

## POSITION PAPER

### “JPI Climate and Horizon 2020”

Climate change is a complex reality, which affects European society at large. Understanding and responding to climate change requires coordinated and large-scale European efforts, in research, innovation and in governance.

JPI Climate provides a platform where these objectives can be met, aligning national research priorities according to a jointly agreed Strategic Research Agenda (SRA) with the aim of complementing and supporting initiatives at the European level.

#### **Our aim**

JPI Climate aims to respond to the needs of policy and decision makers and the European society at large for knowledge-based information and services to address climate change. It aims to close critical knowledge gaps by combining and connecting climate scientific approaches. This enables the European society, through a systemic approach that considers the complexity of our social, economic and ecological systems, to cope with climate change and to take the responsibility of reducing and avoiding negative consequences of climate change.

JPI Climate contributes to achieving a competitive advantage for Europe by improving the knowledge base for ongoing international negotiations and enhancing decision-making capacities on various levels with regards to climate change. In a nutshell: the JPI Climate aims to provide integrated climate knowledge and decision support services for societal and political innovation by strengthening interdisciplinary integration in climate research and bridging knowledge production with knowledge application.

#### **JPI Climate as Strategic Platform**

JPI Climate is a platform where policies of 14 countries, responsible for a large amount of climate research funding in Europe, can be aligned. Representing a funding volume of more than 200M€ per year, the JPI Climate has the potential to become a vital and important point of reference in the ERA landscape as well as on international level.

A Strategic Research Agenda has been developed in an intense and multilateral consultation process. It has been accepted as framework for alignment of national research programmes and strategies in the area of climate change by all member states of the JPI. It can be expected to have a structuring effect on national and EU level funding of climate research, providing overall orientation for a collaborative platform activities and common positioning of the JPI member states.

### **Joint activities**

The JPI Climate partners are committed to deliver the aims of the joint initiative by pooling resources to implement joint activities. A wide variety of mechanisms will be applied to reach its goals, with joint research funding as one out of several potentially beneficial ways of collaborating, but also series of workshops, academic courses, or policy support actions. Collaboration shall be pursued with other research programmes, networks and initiatives at member state or European level.

The JPI Climate's Strategic Research Agenda will be a dynamic agenda, which will initially focus on four interconnected modules. They do not intend to capture all aspects of the climate problem, but reflect the initial priorities of the participating countries as to salient climate knowledge. The modules are complementary to and connect other areas of research covered by national and international programmes.

Specific climate research and policy questions in vulnerable regions and sectors in Europe will determine how JPI Climate will develop its common research strategies.

### **Advantages**

JPI Climate proposes a robust and innovative European initiative adding value by integrating and expanding climate change research in concert in a truly trans-national, coordinated effort. It will overcome fragmentation in climate change research while maintaining creative diversity.

Synchronizing, aligning and combining research efforts in participating countries enhance societal relevance, scientific quality and innovation through intensified cooperation between top researchers from different countries and with different scientific traditions and perspectives. Long-term continuity and higher cost effectiveness will result in a stronger global position of ERA, with a well-coordinated JPI Climate providing a competitive edge in the global climate change science arena. By providing strong science support, it can also foster Europe's role in international climate policy development.

### **JPI Climate, Horizon 2020 and other European initiatives**

JPI Climate is built on a long term vision and commitment. We are pushing forward for joint activities on long and short term, for collaboration and coordination where needed and for the pooling of resources and infrastructures. We stand for a broad view on innovation encompassing societal innovation, complementing the 2020 strategy of the EU for green growth, supporting the de-coupling of welfare and growing resource-use.

We consider trustful cooperation and coordination with the European Commission, the EIT and other initiatives as a key to foster synergies, particularly with respect to the current EU Framework Programme and the future programme Horizon 2020.

The JPI Climate provides the platform where the European institutions (Commission, Council and Parliament) have a direct interlocutor for climate research policy in (so far) 14 European countries and vice versa, the Strategic Research Agenda of the JPI Climate is a point of reference for future RTD programmes and research activities on

European levels. In the same way, the platform is the place to connect to new members and new countries, enhancing climate research capacities throughout Europe.

We are committed to the process of advancing climate change research in Europe. And we consider the best way to reach that objective is through a transparent and effective coordination of positions between the JPI Climate, the European Commission and all stakeholders as precondition to achieve our common goal of a competitive, prosperous and sustainable Europe.