



Fourth Meeting of the Partnerships Knowledge Hub PKH – 4

4 October 2022 (09h30 - 11h30)

Digital meeting over TEAMS

Minutes

Brussels, 26/10/2022

Nature of the Meeting

This meeting was non-public.

List of points discussed

1. Welcome and Introduction

The EC co-chair and the MS co-chair welcomed the participants and outlined the main objectives of the meeting.

2. Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was approved.

3. Update on the ERA Work in the ERA Forum and ERAC

The MS co-chair presented on the last updates from the ERA Forum and ERAC meeting. Issues highlighted in ERAC Strategic discussions:

1. Synergies on infrastructure and roadmap to FP10: limited achievements and impacts considering structure of funds and Horizon Funds. Example of EOSK partnership which bridges the gap between infrastructure and partnerships.
2. Preparation of ERAC opinion on the interim and final evaluations of Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe: A task force to be established – discussion of the position of partnerships in the funding landscape – look at the work plan internally, plan to be contributing to ERAC work ad-hoc.

ERA Forum meeting of 22 September:

3. ERA Forum discussed the commitments of Member States in the 20 Actions of the ERA Policy Agenda. Action 10 of the ERA Policy agenda concerns missions (10.1) and

partnerships (10.2). The MS Co-Chair accepted to be the MS sponsor for Action 10.2 on partnerships. Interaction between ERA Forum and work of PKH is to be organised in the future.

4. PKH Work Plan 2023 analysis of new proposed actions, discussion and updates, strategic planning

The draft PKH Work Plan 2023 prepared by the two co-chairs and shared with the MS/AC representatives on the 19 of September together with all the supporting documents, was presented and analysed with new proposed actions. The Work Plan, developed in line with the PKH Terms of Reference, identifies the priority activities of the group for 2023. Among the foreseen actions, the Work Plan focuses, in particular, on the contribution to the second strategic plan and the preparation of the strategic discussion. The up-coming Spanish and Swedish Presidency do not foresee any particular activity to be considered in the WP 2023. The members agreed to adopt the Work Plan 2023 by the end of 2022.

Agreed actions:

- *PKH members to comment the draft WP by the 14 of October*

5. Contribution to the preparation of Horizon Europe Second Strategic Plan

The EC co-chair introduced the role of the PKH in the process for the adoption of the Second Strategic Plan of Horizon Europe and the adoption of the second wave of partnerships. The Co-chair recalled the main steps of the strategic planning process, the identification of the partnerships, the co-design with Member States and exchanges with the European Parliament, and the public consultation to be launched by the end of November for 12 weeks. The role of the PKH is twofold: identification of priority areas and advise on potential new partnerships for the second wave.

Agreed actions:

- *To establish a PKH ad-hoc Working Group to steer the role of PKH in the identification of the second wave of partnerships; work modalities to be adopted by the working group*
- *The Secretariat will launch a call of interest for volunteers for the ad-hoc Working Group (deadline for submissions by the 12 of October 2022).*
- *As soon as possible EC will circulate the draft Partnership fiches which are being prepared (possibly late October, early November 2022).*

6. Improve the Participation Rate to the topic that is open in the WIDERA part of the Horizon Europe WP

G4 briefly presented the note on the WIDERA topic, which was received by the MS prior to the meeting. The purpose of the note is to present possible reasons for the low response rate to the calls for proposals and suggest actions for improvement, such as: reformulating objectives for clarity, confusion on different funding options during calls, excluding ERA- NET topics, narrowing the scope and expected outcomes, utilising existing networks such as PKH to inform potential applicants about the calls. The delegates thanked the Commission for the analysis and raised following issues:

- Underlined the importance of early communication about the call for proposals.
- Stressed the importance of the topic that should be kept and strengthened in the WP to support European collaboration.
- The impression created was that already developed networks were primarily seeking budget to fund research activities, while networks that still need to be built are not really capable / organised enough yet to write a proposal for this topic.
- The link between this topic and the second wave of partnerships.
- Funding organisations have also been quite busy with the new HEU partnerships.
- Co-funded partnerships implementation difficulties currently faced by funding agencies may also explain the reluctance of some of them to apply for this call.
- highlighted the lack of dedicated infodays for WIDERA NCPs to enable them to take ownership of the calls and subsequently to raise awareness among stakeholders.
- The important role of the Clusters NCPs engaging with the stakeholders, and the need to organise information sessions for potential proposers.
- Awareness among relevant Commission services of this topic, to avoid duplication of efforts.

Agreed actions and deliverables:

- *The note to be revised based on the discussion held with MS, deadline for comments by the 12 of October 2022.*
- *Commission to implement the actions suggested in the note and update the PKH on a regular basis.*
- *The PKH-4 Working Group will contribute to revise the Note and will focus on possible more effective communication modalities.*

7. Mutual Learning Exercise aiming to provide support to Partnerships

The Strategic Coordinating Process (SCP) aims to support community building, thus further activities were launched such as the Partnerships Stakeholder Forum.

EC set up a list of Mutual Learning Exercise topics and launched in June 2022 a EUSurvey under the framework of the PKH, which showed that the two MLEs to be implemented first are:

- MLE 4 – partnership impact measurement frameworks
- MLE 8 - Role of European Partnerships in national R&I policies.

For that purpose, under the WIDERA part of the WP 2022 there is a dedicated expert contract action (7. Support for policy makers – Horizontal support to the Strategic Coordinating Process for partnerships). This exercise could start in 2023 under this specific action.

Agreed actions and deliverables:

- *MS agreed to go ahead with two topics as result of the EUSurvey.*
- *EC will check internally how to implement this specific action of the WIDERA part of the WP2022.*

8. Dialogue with partnerships and Partnerships Stakeholders Annual Forum

The MS co-chair underlined that the involvement of partnerships in the strategic coordination process will assure the relevance of the work of PKH with a more comprehensive strategic approach. He reiterated the importance of ERA Learn events in

the past and highlighted the bigger scope of the Annual Stakeholder Forum. The Forum will be decisive on a number of issues , and regular exchanges with partnerships and stakeholders. The Forum will be the right moment to deepen more this important topic and a dedicated satellite event, reserved only to PKH members and partnerships representatives, will be organized for this specific discussion.

Agreed actions and deliverables:

- *The PKH to come together at satellite event for in-depth discussions on interaction with partnerships representatives*

9. AOB

None

10. Conclusions, agreed actions and next meeting

- *Continue discussions on Swedish and Spanish Presidencies on potential activities of PKH interest*
- *Co-Chairs to provide a revised Work Plan 2023 to be adopted in the next meeting*
- *To establish an Ad-hoc Working group on the Strategic Plan to present a paper in March/April 2023*
- *MLE: The Commission will start working on preparing for the specific expert contract; working modalities to be clarified for the next meeting.*

Proposed date for the next meeting: *second week of December 2022*

10. List of Participants

MS Representatives:

AT, BE, BG, CY, CZ, DE DK, EE, EL, ES, FI, FR, HR, HU, IE, IT, LT, LU, LV, MT, NL, PL, PT, RO, SK, SE, SI

EC:

RTD G4