

Why to align between EU and national funding

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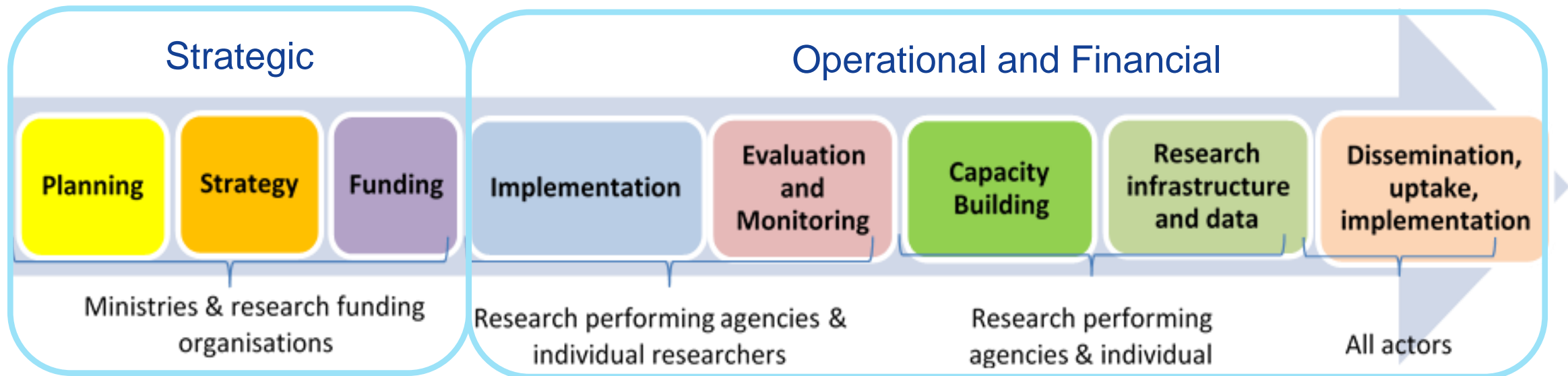
Risk Assessment Research Assembly (RARA) 2022 - EFSA

- *“Alignment is the strategic approach taken by Member States to **modify their national programmes, priorities or activities as a consequence of the adoption of joint research priorities** in the context of Joint Programming, with a view to implement changes to improve the efficiency of investment in research at the level of Member States and the European Research Area.” (ERAC-GPC 1305/1/14, REV1)*
- “Optimising national research programmes and priorities”, an element of the ERA since 2000 (Acheson, et al. 2008)

Source: [ERA-LEARN Deliverable 4.1- Report on the Definition and Typology of Alignment](#)

- **Global challenges that cross national borders and need coordinated responses** and strengthened investments and resources not easily found in any country alone (*health, food, energy, transport, water, climate change, circular economy*)
- **Global research fields but nationally organized research spaces** that need to be aligned in terms of funding rules, organisational set-up for funding and for conducting research. (Nedeva, 2013)
- **Scientific fields** that are by default **cross-national** (metrology, health, risk assessment...)
- Trans-national research collaboration leads to **high-quality research** within the global scientific community and across disciplinary boundaries (Reale, et. al. 2013).

Alignment actions across the entire research and innovation programming cycle

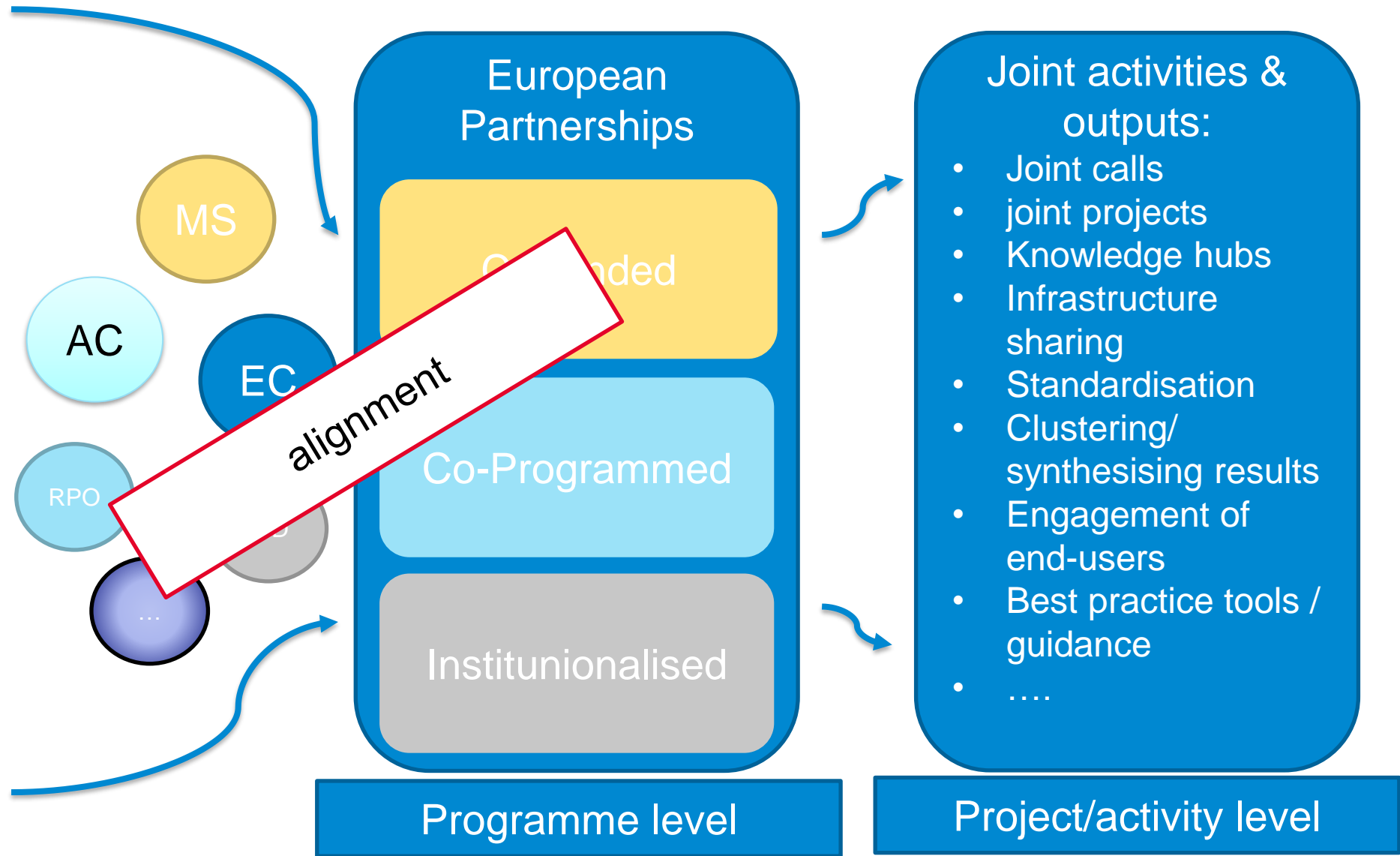


Source: [ERA-LEARN Deliverable 4.1- Report on the Definition and Typology of Alignment](#)

- Strategic alignment refers to finding common interests for collaboration by trying to identify **converging, complementing or overlapping areas across the different national strategies and programme foci**. This can be achieved through activities such as
 - ▶ **joint foresight** activities,
 - ▶ Developing a common **strategic research and innovation agenda**,
 - ▶ adoption of a common strategic **implementation action plan**,
 - ▶ conduct of **joint stakeholder consultations**
 - ▶ **cooperation** between partnerships and with other relevant initiatives
- Key actors: ministries, research and innovation councils, programme owners, funding agencies

- Operational alignment refers to the **design, implementation, evaluation of joint activities, and dissemination of results**. This may be carried out through actions like:
 - ▶ establishment of a joint research programme and **launching joint calls** for research proposals, setting up a join evaluation system, and harmonized reporting
 - ▶ establishment of a **network or association of research performing organisations**, or a Research Alliance, or a virtual network of excellence, to build capacities, etc.
 - ▶ **coordination** of scientific techniques and methodologies
 - ▶ **opening up access** to and shared use of national research infrastructures (incl datasets, etc.)
 - ▶ coordinated or joint **dissemination** of scientific results, etc.
- Key actors: programme owners, funding agencies, research performing organisations

- Financial alignment refers to **making the timing of funding, participation and funding rules** in the different national programmes compatible, so that a smooth start and implementation of joint projects and activities can be ensured. Financial alignment relates to actions like:
 - ▶ synchronisation of national calls for research proposals
 - ▶ organisation of joint transnational calls for research proposals
- Key actors: programme owners, funding agencies



European Partnerships are based on actions in Horizon 2020:

- The co-funded partnerships are successors of European Joint Programme (EJP) Cofund and ERA-NET Cofund under Horizon 2020.
- Co-programmed follow the Contractual Public-Private-Partnerships under Horizon 2020.
- Institutionalised European Partnerships are based on Art. 187 and Art. 185 of the TFEU but are no longer called Art. 185/187 initiatives or Joint Undertakings. EIT Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs) will also be Institutionalised partnerships in Horizon Europe.

Horizon 2020

P2P
(Public-to-Public
Partnerships)

ERA-NET Cofund

EJP Cofund

Art. 185 Initiatives

EIT KICs

PPP
(Public-Private
Partnerships)

JUs / Art. 187
Initiatives

cPPP

Horizon Europe

Co-funded
European
Partnerships

Institutionalised
European
Partnerships

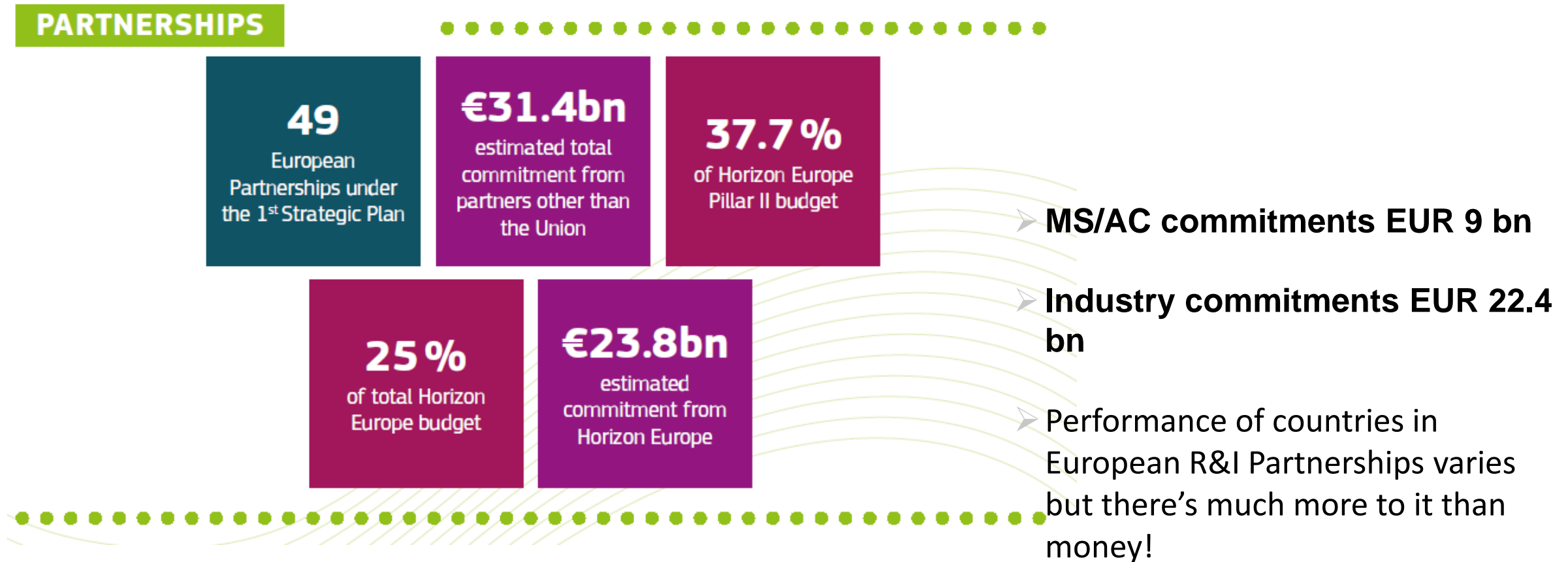
Co-programmed
European
Partnerships

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- Strategic level – difficulty in deciding **which partnerships to join**; analogy between **political support and funds** made available; need for coordination at national level
- Operational level – lack of **synchronicity** in decision-making and programme cycles; different participation and funding **rules**
- Financial level – ensuring **fair national contributions**; cases of **shortage of funds** in some countries not allowing all successful proposals to go ahead; **small funds** overall and per project limit impact

- **Streamlined** partnership landscape in Horizon Europe (49 partnerships – three types); many countries set up **coordination** structures
- Operational level – significant **experience** (*“We know how to draft and update SRIAs and implement calls now”*); more efforts needed for other **alignment activities**
- Financial level – **three clear models** in Horizon Europe; experience is large, although some clarifications still needed; **experience** to tackle issue of fair contributions; increasing **MS contributions**

So, still....why to align? Some facts

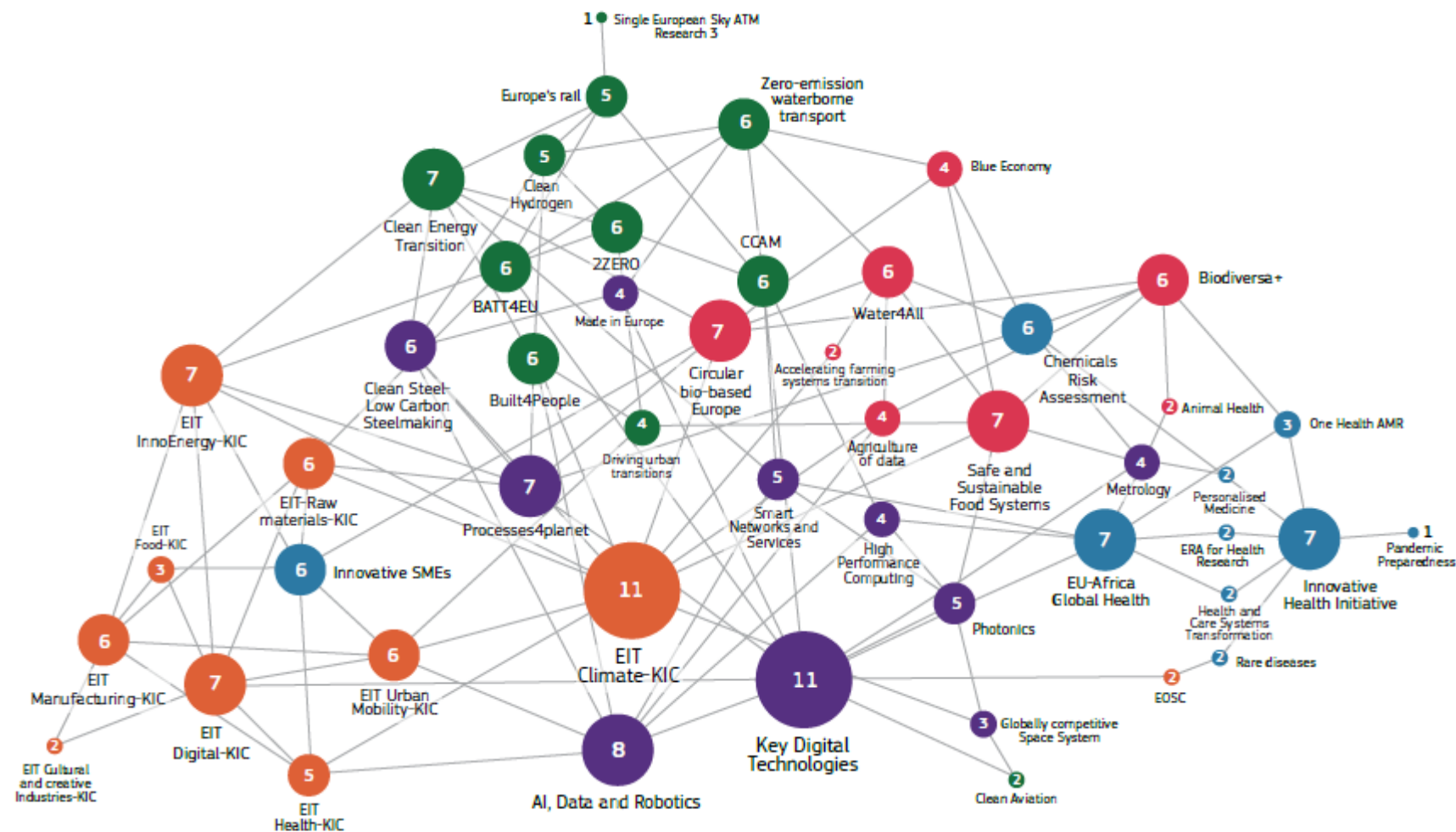


THE PORTFOLIO OF 49 EUROPEAN PARTNERSHIPS

PILLAR II - Global challenges & European industrial competitiveness				PILLAR III - Innovative Europe	
Cluster 1: Health	Cluster 4: Digital, industry and space	Cluster 5: Climate, energy and mobility	Cluster 6: Food, bioeconomy, natural resources, agriculture and environment	EIT: The European Institute of Innovation and Technology	European innovation ecosystems
Innovative Health Initiative	Key Digital Technologies	Clean Hydrogen	Circular Bio-based Europe	EIT InnoEnergy	Innovative SMEs
Global Health EDCTP3	Smart Networks and Services	Clean Aviation	Biodiversa+	Climate-KIC	
Transformation of Health Care Systems	High Performance Computing	Single European Sky ATM Research 3	Blue Economy	EIT Digital	
Risk Assessment of Chemicals	European Metrology (Art. 185)	Europe's Rail	Water4All	EIT Food	
ERA for Health	AI-Data-Robotics	Connected, Cooperative and Automated Mobility	Animal Health and Welfare	EIT Health	
Rare Diseases	Photonics	Batteries	Accelerating Farming Systems Transitions	EIT Raw materials	
One-Health Antimicrobial Resistance	Made in Europe	Zero-emission Waterborne Transport	Agriculture of data	EIT Manufacturing	
Personalised Medicine	Clean Steel – Low-Carbon Steelmaking	Zero-emission Road Transport	Safe and Sustainable Food Systems	EIT Urban Mobility	
Pandemic Preparedness	Processes4Planet	Built4People		Cultural and Creative Sectors and Industries	
	Globally Competitive Space Systems	Clean Energy Transition			
		Driving Urban Transitions			
				CROSS-PILLARS II and III	
				European Open Science Cloud	

EUROPEAN PARTNERSHIPS AS NETWORK BUILDERS

FIGURE 30. Planned coordinated and joint activities between the European Partnerships



An example: The Metrology Partnership

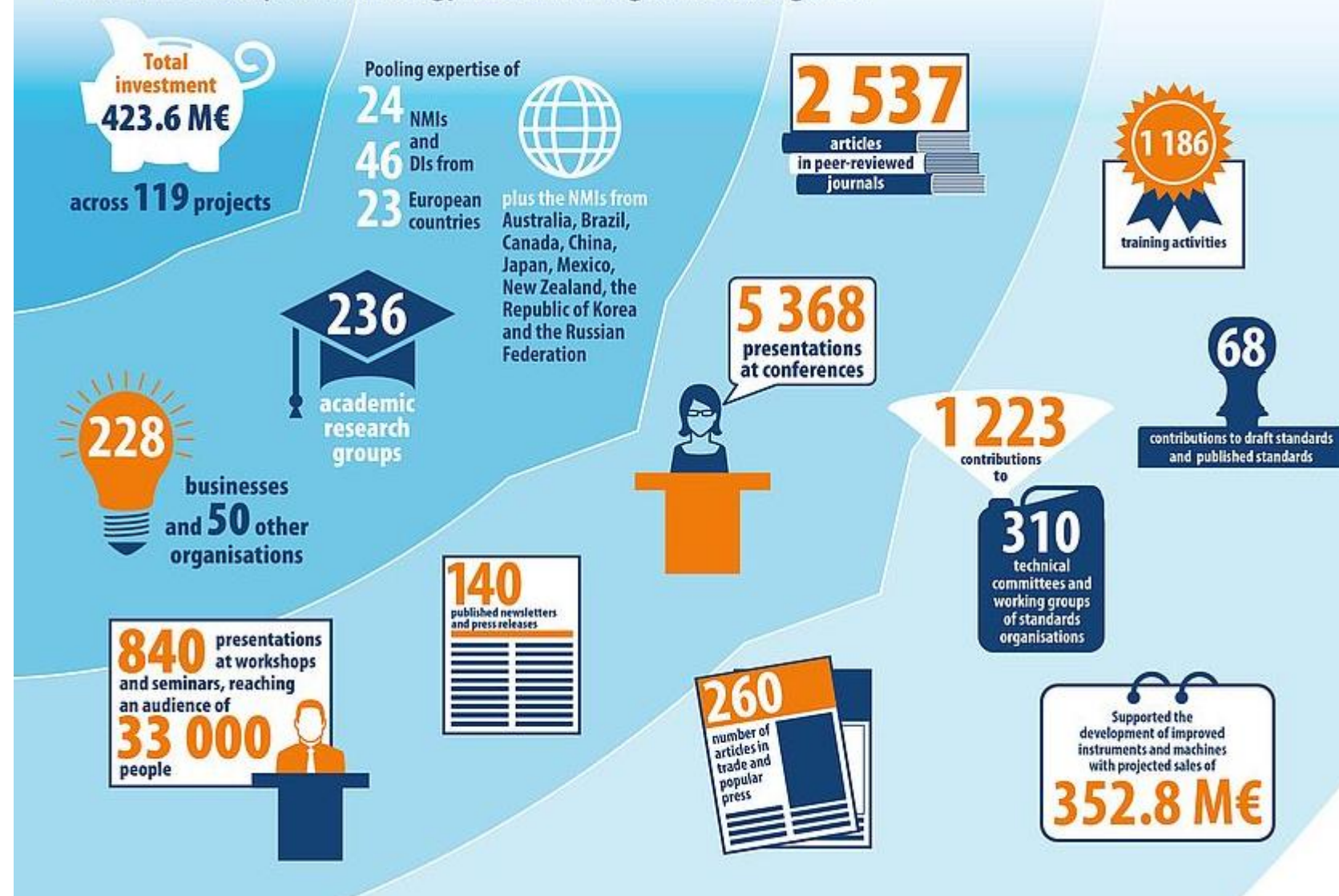
<https://www.euramet.org/research-innovation/metrology-partnership>

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Co-funded by the Member States and the European Union with an expected budget of **over 650 million euro.**

Building on the progress achieved under the previous European Metrology Research Programmes

EURAMET's European Metrology Research Programme at a glance



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Case Studies

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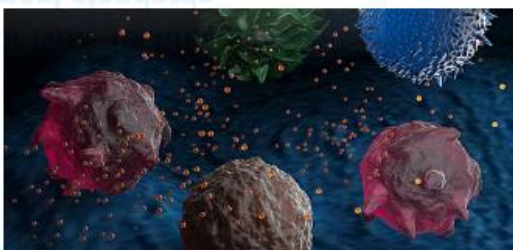
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EURAMET's contribution to the COVID-19 response
SI redefinition
World Metrology Day 2021
Metrology for Energy
Metrology for Health
Metrology for Environment
Metrology for Industry
Measurements for New Technologies
Future measurement standards
Metrology and Standardisation

Metrology and Standardisation

Future measurement standards

Measurements for New Technologies



An improved method for studying nanometre-sized biological particles

Extracellular vesicles (EVs) are small membrane-coated particles (30 nm - 1,000 nm) released from animal and plant cells. Originally thought to be unwanted cellular debris it has since been realised these are actively secreted, contain soluble molecules such as proteins and nucleic acids, and are involved in both normal and pat...

[read more](#)

Sharing metrological knowledge in Europe to reduce alcohol-related road accident

The World Health Organisation has indicated that road traffic accidents are the leading cause of death in children and young adults in the European Region and the EC has estimated that 25 % of such fatalities are due to alcohol. Around 6,500 deaths could be prevented each year in Europe if drivers obeyed drinkdriving regulation...

Testimonies of funders in other countries – Source: BMR 2022 report

*“It is difficult to find arguments to convince the political level of the value of these schemes especially if the results (number of approved projects) are not as high as expected and the efforts you put in to manage the networks are rather heavy. But **that doesn’t mean it has not been worth the effort**. On the contrary, it should be encouraged to find **ways to facilitate participation and improve the results**” (Innobasque) (ERA-LEARN report Spain)*

*“ERA-NETs help us **streamline our research priorities** and support the decision process at the national level” (BMNT official) “The JPI potential is heavily underestimated ... You get national systems and institutes aligned and involved in joint efforts. This is much **more than having EU funds invested** in an area.” (BMBWF) (ERA-LEARN report Austria)*

*“...the public-private partnerships can really work well if and when some level of openness is ensured specially to accommodate smaller players.” (Business Finland Officials) “The **access to knowledge and infrastructure** enabled through international collaboration **outweighs the national commitments made**. This is very important for a small country like Finland...” (MMM) (ERA-LEARN report Finland)*

*“These networks proved to be **key for tackling global challenges as well as ensuring Europe’s technological sovereignty** beyond the EU R&I framework programme.” (BMR 2022 Country fiche Germany)*

*“European Partnerships have **inspired Swedish thematic R&I programmes** to tackle societal challenges with national programme committees and strategic R&I agendas.” (BMR 2022 Country fiche Sweden)*

*“SRIAs of BiodivERsA **influenced the national strategy**. Also, the national cancer plan benefitted from EU network research agendas.” (BMR 2022 Country fiche Belgium)*

Testimonies of researchers in other countries – Source: BMR 2022

*“JPND allows research collaboration within EU and beyond (between the North and the South, East and West - very integrating in Europe) and is not bureaucratic as H2020. The project participants have become so enthusiastic that we **continued to collaborate after the official end of the project.**” (project beneficiary, ERA-LEARN report Norway)*

*“... our project has been **crucial in an area that our company has already been working on.** If we were to finance it on our own, we would not probably do it in this way...We hope to have a follow-up project to take this further and develop marketable products.” (project beneficiary PhotonicSensing ERA-NET; ERA-LEARN report Belgium)*

*“Compared to H2020, the **process is much easier and less time-consuming...**The scope of DEMOWIND is also very appealing to us as it allows for closer-to-market research and demonstration projects with high TRLs.” (Project beneficiary; ERA_LEARN report Spain)*

*“The projects helped create a European network (multiple sclerosis research and especially neuron immunology) of top labs that are highly engaged in such projects. This is a **critical advantage that goes much beyond what the national projects ...** The research led to **changes in scientific perceptions of how multiple sclerosis research should be addressed** and this paved the way for significant progress in the field.” (NEURON project beneficiary; ERA-LEARN report Austria)*

*“We accessed methods that we **would have never been established in our lab, it was a unique opportunity.**” (Project beneficiary NEURON, ERA-LEARN report Germany)*

- https://www.era-learn.eu/support-for-partnerships/additional-activities/copy_of_alignment
- <https://ec.europa.eu/research-and-innovation/en/statistics/policy-support-facility/mle-alignment-and-interoperability-national-research-programmes>
- [Biennial Monitoring Report 2022](#)
- [ERA-LEARN Annual Report 2021](#)
- Acheson, H., Amanatidou, E., Boekholt, P., Aymar, R., Clar, G., Crasemann, W., Dunstan, D., Ervelä-Myréen, E., Horvat, M., Leijten, J., Manchin, R., & Oleksy, E. (2008). Optimising Research Programmes and Priorities. Report of the ERA Expert Group. Office for Official Publications of the European Communities. <https://doi.org/10.2777/32046>.
- [**HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ERA-01-01: Programme level collaboration between national R&I policy makers– Infoday Dec 12th**](#)

Thank you!

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<https://www.era-learn.eu/>



Challenges based on the ERA-LEARN knowledge/data

- The performance of a country does not necessarily reflect the level of the country's leadership in research and innovation. Although, strong support in international collaboration may be evidenced in the policy discourse, this may not be reflected in the budgets made available.
- Need to raise awareness and provide incentives to collaborate internationally. However, also true that the rate of return (i.e., number of proposals approved with national participation divided by the number of proposals submitted) can also be affected by other than scientific merit criteria such as the small budget made available by certain countries which may jeopardise approval of proposals although of high - quality. This is rather discouraging for the affected countries.
- Aligning the national decision-making cycles, participation rules and timings is not an easy task.
- Partnerships need, as well as bring, high levels of national coordination/collaboration but sometimes it is hard to break existing fragmentation.
- National rigidities and incompatibilities, as well as small funds per project and limits to the number of funded projects may hinder full exploitation of the potential that partnerships offer.
- Performance of countries in European R&I Partnerships varies but there's much more to it than money!

Co-funded European Partnerships

These are partnerships involving EU countries, with research funders and other public authorities at the core of the consortium.

The partnership is based on grant agreement between the Commission and the consortium of partners, resulting from a call for proposals for a programme co-fund action in the work programme of Horizon Europe. The programme needs to specify the objectives, key performance and impact indicators, and outputs to be delivered, based on the commitment of the partners and integration of their relevant activities. This type is suited to partnerships involving public authorities, but it is also possible to include foundations and international partners.

See the link for more information including a presentation and video and partnership examples

Co-programmed European Partnerships

These are partnerships between the Commission and private and/or public partners. They are based on memoranda of understanding and/or contractual arrangements.

The agreement is specifying the objectives of the partnership, the related commitments from all involved sides for contributions of the partners, the key performance and impact indicators as well as outputs to be delivered and reporting modalities.

They include the identification of complementary research and innovation activities that are implemented separately by the partners and by the EU through work programmes (comitology procedure).

See the link for more information including a presentation and video and partnership examples

Institutionalised European Partnerships

These partnerships require legislative proposals from the Commission. They are implemented by dedicated structures created for that purpose.

The research and innovation programmes are undertaken by several Member States, based on a Decision by the Council and European Parliament in accordance with Article 185 TFEU, or by bodies established through a Decision of the Council pursuant to Article 187 TFEU, such as Joint Undertakings, or by EIT Knowledge and Innovation Communities in compliance with the EIT Regulation and the EIT Strategic Innovation Agenda (SIA).

Such partnerships will be implemented only where other forms of European Partnerships would not achieve the objectives or generate the expected impacts, and if justified by a long-term perspective and high degree of integration.

See the link for more information including a presentation and video and partnership examples