

Non-paper on National commitments for participation in European Partnerships

The purpose of this informal note is to support countries in preparing formal commitments for their participation in European Partnerships. It is prepared to guide the discussion in the Shadow Strategic Confirmation of the Horizon Europe Programme Committee.

Written feedback can be provided until 5 June to joerg.niehoff@ec.europa.eu.

1. Overall context and process

European Partnerships require the “*Ex-ante demonstration of the partners’ long term commitment, including a minimum share of public and/or private investments*”. The following approach is proposed in order to translate this legal provision into practice in an effective and coordinated way.

It is planned to formally request commitments from Member States by the end of June (date to be confirmed), via the permanent representations (copy to the Shadow Strategic Programme Committee of Horizon Europe). The request will be accompanied by a template (see Annex I) covering the different partnerships candidates. Each country will identify the partnerships in which they plan to participate, and indicate commitments to contribute for the full duration of the partnership. These indicative commitments will be further detailed on an annual basis, and turn into contributions once activities are implemented and costs incurred.

Member States will be required to provide their respective commitments by September 2020. This is necessary for the Commission Services to proceed with the further preparation of the partnerships and to determine the Union contribution for Commission proposals for Article 185/7 initiatives, as well as for co-programmed and co-funded partnerships.

To support the national decision-making process, the European Commissions will publish by mid-June the further elaborated draft proposals for the partnerships concerned on the Horizon Europe webpage. This will ensure transparency of preparation and allow all Member States to get the most recent information on the scope, ambition and implementation of the partnerships and make informed decisions on their participation.

It is proposed that the national research ministries coordinate the process at national level and send a single reply covering all partnerships back to the DG Research & Innovation (tentative date: mid-September).

A similar process will be launched for private partners¹ in the relevant partnership candidates.

¹ Private partners are partners in European Partnerships other than the Union and participating states.

2. Partnership candidates concerned and main form of contribution expected

The commitments have to cover all European Partnerships with Member State participation that are likely to go into the Work Programme 2021/2 (co-programmed and co-funded European Partnerships, and those where the Commission foresees to adopt proposals for institutionalised European Partnerships based on Article 185/7).

Discussions have taken place or are ongoing within each partnership to determine in detail, which activities and contributions are required. However, commitments will only be required for the main form of contribution expected (financial and/or in kind). In the following tentative list of concerned partnership candidates and likely form of implementation, the relevant expected types of contributions have been indicated:

Co-programmed European Partnerships

- European Open Science Cloud (EOSC) Partnership (financial and/or in-kind contributions)

Co-funded European Partnerships

- European Partnership for Chemicals Risk Assessment (in-kind contributions)
- European Partnership - ERA for Health (tbc) (financial contributions)
- European Partnership on Health and Care Systems Transformation (financial contributions)
- European Partnership for a Geological Service (tbc) (financial and/or in-kind contributions)
- European Partnership – Driving urban transitions to a sustainable future (financial and/or in-kind contributions)
- European Partnership for Clean Energy Transition (financial contributions)
- European Partnership Rescuing Biodiversity to Safeguard Life on Earth (financial contributions)
- European Partnership for Blue Oceans (financial and/or in-kind contributions)
- European Partnership Water Security for the Planet - Water4All (financial contributions)
- European Partnership for Innovative SMEs (financial contributions)

Institutionalised European Partnerships based on Article 185

- European Partnership on Metrology (financial and in-kind contributions)

Institutionalised European Partnerships based on Article 187

- EU-Africa Global Health Partnership (financial and in-kind contributions)
- European Partnership for Key Digital Technologies (financial contributions)
- European Partnership for High Performance Computing (financial and in-kind contributions)

3. Forms of contributions

Depending on the individual partnership and the form of implementation financial and/or in-kind contributions are necessary. The following provides an overview of the general principles (complementing the more detailed descriptions in the proposals):

2.1 Co-programmed European Partnerships

The activities from participating states in co-programmed partnerships are implemented under the responsibility of each country. Activities are defined in the Memorandum of Understanding and have to be agreed on an annual basis in the Annual Work Plan/activity plan to ensure that they are in the scope of the partnership. Participating states report on the implantation of activities, with simplified reporting on the costs of implementation. The value of commitments and contributions are estimates. Examples for contributions are:

a) Financial contributions:

- Example: MS organise transnational (or national) calls for proposals;
- National/regional funding payed to applicants (beneficiaries) count as financial contributions.

b) In-kind contributions

- Example: research performing organisation in the partnerships is implementing R&I activities that are financed by its institutional funding;
- Costs of implementing these activities can be counted as in-kind contributions.

2.2 Co-funded European Partnerships

The activities from participating states in co-funded partnerships are implemented in the context of a grant agreement (programme co-fund action). Activities are described in the description of activities, and further detailed per year in the Annual Work Plan/activity plan. Implementation of activities and costs are reported to the European Commission. Eligible costs are reimbursed after approval, in accordance with the applicable funding rate (usually 30%). The non-reimbursed eligible costs are the contributions from participating states. Contributions to the partnership can only be made by the beneficiaries in the grant agreement for the programme co-fund action implementing the co-funded European Partnership. Examples for contributions are:

a) Financial contributions:

- Example: MS organise transnational calls for proposals, prizes etc.;
- National/regional funding payed to applicants (beneficiaries at national level) count as financial contributions (category: “costs of providing financial support to third parties”).

b) In-kind contributions

- Example 1: Any direct expenditure of a partner in the consortium (other than providing financial support to third parties) for activities of the partnership;
- Example 2: a research performing organisation in the consortium is implementing R&I activities that are financed by its institutional funding;

- In both cases the reported and non-reimbursed costs of implementing these activities can be counted as in-kind contributions.

2.3 Institutionalised European Partnerships based on Article 185/7 TFEU

The activities from participating states in Institutionalised European Partnerships based on Article 185/7 are managed by dedicated implementation structure (Article 185) or Joint Undertakings (Article 187). Activities are defined in the Decision of the European Parliament and Council (Article 185) or in the Council regulation (Article 187), and further detailed per year in the Annual Work Plan. Implementation of activities and costs are reported to the European Commission. The Union contribution is conditional to the participating states making their contributions. Contributions to the partnership can only be made by countries that are formally participating in the partnership. Examples for contributions are:

c) Financial contributions:

- National/regional funding payed to applicants resulting transnational calls for proposals;
- Contributions paid for the administration of the initiative.

d) In-kind contributions

- Activities of governmental research organisations (Example national Metrology institutes) included in the annual work programme;
- The reported costs of these activities (minus any funding from the partnership) count as in-kind contributions.

Annex I: Template for commitments

Co-programmed European Partnerships			
European Open Science Cloud (EOSC) Partnership			
We will participate in the partnership	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Undecided <input type="checkbox"/>
Lead Ministry at national level and contact person [organisation, name, position, e-mail address]			
Indicative commitments for the full duration of the initiative [in € million]			
Financial contributions			
In-kind contributions			
Comments			
Co-funded European Partnerships			
European Partnership for Chemicals Risk Assessment			
We will participate in the partnership	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Undecided <input type="checkbox"/>
Lead Ministry at national level [organisation, name, position, e-mail address]			
Indicative commitments for the full duration of the initiative [in € million]			
In-kind contributions			
Comments			
European Partnership - ERA for Health (tbc)			
We will participate in the partnership	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Undecided <input type="checkbox"/>
Lead Ministry at national level [organisation, name, position, e-mail address]			
Indicative commitments for the full duration of the initiative [in € million]			
Financial contributions			
Comments			
European Partnership on Health and Care Systems Transformation			
We will participate in the partnership	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Undecided <input type="checkbox"/>
Lead Ministry at national level [organisation, name, position, e-mail address]			
Indicative commitments for the full duration of the initiative [in € million]			
Financial contributions			
Comments			

European Partnership for a Geological Service (tbc)			
We will participate in the partnership	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Undecided <input type="checkbox"/>
Lead Ministry at national level [organisation, name, position, e-mail address]			
Indicative commitments for the full duration of the initiative [in € million]			
Financial contributions			
In-kind contributions			
Comments			
European Partnership – Driving urban transitions to a sustainable future			
We will participate in the partnership	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Undecided <input type="checkbox"/>
Lead Ministry at national level [organisation, name, position, e-mail address]			
Indicative commitments for the full duration of the initiative [in € million]			
Financial contributions			
In-kind contributions			
Comments			
European Partnership for Clean Energy Transition			
We will participate in the partnership	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Undecided <input type="checkbox"/>
Lead Ministry at national level [organisation, name, position, e-mail address]			
Indicative commitments for the full duration of the initiative [in € million]			
Financial contributions			
Comments			
European Partnership Rescuing Biodiversity to Safeguard Life on Earth			
We will participate in the partnership	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Undecided <input type="checkbox"/>
Lead Ministry at national level [organisation, name, position, e-mail address]			
Indicative commitments for the full duration of the initiative [in € million]			
Financial contributions			
Comments			
European Partnership for Blue Oceans			
We will participate in the partnership	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Undecided <input type="checkbox"/>
Lead Ministry at national level [organisation, name, position, e-mail address]			
Indicative commitments for the full duration of the initiative [in € million]			
Financial contributions			
In-kind contributions			
Comments			

European Partnership Water Security for the Planet			
We will participate in the partnership	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Undecided <input type="checkbox"/>
Lead Ministry at national level [organisation, name, position, e-mail address]			
Indicative commitments for the full duration of the initiative [in € million]			
Financial contributions			
Comments			
European Partnership for Innovative SMEs			
We will participate in the partnership	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Undecided <input type="checkbox"/>
Lead Ministry at national level [organisation, name, position, e-mail address]			
Indicative commitments for the full duration of the initiative [in € million]			
Financial contributions			
Comments			
Institutionalised European Partnerships based on Article 185			
European Partnership on Metrology			
We will participate in the partnership	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Undecided <input type="checkbox"/>
Lead Ministry at national level [organisation, name, position, e-mail address]			
Indicative commitments for the full duration of the initiative [in € million]			
Financial contributions			
In-kind contributions			
Comments			

Institutionalised European Partnerships based on Article 187**EU-Africa Global Health Partnership**

We will participate in the partnership	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Undecided <input type="checkbox"/>
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Lead Ministry at national level [organisation, name, position, e-mail address]	
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Indicative commitments for the full duration of the initiative [in € million]

Financial contributions	
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In-kind contributions	
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Comments	
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European Partnership for Key Digital Technologies

We will participate in the partnership	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Undecided <input type="checkbox"/>
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Lead Ministry at national level [organisation, name, position, e-mail address]	
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Indicative commitments for the full duration of the initiative [in € million]

Financial contributions	
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Comments	
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European Partnership for High Performance Computing

Lead Ministry at national level [organisation, name, position, e-mail address]	
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We will participate in the partnership	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Undecided <input type="checkbox"/>
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Indicative commitments for the full duration of the initiative [in € million]

Financial contributions	
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In-kind contributions	
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Comments	
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