**Why evaluating JPI Oceans?**

***Monitoring developments***

The evaluation approach laid down in JPI Oceans' strategies and plans includes a system for monitoring key developments. The intention is to be able to register activities related to the main actions being implemented in the course of JPI Oceans' cooperation. The monitoring is based on tagging key actions and activities in line with those identified in the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda, the Implementation plan and the Operational plan, and thereby allow building a database of activities, inputs and outputs. The monitoring serves two purposes: Firstly to ensure real-time information to support ongoing decision making in the governing bodies of the partnership, and secondly to ensure the build-up of information and data for dedicated evaluation efforts.

***Learning from experimentation***

The success of JPI Oceans will to some extent depend on the partnership's ability to develop new approaches and instruments that can help improve alignment, increase coordination and ensure efficient use of resources. To that end, experimentation through pilot actions makes up an important part of the tool box. Several pilot actions are already identified and some are being implemented. A tailor-made evaluation approach has been developed to ensure that lessons are drawn from these actions, and fed into the decision making process for possible up-scaling or other actions. Being tailor-made means in this context that each pilot action will be evaluated through an approach that takes into account the uniqueness of the pilot actions' objectives and activities.

***Understanding outcomes and impacts***

The core of JPI Oceans' activities is what is referred to in the above mentioned documents as structuring actions. As the partnership is moving forward, a bulk of such actions will be identified and implemented. These include research and innovation actions like joint calls, connectivity actions like encouraging networking and research alliances, capacity building like training and mobility and policy support actions like foresight and indeed evaluation to support decision making. These actions will lead to specific outcomes and further impacts as specified in their goals and objectives. Monitoring as stated above ensures a collection of the main inputs and immediate outputs, but evaluation activities will be initiated to ensure learning and extract lessons from these core activities.

***Governing the partnership and ensuring alignment***

JPI Oceans is a significant ERA-initiative. It strives to change the research and innovation landscape in its domain. Evaluation is conducted in this context with two purposes in mind: guiding the governance of JPI Oceans, and guiding alignment:

* Evaluating the partnership is necessary to make sure that participation is effective and representative, that partners provide inputs and resources to the activities, that management structures and governance bodies work effectively, and that communication and information systems support the viability of the partnership or JPI Oceans as a whole.
* Alignment and coordination is a key challenge that even may be overlooked when the partnership increasingly will implement various actions on a greater scale. However, the very essence, and success, of JPI Oceans needs to be understood and measured on this level: To what extent is the partnership able to accommodate adjustments and alignments through coordination measures on different levels, adjust policies and priorities, agree on divisions of labour, otherwise take steps that ensure greater cost-effectiveness and reduced fragmentation in the European landscape.