



Third meeting of the Partnership Knowledge Hub PKH-3

14 June 2022 (10.h00-16h30)

Hybrid meeting: DG RTD Brussels and Digital meeting over TEAMS

Minutes

Brussels, 28/06/ 2022

Nature of the meeting

This meeting was non-public.

List of points discussed

1. Welcome and Introduction

The G4 RTD Head of Unit, Commission co-chair, and the MS co-chair, welcomed the participants and outlined the main objectives of the meeting.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The MS co-chair proposed to add a new AOB item on the analysis of the need to revise the expert group Partnership Knowledge Hub ToR (mandate) in the aftermath of the ERA Council Conclusions on ERA governance (26 November 2021). The agenda was approved with the new item.

3. Finalisation and adoption of the PKH opinion on the first Biennial Monitoring Report (BMR): outcomes of the PKH hearing and Review Group presentation

The PKH members were invited to provide further comments and feedback on the draft opinion (received before the meeting) as prepared by the two co-chairs, the PKH Review Group, and the Secretariat, and which was based on the outcomes of the hearing with the partnerships representatives held on 18 May 2022. The final goal is to provide the MS/AC with conclusions and recommendations in response to the BMR to guide the implementation of European Partnerships, and to support a strategic discussion on key policy issues. The PKH members expressed their support and agreement on the opinion and made a few comments on the text.

Agreed Actions and deliverables:

- *The co-chairs, based on remarks received from the members, will suggest a modification of the wording regarding the use of Centralised Management of Financial Contributions to find an acceptable compromise.*

- *The Secretariat will circulate the revised draft opinion and give one week for possible further comments. The final PKH opinion will be adopted through written procedure by the end of June 2022.*
- *The MS co-chair will contact ERA Forum and the ERAC Secretariat to check whether it will be possible to present the opinion for strategic discussion and possible modalities to do it.*

4. **Input to the concept note for the Partnerships Stakeholders Annual Forum**

The Partnerships Stakeholder Forum, as a full part of the strategic coordinating process of the European Partnerships, will be organized as a two-day event on the 15 and 16 November 2022. Ms Gabriel, Commissioner for Research and Innovation, and the Czech minister for research and innovation (tbc) will open the event. The Partnership Stakeholder Forum will provide a venue for networking, broadening engagement, sharing of experiences, and discussing policy and practical dimensions related to Partnerships. It will notably promote a debate on how European Partnerships can more effectively contribute to addressing common challenges.

In this respect, ERA-Learn presented the last draft agenda of the Forum (sent out to the members before the meeting) as well as the implementing structure of the event, with a particular focus on the parallel sessions.

The PKH members gave their inputs and suggestions on the organization. In particular, they proposed to reduce the number of parallel sessions, introduce more cross-cutting topics common to all types of partnerships, focus more on political impact and synergies, also promoting networking across clusters and types of partnerships, and reflect on how enhance the community building and exchange of views and experiences between PKH members and observers.

Agreed actions and deliverables

- *The Secretariat will distribute the revised agenda based on the comments received during the meeting and launch an EU Survey for the PKH members and observers to "vote" for parallel sessions topics, as well as to propose possible speakers/ moderators for those sessions.*

5. **Overview of national participation to Widera**

At the PKH-2 it was requested that the PKH members take stock of the national actions on this regard. The topic under the WIDERA Work Programme aims at facilitating the cooperation at R&I national and regional programme level. It complements the new approach to European Partnerships under Horizon Europe and continues the spirit of the ERA-NET scheme, by providing the possibility for bottom-up activities that could result in possible future candidate European Partnerships. During the meeting the relevance of the topic was once again stressed. Regarding the low response rate to the calls so far, some possible explanations have been discussed: not enough awareness raised and unclarity about the added-value of the topic (an info session would be useful), limited resources in the MS, which are allocated to activities with higher priority such as European partnerships implementation, a huge and strong competition by call topics in the WP mirroring ERA-NET approach. It is important to better understand the reasons for the low response rate to the calls and how PKH could support improving the situation.

Agreed actions and deliverables

- *An info session will be organized in the framework of the Partnerships Stakeholders Forum in November, with a focus on collaboration at national R&I programme level.*
- *EC will prepare a document on options for making the topic more attractive for discussion with the PKH members (possible agenda point for the next PKH meeting).*

6. Discussion on modalities of dialogue with partnerships and their involvement

7. The representatives of the European Partnerships are observers to the PKH. A better structural dialogue with them is envisaged to receive their inputs based on their specific needs. The involvement of partnerships in the strategic coordination process will assure the relevance of the work of PKH with a more comprehensive strategic approach. The discussion should start from the good practice of the BMR drafting process and the hearing on the PKH opinion. The first Partnership Stakeholder Forum will be another relevant instrument to build up and boost the dialogue with partnerships. A special meeting between PKH and the partnerships representative could be considered in the margins of the event (e.g., special closed dinner/ reception). The dialogue should acknowledge, whenever justified, the specificities of each partnership and type of partnerships.

Agreed actions and deliverables

- *Co-chairs to prepare a proposal on modalities for the next meeting.*
- *The Annual forum is a good opportunity to discuss and agree on modalities: to consider a gathering between PKH and Partnerships representatives.*

8. Discussion on future support for the Strategic Coordination Process, incl. possible MLE topics based on the final report of the independent Expert Group

9. The mandate of the independent Expert Group has come to an end. The group has prepared a final report that is an umbrella for all the deliverables of the Expert Group and provides recommendations for the future support of the Strategic Coordinating Process for Partnerships. The final report is expected to be published in June¹. Alongside the recommendations, the experts identified several topics for possible Mutual Learning Exercises (MLEs). These topics are the starting point for selecting two MLEs in support of the strategic coordinating process, to be decided upon and carried out in 2022. Ideally, they should address both countries and partnerships (one MLE for each or mixed). If the implementation of MLEs will be successful, further activities could be included in the future work programmes. The PKH members have received the draft report of the Expert Group ahead of the PKH meeting.

Agreed actions and deliverable

- *The Secretariat will send a EU Survey to the PKH members and observers, to “vote” for the topics where they would like to participate. Based on the results of the survey, a decision on the MLEs will be taken.*

¹ The report was published on 17 June 2022. [Recommendations on the future support of the strategic coordinating process - Publications Office of the EU \(europa.eu\)](https://publications.ec.europa.eu/publication-detail/-/publication/11111111-1111-1111-1111-111111111111)

10. **PKH Work Plan for 2022: analysis of new proposed actions, discussion and updates, strategic planning**

The Work Plan 2022 met the expectations of the PKH, so far. The PKH activities and deliverables are on good track. In view of the next Work Plan 2023, an internal PKH discussion is envisaged at the next meeting.

Agreed actions and deliverables

- *Co-chairs to prepare a document with a proposal for the next meeting; a final agreement foreseen at the last meeting of the year (topics/activities: e.g., life cycle approach, follow-up on BMR Opinion, advice on partnerships under the 2nd strategic plan and CSA support).*

11. **AOB**

Second interim report of the independent Expert group

EC presented the Second interim report prepared by the independent Expert Group (the PKH members in view of the publication have received a draft in advance²). The Report can be considered as a manual to guide the drafting of the future Biennial Monitoring Reports. It will be a very important support tool for the future Expert Group drafting the 2024 edition of the BMR, as well as for the MS and Partnerships in preparation for the data collection.

Flash Info on Strategic Planning of partnerships

EC informed the PKH members that internal process for the identification of the new candidate European Partnerships in the Strategic Plan for 2025-2027 has been launched. EC services are defining the parameters for the second strategic planning process and getting an early overview of different bottom-up ideas for new partnerships. The work on the portfolio and foresight in the PKH will start in autumn this year – the aim is to receive advice from the PKH on the identification of EU R&I partnerships before the consultation of the strategic programme committee on the candidate partnerships. The early involvement of the PKH should lead to more consensual agreement on future partnerships and more informed decisions. With regards to PRIMA, which will end in 2024, the Commission informed that the internal process in view of a renewal/extension of the partnership has been launched. PRIMA interim evaluation is due by the end of this year.

12. **Conclusions, agreed actions and next meeting**

Proposed date for the next meeting: last week of September/early October 2022. The Secretariat will check the meeting dates of other relevant close working group or special events (i.e., SPC, ERA Forum, R&I Days) to avoid any clash in the agendas.

The preliminary list of topics for the next meeting is as follows

- *WIDERA WP topic*
- *Dialogue with partnerships*
- *MLE topics*

² The report was published online shortly after the PKH meeting. Link: [A framework for the biennial monitoring report on European Partnerships - Publications Office of the EU \(europa.eu\)](#)

- *PKH Work Plan 2023*
- *Annual Forum*
- *HEU second Strategic Plan*

13. **List of Participants**

MS Representatives:

AT, BE, BG*, CY*, CZ, DE, DK, EE, EL, ES, FI, FR, HR, HU, IE, IL, IS*, IT, LT*, LU, LV*, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO*, SK, SE, SI, TR

EC RTD:

G4 Representatives

* Absent