

# JPI OCEANS' STRATEGIC POSITIONING

28 February 2022

The Strategy Framework 2021-2025 of JPI Oceans was developed in a situation of dynamically evolving R&I initiatives. The Framework is intentionally flexible, allowing for agility in this changing landscape. New flagship initiatives are now taking shape under Horizon Europe – most importantly the Partnerships and Missions – and other key initiatives are in a preparation phase, such as the upcoming Knowledge and Innovation Cluster for marine and maritime sectors. These instruments will play a key role in the international R&I scene for the coming years, requiring JPI Oceans members to regularly consider its function and strategic position in a continually evolving landscape.

This issue was discussed by the Management Board at its meeting in November 2021. The main conclusions of this discussion are presented here. They complement the Board's process toward the JPI Oceans Strategy Framework 2021-2025 and provide guidance for strategic considerations and operational decisions.

## SEEK COMPLEMENTARITY

JPI Oceans' members will continue to seek complementarity and added value for its members by initiating activities and exploring topics that are not sufficiently addressed elsewhere. In particular, European programmes and instruments are regarded as complementary rather than competing for implementing the strategies of JPI Oceans and its member countries.

## KEEP DEVELOPING JOINT ACTIONS

Joint Actions will continue to be an important vehicle in which countries join their efforts in exploring frontier topics, addressing niches or seeking synergies within established thematic areas. The members should continue to initiate new activities in line with the guidelines and criteria for JPI Oceans Joint Actions, with emphasis on complementarity, novelty and potential for impact in social, political and economic dimensions.

## ENGAGE STRATEGICALLY BEYOND JPI OCEANS

Beyond self-initiated Joint Actions, JPI Oceans will engage in other strategic initiatives (Strategic Engagements) where this contributes to the implementation of the Strategy Framework. It is nevertheless crucial to maintain a critical number of self-initiated activities to ensure added value for JPI Oceans' members.

## IMPLEMENT RAPIDLY AND FLEXIBLY

While large-scale research programs have long planning horizons, JPI Oceans has considerable advantages in its ability for rapid deployment of new activities and in its variety of implementation tools to address the research and policy needs of the members.



## SET FORWARD-LOOKING AGENDAS

JPI Oceans will continue to provide a forum for its member countries to look ahead and prepare future research programmes and agendas. JPI Oceans should seek to inspire national and European agenda topics, building on its impactful history through activities such as on microplastics and deep-sea mining.

## KEEP IMPLEMENTING JOINT CALLS

The Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership directly affects JPI Oceans activities as the co-fund mechanism of the partnership will attract significant parts of countries' international funding capacity throughout the 7-year duration, leaving less opportunities for other joint international calls. Nevertheless, JPI Oceans will continue to implement Joint Calls when opportunities arise and consider alternative joint call mechanisms to add value to national funding.

## ALIGN NATIONAL RESEARCH SYSTEMS

European funding of research and innovation remains largely within national research systems. Hence, the alignment of strategies and funding and sharing of research infrastructures remains of high importance for JPI Oceans member countries and for Europe as a whole. JPI Oceans members will continue to use JPI Oceans and its Joint Actions toolkit, such as Knowledge Hubs, Joint Calls and Infrastructure Sharing, to support cross-border alignment and sharing of assets and resources.

## BUILD BRIDGES

JPI Oceans will strengthen its function as a bridge builder for European funders, creating and strengthening connections between regional, national, European and global ocean related initiatives.

## PLAN STRATEGICALLY LONG-TERM

By gathering ministries and national funders of ocean R&I and connecting with research performing organizations under one umbrella, JPI Oceans is uniquely positioned to facilitate member countries' long-term thinking and strategic and political discussions. JPI Oceans has a particular strength in its longevity, having already existed alongside three EU R&I Framework Programmes. The longevity allows JPI Oceans to strategically adopt recommendations for R&I (and lessons learned) from initiatives with a more limited duration, such as the Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership.

