

Workshop on data transfer for co-funded European Partnerships

10 June 2022

Summary Q&A Session

On 10 June 2022, the European Commission and ERA-LEARN organised a webinar on new requirements for co-funded European Partnerships concerning the data transfer (projects, proposals).

This document is a summary of the Q&A session.

General aspects

Q: What is the aim of the data collection?

A: Monitoring and reporting of European partnerships is fully integrated in the Horizon Europe monitoring and evaluation system, in accordance with Article 50, Annex III and Annex V of the Horizon Europe Regulation. The outcomes feed into the biennial monitoring of all European partnerships and Horizon Europe evaluations. For each European partnership, the data on proposals, selected projects, their outcomes and results need to be integrated in the central IT tools. In practice, this means the transfer of data on the proposals received and projects signed under each co-funded European Partnership. The collected data will allow tracing the contribution of partnerships through their projects, automatically and in a consistent manner with the rest of the programme. It also reduces the reporting burden and prepares quality data for evaluations.

Q: How often will the data be collected? (e.g. intermediate reporting by the partnership? other?)

A: There are three levels of reporting: at project level, at programme level and on the functioning of the partnership. The data on the proposals received and projects signed under each co-funded European Partnership serves the purpose of reporting at project level. It is a continuous reporting in the sense that the data transfer can take place at any time.

Q: Are the EC guidelines already available? Will ERA-LEARN release guidelines for the different elements (e.g., when to choose the values 0%, 40% or 100%)?

A: From the EC side this is still under discussion. ERA-LEARN will publish the guidelines when they are available.

Q: Will the database include data on concrete results? Is a reporting template available?

A: The data collection is referring to applicants and proposal data etc. but not to research results data (e.g. results of clinical trials) apart from numbers of publications and IPR applications. The database will not refer to the research results as such. The data structure (i.e. the XML template), available on the ERA-LEARN website, is in fact the reporting template.

Q: Could you please clarify what you refer to by "proposal" and what by "project"?

A: An application for funding (=proposal) turns into a project after the signature of the grant agreement.

Q: Will the final XML template be distributed to all partnerships?

A: Yes, the XML template will be distributed. It is already available at: https://www.era-learn.eu/documents/data_structure_for_european_partnerships

Q: What is the NUTS code?

A: The NUTS classification ("Nomenclature d'Unités Territoriales Statistiques") is a hierarchical system for dividing the territory of the EU for the purpose of collection, development and harmonisation of EU regional statistics, socio-economic analyses of the regions and framing of EU regional policies.

Q: Will data only be required for co-funded calls or also those not receiving EC co-funding.

A: In principle, the data is required for all calls.

Q: Are data required only for joint transnational calls or also for other type of calls e.g. networking calls?

A: In principle, the data is required for all calls.

Technical aspects

Q: Is each co-funded partnership expected to develop a complex submission/evaluation/monitoring platform (e.g. as the one presented by M-ERA.NET) or will there be a shared/centralised platform? If individual platforms need to be developed isn't it a waste

of resources considering that many of the co-funded partnerships have similar data collection processes?

A: There is no centralised platform. The IT solution proposed by the EC allows linking the different databases to the EC database, automatic data imports and quality checks. Therefore, the partnerships are not required to build a sophisticated tool such as the one of M-ERA.NET.

Q: In our partnership the call secretariat will change from one call to the other. We should then have several users able to upload the data, as the data will not be managed by the same partner from one call to the other?

A: In principle, for efficiency purposes and to ensure a high quality of data, it is intended to limit the number of the users able to upload data. This particular situation is still under discussion.

Q: Which PIC number should be used if a partner has more than one affiliation? (e.g. a clinical research partner affiliated to a hospital and a university)?

A: This seems to depend on the project and most probably to be decided on a case by case basis after discussion with the respective Project Officer.

Q: Would it be possible to extract or export data from the e-common database through API?

A: Still under discussion.

Other aspects

Q: In addition to having an overview of contribution to the EU policies and SDGs, it is important to have a list of the concrete outcomes contributing to these policies and how they are contributing. Will the database allow this to be identified and listed?

A: The specific data required to be collected does not address the research results as such. The contribution of these results and associated impacts to EU policies is being examined through the Horizon Europe KPIs and the annual reporting and the KPIs each specific partnership has identified. Collectively, at the partnership level the contribution of the partnerships to the EU policies and SDGs has been reported upon in the first BMR published in April 2022.

Q: Will there be an EU Impact Pathway e-database to showcase the results from the projects?

A: *The Biennial Monitoring Report (BMR) will definitely showcase partnership-level success stories not captured by a single project (e.g. synergies created). The first BMR was published in April 2022 and is available [here](#). Further, the Community Research and Development Information Service ([CORDIS](#)) is the primary source of results from the projects funded by the EU's framework programmes for research and innovation.*

Q: Does this overall monitoring include only the KPIs common to all Partnerships or also the topic specific ones?

A: *The data transferred to the EC database are mainly about who applies and who participates in research projects in the framework of the partnership. EC collects data on projects from all partnerships, for some of them automatically through the IT systems. The indicators for each partnership will be available on the Horizon monitoring dashboard.*

Q: Policies for Open Access to data (research data) are quite strong; these policies should apply also to project data that we collect and use. What are the current requirements for licensing of project data etc., or are these already seen as public domain information?

A: *The collection of data related to co-funded calls serves a different purpose than Open Access to research data. The transfer of data on the proposals received and projects signed under each co-funded European Partnership will allow tracing the contribution of partnerships through their projects. In case of Open Access to research data the focus is on truly accelerating the research and substantially improve the impact it can have, by ensuring that results and important discoveries extend past scientific communities to additional avenues that can build on the information, and take advantage of it for more impactful applications.*

Q: Will ERA-LEARN still be mandated to collect the financial information from the new partnerships as they did in the past for the previous ones?

A: *Still under discussion.*

Q: Can M-ERA.NET share the details of their system and the questions in the forms?

A: *The M-ERA.NET tool is the intellectual property of the respective M-ERA.NET partner. However, M-ERA.NET can share its experiences.*

Q: What are the resources needed to set up a monitoring tool like the one of M-ERA.NET?

A: M-ERA.NET had been collecting already quite a lot of the expected data. To update the system according to the new data structure and to implement the necessary changes about one person-month was needed. There is no need to have a separate monitoring tool for the requested data transfer. The transfer is done via XML files.

Further information

Horizon Europe Partnerships Data structure (Template and supporting document)

https://www.era-learn.eu/documents/data_structure_for_european_partnerships

European Partnerships website: https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe/european-partnerships-horizon-europe_en

ERA-LEARN Database on Partnerships: <https://www.era-learn.eu/network-information>

H2020 Participation – EC dashboard:

<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/dashboard/sense/app/93297a69-09fd-4ef5-889f-b83c4e21d33e/sheet/PbZJnb/state/analysis>