

Transitional Forum for R&I Partnerships

The Transitional Forum for R&I Partnerships hereby presents the first four deliverables to the attention of ERAC in view of its Plenary meeting on 4 June.

Discussion point for delegates during the ERAC:

- Do you agree with the proposed next steps to improve national preparedness, including the need to better coordinate the monitoring and evaluation efforts with regards to R&I Partnerships?

ERAC delegates are invited to send their input and comments in writing until 12 June 2020 to RTD-FORUM-EU-R-I-PARTNERSHIPS@ec.europa.eu.

Background

The Transitional Forum for R&I Partnerships is created as **part of the Strategic Coordinating Process for Partnerships** for the interim period from Mid-2019 to December 2020. It will support the design of the Forum for R&I Partnerships under Horizon Europe, and help Member States and Associated Countries to participate in this process and their future engagement with partnerships. This approach was endorsed by ERAC at its Plenary meeting of 6 December 2018. It allows taking into account the evolving policy context (including revised European Research Area priorities and the future governance of ERA and the Framework Programme).

The Forum for R&I Partnerships will cover European Partnerships funded under Horizon Europe, as well as major R&I partnerships among Member States.

Importance to ERA and directionality: Partnerships are an important approach to align research programmes in Europe, which is why they are a key component of the ERA.

The long experience with public-public, and public-private partnerships in the European Union has allowed to build a community of research performing organisations, research funders, industry and policy-makers, and contributed to the alignment of R&I agendas towards common priorities across the EU.

The current average national investment in transnational calls for the period 2015-2018 is in excess of € 800 million. Since 2004, more than € 8 billion (excluding EU contributions) have been jointly invested by EU Member States.

Horizon Europe introduces a more strategic, coherent and impact-driven approach to European Partnerships. They are expected to make a significant contribution to achieving Union priorities and EU-wide ‘transformations’ towards the sustainable development goals and recovery. Inclusiveness is at the core of the new policy approach to Partnerships as they aim to have a pan-European reach in their membership, agenda-setting and activities. In addition, under “Widening Participation and Strengthening the European Research Area”, Horizon Europe will provide support to bottom-up programme level collaboration between Member States. It can be expected that total European wide public and private investments in

European Partnerships will be in the order of about € 50 billion during the duration of Horizon Europe.

EU R&I Partnerships are in a unique position in fostering transformative R&I policy due to their potential to foster systemic transitions through directionality of the R&I efforts (*i.e. clear vision and targets shared by partners*) and additionality (*i.e. long-term commitments from partners*). The past fifteen years have made joint programming a new normality in Europe.

At EU level it is important to ensure better evidence base and understanding of the impacts generated by partnerships, which is why monitoring is at the core of the strategic coordinating process. An improved understanding of the role of partnerships in tackling complex global challenges and contributing to Europe's competitiveness, coupled with a foresight effort is a basis for more informed priority setting in the future. **These two topics are addressed in the first two reports.**

In order to increase the impact of collaboration in the context of Partnerships at national level, it is important to ensure that countries have the information and necessary conditions in place that enable a more strategic and selected involvement, ensure stronger buy-in, links with national policies, and relevance of participation. This is why the **third report looks into the national preparedness** based on a comprehensive survey, and develops common guidance to prepare for the next steps.

A **fourth report**, planned for autumn 2020, will outline the opinion of the Transitional Forum on the proposal for the Forum and its main elements (scope, form, composition and governance) during Horizon Europe.