



Interim Evaluation Horizon 2020

Public-Public Partnerships (P2Ps)

Evaluation and assessment of P2Ps

1. Commission evaluations and expert groups in the context of the Horizon 2020 interim evaluation

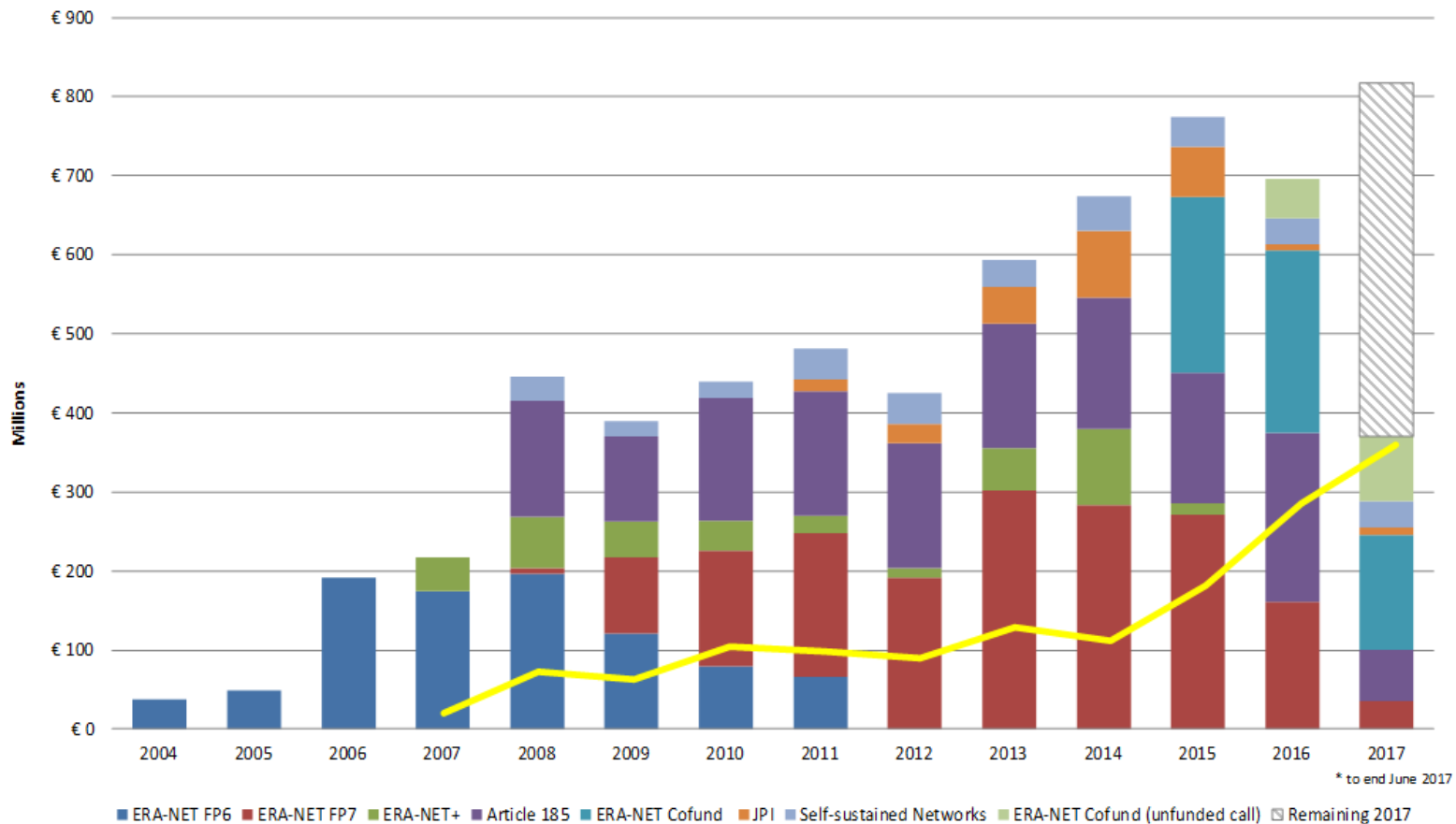
- Staff working document Horizon 2020 interim evaluation, covering P2Ps in general, May 2017 (expert groups on ERA-NET Cofund and on Joint Programming)
- Article 185 Staff Working Document (October 2017) (expert groups on 4 interim evaluations, 2 final evaluations and a meta-evaluation)
- Lamy group report, July 2017

2. Other assessments

- ERAC opinion on Horizon 2020 Interim Evaluation/FP9, incl.GPC input
- Informal Council Tallinn: Discussion on Partnerships
- Series of Workshops with Member States on P2P in FP9

Annual national investment in P2Ps

→ currently 600 – 800 projects per year being funded by 80 active networks



Yellow line: cofunding from the Union

P2Ps – conclusions (general, SWD H2020)

Strengths

- Potential for high European/national Added Value: more efficient and effective use of public resources compared to uncoordinated national spending;
- Significant investments: Effective in supporting cross-border collaboration with 600 – 1000 transnational projects p.a. complementary to H2020 actions;
- Emerging evidence to facilitate a better policy cooperation at national level, notably between R&I and sectorial policy making;
- Strong cooperation with international partners at programme level.

Challenges

- Limited long-term commitment (budgetary and legal constraints);
- Weak coherence and strategic positioning in relation to national/EU initiatives;
- Focus remains mostly on competitive funding, limited range of deployment;
- Lack of institutional, organisational and strategic management capacities in many MS.

P2Ps in the "Lamy-report"

Two recommendations make specific reference to "partnerships", including P2Ps

- Recommendation 5: Mission-oriented and impact-focused approach to address global challenges: partnerships should be supported with additionality for achieving "missions" as guiding criterion;
- Recommendation 9: Better align national and EU investment: EU to limit co-funding to partnerships clearly delivering on EU missions with a simplified and flexible co-funding mechanism.

P2Ps in the ERAC opinion H2020 IE/FP9, taking into account also the GPC input

- For effectively addressing the grand societal challenges, the strategic design, governance and implementation of EU and national R&I activities should be aligned, on a voluntary basis, in the form of a strategic approach that promote interdisciplinary, trans-border research and innovation communities in all MS/AC. FPs should support these efforts in a flexible manner, with **cofunding conditional to the existence of high EU added value.**
- The ERAC considers that simplification of funding schemes is especially pressing as regards to the joint programming activities: instead of ERA-NET and EJP Co-Funds, the next **FPs should consider a single scheme,** flexible enough to be adapted to the specific needs, and simple enough to achieve value for money for the funding organisations. It should take the key role in establishing networking structures and provide long-term and flexible co-funding of transnational research projects. **A centralised procedure for the implementation of the calls it supported.**

Informal Council – discussion on partnerships

- EE presidency facilitated a debate on "partnerships" (PPPs, P2Ps, EIT etc.) during last informal Council meeting on 25 July 2017;
- Background was *inter alia* the Technopolis Study on "increased coherence and openness of European Union research and innovation partnerships";
- Overall impression from the debate:
 - Member States continue to value partnerships in general;
 - Current partnership landscape became too complex with too many instruments undermining the added value of partnerships;
 - More coherence between the different initiatives as well as between the initiatives and the (future) Framework programme is needed;
 - Member States wish for a transparent and open selection process for new partnerships.

Conclusions from workshops with Member States on the future of P2Ps (I)

1. Country participation in P2Ps is strongly driven by the interest/needs of the researchers and less part of dedicated national strategies;
2. P2Ps support projects that are complementary in size and composition to national and to Framework Programme projects;
3. Countries wish to build on the strength of P2Ps allowing for more balanced participation, supporting "active openness" and international collaboration;

Conclusions from workshops with Member States on the future of P2Ps (II)

4. P2Ps in FP9: WS participants converge towards a scenario with a clear distinction between:
 - Future support to the majority of P2Ps covering administrative costs, no cofunding (operational costs) for calls/research activities;
 - Cofunding simplified and limited to selected P2Ps in areas of high FP relevance where systematic co-investments and policy links with MS are necessary to achieve impacts;
5. Participants expressed a demand to explore options for major improvements in efficiency of implementation and stronger integration of national programmes.

Thank you for your attention!

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