

# Partnership Stakeholder Forum 2023

## Parallel session B1

### **Parallel session B1: Selection process of candidate partnerships: fit for purpose?**

**Date:** December 6th, 2023, 09:30 – 10:45 CET

**Venue:** BluePoint Brussels, Bd A. Reyers Ln 80, 1030 Brussel, Room Newton A

#### **Background**

The selection of partnerships has followed a step-based process that consisted of a consultation of the internal EC services involved in the Horizon Europe Work Programme preparations and gap analyses for the second Strategic Plan, the preparation of draft proposals of candidate partnerships, and a wide consultation based on these proposals addressing the Member States and Associated Countries as well as the Partnership community through various committees (e.g. the Partnership Knowledge Hub, the Strategic Programme Committee, etc.). The Partnership Knowledge Hub published an opinion on the selection process of future partnerships<sup>1</sup> and the Expert Group for support of the Strategic Coordination process for Partnerships<sup>2</sup> was entrusted with the task of developing a methodology that will allow the creation of evidence-based decision support for the development of the portfolio of European Partnerships. The methodology complements the current selection process triggered by the EC with a strategic view of the portfolio building, considering the coherence of the portfolio as a whole and as regards emerging R&I priorities.

#### **Goals/ Output**

Within the above context and based on the results of the discussions of the session A4: “Developing a coherent partnership portfolio – work of the Expert Group supporting the EC in the Strategic Coordination Process for Partnerships”, the B1 session aims at:

- reviewing the selection process of future partnerships in view of the next framework programme with particular emphasis on streamlining by:
  - taking stock of the strengths and weaknesses of the selection processes that were followed under Horizon Europe (first and second Strategic Plans),

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<sup>1</sup> <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/03f967b2-5380-11ee-9220-01aa75ed71a1/language-en/format-PDF/source-292878440>

<sup>2</sup> <https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/expert-groups-register/screen/expert-groups/consult?lang=en&do=groupDetail.groupDetail&groupID=3738&news=1>

- discussing elements to be improved with regard to the coordination amongst the various committees and consultation bodies involved and orchestrating their inputs in terms of content and timing to achieve maximum effectiveness,
- Exploring the need for specifications/adjustments to account for any special features of the thematic areas addressed,
- Capitalizing on the knowledge produced by the EC in relation to forward-looking studies and key areas of strategic importance that need to be addressed by instruments like the partnerships.

**Moderator:** Kathrin Kapfinger, European Commission

### Speakers

- Szilvia Németh, Deputy Head of Unit, RTD.B.4 - Oceans, Seas and Waters
- Daria Julkowska, Chair of the Expert Group for Support of SCP for Partnerships
- Petra Žagar, Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Innovation Slovenia, PKH/SPC
- Lydia González Fernández, Representative of the Climate area (Cluster 5) and PNC of the Environment area (Cluster 6) of Horizon Europe at CDTI
- Effie Amanatidou, member of the Expert Group for Support of SCP for Partnerships

### Agenda

09:30 Introduction, Kathrin Kapfinger, European Commission

Existing selection process,

- European Commission followed by panel reactions.

09:50 Results of the A4 discussion on Developing a coherent partnership portfolio

- by Effie Amanatidou (Expert Group member / ERA-LEARN)

10:00 Group work or open discussion supported by Sli.do questions and results.

10:30 Panel / open discussion

10:45 End of session

# Partnership Stakeholder Forum 2023

## Parallel session B2

### **Parallel session B2: The design of Partnerships in FP10**

**Date:** 6 December, 09:30-10:45 CET

**Venue:** BluePoint Brussels, Bd A. Reyers Ln 80, 1030 Brussels, Room Einstein (Plenary)

#### **Background**

“European Partnerships are initiatives through which the EU together with private and/or public partners commit to jointly support the development and implementation of a programme of research and innovation activities. The partners could represent industry, universities, research organisations, bodies with a public service remit at local, regional, national or international level or civil society organisations including foundations and NGOs.”<sup>3</sup>

With every new Framework Programme, new partnership types and partnership instruments have been proposed although it has proven to be much more difficult to abandon or replace existing ones. Horizon Europe brought about a major reform and rationalization of the European Partnership landscape by reducing the number of partnerships in total and focusing on three types of partnerships: co-programmed, co-funded, and institutionalized that evolved from previous types of partnerships.

The practical implementation of the general partnership concept is critical in achieving its objectives. In this workshop, all actors involved in the entire partnership landscape are welcome to actively contribute to a first brainstorming on possible partnership formats for the next Framework Programme, to start in 2028.

#### **Goals**

Participants are invited to reflect on the possible design of European Partnerships. Ideas on the following questions will be collected:

- What are the assets and challenges of the current formats of European partnerships?
- What are we missing?

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<sup>3</sup> European Commission, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, *Horizon Europe – The next generation of European partnerships – Contributing to a greener and more digital Europe*, Publications Office, 2021, <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2777/768845>

- What could be a new taxonomy for partnerships? (e.g. the nature of the challenge (technological, societal), the maturity of the initiative, the value chain...)
- What design would allow them to best deliver? What building blocks should they have?

### **Structure/ format**

#### Slido stations for interactive discussions and overall involvement

- Slido used to mirror the structure of the four world café stations (each double)
- Each station has a dedicated section in Slido where participants can contribute to each question
- During the world café, the panel members circulate among the stations and read the content added to Slido, to prepare their intervention in the last part of the session

### **Agenda**

**09:30 – 09:40 Welcome and recalling the essence of the partnership instruments (objectives, specificities and design principles)**

**Moderator:** Alexander Grablowitz, PKH Co-Chair

**09:40 – 10:20 Brainstorming/ World Café (with Slido), Introduction: Marion Jamard**

**10:20 – 10:45 Collection and discussion of output of the stations and messages from the perspectives of speakers**

**Moderator:** Alexander Grablowitz, PKH Co-Chair

#### **Speakers:**

- Peter Spyns, Coordinator international policy at the Flemish Government - Department of Economy, Science and Innovation (EWI)
- Angelo Wille, Deputy Head of Unit Industrial Research, Innovation and Investment Agendas, EC DG RTD 4
- Mirela Atanasiu, Clean Hydrogen, Head of Unit Operations and Communications
- Jörn Stenger, Metrology, EURAMET Chair

#### **Concluding remarks**

**End: 10:45**

# Partnership Stakeholder Forum 2023

## Parallel session B3

### Parallel session B3: Transparency and openness: where are the newcomers (including widening countries)?

**Date:** December 6th, 2023, 09.30-10.45 CET

**Venue:** BluePoint Brussels, Bd A. Reyers Ln 80, 1030 Brussel, Room Vesalius

#### **Background**

One of the EU main goal in supporting future European Partnerships (EPs) is to make sure these joint endeavours are created and implemented with respect for openness and transparency principle. Partnerships should demonstrate openness towards all relevant partners and stakeholders already in the process of the programme design and remain open to newcomers and interested parties throughout its lifetime. Adopting openness and transparency principle and ensuring right portfolio of partners will help identify priorities and build partnerships' vision and work plan, attain strategic policy goals and maximize the programme's impact.

The Biennial Monitoring Report 2022 on Partnerships in Horizon Europe points out several challenges related to involving and attracting newcomers acknowledged by the Partnerships. These are for example: fragmented ecosystems, shortage of resources and personnel, lack of national networks or mirror groups that serve as a tool for engaging various stakeholders<sup>4</sup>.

One important component of Openness and transparency principle is strengthening the European Research Area (ERA) through Sharing Excellence and Widening Participation in all pillars of Horizon Europe, and through the Partnership instrument. Organisations from this group of countries are less active in the European Partnerships and reluctant to take leadership roles. Enhancing participation of Widening countries in European Partnerships in the entire life cycle of the partnership is particularly important in achieving significant impact and delivering on EU policy priorities.

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<sup>4</sup> More information: <https://op.europa.eu/en/web/eu-law-and-publications/publication-detail/-/publication/a6cbe152-d19e-11ec-a95f-01aa75ed71a1>, p. 78.

## Goals and outputs

The panel session will be a forum for the exchange of experiences and best practices in the engagement of new stakeholders in the European Partnerships. The invited speakers will discuss common challenges and goals in initiating and broadening collaboration with new partners. The panel session will involve representatives of different stakeholder communities engaged in the EPs, such as funding organisations and ministries, academic and research institutions, business or industry partners, policy makers, etc. The session will also give the floor to the speakers from newcomer organisations. The speakers will represent Widening and non-Widening members states and Associated countries.

One of the issues that will be tackled in this panel session is the participation of Widening countries, whose potential is not yet fully exploited in the EPs. The participants will be encouraged to discuss possible measures and activities that can serve broadening their engagement in the partnerships and strengthening their leadership roles.

The discussion and lessons learned from the presentation, the discussion and best practices shared by the speakers shall allow to facilitate the process of integration of newcomers in the partnerships.

## Agenda

1. Presentation of the ERA-LEARN report on Challenges of Widening Countries in European Partnerships
2. Discussion involving invited speakers

Moderation: *Manuel Aleixo, ERA, Spreading Excellence and Research Careers, Head of Unit, EC*

Speakers:

- *Laura Marin, OH AMR, coordinator, VR, Sweden*
  - *Julia Rosend, Ministry of Education and Research of Estonia, Chief Expert, International RDI Cooperation, Estonia*
  - *Jesús Contreras, EIT Digital, Hungary*
3. Q&A session involving the audience

# Partnership Stakeholder Forum 2023

## Parallel session B4

### Parallel session B4: Globalisation and internationalisation: challenges for European Partnerships

**Date:** December 6th, 2023, 09.30-10.45 CET

**Venue:** BluePoint Brussels, Bd A. Reyers Ln 80, 1030 Brussel, Room Newton B/C

#### **Background**

In our globalised world, experiencing the grand challenges such as the climate and biodiversity crises, international collaboration on research and innovation play a key role to solve them. Further, joint research and collaboration can strengthen international ties and promote peace. In times of geopolitical conflicts, Intellectual Property infringements, and the necessity for technology sovereignty in certain technological areas to increase resilience, the EU strives to implement its foresight-based concept of Open Strategic Autonomy. Against this backdrop, partnerships require trustworthy international relations and therefore face the challenge to assess risks and opportunities of collaboration, or decide to build up technology sovereignty. The session will discuss the applicability of Open Strategic Autonomy and best practices of European Partnerships.

#### **Goals and outputs**

- Gaining a better understanding of the meaning of Open Strategic Autonomy and technology sovereignty in the context of European Partnerships
- Discussion of good practices of partnerships regarding the implementation of Open Strategic Autonomy in order to prepare resilience for the future.

**Moderation:** Marnix Surgeon, EC, DG RTD

#### **Speakers:**

- Diego Sammaritano, Deputy Head of Unit, International Cooperation in Research and Innovation, DG RTD
- Attila Havas, Institute of Economics, Centre for Economic and Regional Studies, Senior Scientists
- Riikka Virkkunen, Co-Chair Made for Europe
- Rainer Sodtke, Biodiversa Plus
- Bjørn Kaare Jensen, Water4All

## Agenda

- 9:30 Introduction
- 9:35 Overview Global Approach & International Cooperation in R&I  
Diego Sammaritano, Deputy Head of Unit, International Cooperation in Research and Innovation, DG RTD
- 9:50 Global Context Scenarios and Policy Implications  
Attila Havas, Senior Researcher at AIT, Austria and at Centre of Regional Studies in Hungary
- 10:00 Views from the industry: Made for Europe Partnership  
Riikka Virkkunen , Co-Chair of Made for Europe
- 10:20 Internationalisation of Partnership Activities in times of global challenges: Biodiversa+  
Rainer Sodkte, Vice Chair of Biodiversa Plus
- 10:30 Internationalisation of Partnership Activities in times of global challenges: Water4All  
Bjørn Kaare Jensen, Water4All
- 10:30 Open discussion with audience
- 10:45 Wrap up and closing

## Bibliography:

- [https://www.isi.fraunhofer.de/content/dam/isi/dokumente/publikationen/technology\\_sovereignty.pdf](https://www.isi.fraunhofer.de/content/dam/isi/dokumente/publikationen/technology_sovereignty.pdf)
- [European Commission Communication on the Global Approach to Research and Innovation Europe's strategy for international cooperation in a changing world](#)
- [First biennial report on the implementation of the Global Approach to research and innovation](#)
- <https://vdivde-it.de/en/publication/future-horizon-country-factsheets-road-transport-research>