



Brussels, 14.6.2021
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COMMISSION DECISION

of 14.6.2021

on the approval and signature of eleven Memoranda of Understanding for Co-programmed European Partnerships for Research and Innovation

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) 2021/695¹ of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, laying down its rules for participation and dissemination ('Horizon Europe') and in particular Article 10 and Annex III thereof,

Having regard to Council Decision (EU) 2021/764² of 10 May 2021 establishing the Specific Programme implementing Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation,

Whereas:

- (1) 'European Partnership' means an initiative prepared with the early involvement of Member States and associated countries, where the Union, together with private and/or public partners (such as industry, universities, research organisations, bodies with a public service mission at local, regional, national or international level or civil society organisations including foundations and NGOs), commit to jointly support the development and implementation of a programme of R&I activities, including those related to market, regulatory or policy uptake.
- (2) The Union may enter into European Partnerships with private and/or public sector partners in order for Union funding to have the greatest possible impact and to make the most effective contribution to the Union's policy objectives. The European partnerships are a key element of the policy approach of Horizon Europe. They are set up to deliver on Union priorities targeted by Horizon Europe and to ensure clear impacts for the Union and its citizens, provided that the desired impacts can be achieved more effectively in a partnership through a strategic vision that is shared and committed to by partners, rather than by the Union alone.
- (3) To deliver on priorities and impact, European Partnerships should be developed through a broad involvement of relevant stakeholders across Europe, including industry, SMEs, universities, research organisations, R&I stakeholders, bodies with a public service mission at local, regional, national or international level or civil society organisations, including foundations and NGOs that support and/or carry out R&I. The European Partnerships should also constitute one of the measures to strengthen cooperation between private and public sector partners at international level, including by joining up R&I programmes and cross-border investment in R&I, bringing mutual benefits to people and businesses while ensuring that the Union can uphold its interests in strategic areas.

¹ OJ L 170, 12.5.2021, p. 1–68.

² OJ L 167I, 12.5.2021, p. 1–80.

- (4) Co-programmed European Partnerships shall fulfil the conditions and criteria set out in Article 10(2), Annex III of Horizon Europe, including the principles of Union added-value, transparency and openness, and to having impact within and for Europe, strong leverage effect on sufficient scale and long-term commitments of all involved parties.
- (5) Pursuant to Article 10(1)(a) of Horizon Europe, Co-programmed European Partnerships may be implemented on the basis of memoranda of understanding between the Commission and the partners, specifying the objectives of the partnership, related commitments of the partners regarding their financial and/or in-kind contributions, key performance and impact indicators, the results to be delivered and reporting arrangements.
- (6) The Strategic Plan for Horizon Europe and the related strategic coordinating process for partnerships have identified the candidates for Co-programmed European Partnerships that would more effectively achieve the Horizon Europe objectives and deliver clear impacts for the EU and its citizens.
- (7) Following assessment by Commission services, the proposals received from the stakeholder organisations have been found to fulfil the new ambition and the selection criteria referred to in Article 10 and Annex III of Horizon Europe and have therefore been identified for establishing Co-programmed European Partnerships on the basis of memoranda of understanding.
- (8) The memoranda of understanding are not legally binding and do not and will not create any contractual or pre-contractual obligations under any law or legal system. The partners will enter into a long-term undertaking to pool their resources and contributions towards their agreed objectives, in line with Annex III of Horizon Europe.
- (9) The Horizon Europe budget supporting these Co-programmed European Partnerships will be implemented through the Work Programme. The financial envelope for the implementation of the Framework Programme for the period 2021 – 2027 is specified in Article 12 of Horizon Europe,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

The eleven Memoranda of Understanding hereby annexed for Co-programmed European Partnerships for Research and Innovation between the European Union, represented by the Commission, and the stakeholder organisations are approved.

Article 2

1. The Commissioner for Internal Market or his designated representative is authorised to sign on behalf of the Commission the Memoranda of Understanding hereby annexed in Annexes 1 and 8.
2. The Executive Vice-President for the European Green Deal, the Vice-President for Interinstitutional Relations and Foresight, the Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth, the Commissioner for Energy and the Commissioner for Transport or their designated representatives are authorised to sign

on behalf of the Commission the Memorandum of Understanding hereby annexed in Annex 2.

3. The Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth and the Commissioner for Internal Market or their designated representatives are authorised to sign on behalf of the Commission the Memoranda of Understanding hereby annexed in Annexes 3, 5, 6 and 9.
4. The Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth and the Commissioner for Transport or their designated representatives are authorised to sign on behalf of the Commission the Memorandum of Understanding hereby annexed in Annex 4.
5. The Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth and the Commissioner for Energy or their designated representatives are authorised to sign on behalf of the Commission the Memorandum of Understanding hereby annexed in Annex 7.
6. The Executive Vice-President for the European Green Deal, the Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth and the Commissioner for Transport or their designated representatives are authorised to sign on behalf of the Commission the Memoranda of Understanding hereby annexed in Annexes 10 and 11.

Article 3

1. The Director-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology, in association with the other relevant Directors-General, is charged to implement the Memoranda of Understanding hereby annexed in Annexes 1 and 8.
2. The Director-General for Research and Innovation, in association with the other relevant Directors-General, is charged to implement the Memoranda of Understanding hereby annexed in Annexes 2, 3, 5, 6, 9, 10 and 11.
3. The Director-General for Research and Innovation and the Director-General for Mobility and Transport, in association with the other relevant Directors-General, are charged to implement the Memorandum of Understanding hereby annexed in Annex 4.
4. The Director-General for Energy, in association with the other relevant Directors-General, is charged to implement the Memorandum of Understanding hereby annexed in Annex 7.

Done at Brussels, 14.6.2021

For the Commission
Mariya GABRIEL
Member of the Commission