

## *Article 8*

### **European Partnerships**

1. Parts of Horizon Europe may be implemented through European Partnerships. The involvement of the Union in European Partnerships may take any of the following forms:
  - (a) participation in partnerships set up on the basis of memoranda of understanding and/or contractual arrangements between the Commission and the partners referred to in Article 2(3), specifying the objectives of the partnership, related commitments for financial and/or in-kind contributions of the partners, key performance and impact indicators, and outputs to be delivered. They include the identification of complementary research and innovation activities that are implemented by the partners and by the Programme (Co-programmed European Partnerships);
  - (b) participation in and financial contribution to a programme of research and innovation activities, based on the commitment of the partners for financial and in-kind contributions and integration of their relevant activities using a Programme co-fund action (Co-funded European Partnerships);
  - (c) participation in and financial contribution to research and innovation programmes undertaken by several Member States in accordance with Article 185 TFEU, or by bodies established pursuant to Article 187 TFEU, such as Joint Undertakings, or by the EIT Knowledge and Innovation Communities in compliance with the [EIT Regulation] (Institutionalised European Partnerships), to be implemented only where other forms of European Partnerships would not achieve the objectives or would not generate the necessary expected impacts, and if justified by a long-term perspective and high degree of integration including central management of all financial contributions.
2. European Partnerships shall:
  - (a) Be established in cases where they will more effectively achieve objectives of Horizon Europe than the Union alone;
  - (b) Adhere to the principles of Union added value, transparency, openness, impact, leverage effect, long-term financial commitment of all the involved parties, flexibility, coherence and complementarity with Union, local, regional national and international initiatives;
  - (c) Be time limited and include conditions for phasing-out the Programme funding.

Provisions and criteria for their selection, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and phasing-out are set out in Annex III.

## ANNEX III

### PARTNERSHIPS

European Partnerships will be selected, implemented, monitored, evaluated and phased-out on the basis of the following criteria:

#### 1) Selection:

- (a) Evidence that the European Partnership is more effective in achieving the related objectives of the Programme, 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 and contributing to the strengthening of the European Research and Innovation Area and international commitments;

In the case of institutionalised European Partnerships established in accordance with Article 185 TFEU, the participation of at least 50% of the EU Member States is mandatory;

- (b) Coherence and synergies of the European Partnership within the EU research and innovation landscape;
- (c) Transparency and openness of the European Partnership as regards the identification of priorities and objectives, and the involvement of partners and stakeholders from different sectors, including international ones when relevant;
- (d) Ex-ante demonstration of additionality and directionality of the European Partnership, including a common vision of the purpose of the European Partnership. This vision will include in particular:
- identification of measurable expected outcomes, deliverables and impacts within specific timeframes, including key economic value for Europe;
  - demonstration of expected qualitative and quantitative leverage effects;
  - approaches to ensure flexibility of implementation and to adjust to changing policy or market needs, or scientific advances;
  - exit-strategy and phasing-out measures.
- (e) 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, 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 institutionalised European Partnership, a share of the contributions from partners other than the Union will be in the form of financial contributions.

## **2) Implementation:**

- (a) Systemic approach ensuring achievement of the expected impacts of the European Partnership through the flexible implementation of joint actions going beyond joint calls for research and innovation activities, including those related to market, regulatory or policy uptake;
- (b) Appropriate measures ensuring continuous openness of the initiative and transparency during implementation, notably for priority setting and for participation in calls for proposals, visibility of the Union, communication and outreach measures, dissemination and exploitation of results, including clear open access/user strategy along the value chain;
- (c) Coordination and/or joint activities with other relevant research and innovation initiatives ensuring effective synergies;
- (d) Legally binding commitments, in particular for financial contributions, from each partner throughout the lifetime of the initiative;
- (e) In the case of institutionalised European Partnership access to the results and other action related information for the Commission for the purpose of developing, implementing and monitoring of Union policies or programmes.

## **3) Monitoring:**

- (a) A monitoring system in line with the requirements set out in Article 45 to track progress towards specific policy goals/objectives, deliverables and key performance indicators allowing for an assessment over time of achievements, impacts and potential needs for corrective measures;
- (b) Dedicated reporting on quantitative and qualitative leverage effects, including on financial and in-kind contributions, visibility and positioning in the international context, impact on research and innovation related risks of private sector investments.

## **4) Evaluation, phasing-out and renewal:**

- (a) Evaluation of impacts achieved at Union and national level in relation to defined targets and key performance indicators, feeding into the Programme evaluation set out in Article 47, including an assessment of the most effective policy intervention mode for any future action; and the positioning of any possible renewal of a European Partnership in the overall European Partnerships landscape and its policy priorities;
- (b) Appropriate measures ensuring phasing-out according to the agreed conditions and timeline, without prejudice to possible continued transnational funding by national or other Union programmes.