Workshop
"Supporting the preparation of future European Partnerships"
9 and 10 March 2020, Brussels
The Square – Rue Ravenstein 2, 1000 Brussels

European Partnerships

Horizon Europe will support European Partnerships to deliver on the objectives of Horizon Europe and the priorities of the European Union through concerted research and innovation (R&I) effort with the Member States, private sector, foundations and other stakeholders. European Partnerships allow bringing together a broad range of actors to work towards a common vision and translating it into concrete roadmaps and coordinated implementation of activities. It provides means to link R&I closely to policy needs, develop synergies with national and regional programmes, and turn research into socio-economic results. As such, Partnerships are powerful approaches for developing solutions to global challenges and drive transformation towards achieving the SDGs.

Horizon Europe resets the Commission's policy to R&I partnerships, and introduces a more strategic, coherent and impact-driven approach[1]. This means going beyond the goal of bringing together actors to develop a joint agenda, and launching calls for collaborative research. Partnerships need to have higher ambition, which involves a strong commitment from partners to achieve common EU objectives, as well as developing a systemic approach for the take-up of innovative solutions.

The workshop aims to support the preparation of future European Partnerships with Member States[2]. It brings together the representatives of candidate Partnerships, national representatives from ministries and funding agencies and Commission services involved in the preparation in order to:
- Present the current state of preparation of European Partnerships;
- Identify critical issues and bottlenecks related to governance, commitments, coherence, synergies, development of Strategic Research and Innovation Agendas, management of data on calls, projects and other activities;
- Support the development of common approaches across partnerships, ensuring mutual learning and exchange of good practice to ensure the delivery of impacts.

---

[1] Relevant provisions can be found here: https://www.era-learn.eu/documents/provisions_horizoneurope
[2] Currently around 19 candidates. See the full list in the Orientations towards the strategic plan, Annex 7, https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/orientations-towards-first-strategic-plan-horizon-europe_en

Workshop Agenda
"Supporting the preparation of future European Partnerships"
9 and 10 March 2020, Brussels

9 March 2020

12:00 – 13:00 The Arc Foyer	**Registration and light welcome lunch**

13.00 – 14:30 Plenary, The Arc	**Plenary session** **Moderation:** *Manuel Aleixo, DG Research and Innovation,* *Mission and Partnerships, Head of Unit* (acting) **Welcome and introduction** *Jean-Eric Paquet, DG Research and Innovation,* *Director-General* *Roland Brandenburg, FFG,* *Coordinator ERA-LEARN* **Crash Course on European Partnerships** *Joerg Niehoff, DG Research and Innovation,* *Partnerships, Head of Sector* **Introduction to parallel sessions day one**

14:30 – 15:00 The Arc Foyer	**Coffee break/ Networking**

15:00 – 16:25	**Parallel sessions**
Studio 311	A: Governance of and coherence among European Partnerships
Studio 312	B: Developing Strategic Research and Innovation Agendas
Studio 314	C: Implementation of joint calls for transnational R&I projects
Studio 316	D: Activities and contributions beyond joint calls

16:35 – 18:00	**Parallel sessions**
Studio 311	E: Financial management of co-funded European Partnerships
Studio 312	B: Developing Strategic Research and Innovation Agendas
Studio 314	F: Creating synergies between different funding sources at regional, national and European level
Studio 316	D: Activities and contributions beyond joint calls

18:00 – 20:30 Hall 100	**Reception and dinner/ Networking**

10 March 2020

09:00 – 9:45 Plenary, The Arc	**Plenary session** **Overall coherence of the Partnerships landscape and relevance for the political priorities of the New Commission** *Angus Hunter, OPTIMAT* **Requirements for European Partnerships – how to address Partnerships criteria in practice?** *Joerg Niehoff, DG Research and Innovation,*
10:00 – 11:30	**Parallel sessions**
Studio 311	E: Financial management of co-funded European Partnerships
Studio 312	A: Governance of and coherence among European Partnerships
Studio 314	F: Creating synergies between different funding sources at regional, national and European level
Studio 316	C: Implementation of joint calls for transnational R&I projects
11.30 – 12:00 The Arc Foyer	Coffee break/ Networking
12.00 – 13.00 Plenary, The Arc	**Plenary session: Results of parallel sessions** (Moderator: ERA-LEARN) - Summary presentation of sessions - Discussion (with moderators/ speakers of parallel sessions)
13.00 – 14:00 The Arc Foyer	Optional light lunch
14.00 – 16.30 Plenary, The Arc	**Workshop** **Monitoring of European Partnerships: how to ensure complete data on proposals, projects and results for all calls under European Partnerships?** *(compulsory for the individual representatives of Partnerships with MS under preparation)*

<p style="text-align:center">Parallel Session A: "Governance of and coherence
among European Partnerships"</p>

2 Slots: 9.3.2020 15:00 – 16:25
                                               10.3.2020 10:00 –11:30

Recommended participants: core partners of future partnerships, representatives of national ministries, research funding organisations

Moderator: EC
Speakers: European Metrology, Key Digital Technologies, European Science Cloud, Rescuing biodiversity to safeguard life on Earth, EU-Africa Global Health Partnership
Rapporteur(s): ERA-LEARN

Objectives: Horizon Europe orients R&I partnerships towards the achievement of objectives and policy impacts. The new approach to European Partnerships calls for different governance arrangements – both inside the partnerships as well as between them. A major difference is the expectation that they take a "*systemic approach in the achievement of the objectives*", including "*approaches to ensure flexibility of implementation and to adjust to changing policy, societal and/or market needs*". Horizon Europe legal base also stipulates that partnerships need to ensure coordination with other relevant R&I initiatives, including between themselves. It is therefore important to discuss governance models that will support European Partnerships in delivering on these expectations. As an outcome of the discussion, guidance for good governance principles for European Partnerships with Member States will be developed.

Issues to be addressed:
- What are the elements needed to ensure an effective governance of European Partnerships that is more responsive to policy needs?
- How to best engage the different types of stakeholders?
- How to ensure coherence and collaboration with other European Partnerships in the preparation phase, and in the annual planning and implementation of activities?

Background:
Under Horizon 2020 partnerships have developed a variety of governance models, ranging from co-fund actions focussing mainly on the internal consortium management to more elaborated governance structures involving different configurations (steering boards, scientific advisory groups, stakeholder fora, state representative groups and others).

In order to have a coherent and systematic approach to future governance arrangements, including a clearly defined role for the Commission services and national policy makers, it will be necessary to identify the functionalities that are needed, and how to best reflect them in the governance set-up. Part of that issue will be to develop models on how to establish formally a collaboration among partnerships, and its impact on governance arrangements.

Parallel Session B: **"Developing Strategic Research and Innovation Agendas of Partnerships"**

2 Slots: 9.3.2020 15:00 – 16:25 and 16:35 – 18:00

Recommended participants: core partners of future partnerships,
                                                 research funding organisations

Moderator: ERA-LEARN
Speakers: European partnership for chemicals risk assessment, EU-Africa Global Health Partnership, Sustainable, Smart and Inclusive Cities and Communities, Accelerating farming systems transition, Rescuing biodiversity to safeguard life on Earth
Rapporteur(s): ERA-LEARN

Objectives: All future partnerships will be implemented on the basis of a Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda, which needs to be agreed with the Commission services. The session aims to exchange views on existing experiences and achieve a common understanding on the key requirements and means to develop SRIA of co-funded partnerships.

Issues to be addressed:
- What is the current experience in developing SRIAs/roadmaps?
- Which stakeholders should be involved in formulating SRIAS/roadmaps?
- What guidance/minimum requirements can be defined?
- To which extent should SRIA consider synergies with other parts of Horizon Europe?
- Which processes are needed to translate the SRIA/roadmap into annual priorities?

Background:
SRIA allow partners from different countries to collectively agree on areas of cooperation and on joint research actions to be carried out. They promote greater coherence of national and European research strategies and activities. The elaboration of a SRIA can rely on methods such as joint foresight and mapping of national and transnational research activities, as well as on the identification of national and European research priorities. A joint definition of overarching challenges, strategic mechanisms and guiding principles of operation of research and innovation activities of partnerships are common elements.

The Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda/roadmap needs to be sufficiently detailed to either build the basis for the drafting of annual work programmes, or otherwise provide an overall envelope and clearly describe the process for further detailing the agenda of activities on an annual/multiannual basis. In the latter case, and depending on the area addressed and communities involved, it is appropriate to identify only high-level topics to be addressed, and describe the annual stakeholder consultation process in detail that translates this into the scope of annual activities. The level of detail should be agreed beforehand with the Commission Services. The partnerships also has to define measures to ensure an open and transparent methodology for consulting all constituent entities and relevant stakeholders for the identification of its priorities and the design of its activities.

Parallel Session C: **"Implementation of joint calls for transnational R&I projects"**

2 Slots: 9.3.2020 15:00 – 16:25
10.3.2020 10:00 –11:30

Recommended participants: research funding organisations

Moderator: ERA-LEARN
Speakers: EC, European Metrology, DLR, PRIMA, RCN, MICINN, EUROSTARS
Rapporteur(s): ERA-LEARN

Objectives: Discuss and define minimum requirements from a funder's perspective and understand the minimum requirements from the European Commission perspective for calls of European partnerships. Learn from existing approaches, identify specific challenges and explore the possibilities for commonly agreed rules and procedures.

Issues to be addressed:
- How should calls and evaluation be organised in the future? What are expectations from applicants, and minimum requirements from research funders and the European Commission? Can research funders agree on one or few standards that can be applied across all calls (building on the current experience)?
- What types of calls have to be covered (multi-/mono-beneficiaries; Grants, prizes, procurement, blend finance)?
- How to ensure ambitious and long-term commitment for call contributions from research funders?
- Benefits and challenges for managing projects centrally

Background:
For the future European Partnerships the preparation and implementation of joint calls should be organised in a way that is easily accessible for applicants, efficient to be implemented across all research funders and able to support the long-term commitments of all involved parties. In predecessor networks a lot of effort was undertaken to identify ways to align the execution of joint calls. Furthermore, some partnerships already successfully agreed on long-term commitments. This WS will help to explore existing experiences and to agree on a minimal set of standards, which should help avoid needless efforts and reinventing the wheel.

For calls that receive co-funding from the Framework Programme specific conditions will have to be defined in order to ensure that the costs of the funding and/or implementation of the resulting projects are eligible under programme co-fund actions implementing the partnerships.

<p style="text-align: center;">**Parallel Session D:**   **"Activities and contributions beyond joint calls"**</p>

2 Slots: 9.3.2020 15:00 – 16:25 and 16:35 – 18:00

Recommended participants: core partners of future partnerships, funding
organizations, representatives of national ministries

Moderator: ERA-LEARN
Speakers: AKA, Large-scale innovation and transformation of health system, Sustainable, Smart and Inclusive Cities and Communities, European partnership for chemicals risk assessment
Rapporteur(s): ERA-LEARN

Objectives: In order to achieve their ambitious objectives and create higher impacts the future European Partnerships will need to develop activities that go beyond the traditional calls for proposals for R&I projects. It will be possible to design and implement a wide range of activities in a flexible way, which will create several new opportunities, but also challenges. The discussion will help all future partnerships with Member States to design an adequate portfolio of activities to achieve their objectives.

Issues to be addressed:
- What can be learned from previous partnerships (e.g. additional activities from ERA-NETs, EJP cofunds, Joint Programming Initiatives)?
- What types of activities have been identified so far in the preparation of the new partnerships?
- Which types of organisations are best placed to prepare these activities? What kind of commitments are needed?
- Which activities are better directly implemented by partners, which by providing financial support to third parties?

Background:
Current networks under H2020 have implemented a range of joint activities beyond joint calls such as the elaboration of Strategic Research and Innovation Agendas, the monitoring of the projects, open science principles on publishing and data management, special needs of the fields (e.g. policies or clinical practises in the field) and widening the participation in the European context. Other tasks have included e.g. networking and ways to increase mobility and knowledge transfer; support to early career researchers; activities for valorisation of research results; support to methodological training in the fields that are very dependent on state-of-the-art technology; mapping of national R&I funding capacities or infrastructures.

However, in order to achieve the ambitious objectives and impacts of the future European Partnerships, it will be necessary to go further. Future Partnerships should deploy the necessary broad range of activities including calls for R&I proposals, from concept to demonstration and validation, as well as joint activities beyond joint calls that effectively support achieving its objectives. Partnership should take into account relevant standardisation, regulation and certification issues to maximise the impact of its actions and ensure market, regulatory or policy uptake

Parallel Session E: **"Financial management of co-funded European Partnerships"**

2 Slots: 9.3.2020 16:35 – 18:00
                                             10.3.2020 10:00-11:30

Recommended participants: coordinators / core partners of future partnerships,
                                             research funding organisations

Moderator: ERA-LEARN
Speakers: EC, European partnership for chemicals risk assessment, One Health EJP, Rare
Diseases, ERA-LEARN
Rapporteur(s): ERA-LEARN

Objectives: Discuss and further develop concepts for consortia to prepare and agree on the
financial management of co-funded European Partnerships. What are provisions from the side
of the European Commission, how can consortia manage contributions from partners and the
Union in a flexible manner? Learn from experience regarding financial management in Horizon
2020 partnerships and identify do's and don'ts for future financial management.

Issues to be addressed:
- Allocation of resources and Union contribution to activities and partners;
- Activities that can be included that produce eligible costs;
- How to account for and report on R&I activities of partners that receive funding from
  other partners in the consortium?

Background:
The predecessors of the co-funded European Partnerships are the current Horizon 2020 ERA-
NET Cofunds and European Joint Programme Cofunds. These partnerships gained a lot of
experience and lessons learned which are valuable inputs for future co-funded European
Partnerships. The activities of future partnerships will go beyond calls and can be based on
financial and/or in-kind contributions. As in the predecessor networks the use of the EC
contribution will be up the consortium (black box). These aspects will create a huge complexity
on the one hand but also offer substantial opportunities. The workshop shall be the starting
point for guiding future partnerships and avoiding common mistakes.

A second point that will be relevant for some of the future co-funded European Partnerships is
how to deal with a situation where Research Funders (RFO) and Research Preforming
Organisations (RPOs) are both part of the co-fund consortium. While this is in perfectly
feasible if justified by the scope of the partnerships, attention has to be paid in case the RPOs
apply to the calls launched by the RFOs and receives funding. In this case, costs of funding
cannot be declared as financial support to third parties, but can either be based on national
funding only, or declared as direct costs under the co-fund action by the RPO.

**Parallel Session F: Creating synergies between different
funding sources at regional, national and European level**
(e.g. Cohesion Policy funds, EMFF and EAFRD, Horizon Europe)

2 Slots: 9.3.2020 16:35 – 18:00
                                       10.3.2020 10:00 –11:30

Recommended participants: core partners of future partnerships, representatives of
                                       national ministries, research funding organisations

Moderator: EC
Speakers: ERA-LEARN, Smart and Inclusive Cities and Communities
Rapporteur(s): ERA-LEARN

Objectives: Raise awareness and stimulate a debate about the implementation of synergies
with other Programmes and Funds for maximising the impact of future European Partnerships
at national and regional level.

Issues to be addressed:
▪   All future partnerships should develop synergies with relevant programmes and
    priorities at national level as well as at European level. What is the current status?
▪   Exchange of experiences from the current programming period to identify good
    practices that can be transferred to future R&I Partnerships in Horizon Europe.
▪   What are the relevant emerging regional/national/EU programmes and related
    opportunities for synchronisation with the candidate R&I partnerships?
▪   What is needed to make synergies happen?

Background:
Joining up investments and developing synergies between European Partnerships and other
programmes at EU, national and regional level are important to ensure better exploitation of
R&I results, and accelerate socio-economic transitions across Europe. Synergies with other EU
programmes, such as ESIF, have been implemented to some extent under Horizon 2020[3].
Horizon Europe takes a step even further to promote synergies with the aim to programme
them from the beginning and make more workable (incl. by overcoming regulatory,
organisational and attitudinal barriers). The respective provisions are under negotiations, but
the political ambition is to allow financial contributions stemming from Cohesion Policy funds,
EMFF and EAFRD as a national contribution of the participating Member State under
European Partnerships.

There are two important pre-conditions in order to better exploit synergies and increase overall
investment on agreed priorities from different funding sources:
▪   providing legal certainty and guidance on how to make this possible at operational
    level, and
▪   designing operational programmes and related priorities in a way that they are
    anticipate linkages with future European Partnerships and are sufficiently open to
    contribute to common priorities.

---

[3]MLE report on National Practices in Widening Participation and Strengthening Synergies maps several already
good practice: https://rio.jrc.ec.europa.eu/en/policy-support-facility/mle-national-practices-widening-
participation-and-strengthening-synergies

Workshop: Monitoring of European Partnerships: how to ensure complete data on proposals, projects and results for all calls under European Partnerships

Slot: 10.3.2020 14:00 – 16:30; Plenary, The Arc

Participants: Representatives of partnerships with Member State participation,
in addition: research funding organisations

Moderator: Joerg Niehoff
Speaker(s): Effie Amanatidou (ERA-LEARN), Duncan Jarvis (European Metrology), Angus Hunter (ERA-LEARN), Hayley Welsh (ERA-LEARN)
Rapporteur: European Commission: Andrei Lintu, ERA-LEARN: Effie Amanatidou

Objectives: All European Partnerships will need to establish a monitoring system that can track progress towards objectives, impacts and key performance indicators. In order to simplify and standardise this at the level of the individual projects funded by the partnerships , the data on proposals, selected projects, their outcomes and results will need to be integrated in the central IT tools (eGRANTs Data Warehouse, dashboard). This is also reflected in the provisions for European Partnerships (Article 8, Annex III) in the common understanding on Horizon Europe. It will require that all European Partnerships under Horizon Europe develop/adjust own (central) IT tools to common data standard, ensure that IT tools are fit for purpose, and run a test programme prior to the launch of the first call. The workshop will allow to understand the overall approach and involve users in early stages of the process.

Issues to be addressed:
- Fundamentals of building a Monitoring and Evaluation System for partnerships, using the Horizon Europe Pathway Indicators and the ERA-LEARN R&I Partnership Evaluation (RIPE) Toolkit.
- Data integration: What is the overall ambition, objective and benefits, what is the scope (limitation to calls of European Partnerships, or broadening to the integration of calls of all R&I partnerships of European relevance).
- How will data requirements will be defined (mandatory, as well as supplementary from a partnership/national perspective)?
- What is the impact on and necessary link to reporting, monitoring and evaluation systems?
- What are the requirements for IT tools and exchange of data?
- Which approach can be used to unique identifiers for applicants (e.g. PIC) including their possible validation?
- Timeline and next steps, including possible pilots with ongoing Horizon 2020 partnerships.