



# Subgroup on Innovation & Knowledge Exchange (SolKE) 9<sup>th</sup> meeting

5 June 2025



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# European Partnerships in Horizon Europe

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Subgroup on Innovation and Knowledge Exchange (SolKE) | 9<sup>th</sup> meeting | 5 June 2025



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# **Subgroup on Innovation and Knowledge Exchange**

## **9th meeting**

### **5 June 2025**

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# European Partnerships under Horizon Europe



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# New approach to partnerships under Horizon Europe: why?

Impact Assessment annex 8-5

- Need to **rationalise** the European R&I partnerships landscape
- Need to improve the **openness** and transparency of R&I partnerships
- Need to **link** the R&I partnerships to future EU R&I missions and/or strategic priorities



## 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, 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





## Co-programmed European Partnerships

- *For comparison to H2020, most relevant 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.





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## Co-funded European partnership: a 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.**”*



## Co-funded European Partnerships

- *For comparison with H2020, most relevant 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, 7 (to 10) 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).

## EU co-funded Partnerships




**AGROECOLOGY  
PARTNERSHIP**

Agroecology Partnership

First 19 projects running.  
2nd co-funded call on "Integrating environmental, economic and social perspectives in assessing the performance of agroecology. Value-chain and policy implications": currently selection of second stage proposals on-going.  
On-going preparation of top-up Partnership proposal.

Planned budget €300mio  
EC Contact: Susana Gaona



**EUPAHW**  
European Partnership on  
Animal Health and Welfare

EUPAHW

First 17 internal projects running.  
First co-funded external call launched on 'supporting the future of animal health and welfare': currently selection of second stage proposals.  
On-going preparation of top-up EUPAHW proposal.

Planned budget €360 mio  
EC Contact: Jean Charles Cavitte



**Partnership  
Agriculture  
of data**

Grant Agreement Preparation on-going.

Potential budget €300 mio  
EC Contact: Francesco Iadecola



**Partnership  
on Forests  
and Forestry**

Led by a core team of SCAR Forest Strategic Working Group  
Consortium development ongoing between MS and AC  
SRIA being developed by HE project EUFORE, final SRIA expected in autumn 2025

EC Contact: Laura Liepina

## Selection criteria in Annex III of Horizon Europe Regulation (I)

Demonstrating that the European Partnership is **more effective in achieving the related objectives** of the Programme through involvement and commitment of partners, in particular in delivering clear impacts for the EU and its citizens, notably in view of delivering on global challenges and research and innovation objectives, securing EU competitiveness, sustainability and contributing to the strengthening of the European Research and Innovation Area and, where relevant, international commitments;

In the case of institutionalised European Partnerships established in accordance with Article 185 TFEU, the participation of at least 40% of the EU Member States is mandatory;

- a. **Coherence and synergies** of the European Partnership within the EU research and innovation landscape, following the Horizon Europe rules to the largest extent possible;
- b. **Transparency and openness** of the European Partnership as regards the identification of priorities and objectives in terms of expected results and impacts and as regards the involvement of partners and stakeholders from across the entire value chain, from different sectors, backgrounds and disciplines, including international ones when relevant and not interfering with European competitiveness; clear modalities for promoting participation of SMEs and for disseminating and exploiting results, notably by SMEs, including through intermediary organisations;



## Selection criteria in Annex III of Horizon Europe Regulation (II)

- c. Ex-ante demonstration of **additionality and directionality** of the European Partnership, including a common strategic vision of the purpose of the European Partnership. This vision will include in particular:
  - (i) identification of **measurable expected outcomes, results and impacts** within specific timeframes, including key economic and/or societal value for the Union;
  - (ii) demonstration of expected qualitative and significant quantitative **leverage effects**, including a **method for the measurement of key performance indicators**;
  - (iii) approaches to ensure **flexibility of implementation and to adjust to changing policy, societal and/or market needs**, or scientific advances, to increase policy coherence between regional, national and Union level;
  - (iv) **exit-strategies and measures for phasing-out** from the Programme;
- d. Ex-ante demonstration of the partners' **long term commitment**, including a minimum share of public and/or private investments;

In the case of institutionalised European Partnerships, established in accordance with article 185 or 187 TFEU, the financial and/or in-kind, contributions from partners other than the Union, will at least be equal to 50% and may reach up to 75% of the aggregated European Partnership budgetary commitments. For each such institutionalised European Partnership, a share of the contributions from partners other than the Union will be in the form of financial contributions. For partners other than the Union and Participating States, financial contributions should be aimed primarily at covering administrative costs as well as coordination and support and other non-competitive activities.





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