



EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Community research



The ERA-Net Scheme and its Implementation in the Field of Environmental Research

**Birgit de Boissezon
Head of Unit**

“Horizontal aspects and coordination”

**European Commission
DG RTD I – Environment**





EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Community research

ERA-Net scheme in FP6

Objective:

to provide targeted support for the coordination and mutual opening of national and regional research programmes and to establish long-term co-operation between national programmes, ultimately leading to joint transnational research programmes.

Launched in FP6 under the specific programme 'Integrating and strengthening the European Research Area', based on a '**bottom-up**' approach.





EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Community research

ERA-Net scheme in FP6

71 FP6 ERA-Nets established, ex-post re-grouped into 8 thematic areas: Transport, Life Sciences, Environment, Fundamental Sciences, International Cooperation, Energy, Social Sciences and Humanities, as well as Industrial Technologies and SMEs.

Participants: on average, each ERA-NET involved 16 participants from 12 different countries.

Average Duration: approximately 4 years.

Average EC contribution: 2.56 M €



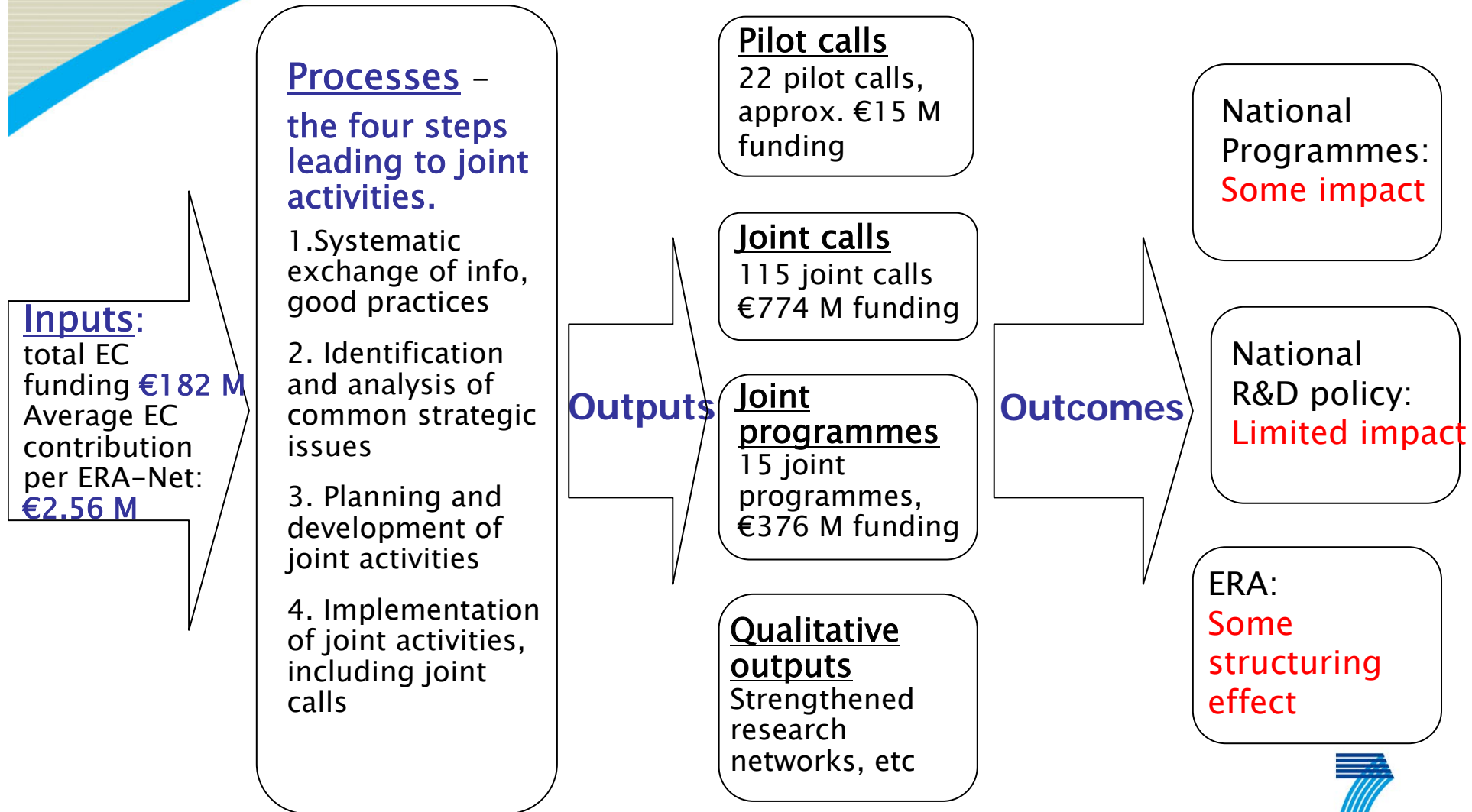


EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Community research

ERA-Net scheme in FP6

Based on the results of the FP6 ERA-Net study





EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Community research

Key obstacles to transnational cooperation

Findings of the FP6 ERA-Net study

- ✓ National thematic programme priorities may impose restrictions on transnational coordination
- ✓ National administrative procedures and legal conditions differ across countries
- ✓ EC administrative procedures or legal requirements are seen as restrictive.





EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Community research

Key success factors

Findings of the FP6 ERA-Net study

- ✓ Early agreement on common principles, procedures and definitions between participants
- ✓ Clear role of coordinators, participant and wider governance arrangements
- ✓ Strong systems for exchanging and sharing information
- ✓ Engagement in other transnational initiatives.





EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Community research

Key benefits of the ERA-Net scheme

Findings of the FP6 ERA-Net study

- ✓ Cumulative investment by participants in joint calls
- ✓ Creation of new networks, expansion of existing ones
- ✓ New collaboration agreements within and outside EU
- ✓ Greater understanding of R&D procedures in other countries
- ✓ Development and adoption of new evaluation protocols and procedures.





FP6 Environment ERA-Nets

- ✓ 15 ERA-Nets on marine issues, water, soil, biodiversity, climate change, and urban sustainability
- ✓ 1 continued as ERA-Net+, current preparations for an Art. 169 initiative
- ✓ 3 FP6 ERA-Net grants already ended
- ✓ 6 are ending in 2009

⇒ Extensive coverage of the Environment research Theme, **BUT** some overlaps and fragmentation

⇒ Wide range of the levels of integration and coordination

Name	FP6 grant end date/ status
BONUS	Art. 169 in preparation
ECORD	30/11/2007
CRUE	31/10/2008
MARINERA	31/10/2008
EUROPOLAR	28/02/2009
AMPERA	31/03/2009
BIODIVERSA	30/04/2009
SKEP	31/05/2009
SNOWMAN	30/06/2009
CIRCLE	30/09/2009
URBAN-NET	31/07/2010
EUWI	31/12/2010
IWRM.Net	31/12/2010
MariFish	15/01/2011
NET BIOME	28/02/2011



EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Community research

FP6 Environment ERA-Nets

Key findings of the FP6 ERA-Net study

- ✓ A key benefit -- development of common perspectives on R&D priorities to better address common national issues and global challenges.
- ✓ Environment ERA-Nets enabled Europe to more fully integrate with leading international players within specific scientific fields
- ✓ Environment ERA-Nets have acted as enablers rather than influencers of national R&D policies

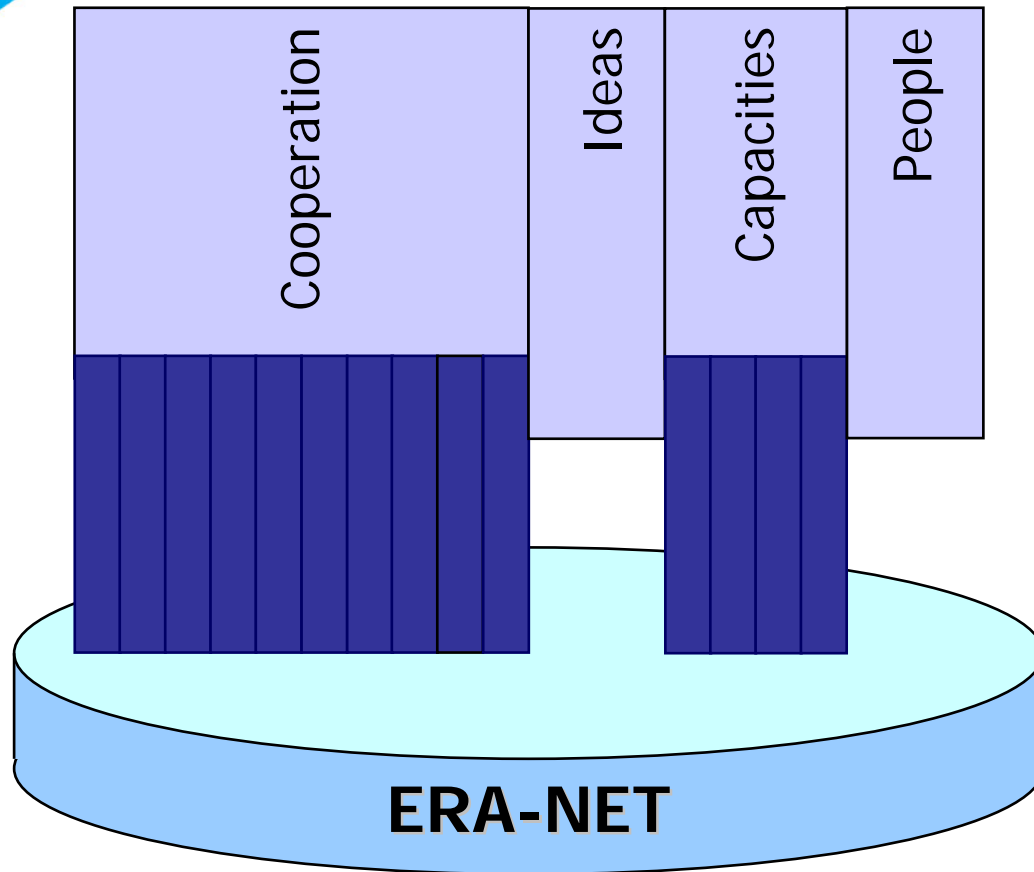




EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Community research

ERA-NET scheme in FP7



- ERA- Net scheme is continued and reinforced through horizontal and Theme- related calls (**NEW**)
- Implemented under Capacities and Cooperation (**NEW**)



EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

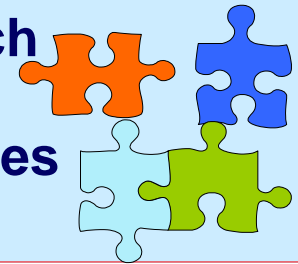
Community research

Coordination of national programmes in FP7: the “toolbox”

ERA-Net

Coordination of national or regional research programmes

- ✓ MS agree and fund joint calls/joint activities
- ✓ EU funding only for coordination



ERA-Net Plus

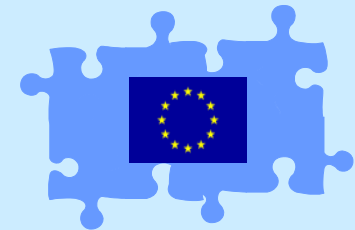
Top-up of a single joint call

- ✓ MS contribute to a joint trans-national call
- ✓ EU funding for research: 1/3 of the joint call



Art. 169

Full integration of national programmes



SEVENTH FRAMEWORK
PROGRAMME



EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Community research

Approach to implementation of Environment ERA-Net scheme in FP7

Developed through:

- ✓ Extensive dialogue with the Programme Committee to take into account Member States' positions
- ✓ Annual meetings with ERA-Net coordinators
- ✓ Dialogue among Commission services





EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Community research

Approach to implementation of the Environment ERA-Net scheme in FP7

Key elements:

- ✓ Fewer broadly based ERA-Nets recommended
- ✓ Second phase of some mature ERA-Nets which would be further broadened and deepened
- ✓ Topics in areas not yet covered – only when strongly requested by Member States
- ✓ Use of Coordination and Support Action funding scheme (CSA)





EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Community research

FP7 Environment ERA-Nets

2007: 2 new ERA-Nets launched

- ✓ Environment & Health: ERA-ENVHEALTH
- ✓ Cultural Heritage: NET-HERITAGE

2008: No ERA-Net topics

2009: 2 ERA-Nets selected for funding

- ✓ Towards integrated European marine research strategy and programmes
- ✓ ERA-NET on Climate Change Impacts and Responses

2010: 3 ERA-Net topics proposed
(call to be announced by end July)

- ✓ Eco-innovation
- ✓ Biodiversity
- ✓ Water management





EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Community research

ERA-Net Learning Platform

Objective: to collect and synthesise ERA-Net experiences and lessons learnt in order to support coherent development of future ERA-Nets, and the joint activities they carry out.

Means:

- ✓ Mutual learning and exchange of good practice
- ✓ Framework geared towards common guidelines for procedures and practices across all joint calls to:
 - reduce "transaction costs" of participation in cross border programme cooperation and integration
 - increase efficiency of call implementation towards a user friendly system, ensuring the submission and selection of the highest quality proposals.





EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Community research

NETWATCH Information System

Objective: to serve as a single entry point for information related to ERA-Nets.

NETWATCH will support:

- ✓ First hand and up-to-date information on all ERA-Nets, their activities, joint calls, participating programmes and organisations.
- ✓ Strategic evaluation tool (analysis on ERA-Nets).
- ✓ Mutual learning: On-line meeting and exchange point on good practices and guidelines, linking the ERA-Net community to the outcomes of the Learning Platform.

Additional information on the Learning Platform and the NETWATCH system is available at http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/coordination/era_lp_en.html





EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Community research

Future perspectives

- ✓ Potential future ERA-Nets:
 - ✓ Second phase of URBAN-Net
 - ✓ Second phase of EUROPOLAR

- ✓ Learning from ERA-Nets
e.g. ERA-Review in the field of Environment

- ✓ More strategic use of ERA-Nets

