

# Discussion Paper Roadmap Joint Programming “A healthy diet for a healthy life”

## Status of this document

This paper is a discussion paper for Member States to give guidance on the Joint Programming process. This document gives also input to the European Commission, describing on how we plan to proceed with Joint Programming once there are Council conclusion.

In the forthcoming years Joint Programming on “a healthy diet for a healthy life” will take shape. In our view a number of steps need to be taken to come to an ever greater integration of research in order to tackle the grand challenges on health, food and the prevention of diet related diseases. This document describes the steps to be taken. In our view all European countries can contribute to the decision making process on each of these steps.

Joint Programming must remain an open and Member State driven process in which all countries can participate on a voluntary basis.

## Phased approach

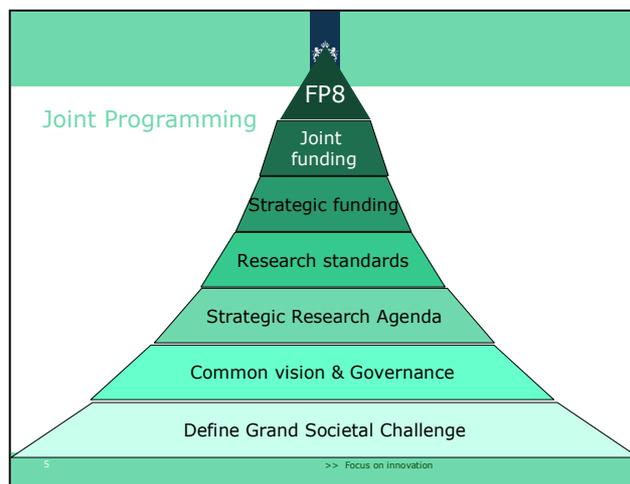
In the current situation, research programmes on health, food and the prevention of diet related diseases are dispersed and show little cohesion between member states. The outcome of the Joint Programming process will be threefold:

1. Relevant scientific fields are integrated;
2. There is a single European research agenda with a shared common vision for funders, academia and industry;
3. There is strategic cooperation between research funding programmes in this field;

We envision a phased approach on Joint Programming in order to reach these objectives.

These phases are:

1. Define grand challenge
2. Develop a Vision paper & governance structure
3. Develop a Strategic Research Agenda
4. Set Research Standards
5. Strategic Funding
6. Joint Funding
7. Synergy with FP8



## Define Grand Challenge

A first set of European grand challenges has already been recognised at a European level by the European competitiveness Council of December 2009.

Today, health systems and R&D funding spend most of their resources on treating ill-health. The grand challenge for Europe is to reverse this situation. To make a shift from a defensive policy combating illness to an offensive and preventive approach promoting health.

Improving the quality of our diet and promoting better nutrition is a major factor to achieve this.

### **Vision Paper & Governance**

The next step is to develop a vision paper and to set up a governance structure for further implementation. An international workshop with delegates from all EU countries and Associated and Candidate countries is planned for March 4, 2010 to discuss the vision paper and governance structure.

#### Governance structure

A temporary secretariat has been established in the Netherlands to coordinate Joint Programming activities on "a healthy diet for a healthy life". This secretariat will bridge the period to the establishment of a permanent international governance structure and secretariat. The permanent governance structure and secretariat is planned to be funded under FP7, starting from September/October 2011.

The Netherlands have asked the GPC-delegates to appoint two experts per country who will serve as contact point for "a healthy diet for a healthy life". These experts will ensure the Joint Programming process does not stop. The experts will further develop the vision paper, governance structure and will act as management board until a formal governance structure has been established.

An outline of the governance structure is planned to be ready April 2010, then governing bodies can be established.

#### Vision paper

The GPC-document on the grand challenge is describing the current state of affairs and it describes the scientific and social building blocks of Joint Programming to meet this challenge. The vision paper will describes scenarios for 2020 or 2030 with possible outcomes of Joint Programming. The vision papers sets scientific and social end goals for Joint Programming. A common point on the horizon for all participating countries to work towards.

A first draft of the vision paper is planned in April 2010, the final version is planned for November 2010. The vision paper needs to be adjusted regularly on the basis of continual evaluation of targets. The vision paper will be guiding for the Strategic Research Agenda.

### **Strategic Research Agenda**

The Grand challenge defines the current European problem that "a healthy diet for a healthy life" addresses; the vision document describes sets end goals and possible solutions achieve them.

The Strategic Research Agenda is will be a living document describing the steps to be taken in terms of research & development, prevention strategies, health-,research- and innovation programmes.

The strategic research agenda will be developed by the management board of Joint Programming with input from diverse stakeholders from the scientific, industrial and consumer groups. The strategic research agenda will be developed within the scope of a coordination and support action in FP7.

## **Research Standards**

One of the identified problems in the grand challenge is that research data on food, diet and prevention of diet related diseases is hard to exchange. This is, amongst other reasons due to the diversity in European diets, research methods and different understandings on abstract concepts as health.

In order to implement the Strategic Research Agenda and make strategic choices in research programming it is important that data can be shared. To achieve this standards need to be developed on research as well as European databanks opening the data to European scientific community.

Establishing research standards for "a healthy diet for a healthy life" will be primarily a task for scientific experts. The Joint Programming Initiative will play an important role in facilitating this process.

## **Strategic Funding**

It is estimated that 75% of all research funding in relevant fields for "a healthy diet for a healthy life" is uncoordinated. Joint Programming activities will strive to bring this down to 25%.

Making strategic choices between member states will make it possible to use research results more effectively and research funding more efficiently.

Strategic funding enables members states to make better choices on the best allocation of research funds, it will attune national research programmes to national scientific strengths. It will reduce the risk of double funding of research projects in different countries with similar results.

Strategic funding is a process that will be facilitated through the Joint Programming Process but is ultimately a decision of the national funding agencies. It is envisioned that strategic funding will be a continuous process. Goals for strategic funding will be defined in the strategic research agenda.

## **Joint Funding**

The Joint Programming Initiative will make arrangements for funding agencies to improve the possibilities of cross border research through Joint Funding of research projects.

Essential is that the Joint Funding will be complementary to European funding of research projects through FP7 and/or FP8.

The management board of the Joint Programming Initiative will coordinate activities under the Joint Programming initiative and will contribute to the development funding mechanisms based on the research strengths of individual member states.

## **Synergy with FP8**

The National, Joint and European research efforts in this field will be harmonised through a continuous dialogue between the management board of the Joint Programming Initiative and the European Commission.

Joint Programming will lead additional coordinated european efforts within an ERA for health, food and the prevention of diet related diseases and thus supplement and be complementary to efforts through integration with FP8.