



Vacancy for Chair of the Joint Programming Initiative ‘A Healthy Diet for a Healthy Life’
The Joint Programming Initiative ‘A Healthy Diet for a Healthy Life’ is looking for candidates for the position of chair.

Do you want to be part of a country driven initiative that is committed to making our societies more healthy and sustainable? In the Joint Programming Initiative ‘A Healthy Diet for a Healthy Life’ (JPI HDHL) 26 countries from within and outside of Europe work together on the research area of food, nutrition, health and physical activity. These governments are working voluntarily on a programmed approach to align national R&I strategies and fund new research, in order to improve the impact of research investments on preventing or minimising lifestyle-related chronic diseases. While the focus of the JPI HDHL is on healthy diets, it works from a systems perspective and collaborates closely with other actors and initiatives from different parts of the food system. An important aspect of this is connecting the thematic areas of food and health to ensure a strong position for nutrition. The highest body of the JPI HDHL is the Management Board, which is made up of representatives from the member countries.

Vision

The vision of the JPI HDHL is that **by 2030 all citizens will have the motivation, ability and opportunity to consume a healthy diet from a variety of foods, have healthy levels of physical activity and that the incidence of lifestyle related diseases will have decreased significantly.**

The JPI HDHL has the strategic goal to improve dietary quality in an environmentally-sustainable way, based on insights and developments in food, nutrition and the social and health sciences, and to develop evidence-based (policy) recommendations and innovative formats for food products. A programmed approach, with transdisciplinary expertise, knowledge and approaches, ranging from basic research to population studies and controlled trials, is needed to truly understand the relationship between diet, physical activity and health. Research should cover a wide range of topics. Implementation should take place at the regional and country level, and at multilateral level through JPI HDHL joint actions and through the EC RTD framework programme (currently H2020, next Horizon Europe).

Role of the chair and governance

The chair of the JPI HDHL is expected to lead 2 to 3 Management Board (MB) meetings per year with approximately 30 – 35 participants. The chair is supported by the secretariat of JPI HDHL and a Steering Committee consisting of the chair, vice-chair and 2 members of the MB. The chair of the MB of JPI HDHL will be neutral and independent and shall not participate in the voting. That means the chair cannot be a member of the MB. If an MB member becomes chair, another representative shall be nominated for the duration of the term of the chair by the country in question. Furthermore, the chair must avoid any (appearance of a) conflict of interest, for example by being involved in applications to calls of the JPI HDHL, or being closely connected to applicants. Besides the chairing of the MB meetings and involvement in the management of the JPI in between meetings, the chair is expected to be an ambassador of the JPI HDHL and represent the JPI at various relevant meetings and events. The chair has an important role in establishing and fostering strategic relations.

The management board is supported in its activities by two further governing bodies, the Scientific Advisory Board and the Stakeholder Advisory Board.



Personal profile:

- a passion for nutrition and health research which is likely to be reflected in a professional track record, a vision for the future and a large, relevant network;
- experience with governance, ideally in a setting that dealt with connecting research and policy;
- the ability to command respect amongst all JPI HDHL stakeholder groups, professionals across a range of disciplines, the public, secretariat staff, etc.;
- commitment to a spirit of partnership and common purpose among diverse stakeholders who share some, but not all, of their goals;
- the ability to synthesise information and opinions from multiple sources and build consensus;
- commitment to the highest standards of integrity in organisational life;
- preferably a thorough knowledge of and experience with working with the European Commission.

The chair is expected to:

- foster a relationship of trust and cooperation among partners;
- facilitate consensus on issues and actions – both at MB meetings and in between, as needed;
- promote joint working where this can add value;
- be a figurehead and ambassador for nutrition research, promoting excellence and ambition;
- work in close cooperation with the secretariat;

The time investment is estimated at an average of 2-4 hours per week, though this is not equally distributed throughout the year. For example, for the preparation and chairing of the Management Board meetings (3 times per year) a time investment of ca. 2-3 days is needed in a short period. The JPI HDHL can only reimburse the travel expenses and cannot provide any financial compensation for the invested time.

Procedure

Interested candidates are invited to send a short motivation letter and CV to JPIHDHL@zonmw.nl before the 21st of November 2019. Applications will be evaluated by the Steering Committee, who might request an interview (via phone or video conference) with the candidate. The final decision on the election of the chair lies with the Management Board, which is expected to be taken by December 18th. The chair-elect will be invited to join the Management Board meeting on the 4th and 5th of February 2020, which will still be chaired by the current chair. The transfer of the chairpersonship will take place at some point between this meeting and the next MB meeting on the 16th of June 2020, the exact moment to be decided in consultation with both parties, with a formal handover during the meeting in June.

Enquiries about the position can be directed at Chrissie Brierley, deputy coordinator of the JPI HDHL, via brierley@zonmw.nl.