

Benefit of Cross Border Research and Networking

Researchers perspective – added value and
barriers for research organizations

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ATB and ERA-Net

- Leibniz Institute for Agricultural Engineering & Bioeconomy (ATB) [www.atb-potsdam.de] in brief
 - mission and approach
- ERA-Net instrument
 - benefits, practical experiences, challenges

ATB in brief

- Nationally and internationally acting research center at the interface of biological and technical systems,
- 230 staff members with multi-disciplinary academic background, 50 PhD students.
- **Mission**
Our research is aimed at sustainable intensification of bio-economic production.



Approach

- Our approach is to analyze, model and evaluate exemplary **bio-economic production systems** - such as the systems “precision plant production”, “biogas” or “biochar”.
- Based on the results we develop and integrate new technologies and management strategies - for a knowledge-based, site-specific production of biomass, and its use for food, as raw materials and fuels - from basic research to application.



ATB role as stakeholder in the ERA

Policy
advice

Thematic
Leadership

Research

Legislative

Innovation

Knowledge
transfer

ERA-Net experiences

ERA-Net Projects *finalized – in progress – upcoming*

ICT-Agri: 3D Mosaic (2011-2013)



USER PA (2013-2015) PA for Precision horticulture

FACCE Era-Net Climate Smart Agriculture:  OptiBarn

OptiBarn (2015-2018) Optimized animal-specific barn climatization

SusAn (Full proposal):

- Sustainable antibiotic use EU poultry prod. Susan_ePoult)



FACCE ERA-Gas (Full proposal preparation):

- Manure management for methane mitigation (M4M)

- GHG/NH3 emissions f. naturally ventilated barns (EmiNat)

- Database and Inventory Refinement for GHG (DataMan)



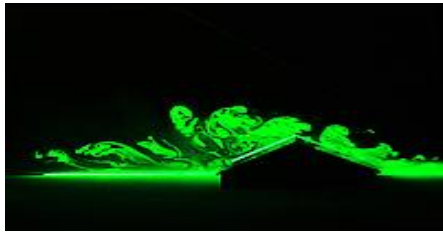
ERA-Net benefits – general aspects I

- Era-Nets are an interesting research funding instrument due to time to grant, flexibility, funding rate and wide scope of topics.
- (Cross border) research is an essential tool for European integration & achieves broad participation of researchers.
- ERA-Nets address many research communities due to the wide thematic scope. Researcher community benefits from involvement in SRA agenda processes (knowledge flows).
- Benefits arise from tools implemented by ERA-Nets such as partnering platforms or the ICT-Agri Meta Knowledge Base and others.



ERA-Net benefits – general aspects II

- Outstanding hardware and **unique national infrastructures** can be linked in projects and create European synergies,
- **excellent working groups** from different countries with their specific expertises (e.g. methodologies, labs, site-specifics) can be linked in projects,
- issues are mostly cross border, thus multi-national consortia are indispensable (for example concepts for sustainable livestock systems must consider the **specific regional conditions for best site-specific European solutions**).



Practical experiences from ERA-Net projects I

- ***Real research*** – joint research work, basic to application oriented research,
- project coordinator can concentrate on scientific coordination, less administration.



- elaboration and promotion of a novel scientific-technical concept & development of thematic leadership (Precision Fruticulture).

Practical experiences from ERA-Net projects II

- Successful integration of many young scientists (trainees, PhDs, PostDocs) in research activities,
- cooperation with industry & farmers allowed technology & knowledge transfer,
 - worked well to create the basis for long term research collaboration partnership; building new project consortia for follow up activities (H2020 consortia, Era-Net projects, EIP-OG).



ERA-Net challenges

- Budget restrictions on project level and on national level limit research work,
- excellent projects may fail to be funded due to budget limitations of national funders,
- researchers from European countries that do not participate in the respective ERA-Net are *out*,
- the varying funding conditions (topics, budget, innovation *must*) between countries are sometimes not clear (own experiences).

Thank you!

