

Provisions related to European Partnerships in the Horizon Europe Common Understanding

Definitions

- (3) 'European Partnership' means an initiative where the Union, prepared with early involvement of Member States and/or Associated Countries, together with private and/or public partners (such as industry, universities, research organisations, bodies with a public service mission at local, regional, national or international level or civil society organisations including foundations and NGOs), commit to jointly support the development and implementation of a programme of research and innovation activities, including those related to market, regulatory or policy uptake;
- (25) 'programme co-funding action' means an action to provide multi-annual co-funding to a programme of activities established and/or implemented by entities managing and/or funding research and innovation programmes, other than Union funding bodies. Such a programme of activities may support networking and coordination, research, innovation, pilot actions, and innovation and market deployment actions, training and mobility actions, awareness raising and communication, dissemination and exploitation, any relevant financial support, such as grants, prizes, procurement, as well as Horizon Europe blended finance or a combination thereof. The programme co-fund action may be implemented by those entities directly or by third parties on their behalf;

Article 8

European Partnerships

1. Parts of Horizon Europe may be implemented through European Partnerships. The involvement of the Union in European Partnerships may take any of the following forms:
 - (a) participation in partnerships set up on the basis of memoranda of understanding and/or contractual arrangements between the Commission and the partners referred to in Article 2(3), specifying the objectives of the partnership, related commitments from all involved sides for financial and/or in-kind contributions of the partners, key performance and impact indicators, outputs to be delivered and reporting modalities. They include the identification of complementary research and innovation activities that are implemented by the partners and by the Programme (Co-programmed European Partnerships);
 - (b) participation in and financial contribution to a programme of research and innovation activities, specifying the objectives, key performance and impact indicators, and outputs to be delivered, based on the commitment of the partners for financial and/or in-kind contributions and integration of their relevant activities using a Programme co-fund action (Co-funded European Partnerships);
 - (c) participation in and financial contribution to research and innovation programmes undertaken by several Member States in accordance with Article 185 TFEU, or by bodies established pursuant to Article 187 TFEU, such as Joint Undertakings, or by the EIT Knowledge and Innovation Communities in compliance with the EIT Regulation (Institutionalised European Partnerships). Such partnerships shall be implemented only where other parts of the Horizon Europe programme, including other forms of European Partnerships would not achieve the objectives or would not generate the necessary expected impacts, and if justified by a long-term perspective and high degree of integration. Partnerships in accordance with Article 185 TFEU or pursuant to Article 187 TEFU shall implement a central management of all financial contributions, except in duly justified cases. In case of central financial management, project level contributions from one participating state will be made on the basis of the funding requested in proposals from entities established in that participating state, unless otherwise agreed among all participating states concerned.

The rules for such partnerships shall specify inter alia the objectives, key performance and impact indicators, and outputs to be delivered, as well as the related commitments for

financial and/or in-kind contributions of the partners.

2. European Partnerships shall:

- (a) Be established for addressing European or global challenges only in cases where they will more effectively achieve objectives of Horizon Europe than the Union alone and when compared to other forms of support of the Framework programme. Those parts shall have an appropriate share of the budget of Horizon Europe. The majority of the budget in pillar II shall be allocated to actions outside of European partnerships;
- (b) Adhere to the principles of Union added value, transparency, openness, impact within and for Europe, strong leverage effect on sufficient scale, long-term commitments of all the involved parties, flexibility in implementation, coherence, coordination and complementarity with Union, local, regional, national and, where relevant, international initiatives or other partnerships and missions;
- (c) Have a clear life-cycle approach, be time limited and include conditions for phasing-out the Programme funding.

2.a. European Partnerships according to Article 8(1)(a and b) of this Regulation shall be identified in Strategic R&I Plans before being implemented in work programmes.

Provisions and criteria for their selection, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and phasing-out are set out in Annex III.

ARTICLE 8.a.

Review of missions and partnership areas

No later than 2023, the Commission shall carry out a review of Annex V.a. as part of the overall monitoring of the programme, including missions and institutionalised European partnerships on the basis of article 185 TFEU or article 187 TFEU, and present a report on the main findings to the Council and the European Parliament.

ANNEX III **PARTNERSHIPS**

European Partnerships shall be selected and implemented, monitored, evaluated, phased-out or renewed on the basis of the following criteria:

1) Selection:

- (a) Demonstrating that the European Partnership is more effective in achieving the related objectives of the Programme through involvement and commitment of partners, in particular in delivering clear impacts for the EU and its citizens, notably in view of delivering on global challenges and research and innovation objectives, securing EU competitiveness, sustainability and contributing to the strengthening of the European Research and Innovation Area and, where relevant, international commitments;
- In the case of institutionalised European Partnerships established in accordance with Article 185 TFEU, the participation of at least 40% of the EU Member States is mandatory;
- (b) Coherence and synergies of the European Partnership within the EU research and innovation landscape, following the Horizon Europe rules to the largest extent possible;
- (c) Transparency and openness of the European Partnership as regards the identification of priorities and objectives in terms of expected results and impacts and as regards the involvement of partners and stakeholders from across the entire value chain, from different sectors, backgrounds and disciplines, including international ones when relevant and not interfering with European competitiveness; clear modalities for promoting participation of SMEs and for disseminating and exploiting results, notably by SMEs, including through intermediary organisations;
- (d) Ex-ante demonstration of additionality and directionality of the European Partnership, including a common strategic vision of the purpose of the European Partnership. This vision will include in particular:
- identification of measurable expected deliverables, outcomes, and impacts within specific timeframes, including key economic and/or societal value for the Union;
 - demonstration of expected qualitative and significant quantitative leverage effects, including a method for the measurement of key performance indicators;
 - approaches to ensure flexibility of implementation and to adjust to changing policy, societal and/or market needs, or scientific advances, to increase policy coherence between regional, national and EU level;
 - exit-strategy and measures for phasing-out from the Programme
- (e) Ex-ante demonstration of the partners' long term commitment, including a minimum share of public and/or private investments;
- In the case of institutionalised European Partnerships, established in accordance with article 185 or 187 TFEU, the financial and/or in-kind, contributions from partners other than the Union, will at least be equal to 50% and may reach up to 75% of the aggregated European Partnership budgetary commitments. For each such institutionalised European Partnership, a share of the contributions from partners other than the Union will be in the form of financial contributions. For partners other than the Union and Participating States, financial contributions should be aimed primarily at covering administrative costs as well as coordination and support and other non-competitive activities.

2) Implementation:

- (a) Systemic approach ensuring active and early involvement of Member States and achievement of the expected impacts of the European Partnership through the flexible implementation of joint actions of high European added value also going beyond joint calls for research and innovation activities, including those related to market, regulatory or policy uptake;
- (b) Appropriate measures ensuring continuous openness of the initiative and transparency during implementation, notably for priority setting and for participation in calls for proposals, information on the functioning of the governance, visibility of the Union, communication and outreach measures, dissemination and exploitation of results, including clear open access/user strategy along the value chain; appropriate measures for informing SMEs and promoting their participation;
- (c) Coordination and/or joint activities with other relevant research and innovation initiatives to secure optimum level of interconnections and ensure effective synergies, inter alia to overcome potential implementation barriers at national level and increase cost-effectiveness;
- (d) Commitments, for financial and/or in-kind contributions, from each partner in accordance with national provisions throughout the lifetime of the initiative;
- (e) In the case of institutionalised European Partnership access to the results and other action related information for the Commission for the purpose of developing, implementing and monitoring of Union policies or programmes.

3) Monitoring:

- (a) A monitoring system in line with the requirements set out in Article 45 to track progress towards specific policy objectives, deliverables and key performance indicators allowing for an assessment over time of achievements, impacts and potential needs for corrective measures;
- (b) Periodic dedicated reporting on quantitative and qualitative leverage effects, including on committed and actually provided financial and in-kind contributions, visibility and positioning in the international context, impact on research and innovation related risks of private sector investments;
- (c) Detailed information on the evaluation process and results from all calls for proposals within partnerships, to be made available timely and accessible in a common e-database.

4) Evaluation, phasing-out and renewal:

- (a) Evaluation of impacts achieved at Union and national level in relation to defined targets and key performance indicators, feeding into the Programme evaluation set out in Article 47, including an assessment of the most effective policy intervention mode for any future action; and the positioning of any possible renewal of a European Partnership in the overall European Partnerships landscape and its policy priorities;
 - (b) In the absence of renewal, appropriate measures ensuring phasing-out of Framework Programme funding according to the conditions and timeline agreed with the legally committed partners ex-ante, without prejudice to possible continued transnational funding by national or other Union programmes, and without prejudice to private investment and on-going projects.
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ANNEX Va

AREAS FOR POSSIBLE MISSIONS AND AREAS FOR POSSIBLE INSTITUTIONALISED EUROPEAN PARTNERSHIPS TO BE ESTABLISHED UNDER ARTICLE 185 OR 187 TFEU

In accordance with Article 7 and 8 of this Regulation, the areas for possible Missions and possible European Partnerships to be established under Articles 185 or 187 TFEU are set out in this Annex.

II. Areas for possible institutionalised European Partnerships on the basis of Article 185 TFEU or Article 187 TFEU

Partnership Area 1: Faster development and safer use of health innovations for European patients, and global health.

Partnership Area 2: Advancing key digital and enabling technologies and their use, including but not limited to novel technologies such as Artificial Intelligence, photonics and quantum technologies.

Partnership Area 3: European leadership in Metrology including an integrated Metrology system.

Partnership Area 4: Accelerate competitiveness, safety and environmental performance of EU air traffic, aviation and rail.

Partnership Area 5: Sustainable, inclusive and circular bio-based solutions.

Partnership Area 6: Hydrogen and sustainable energy storage technologies with lower environmental footprint and less energy-intensive production.

Partnership Area 7: Clean, connected, cooperative, autonomous and automated solutions for future mobility demands of people and goods.

Partnership Area 8: Innovative and R&D intensive small and medium-sized enterprises.

The process of assessing the need for an institutionalised European partnership in one of the above mentioned Partnership Areas may result in a proposal on the basis of Article 185 TFEU or Article 187 TFEU, in accordance with the European Commission's right of initiative. Otherwise the respective Partnership Area can also be subject to a partnership following Article 8(1)(a) or Article 8(1)(b) of the Framework Programme or be implemented by calls for proposals within Horizon Europe.

As the possible areas for institutionalised European partnerships cover broad thematic fields, they can, based on the assessed needs, be implemented by more than one partnership.