

# European Partnerships

#HorizonEU

State of play of  
preparation  
and next steps





# New approach to partnerships: why?

Impact Assessment annex 8-5 – current partnership landscape

Partnership approaches	Public-public partnerships (P2P)	Public-private partnerships (PPP)	EIT-KICs*	FET Flagships**
Implementation modes	ERA-NET-Cofund, EJP Cofund, Article 185, Joint Programming Initiative (JPI)	Contractual Arrangement (cPPP) Article 187	H2020 Grant agreements for different types of actions Framework Partnership Agreements (FPA)	
Currently active R&I Partnerships (Horizon 2020)	a) ERA-NETs: ~70 b) EJP Cofund: 5 c) Article 185: 6 d) JPIs***: 10	a) JUs: 7 (+HPC) b) cPPPs: 10	a) KICs: 6 (+ 2 until 2020)	a) FET-Flagships: 2 (+Quantum)
Financial contribution from H2020, estimated)	<b>2.500 M€</b> (3,1% of H2020 budget)	<b>13.450 M€</b> (17,5% of H2020 budget)	<b>2.400 M€</b> (3,1% of H2020 budget)	<b>1.000 M€</b> (1,3% of H2020 budget)

\*EIT-KICs: Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs) of the European Institute for Innovation and Technology (EIT)

\*\*FET-Flagships: Flagships of the Future and Emerging Technologies programme (FET)

\*\*\* JPIs: Joint Programming Initiatives are no EU level instruments but included here as they receive EU support via ERA-NETs and/or CSAs



# New approach to European partnerships: overview

New generation of objective-driven and more ambitious partnerships in support of agreed EU policy objectives

## Key features

- **Simple architecture and toolbox**
- **Common set of criteria**
- **Coherent life-cycle approach**
- **Strategic orientation**

### Co-programmed

Based on Memoranda of Understanding / contractual arrangements; implemented independently by the partners and by Horizon Europe

### Co-funded

Based on a joint programme agreed by partners; commitment of partners for financial and in-kind contributions & financial contribution by Horizon Europe

### Institutionalised

Based on long-term dimension and need for high integration; partnerships based on Articles 185 / 187 of TFEU and the EIT-Regulation supported by Horizon Europe



# European Partnerships: what is new?

- Only support partnerships if there is evidence that they are **more effectively** achieving policy objectives than Horizon Europe alone
- **Fewer** partnerships with **higher** impacts
- Common and coherent **framework** of criteria along the life cycle of partnerships, across all pillars, even across programmes and other regulations (e.g. EIT, DEP, space)
- Unified **umbrella** branding to improve visibility
- Increase **openness** and encourage a **broader set of actors** to participate
- Improve **coherence** between partnerships and Horizon Europe, also the missions
- **Time limited** with conditions for phasing-out the Programme funding

# European partnerships: provisions

## Regulation

- Recitals 16 and 17
- Definition 3
- Article 8
  - typology
  - conditions
- Annex III: Partnerships, with criteria for
  - Selection
  - Implementation
  - Monitoring
  - Evaluation, phasing-out and renewal
- Annex Ia: areas for possible institutionalised European Partnerships (based on Article 187 and 185 TFEU)

## Specific Programme

- Article 4a: Identification of co-funded and co-programmed partnerships in the Strategic Plan
- Strategic coordinating process for European Partnerships

## Impact assessment: annex 8-5

## In addition: Draft Criteria Framework for European Partnerships:

<https://www.era-learn.eu/documents/wk-14470-2018-init-en.pdf>

### Horizon Europe documents:

Common understanding on the Framework Programme

<https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-7942-2019-INIT/en/pdf>

Corrigendum on Annex III :

<https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-7942-2019-COR-1/en/pdf>

PGA on the Specific Programme:

<https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-8550-2019-INIT/en/pdf>

# European Partnerships and strategic planning

- Candidates for European Partnerships have been identified as part of the strategic planning;
- Ares for possible institutionalised Partnerships based on Article 185/7 have been identified in the Annex Va of the Regulation;
- The Project Team of Commissioners for Innovation and Competitiveness endorsed in March 2019 the next steps of preparation (start of IA work, engagement with stakeholders, based on the criteria of Horizon Europe);
- Work within and across clusters has resulted in a consolidated portfolio of 44 candidates for European partnerships;
- For each partnership candidate services have prepared a fiche that builds the basis for the next steps of preparation, and the structured consultation of member States;
- List of 44 partnership candidates is part of the Orientation towards the Strategic R&I plan (Annex 7).

# Portfolio of current candidates for European Partnerships (44)

## **HEALTH**

EU-Africa Global Health  
Innovative Health Initiative  
Chemicals Risk Assessment  
Fostering an ERA for Health research  
Large-scale innovation and transformation of health systems in a digital and ageing society  
Pre-clinical / clinical health research  
Personalised Medicine  
Rare Diseases

## **DIGITAL, INDUSTRY AND SPACE**

High Performance Computing  
Key Digital Technologies  
Smart Networks and Services  
AI, data and robotics  
Photonics Europe  
Clean Steel - Low Carbon Steelmaking  
European Metrology  
Made in Europe  
Carbon Neutral and Circular Industry  
Global competitive space systems

## **PILLAR III AND CROSS-PILLAR**

EIT Climate KIC  
EIT Health  
EIT Manufacturing  
EIT Food  
EIT InnoEnergy  
EIT Manufacturing  
EIT Raw Materials  
EIT Digital  
EIT Urban Mobility

Innovative SMEs

European Open Science Cloud (EOSC)

## **CLIMATE, ENERGY AND MOBILITY**

Transforming Europe's rail system  
Integrated Air Traffic Management  
Clean Aviation  
Clean Hydrogen  
Built environment and construction  
Towards zero-emission road transport  
Mobility and Safety for Automated Road Transport  
Batteries  
Clean Energy Transition

## **FOOD, BIOECONOMY, NATURAL RESOURCES, AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT**

Accelerating farming systems transition  
Animal health: Fighting infectious diseases  
Environmental Observations for a sustainable EU agriculture  
Rescuing biodiversity to safeguard life on Earth  
A climate neutral, sustainable and productive Blue Economy  
Safe and Sustainable Food System for People, Planet & Climate  
Circular bio-based Europe  
Water4All: Water security for the planet

# Strategic Coordinating Process for R&I Partnerships

Objectives

1. Ensure transparent and evidence-based selection of partnerships  
*(part of strategic planning Horizon Europe)*

2. Support the effective and efficient implementation of partnerships throughout their lifecycle

3. Provide strategic guidance on the overall policy approach and the future objectives and composition of the partnership portfolio

Functionalities

**Consultation**  
(selection phase)

**Evidence base**  
(biennial monitoring)

**Portfolio development**  
(foresight)

**Strategic discussion**

**Strategic Configuration Programme Committee**

**"Forum for R&I Partnerships" (starting in 2021)**



# Structured Consultation of MS on European Partnerships

**Aim:** To gather early input of Member States on the portfolio and all individual partnership candidates, ensuring transparent and evidence-based selection of partnerships, rationalising and reforming the landscape and maximising their impacts.

It complements the strategic planning of Horizon Europe, ensuring a coherent overall approach.

- **6 June:** Input from all Member States (+ NO and IS) on the 44 fiches for partnerships candidates received;
- Feedback was analysed, draft report validated by services;
  - **Structure: Key issues for further discussion, overall analysis, analysis per partnership;**
- **20 June:** submission of the draft report to the Shadow Strategic Configuration of the Programme Committee (shadow SPC);
- **27 June:** discussion on the 44 candidates and additional priorities proposed
- **12 September and 24 October:** discussion on additional candidates proposed by MS during consultation and the way forward

→ **Information will feed into the Impact Assessment for partnership candidates based on Article 185 or 187 TFEU, and the preparation of all partnerships.**

# Ongoing discussions on additional candidates proposed

- A number of additional priorities received strong support from delegations to be implemented as a European Partnership (25 in total).
- Shadow SPC meeting 27 June:
  - future discussion would be limited to 8 (instead of 25)
  - additional time over summer to develop fiches and provide priorities.
- Shadow SPC meeting 12 September with tentative conclusions, for validation at the next meeting on 24 October:
  - Two additional partnership candidates more or less ready to be added: Smart and sustainable cities; One health/AMR;
  - Three additional partnership candidates require more work before a judgement can be made: Forestry; European Geo-surveys; Waterborne transport;
  - Three partnership candidates are important but rather in view of the next strategic planning process by 2024: social transformations; brain health; materials and production;
  - Commission raised reservations on the proposed partnership for cultural heritage with the invitation to re-assess, given the multitude of ongoing and planned activities related to cultural heritage. If it would develop a strong vision and ambition beyond what is proposed so far, then this could be relevant post 2024 (to be confirmed).

# Future of current JPIs and ERA-NETs

- Existing networks such as JPIs or ERA-NETS are not European Partnerships in the sense of those proposed in the legal base for Horizon Europe, they do not pre-suppose a financial or other commitment from the EC/Horizon.
- But: many current networks are highly relevant for future partnerships.
- In addition: Programme level collaboration between Member States and their R&I programmes can be supported under “Strengthening the European

## Reforming and enhancing the EU Research and Innovation system:

... Such support may take the form of **Coordination and Support Actions (CSAs)** in a **bottom-up and competitive way to support programme level collaboration between research and innovation programmes** of Member States, Associated Countries and civil society organisations such as foundations, on **priorities of their choice**, with a clear focus on the implementation of transnational joint activities including calls. It will be based on clear commitments from participating programmes to pool resources and ensure complementarity between activities and policies with those of the Framework Programme and relevant European Partnership Initiatives.

➔ **Allows to support (no co-funding!) Joint Programming Initiatives or ERA-NETs outside the portfolio of European Partnerships under Horizon Europe.**

# European Partnerships: implementation modes (I)

	Co-Programmed	Co-Funded	Institutionalised
<b>Partners</b> (other than the Union)	Suited to partnerships with private and/or public partners, including foundations and international partners	Suited to partnerships involving public authorities, with research funders (or governmental research organisations) and other public authorities at the core of the consortium. Possibility to include foundations and international partners etc.	Article 185: Member States Article 187: private and/or public partners, including Participating States, foundations and international partners EIT-KICs: 'partner organisation' may include private and public partners
<b>Establishment</b>	Based on memoranda of understanding and/or contractual arrangements between the Commission and the partners	Based on a Grant Agreement between the Commission and the consortium of partners, resulting from a call for proposals for a programme co-fund action in the Work Programme of Horizon Europe	Article 185: Decision by Council and European Parliament Article 187: Decision by Council ( <i>and EP</i> ) EIT-KICs: Framework partnership agreements and grant agreements between the EIT and the KIC, resulting from a call for proposals under the EIT

# European Partnerships: implementation modes (II)

	Co-Programmed	Co-Funded	Institutionalised
<b>Main characteristics</b>	<p>Commitments are not legally binding, but political/ best efforts</p> <p>Allows more flexibility during implementation (to evolve composition of partners, objectives, activities)</p> <p>Best suited to partnerships addressing broader communities, medium term priorities, and where there is a need for flexibility</p> <p>Commission: approves priorities (calls) that are implemented with Union contributions (comitology)</p>	<p>Commitments are ensured through the Grant Agreement</p> <p>Allows more flexibility during implementation (to evolve composition of partners, objectives, activities)</p> <p>Best suited to partnerships that rely on pooling national programmes and policies with Union policies and investments</p> <p>Commission approves annual work programme of the consortium, covering all activities and resources</p>	<p>Legally binding commitments</p> <p>Limited flexibility (as it is difficult to change core objectives, partners, commitments, which require amending legislation)</p> <p>Best suited to partnerships addressing long term challenges and priorities that tend to go beyond a single MFF, stable partners and substantial commitments for contributions from all partners that other forms of partnerships would not allow</p> <p>Article 185/7: Commission approves annual work programme of the initiative, covering all activities and resources</p> <p>EIT-KICs: EIT approves activities and resources of the KICs</p>

# European Partnerships: implementation modes (III)

	Co-Programmed	Co-Funded	Institutionalised
<b>Effort for preparation, setting-up, and implementation</b>	Relatively low effort for the setup and implementation compared to the other forms of European Partnerships	Moderate effort for their set-up and implementation compared to institutionalised European Partnerships	High effort for their preparation and set-up, including the establishment of dedicated entities for their implementation
<b>Union contribution</b>	Implemented in calls for proposals published in the Work Programme Horizon Europe (comitology procedure)	Implemented by the consortium of partners in activities under their responsibility, including calls for proposals	Article 185/7: managed and implemented by structures created for their implementation  EIT-KICs: implemented by the consortium of partners in activities under their responsibility
<b>Partners contributions and their management</b>	In-kind and/or financial contributions agreed in the work plan.  Typically only in-kind contributions from private partners	In-kind and/or financial contributions  Financial contributions from Member States are typically used for calls for transnational projects	Article 185: financial contributions and, if relevant in-kind contributions  Article 187: financial but typically mainly in-kind contributions  EIT-KICs: In-kind and/or financial contributions

# European Partnerships: implementation modes (IV)

	Co-Programmed	Co-Funded	Institutionalised
<b>Common characteristics</b>	<p>All partnerships have to fully comply with the criteria, including phasing out of FP funding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ All partnerships allow synergies with other EU funding programmes</li><li>▪ The Commission is committed to provide equal support and political visibility to all European partnerships</li><li>▪ Their implementation is based on annual work programmes or equivalents</li></ul>		

# Open Issues

## In general:

- **Union contribution / budgets (MFF, Horizon Europe, capping)**
- Remaining negotiations on Horizon Europe and cohesion funds
- Negotiations of the EIT regulation (recast) and SIA 2021-2017
- Governance within the partnerships
- “Participation” of Member States in industry-driven initiatives, and vice-versa
- Contributions/commitments from partners in co-programmed partnerships
- Practical solutions to ensure of complete data on proposals, projects, results in eCORDA
- Details on programme co-fund actions (MGA)  
→ **But: No general exception from the Financial Regulation principle: beneficiaries cannot be at the same time a third party receiving financial support from another beneficiary that claims these as eligible costs**



# Practical next steps

## Proposal guidance and template

### **1 General information**

- 1.1 Draft title of the European Partnerships
- 1.2 Lead entity (main contact)
- 1.3 Commission services (main contact)
- 1.4 Summary

### **2 Context, objectives, expected impacts**

- 2.1 Context and problem definition
- 2.2 Common vision, objectives and expected impacts
- 2.3 Necessity for a European Partnership
- 2.4 Partner composition

### **3 Planned Implementation**

- 3.1 Activities
- 3.2 Resources
- 3.3 Governance
- 3.4 Openness and transparency

# Co-programmed European Partnerships

- Most relevant current types of actions: Contractual PPPs;
- Based on a roadmap / Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda, agreed with the Commission Services;  
→ need to be specific about objectives, expected impacts and milestones
- Partners implement their commitments (activities/contributions, investments) under their responsibility;
- Union contribution is implemented via the Horizon Europe Work programmes (comitology);
- Partners provide input on the drafting of the respective parts of the Work programme;
- Templates for contractual arrangement / memoranda of understanding will need to be developed.

# Co-funded European Partnerships

- Most relevant current types of actions: EJP Cofund, ERA-NET Cofund;
- Broad range of activities that can be implemented;
- Funding rate: 30%, in justified cases up to 70%  
Consideration can be e.g.:
  - Main element financial support to third parties: lower reimbursement rate;
  - Main element activities directly implemented by beneficiaries: higher reimbursement rate;
- Based on a grant agreement, 5-7 years duration;
- Implementation based on annual work plans;
- Core of partners: programme owners/managers, others in addition;
- Important: define for each co-funded ex-ante what types of partners are needed to form the partnerships (consortium), and which ones will be addressed/ involved by the activities implemented (third parties).

# Programme co-fund action

“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.**”

# Information point: Roadmap for the preparation of European Partnerships I

## Currently ongoing:

- Further consultations on the Orientations towards the Strategic Plan
- Ongoing Impact Assessment work for Article 185/7 candidates
- Further elaboration of proposals for Partnerships in co-creation between partners and Commissions services

## Key elements for the next steps

- Finalisation of Strategic Plan Horizon Europe
- Outcome of the Impact Assessment work
- Progress on MFF negotiations
- ➔ Need for clarity: For which European Partnerships candidates will the new Commission adopt legislative proposals (Article 185/7), which candidates should be implemented as co-programmed/co-funded partnerships and included in the Strategic Plan
- ➔ Without political agreement on budgetary envelope for Horizon Europe: No budget allocation to candidates for European Partnerships, no COM proposals for Article 185/7 initiatives

# Institutionalised Partnerships (Article 185/7): step by step

- 1. **Partnership fiche** resulting from strategic planning describes Partnership from COM perspective (confirmed/commented by Member States during consultation);*
- 2. Finalisation of Ex-ante Impact Assessment**, submission of drafts to the regulatory scrutiny board
- In parallel: **Partnership proposal** is further developed together with partners, based on common guidance/template;
- Start drafting of **COM proposals** for Article 185/7 initiatives
- 5. Commitments from Partners**, finalisation of Strategic Research and Innovation agenda/roadmap
- Agreement on **budgetary provisions** for the partnerships in the portfolio
- 7. Commission adopts proposal** for Article 185/7 initiatives
- 8. Negotiation in Council (and European Parliament)**
- 9. Adoption of basic act**
- 10. Launch of the European Partnership**, preparation and launch of implementation structure, subsequent launch activities, including calls for proposals

# Co-programmed Partnerships: step by step

- 1. Partnership fiche** resulting from strategic planning describes Partnership from COM perspective (confirmed/commented by Member States during consultation);
- 2. Partnership proposal** is further developed together with partners, based on common guidance/template;
- 3. Strategic R&I Plan** includes the Partnership in the list of co-programmed/co-funded European Partnerships;
- In parallel:
  - further work of the partners to **prepare the programme** and
  - develop the **Strategic Research and Innovation agenda/roadmap**
- Agreement on **budgetary provisions** for the partnerships in the portfolio
- Contractual arrangements / MoUs** are prepared, including commitments from Partners, finalisation of Strategic Research and Innovation agenda/roadmap
- Partners input** to the drafting of respective parts of the work programme
- Launch of the European Partnership**
- Adoption of the work programme** (comitology) and publication of the calls

# Co-funded Partnerships: step by step

1. **Partnership fiche** resulting from strategic planning describes Partnership from COM perspective (confirmed/commented by Member States during consultation);
2. **Partnership proposal** is further developed together with partners (Member States), based on common guidance/template;
3. **Strategic R&I Plan** includes the Partnership in the list of co-programmed/co-funded European Partnerships [New Commission];
4. Agreement on **budgetary provisions** for the partnerships in the portfolio
5. **Call topic** for the respective work programme Horizon Europe is prepared and discussed with the Programme Committee
6. In parallel:
  - further work of the partners to **prepare the programme** and
  - develop the **Strategic Research and Innovation agenda/roadmap**
7. **Adoption of the work programme** (comitology) and publication of the call
8. **Submission of a proposal** for a co-fund action, evaluation, GA preparation
9. **Launch of the European Partnership**, preparation and launch of activities, including e.g. calls for proposals



# Tentative timeline and process for the preparation of Article 185/187 initiatives

<b>3 May – 27 June:</b>	<i>Structured consultation of Member States (as part of strategic coordinating process)</i>
<b>June:</b>	<i>Launch of the Interservice Steering Group for European Partnerships, Start Impact Assessment work (coordinated study)</i>
<b>30 July:</b>	<i>Publication of draft Inception Impact Assessments</i>
<b>Early September:</b>	Launch Open Public Consultation on potential future European Partnerships based on A185/187
<b>24-26 September:</b>	European R&I Days (policy discussion and validation with stakeholders, covers all Partnerships)
<b>End of 2019:</b>	Submission of Impact Assessment drafts to Regulatory Scrutiny Board
<b>Early 2020:</b>	Adoption of Commission proposals for Article 185/187 initiatives
<b>Early 2021:</b>	Launch of first wave of European Partnerships under Horizon Europe (all types)

- Co-programmed and co-funded partnerships will be identified in the Strategic Plan and follow the planning of work programmes
- NB! Not all European Partnerships have to be ready and launched in 2021!