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WORKING PAPER

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WORKING DOCUMENT

From: ERAC Secretariat
To: ERAC (European Research Area and Innovation Committee)

Subject: Structured Consultation on European Partnerships : Background paper for the ERAC meeting on 21/22 March 2019

Delegations will find in the annex the background paper with questions on structured consultation on partnerships

Structured Consultation on European Partnerships

Background paper for the ERAC meeting on 21/22 March 2019

The timing of the structured consultation will depend on the progress achieved on the negotiations of Horizon Europe.

At the ERAC Plenary of 6 December 2018, Member States and Associated Countries (MS/AC) endorsed the proposal for the operational design of the strategic coordinating process proposed by the Commission. Notably, it was agreed that the strategic coordinating process consists of two parts whereby:

1. The selection of new and/or renewed European partnerships under Horizon Europe will be fully embedded in the strategic planning of Horizon Europe, with the Strategic Configuration of the Programme Committee as the single entry point for the structured and early consultation of Member States and Associated Countries;
2. The implementation, monitoring, evaluation and phasing-out phases of partnerships will be followed-up by an independent advisory mechanism with the provisional working title "Forum for European R&I partnerships".

The aim of the current discussion background paper is to (a) propose the elements of input that the Commission will provide on the candidates for European Partnerships, and (b) the draft template for the structured feedback from Member States on the overall portfolio as well as individual candidates for European Partnerships. It is proposed that the feedback from Member States¹ is collected through a structured online consultation tool to enable effective data analysis and consolidation. Respective outlines for presenting the candidates for European Partnerships and for providing feedback are presented in Annex 1 and 2 of this background paper.

Timeline

The following indicative timeline could apply, if agreement with Council and European Parliament on Strategic Planning and areas for mission and institutionalised partnerships based on Article 185/7 of the TFEU can be reached before the European elections that take place in May 2019:

- **April/May 2019:** Roadshow in the shadow Strategic Configuration of the Horizon Europe Programme Committee (SPC), with an overview on all candidates for European Partnerships identified so far, and short presentations/discussion on potential institutionalised Partnerships based on Article 185/187;
- **May 2019:** Publication of Inception Impact Assessments for each envisaged institutionalised partnership based on Article 185/187, submission of detailed fiches for all

¹ The possibility for countries associated to Horizon 2020 and/or EEA EFTA countries to participate in the structured consultation is currently being assessed by the Commission Services.

candidates of European Partnerships to the shadow SPC, launch of the online consultation (open for 3 weeks);

- **May 2019:** Launch of coordinated external study (through procurement) to feed into impact assessments of each envisaged institutionalised partnership; start of drafting of Impact Assessments for envisaged institutionalised partnerships (Article 185/187);
- **June 2019:** Dedicated meeting in the shadow SPC on European Partnerships, based on an analysis from the Commission services consolidating the feedback received, and circulated at least 10 days before the meeting;
- **End of 2019:** Submission of draft Impact Assessments for envisaged institutionalised partnerships (Article 185/187) to Regulatory Scrutiny Board;
- **Early 2020:** Adoption Commission proposals for institutionalised partnerships under Article 185/187;
- **Early 2021:** Launch of first European Partnerships under Horizon Europe.

The feedback from Member States and the conclusions from the discussions in the SPC will be taken into account for the Impact Assessment work for potential institutionalised Partnerships (Article 185/187) and the respective Commission proposals, as well as the preparation of co-programmed and co-funded Partnerships.

Questions for discussion

1. Does the proposed format on the information to be provided by the Commission on the candidates for European Partnerships contain all elements necessary, keeping in mind the early stage of preparation? What elements proposed are not considered necessary, which are missing?
2. Do you agree with the draft template and core questions for collecting feedback from Member States on the partnership portfolio and individual proposals for European Partnerships? What elements proposed are not considered necessary, which are missing?

ANNEX 1: INPUT PROVIDED BY THE COMMISSION ON CANDIDATES FOR EUROPEAN PARTNERSHIPS

I On the overall portfolio

Overview, in comparison with Horizon 2020, on number of partnerships in general, and per cluster (no budgetary information at this stage).

Overview table with the following elements:

	Name and short description	Envisaged implementation mode	Predecessors (if applicable)	Composition of partners	Directly relevant for other Partnerships
Cluster 1					
Cluster 2					
Cluster 3					
Cluster 4					
Cluster 5					
Other					

II On the individual candidates: Elements of the fiches for all European Partnerships

1. Name
2. Short description
3. DGs directly involved
4. Proposed starting year and expected timeline necessary to achieve the objectives
5. Objectives (short, long, medium term), link to broader policy objectives, expected impacts and timeframe necessary to achieve the objectives and impacts (including links with global strategies and agreements where EU has committed itself, where relevant)
6. Relevance for Horizon Europe clusters, and currently identified links with other partnership candidates / Union programmes
7. Baseline (is there a pre-existing partnership or networks that the partnership builds upon?)
8. Rationale for using European Partnership, i.e. why implementation through the partnership would be more effective in achieving the objectives than other Horizon Europe actions;
9. Currently envisaged implementation mode
10. Expected type and composition of partners
11. Contributions and commitments expected from partners necessary to achieve the envisaged objectives

In addition, following the presentation and discussion in the SPC meeting on the areas for future European Partnerships, the Commission will publish and provide to SPC delegates the Inception Impact Assessments for the envisaged institutionalised partnerships (Article 185/187) under Horizon Europe.

This information will be complemented by the draft strategic R&I plan, once published-

ANNEX 2: FEEDBACK TO BE PROVIDED BY MEMBER STATES ON CANDIDATES FOR EUROPEAN PARTNERSHIPS

I On the overall portfolio

1. Feedback on the rationalisation and reform proposed for European Partnerships under Horizon Europe(as compared to the landscape of existing partnerships under Horizon 2020), in general and per cluster
2. Feedback on the overall balance of the proposed partnership portfolio, including
 - a. candidates for which delegations consider that a European Partnership approach is not justified
 - b. additional priorities for which delegations propose that a European Partnership approach could be considered

II On individual candidates for European Partnerships

1. Contact at national level for any follow-up, including possible participation in preparatory meetings (in case participation of Member States would be envisaged)
 - a. Research ministry
 - b. Sectorial ministry (where relevant)
2. Relevance of the European Partnerships for
 - a. national policies and priorities
 - b. research organisations including universities
 - c. industry
3. Interest to participate in and contribute to the European Partnerships with national programmes or other resources (including on existing / planned national R&I programmes, instruments, equipment relevant for the respective topic etc.)
4. Feedback on the use of a European Partnership approach for the priority (not on the relevance of the priority which is covered in section 1!)
5. Feedback on the proposed form of implementation mode
6. Feedback on objectives (including on the specific interests in the given area), expected impacts and timeframe
7. Feedback on type and composition of partners
8. Feedback on envisaged contributions and commitments from partners