

European Partnership Stakeholder Forum 2023 – from idea to impact

Agenda (Draft)

when

05/12/2023, 13:00 - 19:00 CET

06/12/2023, 09:00 - 14:00 CET

where

BluePoint Brussels

Bd A. Reyers Ln 80

1030 Brussel

05/12/2023

European Partnership Stakeholder Forum 2023, Day 1

09:30 – 12:00

Satellite event (by invitation)

Meeting of Partnership Knowledge Hub and Representatives of European Partnership Initiatives

12:00 – 14:00

Registration and welcome lunch

14:00 – 14:30

Welcome address

Iliana Ivanova, Commissioner for Research and Innovation (tbc)

Keynote speeches: European Partnerships – from idea to impact

Marc Lemaitre, DG RTD, Director General

Representative of the ITRE Committee, European Parliament (tbc)

Representative of the ES Presidency of the Council (tbc)

Moderation: (tbc)

14:30 – 15:30

Towards the Second Strategic Plan - Panel discussion/ High-level round-table

The round-table discussion will involve high-level representatives of European Partnerships, including from industry and the Member States and the European Commission. It will be focused on the lessons learnt from the first Strategic Plan with regard to European Partnerships and the preparation of the second batch of partnerships under the second Strategic Plan.

Moderation: Joanna Drake, Deputy Director-General, DG RTD

15:30 – 16:00

Networking coffee

16:00 – 17:15

Parallel sessions

A1: Synergies between Partnerships and Missions

A2: Experiences, achievements and needs of the European partnerships: Input for HE interim evaluation.

A3: Beyond HE funding: additionality and directionality of European Partnerships

A4: Developing a coherent Partnership portfolio – work of the Expert Group supporting the EC in the Strategic Coordination Process for Partnerships

17:30 – 19:00

Networking cocktail



06/12/2023

European Partnership Stakeholder Forum 2023, Day 2

09:00 – 09:30

Registration and coffee

09:30 – 10:45

Parallel sessions

B1: Selection process of Candidate Partnerships: fit for purpose?

B2: The design of Partnerships in FP10

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

B4: Globalisation and internationalisation: challenges for European Partnerships

10:45 – 11:15

Networking coffee

11:15 – 11:30

Main takeaways of parallel sessions and wrap up

Fabienne Gautier, DG RTD Head of Unit G4 Missions and Partnerships

11:30 – 13:00

Outlook to the next Framework Programme

Joanna Drake, Deputy Director-General, DG RTD

Ann Mettler, Vice President, Europe, Breakthrough Energy

Chair of the Commission expert group on the Interim Evaluation of Horizon Europe (tbc)

Thibaut Kleiner, DG NECT Director of policy strategy and outreach

Dr Hugh Lavery, Executive Director ad interim, Innovative Health Initiative JU

Moderation: *Fabienne Gautier, DG RTD Head of Unit G4 Missions and Partnerships*

13:00 – 14:00

Networking lunch

A1: Synergies between Partnerships and Missions

Background

Both Missions and Partnerships were established to provide clear and strategic directionality in funding for R&I. They set clear destinations and prepare the way towards them by concentrating R&I funding, related funding streams and other instruments (policy, regulation) on key strategic challenges that matter to EU citizens.

At the previous event (Partnership Stakeholder Forum Nov. 2022) the session “Collaboration with EU Missions“ highlighted the importance of identifying and using synergies between the European Partnerships and the EU Missions, to create a win-win scenario for maximising the impact of the two instruments.

While we can easily identify possible synergies, the challenge lies in how to operationalise and exploit these synergy effects in the best way. Last year’s session highlighted potential activities that could strengthen synergies such as joint calls, linking projects thematically together, exchanging of results and stimulating networking among the involved actors, contributing knowledge, by feeding its results into capacity building, experimentation and so on.

The Prague Declaration on Synergies (2022)¹ shows the importance of identifying and utilising synergies in several ways as well as the need to remove persisting barriers and facilitate better synergies. Synergies are also featured as a cross-cutting theme in the Biennial Monitoring Report (BMR) 2022² on partnerships in Horizon Europe, bringing to light diverse examples of synergy creation.

Based on the previous work, this parallel session will focus on synergies between partnerships themselves and with missions.

Goals/ Output

This session will

- give an overview of potential synergies
- showcase good practices
- facilitate the exchange of experiences
- discuss on how to proceed

¹ https://synergies2022.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Prague-Declaration-on-Synergies_FINAL.pdf

² <https://www.era-learn.eu/news-events/news/publication-of-the-biennial-monitoring-report-2022-on-partnerships-under-horizon-europe>

A2: Update on the HE interim evaluation – focus on European Partnerships

Background

The interim evaluation covers the first results of Horizon Europe's R&I actions in 2021-2023, as required under Regulation 2021/695 (Article 52). It provides a baseline for understanding the key achievements to date and will help inform the design of future EU R&I instruments. The evaluation covers five thematic areas: excellence in science, green transition, digital and industrial transition, resilient Europe, and innovative Europe. The session will present the results of the evaluation followed by discussion with representatives of partnerships

Goals/ Output

This session will

- build a shared understanding on the status quo and progress made in terms of the contribution of the partnerships to EU priorities based on the interim evaluation results.
- discuss how partnerships have engaged with the EU policy priorities so far and the needs, foster mutual learning across the thematic areas of the evaluation.
- identify processes and leverage points for going from incremental to transformative change in terms of delivering on EU policy priorities.

A3: Beyond HE funding: additionality and directionality of European Partnerships

Background

European Partnerships are established only if there is evidence that they support achieving EU policy objectives more effectively than other Horizon Europe actions. They are all based on agreed objectives and a long-term vision, underpinned by Strategic Research and Innovation Agendas (SRIAs) that are shared and committed to by all partners in the partnership.

An important added value of European Partnerships derives from the additional private and/or public R&I investments in EU priorities (additionality) that can be translated into a leverage effect resulting from Union intervention. The alignment of these investments and contributions towards common objectives (directionality) and the achievement of impacts that cannot be created by other Horizon Europe or national actions alone is the main justification for using a partnership approach. The combined contributions (input) will mobilise additional investments (output) in support of the transitions and create long-term positive impacts on employment, the environment and society.

Goals/ Output

This session will

- give an overview on the background of the Partnerships' criteria on additionality and directionality,
- provide an overview on analyses on directionality and additionality,
- provide examples and different dimensions of directionality and additionality reached in different European Partnerships,
- facilitate the exchange of experiences with stakeholders from all Partnership formats,
- discuss challenges, chances and limits of European Partnerships with regard to directionality and additionality also in the light of Partnerships in FP10.

A4: Developing a coherent Partnership portfolio – work of the Expert Group supporting the EC in the Strategic Coordinating Process for Partnerships

Background

The Commission and national and regional governments make decisions about launching and participating in European Partnerships based on political priorities and the Horizon Europe legal base. However, there is currently no established methodology allowing for an objective and systematic analysis and assessment of candidate partnership proposals to support these decisions.

The Expert Group for support of the Strategic Coordinating process for Partnerships 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 bottom-up selection process with a strategic view of the portfolio building. It includes specific steps, and a set of criteria addressing the legal basis as well as the partnership-internal portfolio management requirements, as well as methods and tools on how these criteria can be assessed. The parameters on which the methodology has been built, remain open to allow any adjustments. The suggested methodology can help filter the results of the current selection process and ensure that the final list is constituted by the most relevant candidates

Goals/ Output

This session will

- familiarise the partnership community (including also the EC and Member States/Associated Countries) with the suggested methodology,
- explore the need for specifications/adjustments to account for the features of the partnership approach and thematic orientations and identify any gaps or deficiencies in the suggested methodology,
- examine the applicability and integration of the methodology in the overall selection process existing today.

B1: Selection process of Candidate Partnerships: fit for purpose?

Background

The selection of partnerships has followed a step-based process that consists of a consultation of the internal EC services involved in managing partnerships, 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 (notably the Partnership Knowledge Hub and the Strategic Programme Committee). The Partnership Knowledge Hub published an Opinion on the selection process of future partnerships and the Expert Group for support of the Strategic Coordinating process for Partnerships³ 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 top-down 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

The session will review the selection process of future partnerships in view of the next Framework Programme with particular emphasis in streamlining by

- 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,
- capitalising 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.

³ <https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/expert-groups-register/screen/expert-groups/consult?lang=en&do=groupDetail.groupDetail&groupID=3738&news=1>

B2: The design of Partnerships in FP10

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.”⁴

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 rationalisation 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 institutionalised that evolved from previous types of partnerships.

The practical implementation of the general partnership concept is nevertheless sometimes critical in achieving success. In this workshop therefore, 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/ Output

Participants are invited to share their views on whether the current partnership formats are adequately addressing the partnerships' goals and what alternatives could be thought of.

Ideas on the following questions will be collected:

- Are the current formats of European partnerships adequately addressing the partnerships' goals?
- Are changes needed?
- What do we keep, what do we miss?
- Are all relevant actors successfully involved?

⁴ 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>

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

Background

Partnerships are to demonstrate openness and transparency towards all relevant partners and stakeholders already in their process of programme design and remain open to newcomers and interested parties throughout their lifetime.

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 stakeholders⁵.

One important component of Openness and transparency is strengthening the European Research Area (ERA) through Sharing Excellence and Widening Participation, also through the Partnership instrument. Enhancing participation of Widening countries in European Partnerships in the entire life cycle of European Partnerships is particularly important in achieving significant impact and delivering on EU policy priorities.

Goals/ Output

This session will

- provide a space to exchange experiences and best practices with respect to the engagement of new stakeholders in European Partnerships,
- enhance the discussion on common challenges and goals in initiating and broadening collaboration with new partners,
- give room for discussing possible measures and activities that can serve to broaden the engagement of widening countries in European Partnerships,
- seek to facilitate the process of integration of newcomers in the partnerships.

⁵ More information: <https://op.europa.eu/en/web/eu-law-and-publications/publication-detail/-/publication/a6cbe152-d19e-11ec-a95f-01aa75ed71a1> p. 78

B4: Globalisation and internationalisation: challenges for European Partnerships

Background

In our globalised world, confronted with grand challenges such as the climate and biodiversity crises, international collaboration on research and innovation plays a key role to address these. 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/ Output

The session aims at

- gaining a better understanding of the meaning of Open Strategic Autonomy and technology sovereignty in the context of European Partnerships,
- discussing best practices of partnerships regarding the implementation of Open Strategic Autonomy in order to prepare build resilience for the future.