



Short report on JPI Symposium

“Taking stock and inspiring the future”

Madrid, Palacio de Zurbano, 17-18 November, 2015

At this “working symposium” highlight of JPI Climate’s activities in the past three years were presented. Based on this stock taking ways to improve the impact and efficiency of the science planning and science-practice interface were discussed in panel format and in group discussions by more than 60 participants. The status of the development of a new Strategic Research Agenda (SRA) was presented and the four key challenges as proposed in the current draft SRA were discussed in separate group discussions. A voting on resulting items from the group discussion was performed to get a general view of the participants.

The symposium was opened with a warm welcome by Estrella Fernandez, Spanish Governing Board representative. Next, Eduardo Gonzalez Fernandez, Deputy Director General for Coordination of Actions against Climate Change focussed on the main challenges of mitigation and adaptation with special focus on how Spain has and is going to tackle them. The Chairman of JPI Climate, Patrick Monfray, opened the floor for the JPI Climate Working Group coordinators and work package leaders to present their activities and lessons learnt from the past three years.

Taking Stock

Sylvie Joussaume was the first presenter of the Working Groups with WG1: *Moving towards decadal predictions*. The WG1 launched 3 Fast Track activities for helping to create a roadmap for climate modelling and observations. Also, a Joint Call on Predictability and interregional linkages is currently being implemented together with the Belmont Forum. She concluded that based on the results provided by WG1 and the workshops being held recently in Paris, JPI Climate can play an important role of bringing the communities together and support collaborative actions on sustainability.

The second speaker was Dagmar Bley from DLR on WG2 *Researching and advancing climate service development*. She presented the outcomes of the Fast Track activities and workshops, such as the [Workshop and Brokerage Event in Brussels](#). Also, the [Climate Knowledge Hub](#) an information portal for Climate Service portals was shown. The flagship activity is currently the implementation of a large ERA-NET co-fund action on climate services research (ERA4CS) which is for the first time following a hybrid financing approach including cash and in-kind contributions from member states in parallel.

Lisa Almesjö presented the outcomes of WG3: *Sustainable Transformation of Society in the Face of Climate Change*. One result is the [Synthesis Report on Scoping Process 'Societal Transformation in the face of Climate Change'](#) and the implementation of a first Joint Call with the same title. A literature review on transformation research was conducted which led to the formulation of the top 5 questions in transformation research.

Rob Swart from Alterra Wageningen UR was the last WG speaker: *Methods and Tools for decision support* (WG4); focussing on how to bridge the gap between science and policy. He also stressed the framing principles adopted by JPI Climate and the science-policy-practise labs. Working Group 4 has also pursued to further cross-sectoral impacting modelling as a clear added value of JPI Climate over JPIs focussing on single sectors. The last of the three lines of work was on the methods for economic assessment of climate change and responses.

Elisabeth Worliczek from BOKU continued with elaborating on the JPI Climate principles on [Greening the Research System](#) and [Open Knowledge Guidelines](#), Roger Street together with Alexandre Fernandes elaborated on the outreach and dissemination activities which focussed on engaging non-member countries. Patrick Monfray outlined the cooperation with international initiatives before the Panel discussion with representatives from different JPI's and climate organisations started.

Panel Discussion

The panel discussion focussed on the expectations of the invited panelists towards JPI Climate.

Moderator: *Kevin Noone*, Chairman of the Transdisciplinary Advisory Board (TAB)

Panellists:

- *Eli Aamot*, Member of the TAB, SINTEF Materials and Chemistry, Executive Vice President
- *Pablo Aller Moran*, Representative of JPI FACCE
- *Begoña Artiñano Rodriguez De Torres* from CIEMAT for ECRA (European Climate Research Alliance)
- *Ed Gillespie*, Founder of "Futerra Sustainability Communications"
- *André Jol*, European Environment Agency (EEA)
- *Bob Khosa*, Acclimatise Group Ltd
- *Harilaos Loukos*, Climate-KIC Co-Chair of the "Climate Change Adaptation Services" Platform
- *José M. Moreno* Spanish IPCC delegation, University of Castilla-La Mancha
- *Mário Pulquério*, Coordinator of the PLACARD project (PLATform for Climate Adaptation and Riskreduction)
- *Jean-Noël Thépaut*, Head of Copernicus Climate Change Service at ECMWF



A general conclusion of the panel was that the stakeholder approach in JPI Climate is key for a strong societal impact of the research performed. This is also seen as the weakest point in other JPIs.

Among the aspects to improve is the communication format with stakeholders (more listening, less talking to), a more direct, interesting and unambiguous way of communicating results and increased involvement of multiplier and boundary worker. In addition, it was stated that regarding the way to communicate, "One size fits all" will not work. Stakeholders are not a homogeneous group. Consequently, communication has to be tailored to the pre-existing knowledge and need for details of each group. An effective strategy to engage with stakeholders could be to go to their field and gain their trust.

With a view to climate services, the involvement of the private sector in the planning of the research should be increased. In order to attract more business people the opportunities and the risks that climate change brings have to be clearly presented. Also, it should be kept in mind, that climate service is not a single layer process, but a value chain in which some players will not even see themselves as climate service providers. In order get maximal impact JPI Climate needs to rely on and connect to existing networks. It should not start from scratch. It may be a dream to think that JPI Climate can reach out to all the stakeholders by itself.

Another part of the discussion circled around the goal to support to policy-making or decision-making in general. Social sciences and humanities involvement needs to be an integral part if research wants to understand decision-making processes.

Regarding research results it is difficult to transfer the tools and mechanisms that work in one specific area or sector to another one – there is a need for tailored tools. It is necessary to reach out not only to different sectors, but also to different geographic regions. This could be a shared effort of Copernicus with JPI Climate. As there are different layers of policy-making JPI Climate has to carefully define up-front which level it wants to address.

From the audience the question was raised why there is not more initiative from the private sector as one main stakeholder group. One of its characteristics is to seek and seize new opportunities. So, why are they not approaching climate science more? Also, not all panellists felt comfortable with the increasing grasp of “the market” on climate research. The opinion was that some fundamental science questions will not be discovered or solved by the market.

Evening Reception and inspirational speech

An inspirational speech was given by Ed Gillespie, from Futerra Sustainability Communications, during the evening reception at the Museo Nacional de Ciencias Naturales, Madrid. A video recording of the speech can be found [online](#).

Day 2: Towards a new JPI Climate Strategic Research Agenda + Group discussions

The state of play on work in progress towards a new JPI Climate Strategic Research Agenda was presented by *Anja Skjoldborg Hansen*, Vice-Chair of JPI Climate. In its current draft the SRA starts with mission and vision statements of JPI Climate and then names and describes four challenges or research areas. At the time these read:

1. Connecting disciplines and approaches in the understanding of relevant processes and impacts of climate change
2. Connecting climate change research to decision-making needs
3. Connecting climate change research, societal transformation and pathways to the wider realm of sustainable development goals
4. Connecting people, problems and solutions in a systemic approach

These four challenges were further discussed in four separate discussion groups. Suggestions for adaptations of the title were given. Without having the written draft Strategic Research Agenda on the table the discussion revealed diverse understanding of the possible content of these research areas based on the titles alone. Participants formulated expectations on what JPI Climate should cover or strengthen and what would be out of scope. Essence of the discussion was collected on flip charts from each discussion group. Finally, the participant were asked to vote for the most important items (statements or possible research area) with the option to give special points (votes) to especially innovative or non-main stream ideas worth pursuing. The results of the voting will be distributed to the meeting participants, separately.