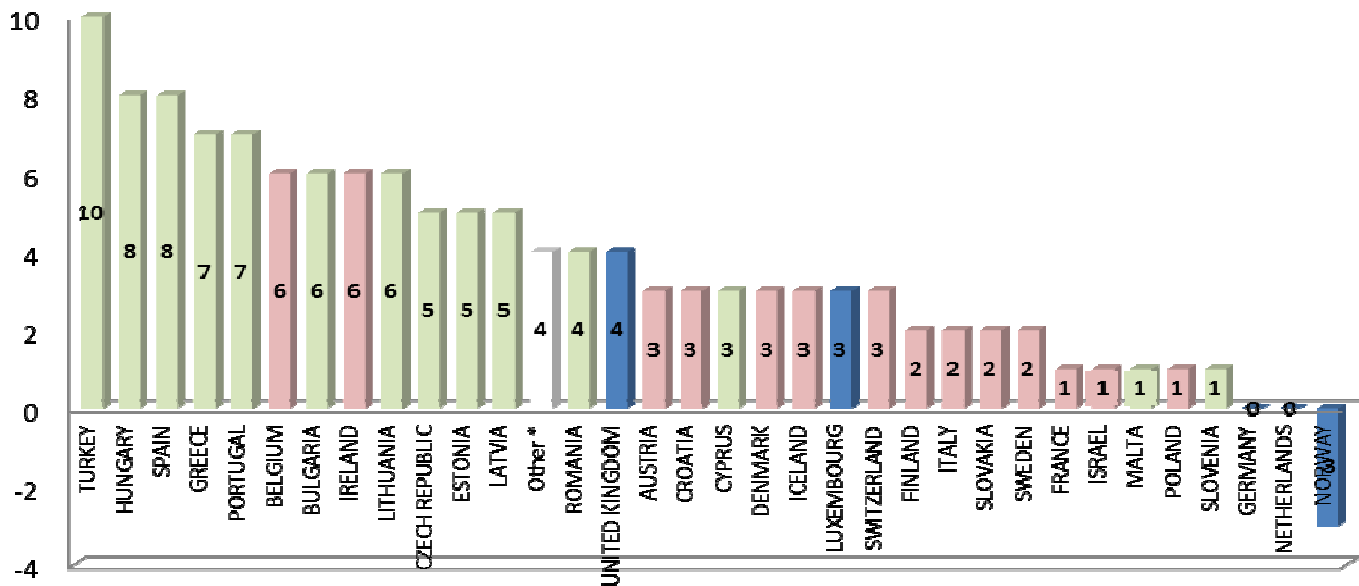
Associated countries: Croatia, Iceland, Israel, Norway, Switzerland, and Turkey.

EU15 small Member States: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Greece, Ireland, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Portugal, Sweden

EU15 large Member States: France, Germany, Italy, Spain, and United Kingdom



Figure 3 : total balance of exits/entries per countries



#### Joined as member

According to the preference in joining a network with or without EC funding, three categories of countries can be distinguished (Annex II and Figure 3):

- Countries which joined exclusively or mostly the networks with EC funding: new Member States and southern Member States
- Countries not having preference: Belgium, Ireland, Austria, Croatia, Denmark etc.
- Countries which joined exclusively or mostly the networks without EC funding: Luxemburg, UK, Germany, NL, Norway

#### Withdrawal

Relatively the same share of countries withdrew from the both types of networks. (Out of the 43 withdrawals, 19 occurred in the 16 networks where no more EC funding was available, and countries stepped out 24-fold from the 23 EC funded networks.)

Thus it seems that the presence of external funding does not influence the countries' behaviour as far as withdrawal is concerned.

Norway and Poland top the list, followed by UK, Slovenia, Italy, Belgium etc. Some countries have never pulled out, such as Turkey, Slovakia, Malta and Greece.

#### Joined as associate

If countries (mainly UK, Belgium, Bulgaria, Italy) join a network as associates for the first time (21 cases, 10% of the total of 229), they get associated only to the EC funded networks (20 out of the 21 cases).

#### Change from member to associate

To change status from member to associate has been quite rare (as it occurred only in 10%). Austria altered its status 3 times, Belgium twice. While some other countries varied only in single occurrence.

### \*Other

In the category of 'others' (regions, non-EU countries, international organisations) the following changes could be observed:

others	total (62)	with and without (39)
withdrawal (exit)	5	3
joined as member (entry)	7	5
change from member to associate	3	2
joined as associate (entry)	3	2
<b>overall balance (entry-exit)</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>

Annex III contains the breakdown of the "others" category.

## Activities

### Continued/New activities

Table 5: comparison of continued and new activities in "with" and "without" networks

	Continued and new activities			New activities	
	with (%)	without (%)	difference in %	with (%)	without (%)
New joint calls for transnational research after the FP6 ERA-NET contract	91	81	10		
Follow-up (reporting, monitoring, dissemination) of projects resulting from calls implemented by the FP6 ERA-NET					
Networking activities	83	81	1		
Joint foresight	52	50	2	50	25
Development of research agendas/programmes	74	69	5	41	36
Consultation with stakeholders (e.g. conference/seminar)	91	63	29	38	30
Speaking 'one voice for Europe'	65	63	3	47	40
Enlargement of network	87	69	18	65	36
Maintaining common tools: webpage, project database etc.	91	81	10	29	31
Training programmes:	52	44	8	33	29
Dissemination	91	69	23	33	27

Networks "with" EC funding carry out more activities, in general, than networks without (range of % for networks "with": 52-91%, while for "without" 44-81% in Table 5). In particular, they tend to be more active in consultation with stakeholders, dissemination and enlargement of network (difference of 18-29 in %).

Almost all "with" networks (91%) are engaged in launching new joint calls; consultation with stakeholders, maintaining common tools and dissemination, while networks without EC support certainly miss out on some of those activities.

As a new activity, most of the networks with further EC funding (65%) enlarge their memberships, also almost half of them start a joint foresight and formulation of a European voice in their scientific area. In addition, 40% get engaged in the development of research agendas and consultation with stakeholders.

The networks without EC funding also take up some activities the first time, nevertheless much reluctantly. For example, around 40% started off speaking with 'one voice for Europe', development of research agenda or enlargement of networks as new activities.

Table 6: importance of activities (1- very important, 2- relatively important, 3- moderate, 4- not important)

	with	without
New joint calls for transnational research after the FP6 ERA-NET contract	1	1
Follow-up (reporting, monitoring, dissemination) of projects resulting from calls implemented by the FP6 ERA-NET	1	1
Networking activities	1	1
Development of research agendas/programmes	1	2
Maintaining common tools: webpage, project database etc.	2	2
Dissemination	2	2
Joint foresight	2	3
Consultation with stakeholders (e.g. conference/seminar)	2	3
Enlargement of network	2	3
Speaking with 'one voice for Europe'	3	3
Training programmes:	4	4

Networks with EC funding render higher importance to more activities (Table 6 above). While these networks invest significantly in 8 out of the 10 listed activities, the networks without EC support commit themselves importantly to only half of the activities.

## Joint calls

Table 7: frequency of joint calls after FP6

How many joint call(s) have you launched/plan to launch after FP6 ERA-NET?	with	without	% of total	% of total
more than 1 per year	4	1	17	6
1 per year	14	4	61	25
1 every 2 years	2	3	9	19
less frequent	3	8	13	50
	<b>23</b>	<b>16</b>		

Table 7 above shows that networks without EC funding have a tendency to launch joint calls less frequently (69% equal or less than 1 every 2 years) than the networks with EC support where 78% call for joint projects 1 or more times per year.

To analyse the joint calls, the category of 16 networks without EC funding were further split into the self-sustained networks (9) and the ERA-NET Plus actions (7). In an ERA-NET Plus action, the call budget is considerably higher than any of an ERA-NET network due to the EC top-up, and the instrument supports launching only one call.

Table 8 below shows the different dynamisms of the three groups. In the case of the networks with EC support there is a general improvement in terms of frequency/call

size/number of participating countries, while the self-sustained networks try to maintain the frequency and the level of the budget of their joint calls as it was in the FP6 projects. On the other hand, a drop in the number of countries can be noticed.

Table 8: Dynamic- compared to FP6 (↓ decrease, ↑ increase, ~ about the same)

(more than 50%)	With (23)	Without (16)	
		self-sustained (9)	ERA-NET Plus (7)
Frequency	↑	~	~
Size of budget	↑	~	↑
Number of participating countries	↑	↓	↑

### Terminated activities

Only 5 terminated activities were reported by the 23 “with” networks, therefore this can be deemed as negligible. On the other hand, the 19 networks without EC funding for coordination ended 24 activities in total, which means 1 or 2 activities abandoned per network (Table 9).

Lack of resources is the main reason to cease an activity. Joint foresight, development of research agendas, enlargement of networks and maintaining common tools are the first activities to be terminated in the lack of budget. As a consequence, activities such as medium and long-term strategic planning of those networks, the embedding in EU and international coordination of the specific research area are certainly affected.

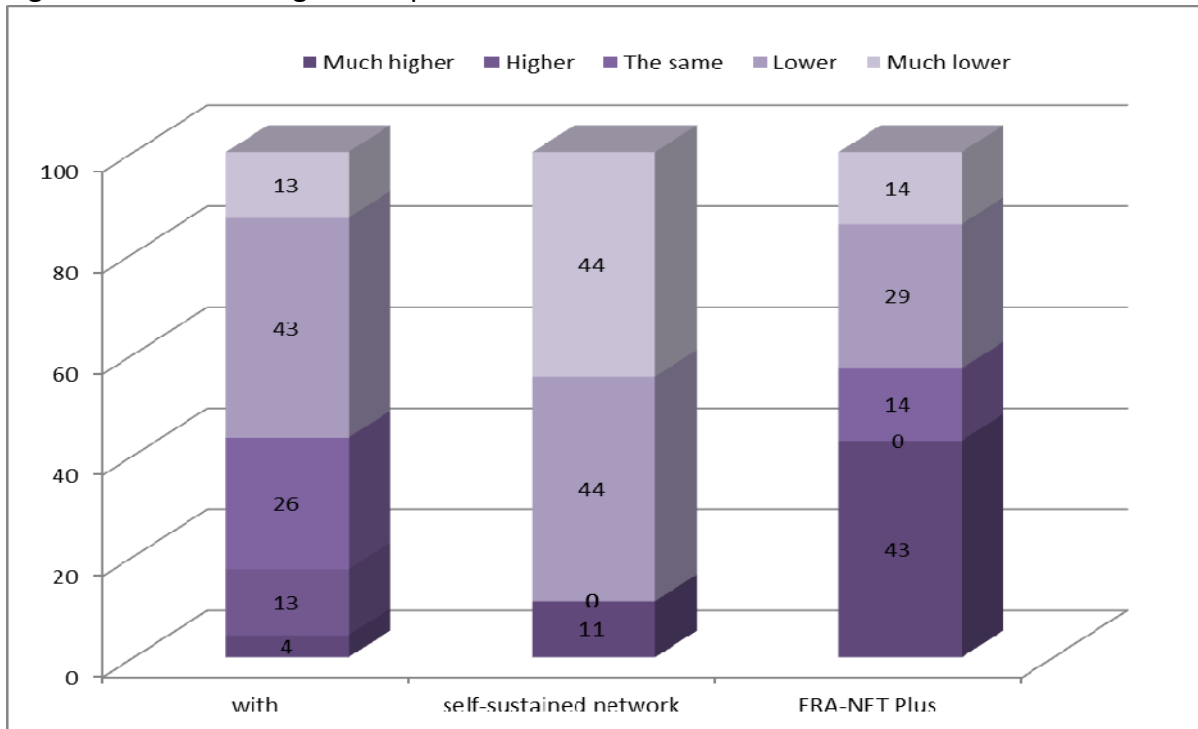
Table 9: terminated activities of 'with' and 'without' networks

	with		without	
Joint calls for transnational research	not enough resources	1	not enough resources	1
Follow-up (reporting, monitoring, dissemination) of projects resulting from calls implemented by the FP6 ERA-NET Networking activities			not enough resources	1
Joint foresight	not enough resources	1	not enough interest	1
	other	1	not enough resources	4
Development of research agendas/programmes			not enough resources	3
			other	1
Consultation with stakeholders (e.g. conference/seminar)			not enough interest	1
			not enough resources	2
Speaking with 'one voice for Europe'			not enough resources	1
			not enough results	1
Enlargement of network	other	1	not enough resources	3
Maintaining common tools: webpage, project database etc.			not enough resources	3
Training programmes:	other	1	not enough resources	1
Dissemination			not enough interest	1
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>5</b>		<b>24</b>

## Resources

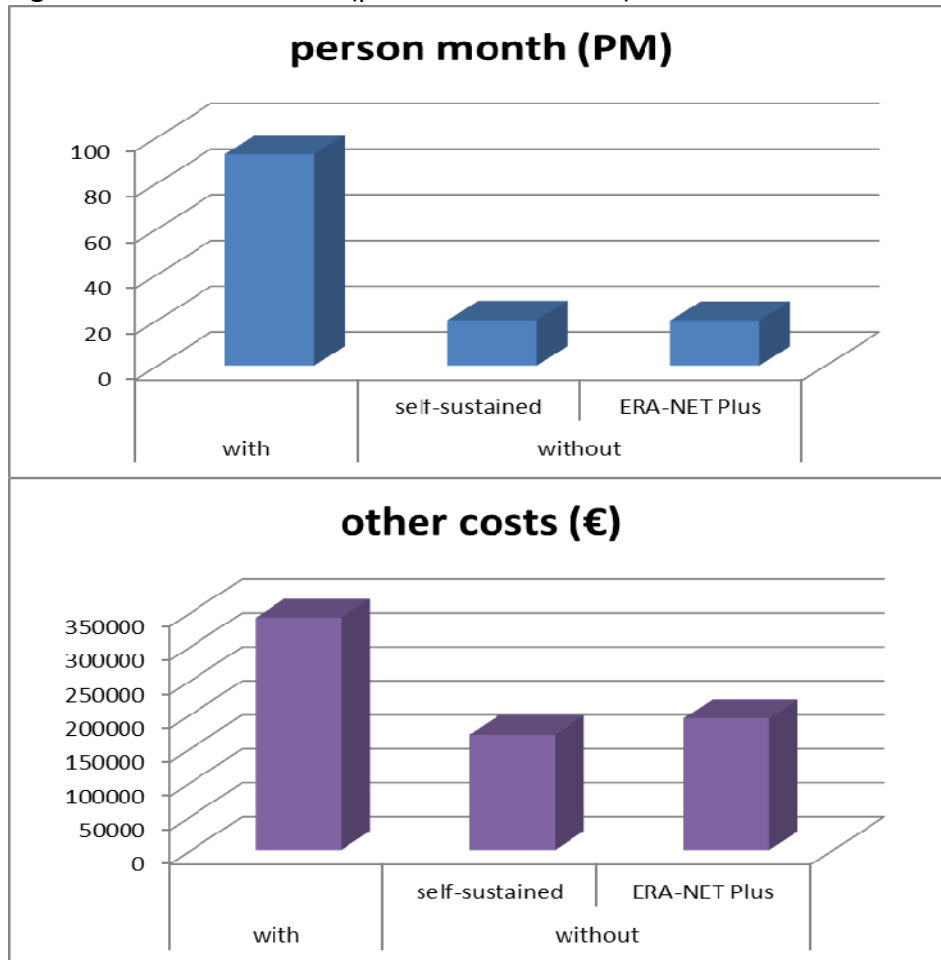
After FP6 the budget of the networks has shrunk in 56% of the "with" networks and in 88% of the self-sustained networks. ERA-NET Plus networks however declared more spending compared to FP6. The reason might be that not only were the coordination costs taken into consideration for this answer but also the research budgets.

Figure 4: network budgets compared to FP6



In the case of "with" networks, the estimated yearly resources consist of 92 person months on average, while 20 person months are used for self-sustained networks as well as ERA-NET Plus actions (Figure 5 below). The ratio for other costs is not so widened, even though the yearly budget which is typically available is twice as much in case of the EC funded networks (342.000€ compared to 170.000€ for self sustained networks). This reflects the situation of increased man power intensity and more activities where EC funding is available.

Figure 5: use of resources (personnel and other)



The resources are provided only by EC funds in 8 cases out of the 39 responded (20.5%). 20 networks live on EC subsidy and own resources, where in 35% own financing dominates (7 networks reported the use of more than 50% own resources).

Apart from mixed income sources, 11 networks (9 self-sustainable networks, and 2 ERA-NET Plus actions) use exclusively their national budgets to maintain networking and coordination.

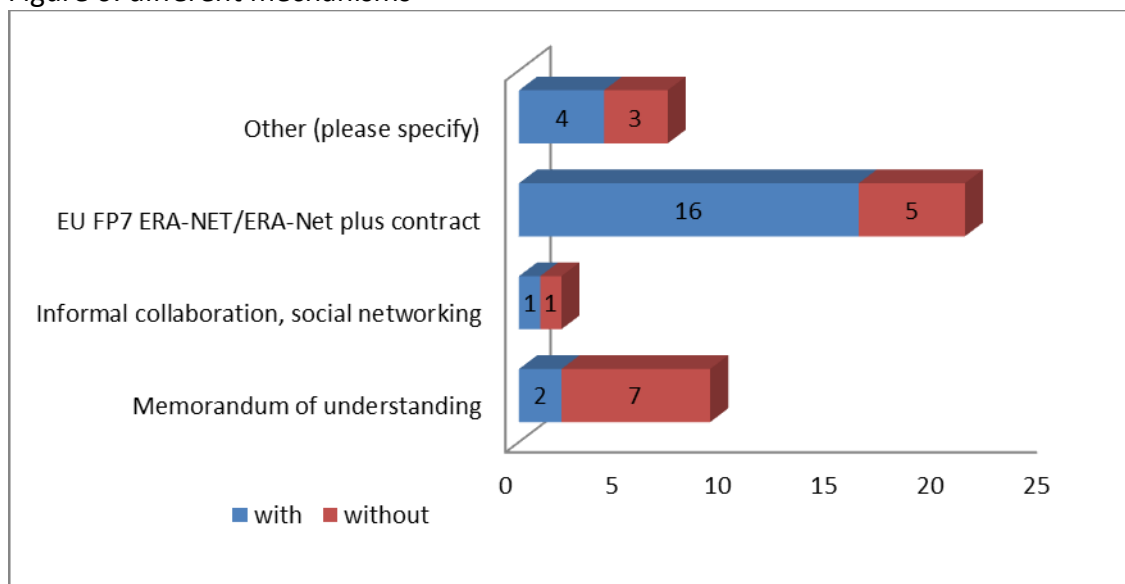
When EC funding is not available, either all participants take an unequal share (38%) or only the core participants finance the activities also unequally (31%). Only in 23% of cases is the burden of network financing shared equally among all participants.

### Mechanisms

As Figure 6 below shows, 21 out of the 39 analysed networks (54%) are based on a FP contract. 9 networks (23%) concluded a Memorandum of Understanding.

Those networks which are established on multiple mechanisms (e.g. iMERA: association, Article 185 contract and ERA-NET Plus contract; ERA-SPOT: ETP Mirror Group and case-by-case collaboration in variable geometry) or EEIG (Bonus) or other types of agreements among the members (CRUE, SKEP) are included in the category 'other' (18%).

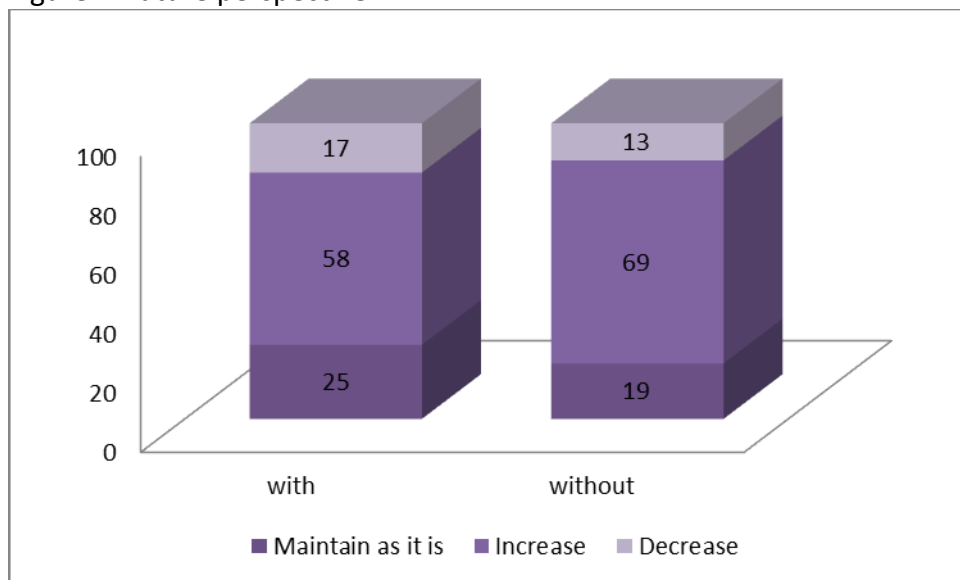
Figure 6: different mechanisms



### Future

When asked about “How to optimise the network and its activities?” 58% of the funded networks and 69% of the non-EC funded networks answered that there is room to increase the network, and only 25% and 19% respectively wish to maintain them as they are (Figure 7). In some cases, there is a need for some decrease to reach the network optimum.

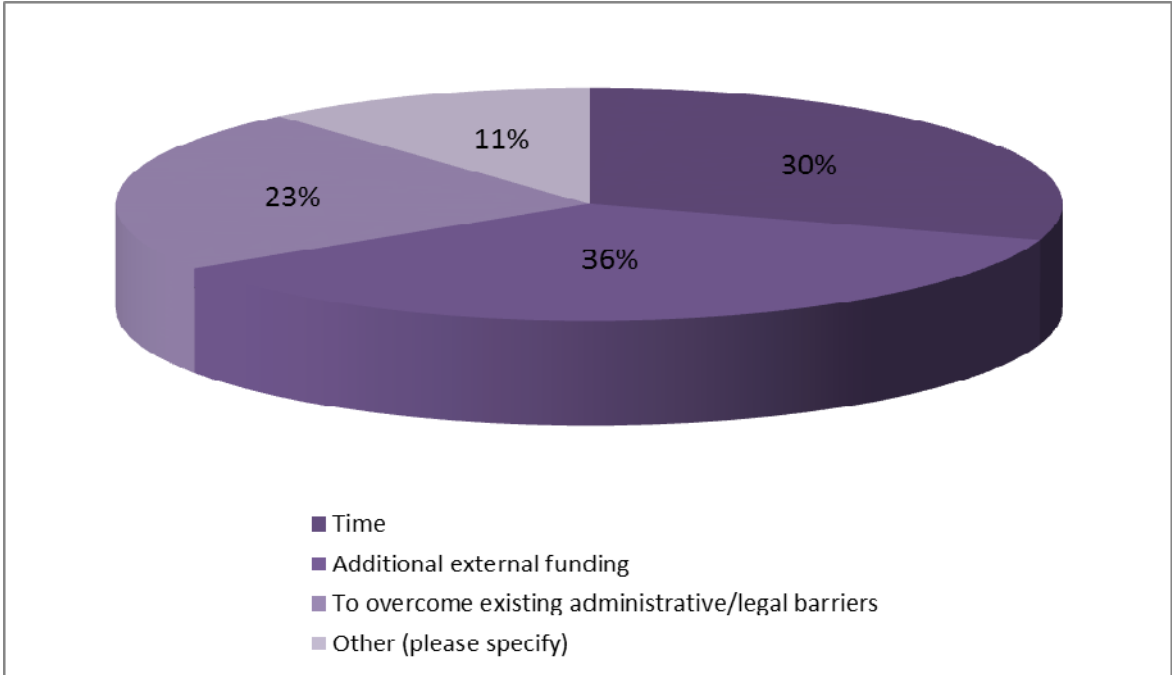
Figure 7: future perspective



In order to reach the network optimum, Figure 8 below presents the need for more time (36%) and additional external funding (30%) as well as a need to overcome existing administrative/legal barriers (23%). Among others, it would also be necessary to achieve more certainty on European policy issues and initiatives; to better coordinate the work

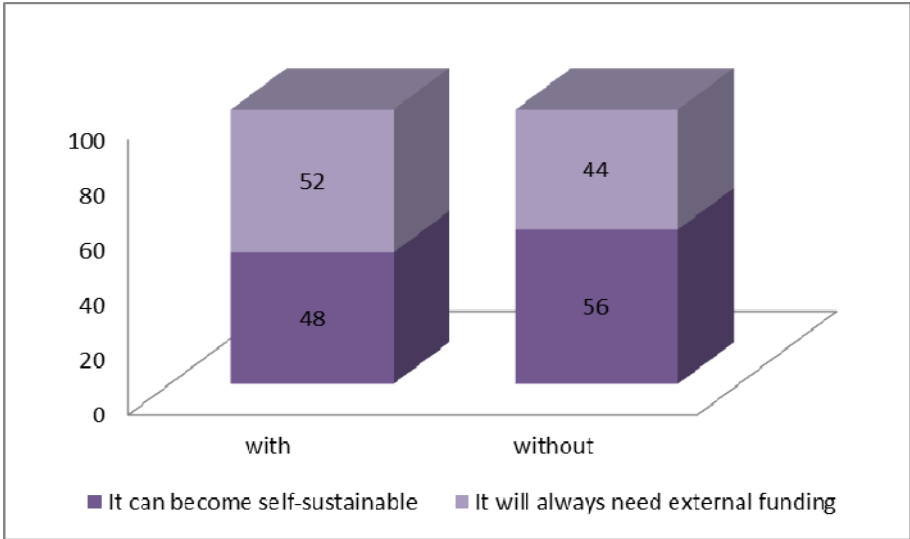
between different EC Directorates and Member States as well as to develop common aims and strategies.

Figure 8: elements needed to optimise the networks



Once the network optimum is reached, 48% of the network currently funded in the second round by EC can become self-sustainable. 44% of the networks which are not supported at present would need further external funding to remain optimal (Figure 9). In total, 19 out of the 39 networks would always need external funding.

Figure 9: outlook for self-sustainability

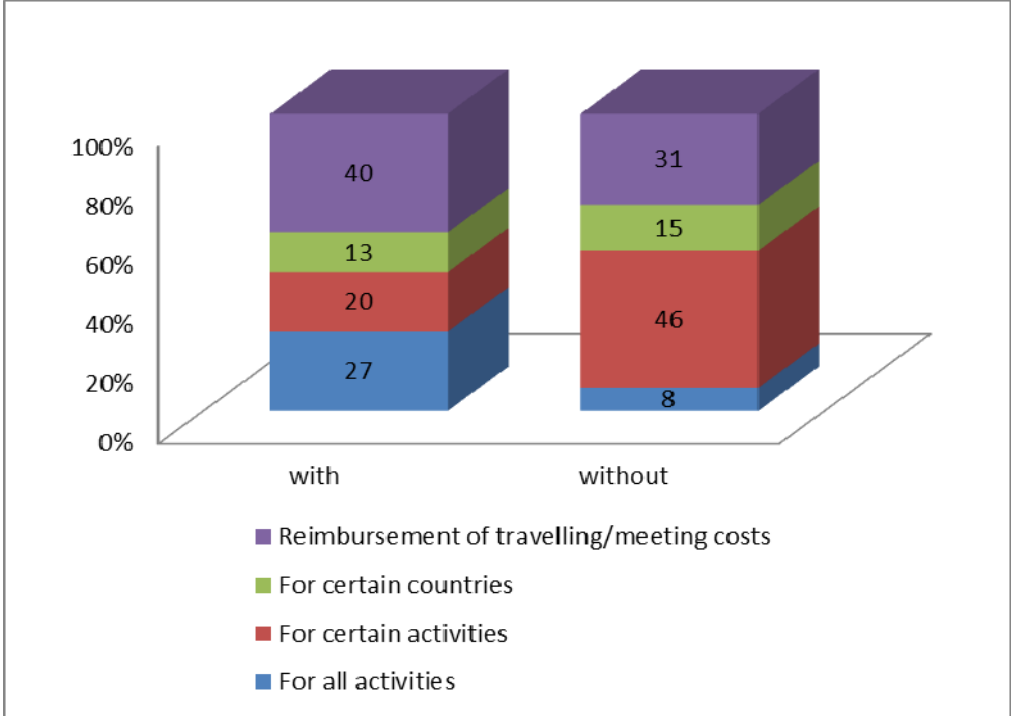


To see how the network would spend the external funding they need, the Figure 10 presents the networks with current EC funding which prioritised reimbursement of travelling/meeting costs (40%) from the external source as a first priority.



The non-funded networks would use the funding for 'certain activities' (46%) on the one hand, such as maintenance of secretariat, external evaluation, management of consortium, in depth studies and more in depth cooperation as well as development of certain common tools. On the other hand, 'certain groups' of countries such as Eastern European countries, small countries and countries with changing policy context and unclear thematic focus would be the first target of external financial assistance.

Figure 10: need for external funding

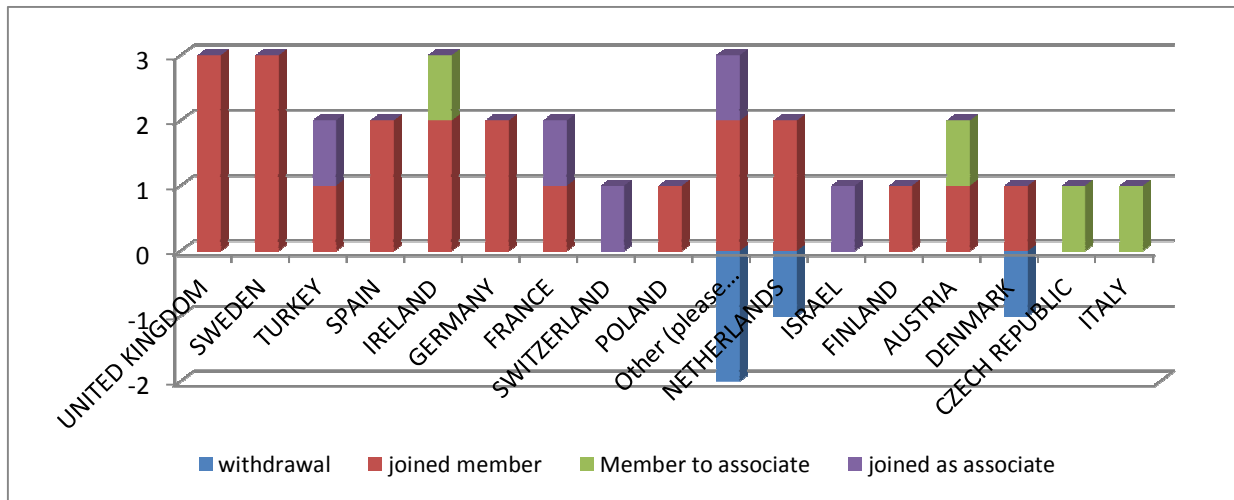


#### IV. On-going networks

As the questionnaire was considered to be difficult to fill in by the on-going networks ("it is like fortune telling" etc), the following findings should be considered as an attempt to project into the future rather than providing solid data.

11 on-going networks filled in the questionnaire. 60% of the networks can increase their partnership. Interesting to see that UK and Sweden are expected to top the list of joining countries. The projection for future entries is not as positive for the new Member States and small EU 15 States that the analysis of the continued networks would have suggested (Figure 11).

Figure 11: projected move of countries



Not having certainty about available resources for the future, these networks seem to be cautious with their projections for the joint calls. 70% forecast similar size and frequency, while half of them expect to increase the number of participating countries (Table 10).

Table 10: outlook for joint calls

Frequency	About the same (70%)
Size of budget	About the same (70%)
Number of participating countries	About the same (50%) and increase (50%)

Also due to the uncertainties, according to Table 11, 17 activities are identified to be terminated after the 11 FP6 contracts end (1 or more per network). Joint calls are the first priority followed by development of research agendas and speaking with “one voice for Europe”. The main reasons are lack of resources and lack of interest.

Table 11: activities to be terminated

	not enough interest	not enough resources	not enough results	TOTAL
Joint calls for transnational research	2	2		4
Follow-up of projects resulting from calls				0
Joint foresight	1		1	2
Development of research agendas/programmes	1	2		3
Consultation with stakeholders (e.g. conference/seminar)			2	2
Speaking with 'one voice for Europe'	2	1		3
Enlargement of network			1	1
Maintaining common tools: webpage, project database etc.			1	1
Training programmes:			1	1
Dissemination				0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>17</b>

To continue the network, 36% would need the same level of resources , while 45% could spend less and 18% even less budget.

45% replied that they would like to maintain their networks as it is, and 55% plan to increase.

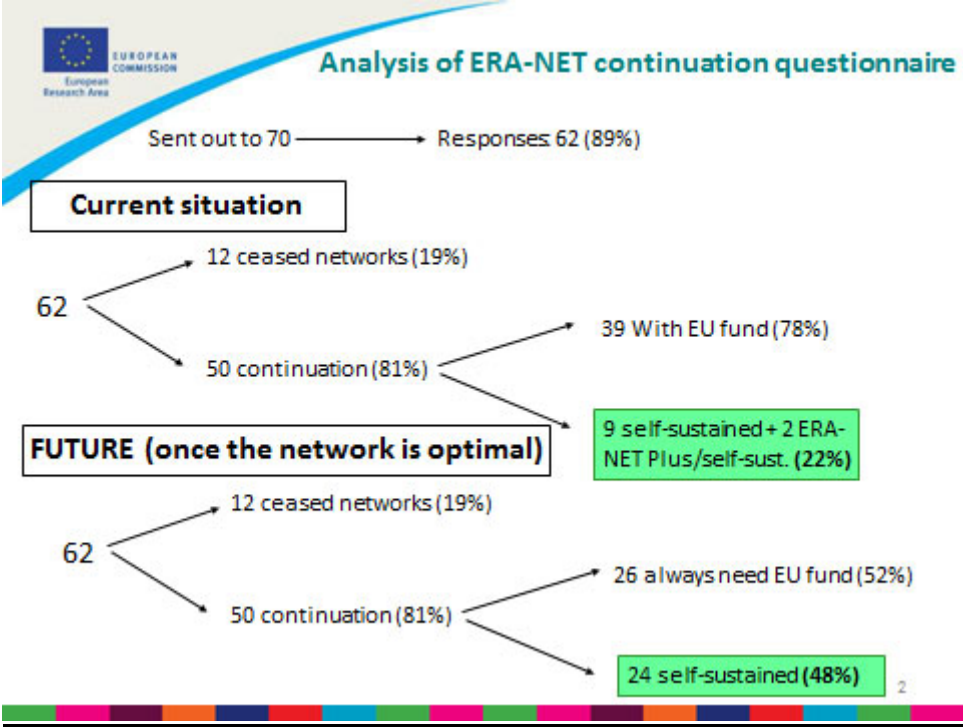
Once optimised, 64% could not become self-sustainable, but will always need external support for backing the participation of small countries and eastern and southern countries as well as for some specific activities.

## V. Main findings

### Global picture

While the number of the self-sustained networks is quite limited today (11 out of the 50 continued networks - 22%), it could be raised up to 48% once the networks are optimised (Figure 12).

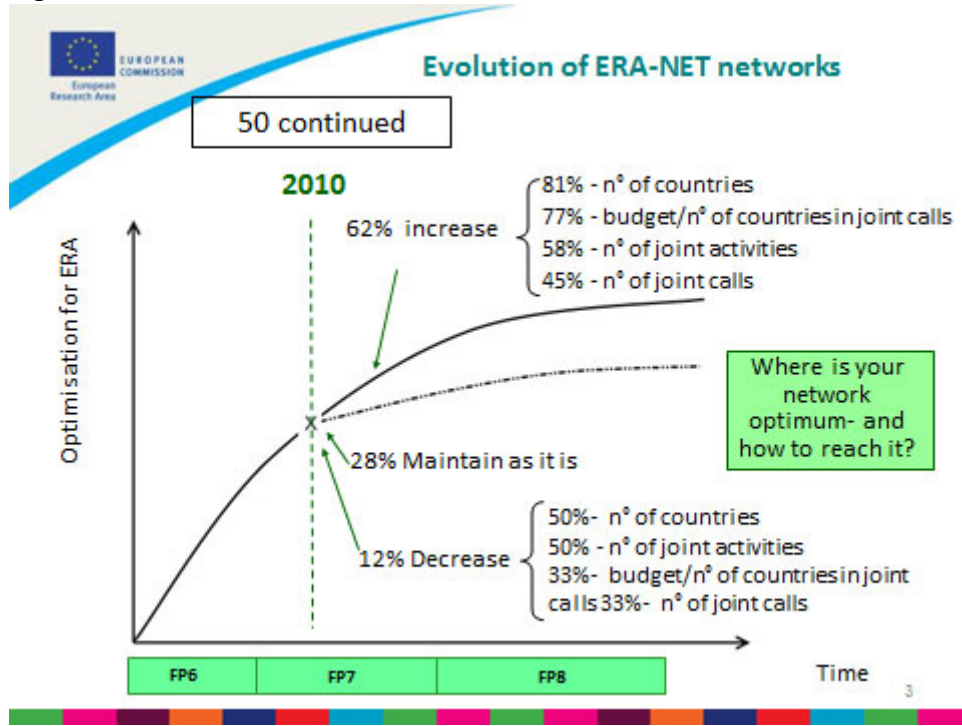
Figure 12: comparison of self-sustained status today and in the future



According to Figure 13, 62% of the 50 networks have not yet reached their optimum, as they can still increase in size (number of countries, budget of the joint calls and number of the joint calls) and/or in scope (number of joint activities). 28% deem the current size and scope optimal, while there is a need to decrease size and scope in case of 12% in order to be optimal (mostly in the sense of being functional).

To the question 'how to reach the network optimum?', the analysis of the 39 networks - where the FP6 contracts have already expired - provides answers in Chapter III.

Figure 13: Evolution of ERA-NET network



#### Ceased networks

- 25% of the FP6 networks came to an end
- Does not mean total extinction
- Mostly due to financial constraints
- Revitalisation possible in some cases

#### Continued networks

##### Partnership

- Overall positive balance, the networks have grown (15% more participation of countries) beyond FP6
- 82% of enlarged networks are the networks with further EC funding
- In case of a second EC funding, 91% of networks enlarged
- 72% of the increase is due to new Member States and EU 15 small member states. Top joining countries: Turkey, Hungary, Spain, Greece, Portugal, Belgium, Bulgaria, Ireland, Lithuania
- new Member States and southern Member States preferred to join EU funded networks

##### Joint activities

- Networks with EC funding carry out more activities, in general, than networks without it, also they render higher importance to more activities
- In particular, they tend to be more active in consultation with stakeholders, dissemination and enlargement of network
- In general, there are new activities in 30-40% compared to FP6
- Networks without EC funding tend to terminate 1 or 2 activities (joint foresight, development of research agendas, enlargement of networks, maintaining common tools - webpage etc) due to lack of resources

#### Joint calls

- Networks with further EC funding increased the frequency, size of budget and n° of participating countries, while the self-sustained networks are trying to keep it at the level of FP6 or decrease it (e.g. country participation)

#### Resources

- Compared to FP6, the majority of networks has a lower or a substantially lower budget (56% of the "with" networks and 88% of the self-sustained networks).
- Where EC funding is available, increased manpower intensity and more activities are reflected by the higher budget available.

#### Mechanisms

- 54% of the analysed networks are based on an FP contract, while 23% concluded a Memorandum of Understanding.

#### Future

- Most of the networks could be optimised under the conditions that more time (36%) and additional external funding (30%) are available as well as administrative/legal barriers (23%) being demolished. Once the network optimum is reached, 48% of the networks currently funded in the second round by EC can become self-sustainable. 44% of the networks which are not supported at present by EC for their networking would need further external funding to remain optimal.
- The external funding would primarily needed to reimburse meetings and travelling by the network with current second-round EC funding, while the networks with no present EC funding would be inclined to use the funding to pay certain activities.

#### On-going networks

- Due to uncertainties concerning the future networking funding, the still on-going FP6 ERA-NETs are quite cautious regarding projections for the future. Nevertheless, 60% of the networks indicate a possibility to increase their partnerships. The first countries likely to join them are UK and Sweden, as those countries' participation do not depend on available EC funding. Nevertheless, the projection for enlargement with the new Member States and small EU 15 States is not as promising. This shows a different pattern compared to the enlargement already carried out by continued networks.
- Unsecured financing is also the reason that 70% of the networks forecast similar size and frequency of joint calls. Only half of the networks expect to increase at least the number of participating countries in the calls. Some of the networks even predict to cease joint calls.

## Annex I: 4 groups

For the purpose of the analysis 4 groups have been created:

1. **"Ceased"**: ERA-NET networks ceased to exist when the FP6 projects came to an end
2. **"Without"**: ERA-NET networks continued after FP6 without further EC funding for networking (self-sustained networks, ERA-NET Plus)
3. **"With"**: ERA-NET networks continued after FP6 with further EC funding for networking in FP7 (FP7 ERA-NET, Article 185)
4. **"On-going"**: still running FP6 ERA-NET projects

71 ERA-NET projects				Respondents of questionnaire (62 ERA-NET projects)			
ceased	without	with	on-going	ceased	without	with	on-going
HESCULAEP	PV ERA NET	EU-SEC	FENCO-ERA	HESCULAEP	PV ERA NET	EU-SEC	FENCO-ERA
ALLIANCE-O	CoCanCPG	CO-REACH	EUWI	ALLIANCE-O	CoCanCPG	CO-REACH	EUWI
ERA-PG	SKEP	CAPITA	NET-BIOME	ERA-PG	SKEP	CAPITA	NET-BIOME
HY-CO ERA-NET	ECORD-Net	ERA-AGE	MariFish	HY-CO ERA-NET	ECORD-Net	ERA-AGE	MariFish
INNER	CRUE	BiodivERsA	ASTRONET	INNER	CRUE	BiodivERsA	ASTRONET
SUSPRISE	SAFEFOODERA	MNT ERA-NET	NEURON	SUSPRISE	SAFEFOODERA	MNT ERA-NET	NEURON
ERA-STAR Regions	ERA-Chemistry	WW-Net 2	URBAN-NET	ERA-STAR Regions	ERA-Chemistry	WW-Net 2	URBAN-NET
NEW OSH ERA	COMPERA	ERA NET TRANSPORT II	MANUNET	NEW OSH ERA	COMPERA	ERA NET TRANSPORT II	MANUNET
Ampera (SEASERA)	MATERA+	CORE Organic II	PRIOMEDCHILD	Ampera (SEASERA)	MATERA+	CORE Organic II	PRIOMEDCHILD
FORSOCIETY	SEE-ERA.NET PLUS	AirTN	ERANET Bioenergy	FORSOCIETY	SEE-ERA.NET PLUS	AirTN	ERANET Bioenergy
WORKINNET	NanoSci-ERA	ERA-ARD	PathoGenoMics	WORKINNET	NanoSci-ERA	ERA-ARD	PathoGenoMics
VISION	ERASysBio Plus	E-Rare-2	COMPLEXITY-NET	VISION	ERASysBio Plus	E-Rare-2	<b>11</b>
ERA-SAGE	NORFACE Plus	ERACOBUILD	ERA-IB	<b>12</b>	NORFACE Plus	ERACOBUILD	
ETRANET	ERA-SPOT	EUPHRESKO-2	<b>13</b>	ERA-SPOT	EUPHRESKO-2		
EULANEST	HERA (JRP)	CORNET II		HERA (JRP)	CORNET II		
EUROPOLAR	SNOWMAN	ETB-PRO		SNOWMAN	ETB-PRO		
EURYI	<b>16</b>	EraSME		<b>16</b>	EraSME		
IWRN.NET CA		CIRCLE-2			CIRCLE-2		
<b>18</b>		ENR2			ENR2		
		ASPERA-2			ASPERA-2		
		BONUS+			BONUS+		
		iMERA			iMERA		
		MARTEC			MARTEC		
		MARINERA (SEAS-ERA)				<b>23</b>	
		<b>24</b>					

Annex II: Table: choice of the different status of partnership of the countries and preference for networks with or without EC contribution

	withdrawal				joined as member				from member to associate				joined as associate				total
	with	without	total	wih % total	with	without	total	wih % total	with	without	total	wih % total	with	without	total	wih % total	
AUSTRIA	1	1	2	50	2	3	5	40	2	1	3	67	0	0	0	0	3
BELGIUM	1	2	3	67	5	2	7	71	2	0	2	100	2	0	2	100	6
BULGARIA	0	0	0	0	4	0	4	100	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	100	6
CROATIA	0	0	0	0	2	1	3	67	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
CYPRUS	0	0	0	0	3	0	3	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
CZECH REPUBLIC	0	0	0	0	3	1	4	75	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	100	5
DENMARK	1	0	1	0	2	1	3	67	1	0	1	100	1	0	1	100	3
ESTONIA	1	0	1	0	5	1	6	83	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
FINLAND	1	0	1	0	1	2	3	33	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
FRANCE	0	1	1	100	1	1	2	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
GERMANY	0	1	1	100	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	100	0	0	0	0	0
GREECE	0	0	0	0	6	0	6	100	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	100	7
HUNGARY	1	1	2	50	10	0	10	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
ICELAND	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	50	1	0	1	100	1	0	1	100	3
IRELAND	2	0	2	0	4	3	7	57	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	100	6
ISRAEL	0	1	1	100	1	1	2	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
ITALY	1	2	3	67	1	2	3	33	1	0	1	100	2	0	2	100	2
LATVIA	0	0	0	0	4	0	4	100	1	0	1	100	1	0	1	100	5
LITHUANIA	0	0	0	0	4	1	5	80	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	100	6
LUXEMBOURG	1	0	1	0	1	3	4	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
MALTA	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
NETHERLANDS	2	0	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	100	0
NORWAY	3	1	4	25	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	100	0	0	0	0	-3
Other *	2	1	3	33	4	1	5	80	1	2	3	33	2	0	2	0	4
POLAND	2	2	4	50	3	2	5	60	1	0	1	100	0	0	0	0	1
PORTUGAL	1	0	1	0	6	2	8	75	1	0	1	100	0	0	0	0	7
ROMANIA	0	1	1	100	4	0	4	100	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	100	4
SLOVAKIA	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
SLOVENIA	1	2	3	67	3	1	4	75	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
SPAIN	1	1	2	50	8	1	9	89	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	100	8
SWEDEN	1	0	1	0	2	1	3	67	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
SWITZERLAND	0	0	0	0	2	1	3	67	1	0	1	100	0	0	0	0	3
TURKEY	0	0	0	0	10	0	10	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10
UNITED KINGDOM	1	2	3	67	1	3	4	25	1	0	1	100	2	1	3	0	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>43</b>		<b>105</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>144</b>		<b>15</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>21</b>		<b>20</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>21</b>		<b>122</b>

### Annex III: Category- Other

others	total Q (62)	with and without (39)*
withdrawal (exit)	5	3
joined as member (entry)	7	5
change from member to associate	3	2
joined as associate (entry)	3	2
<b>overall balance (entry-exit)</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>

#### withdrawal

<i>Manunet</i> <sup>*4</sup>	Lower Silesia (Poland) Provence (France)
ERASME	Regione Lombardia (Italy)
ERA SysbioPlus	Russia
Cornet II	Region Catalonia (Spain)
<i>Priomedhild</i> *	too early to answer this question

#### joined as member

<i>Manunet</i> *	Lower Austria (Austria) Northern Ireland (UK) Piedmont (Italy) Wallonia (Belgium)
ERASME	Madrid Region (Spain)
Cornet II	Region Madrid (Spain)
<i>Pathogenomics</i> *	Canada / Quebec
Co-Reach	China
HERA	European Science Foundation
EUPHRESKO-2	Russia, Ukraine

#### change from member to associate

WW-NET2	Canada, Brazil, Russia, Montenegro
Matera+	too early to answer this question
<i>PV-ERANET</i> *	see below

#### joined as associate

<i>Manunet</i> *	Asturias (Spain) Lower Silesia (Poland) Provence (France)
ERA-AGE	Canada, Quebec region (Canada), Saxony region (Germany)
ERA-SME	Walloon Region (Belgium)

<sup>4</sup> \*not included in the „with and without“ statistics



## Annex IV: Detailed methodology

The on-line questionnaire was established via Interactive Policy Making (IPM), a web based application used to create and conduct surveys over the web. All the data of the submitted 62 questionnaires were imported into the "**ERANETnetworks.xls**". Statistics of all 62 questionnaires are found in "**final statistics-IPM20101013.xls**". The questionnaires as well as submitted financial tables can be found in **IPM.zip folder**.

For the statistics of the 4 groups of networks, directed search was carried out as follows:

1. Ceased networks: search in Status "Have a finished FP6 ERA-NET with no further activities" (resulted in 12 hits).
2. On-going networks: search in RunningStatus "Still on-going FP6 ERA-NET". Out of the 12 hits, MARTEC was removed (double entry: on going + FP7 contract) from this group. Resulted in 11 networks and statistics of the group is available "**on going .xls**".
3. "With" networks: search in RunningStatus "FP7 ERA-NET (started contract or contract under negotiation)" and " Article 185". As a result there were respectively 22 and 2 hits. SNOWMAN was removed (double entry: FP7+self-sustained) from this group. The statistics of this group of 23 networks is available in "**with EC .xls**".
4. "Without" networks: search in RunningStatus "Finished FP6 ERA-NET with maintained activities without EC funding" and "FP7 ERA-NET Plus". As a result there were respectively 11 and 9 hits. HERA, ERA-SPOT have double entry for ERA-NET Plus and self-sustainable networks, therefore their results were counted only for ERA-NET Plus, which left the sub-group "Finished FP6 ERA-NET with maintained activities without EC funding" with 9 hits. iMERA, BONUS were removed (double entry: FP7 ERA-NET Plus+ Article 185) from the sub- group "FP7 ERA-NET Plus" (resulted in 7 networks). The statistics of this group of 16 is available in "**without EC .xls**".

The table of **continuation models 27\_11.xls** contains the analysis of the questionnaire.