

15 YEARS OF EUROPEAN PUBLIC-PUBLIC PARTNERSHIPS IN RESEARCH & INNOVATION



GREAT ACHIEVEMENTS WITH STRONGER POTENTIAL

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European public-public partnerships in research and innovation are increasingly becoming a noticeable player in the ERA landscape. From the initial 71 ERA-NETs created in FP6, a total of more than 260 networks have now been supported. Currently there are 98 active networks including: 6 Art 185s (including the newly created PRIMA), 8 ERA-NETs and 11 ERA-NET Plus from FP7, 46 ERA-NET Cofund Actions, 3 EJP Cofund Actions and 10 JPIs, as well as 14 other networks that became self-sustained. Today, in addition to the 28 EU Member States, a total of 13 Associated Countries and 29 Third Countries participate in P2P calls. This is most impressive considering that the starting points were 15 EU Member States and 2 Associated Countries in 2002 .

The EU support of P2Ps across the different FPs has increased significantly, from €80 million in FP6 (2.1% of the FP6 budget) to €802 million (1.4% of FP7 budget) in FP7. In Horizon 2020 it is estimated to reach approximately €2,500 million (around 3.1% of the budget). This investment has mobilised national contributions that have increased exponentially over the years despite the recent financial crises, i.e. €1,250 million of national funding under FP6 and around €2,900 million under FP7, to an estimated €6,000-8,000 million in Horizon 2020.

Over their 15-year history P2Ps have managed to mobilise and connect substantive resources across Europe. Adding to this, there are numerous P2Ps

that present clear evidence of impressive outcomes and a variety of impacts that go beyond 'rate of return' interests but are considered equally, if not more, important. Apart from scientific impacts, i.e. publication records in highly-ranked scientific journals, human capital development and capacity building impacts, there is strong evidence of economic impacts related to employment increases and launch of innovative products and services in the market. Conceptual impacts regarding changes in the way we approach certain challenges are not insignificant along with influence on policies at national, European but also international level. Structural impacts are also evident and mostly have to do with increased coordination at the national level that leads to more effective coordination of national strategies and programmes.

A wealth of evidence and information has been collected in the ERA-LEARN 2020 publication '[15 Years of European Public-Public Partnerships in Research & Innovation. Great achievements with stronger potential](#)' presenting impacts achieved so far as well as opportunities and threats in the way ahead.

Notwithstanding the challenges that P2Ps face, what is certain is that in the challenging future that lies ahead of us these partnerships and the spirit of trust and true collaboration they build may be the only effective and concentrated means of addressing the grand challenges that cross our national borders.

The 3rd ERA-LEARN 2020 annual report on P2P networks in Europe is designed to present an up-to-date picture of the landscape during the period of the report (July 2016 to June 2017) as well as the cumulative and emerging position on joint calls since the launch of the P2P movement in 2003. It also provides a comprehensive overview of the H2020 ERA-NET Cofund calls and demonstrates the results of some of the strategic activities that have been undertaken within ERA-LEARN 2020 over the past year. The full report can be found at www.era-learn.eu/publications/other-publications/3rd-annual-report-on-p2p-partnerships.



TOWARDS PUBLIC-PUBLIC PARTNERSHIPS IN FP9

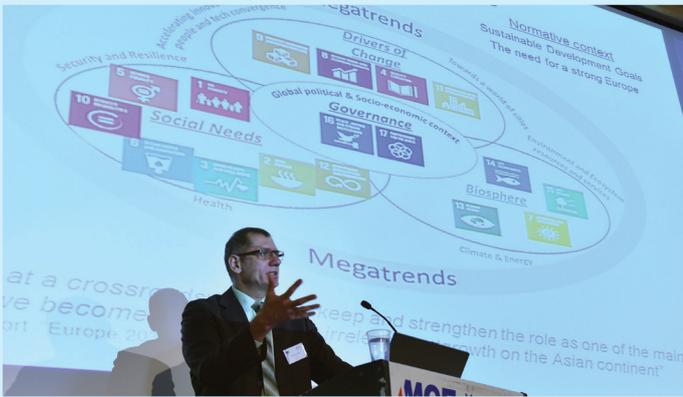
[The Lamy Report makes specific reference to Partnerships and stresses their potential to make a valuable contribution marked by great European added value to the achievement of Framework Programme objectives.](#)

Partnerships (Public-Private Partnerships – PPPs and Public-Public Partnerships – P2Ps) have been used since FP6 to optimise the contribution of public and private players in achieving sustainable growth and competitiveness and addressing societal challenges and to ensure that national policies and Union policy are mutually consistent. The Informal Council of July 2017 resulted in a general recognition by the Member States of the continued relevance of Partnerships and called for a reformed approach tackling the complexity of the landscape and its suboptimal coordination and coherence. The Horizon 2020 interim evaluation, including the SWDs on Article 185 and Article 187 initiatives, supports the conclusions of the informal Council meeting. The Lamy Report makes specific reference to Partnerships and stresses their potential to make a valuable contribution marked by great European added value to the achievement of Framework Programme objectives.

However, a key recommendation from the Lamy group report, widely supported by individual evaluations (ERA-NET), the ERAC opinion on the Horizon 2020 interim evaluation and position papers issued by Member States and stakeholders is to simplify the landscape of funding instruments for P2Ps, towards a single Cofund instrument.

At the Annual P2P Conference 2017 the Commission presented a number of scenarios (<https://www.era-learn.eu/events/annual-conference-on-public-public-partnerships-7-8-nov-2017/P2PinFP9.pdf>) that had been discussed in previous Workshops with Member State representatives and that conclude on an emerging preferred scenario with the following toolbox under FP9, following a two pillar approach:

1. Help Member States coordinating their national programmes and funding;
2. Support Framework Programme objectives (including missions) with joint funding





It would be based on three instruments:

- 1 Coordination and Support Actions (CSAs) to help Member States coordinate funding

The default approach for support to P2Ps in the future would focus on priorities of MS according to their choice (not limited to FP priorities), covering only the coordination costs of P2Ps, no cofunding of national programmes. This would be organised in an open, competitive process selecting a limited number of networks per year. The approach creates strong leverage effects on national investments (factor 15-20, based on FP7 experiences) and efficiency gains compared to uncoordinated national funding.

- 2 A single Cofund instrument and Art. 185 initiatives to support FP objectives with joint funding

Cofunding of few, selected P2Ps in areas of high relevance for Framework Programme /Union priorities, where co-investments and policy collaboration with MS is necessary to achieve impacts that FP action alone cannot achieve. It would be based on a single, simple and flexible Cofund instrument in FP9, applicable also to other participants, e.g. foundations. The use of Article 185 would be limited: only if justified vis-à-vis Cofund, when MS are fully committed to strong integration over a long period of time, with broad political endorsement.

This would be supported by activities that increase coherence and efficiency of implementation.

Conference participants discussed the consequences of such an approach in breakout sessions and provided feedback on strengths and challenges of the proposed approach, issues that need to be clarified, and analysed how to improve efficiency of implementation. The results will be presented in detail in the conference report, but the main messages can be summarised as follows (see also slides <https://www.era-learn.eu/events/annual-conference-on-public-public-partnerships-7-8-nov-2017/Summarybreakoutsession.pdf>)

- The overall approach is broadly supported. The flexibility for the funding for coordination and management activities with the CSA as a well-established and easy instrument was appreciated in particular, focusing more on the national funding, with more freedom to take into account MS agendas and priorities;
- For those programmes that involve co-funding from the ninth Framework Programme a stronger role of the Commission services was seen as crucial;
- A critical issue shared by many was the need to have an open and transparent process for identifying and selecting future P2Ps, including during evaluation of competing proposals for CSA support;
- In this context also the better involvement of less R&I intensive countries (respecting excellence) was considered crucial;
- For the CSA an appropriate duration (e.g. 5 years) and the possibility for renewal of support are important;
- For co-funded initiatives a clear distinction of intervention logic between Article 185 and a Cofund instrument are considered important.



ONE BRAND, ONE VOICE: THE ADVANTAGES OF COMMUNICATING TOGETHER

The Annual P2P Conference included a plenary session on the communication and branding of P2Ps, against the background that although P2Ps account for a Europe-wide public R&I investment of about 8 billion € between 2014-2020, the overall political visibility of P2Ps remains limited.

Furthermore, recent evaluations have shown that P2Ps need to put more effort into sharpening their profile concerning their objectives, their impacts, their communication towards various stakeholders as well as their strategic positioning within the respective national and EU research and innovation policy frameworks.

Consequently, the participants of the conference discussed the pros and cons as well as the added value of a potential umbrella branding and communication concept for P2Ps. The discussion highlighted that for a majority of P2P stakeholders there is a clear need for a unified branding of the P2Ps in order to address and involve the broader P2P stakeholders and to create a clear 'identity' for P2Ps in the overall European R&I landscape.

ERA-LEARN will take up this issue in its work over the coming years and prepare a proposal for a P2P umbrella branding and communication strategy, in close cooperation with the P2P stakeholders.

Save the date

Foresight Training III

Application of foresight processes for transnational coordination of strategic research and innovation, Vienna, 15 – 16 February 2018

The aim of the ERA-LEARN 2020 training course is to empower management structures of Public-Public Partnerships in their endeavour to develop, align and update their Strategic Research (and Innovation) Agendas in the trans-national context of Joint Programming Initiatives.

The target groups for this training are:

- Representatives from JPI management and governing bodies responsible for implementation of Strategic Research Agenda and for evaluation;
- Policy makers in preparation of an ERA-NET Cofund, ERA-NET Cofund managers and managers of Article 185 programmes;
- Participants from countries with less experience in transnational joint programming.

Further information and registration is available at:

<https://www.era-learn.eu/events/era-learn-training-course-using-foresight-in-public-public-partnerships-p2ps-3>

About ERA-LEARN 2020

ERA-LEARN 2020 is a support platform for the Public-Public Partnerships (P2P) community and facilitates learning among national and regional funding organisations in order to optimise their transnational activities.

The ERA-LEARN platform is available at:

<http://www.era-learn.eu>

Register for the ERA-LEARN newsletter

<https://www.era-learn.eu/newsletter>