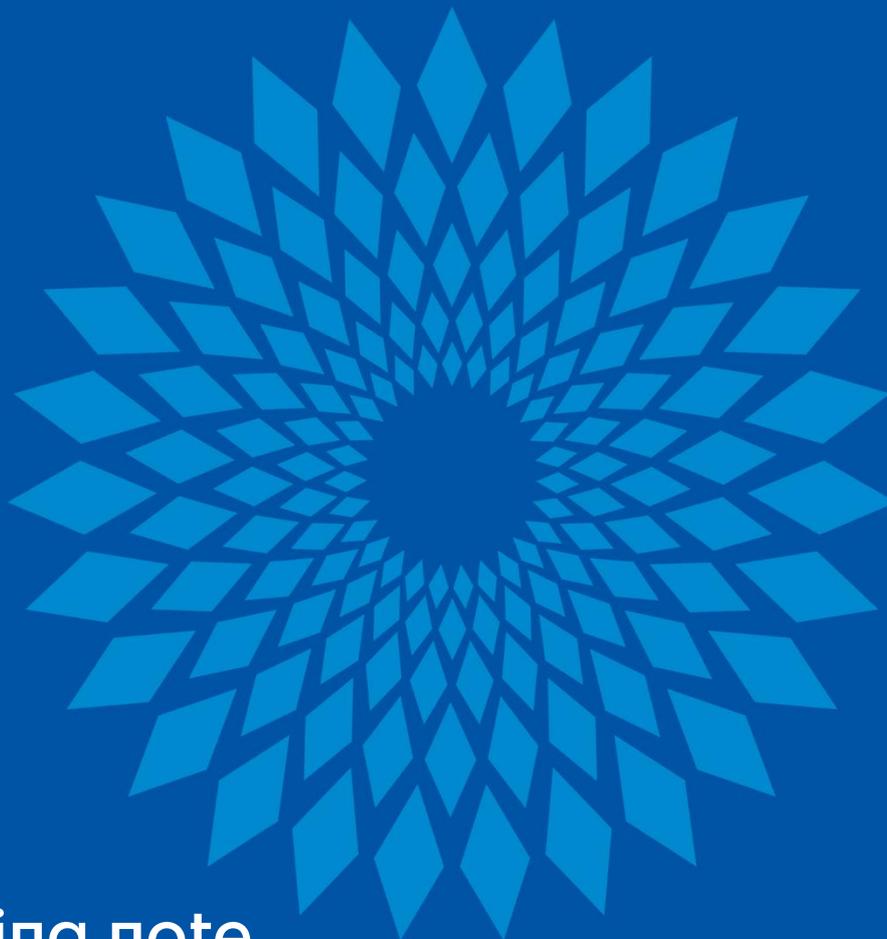


EU2022.CZ

Czech Presidency of the Council
of the European Union



Briefing note

European Partnerships and Missions

Conference on Synergies
in the Research and Innovation
Funding in Europe

Prague, Czech Republic
7 – 8 July 2022

Briefing note for the parallel break-out session European Partnerships and Missions

The European Partnerships and Missions are an essential component of the European Research Area policy-making. Being aimed at strengthening mutual cooperation between public and private research and innovation stakeholders, when tackling the grand societal and economic challenges and needs of the European as well as global society, **they belong among the most important implementation tools of the Horizon Europe EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2021–2027).**

The European Partnerships, stemming from the public-public and public-private forms of cooperation, have a long-standing tradition. The original initiatives and programmes, which only later evolved in the European Partnerships, had been established **primarily to reduce the fragmentation of research and innovation activities implemented at the level of individual Member States and improve the level of the joint programming process across Europe.** At the same time, one of their key objectives was also to increase the public and private investments in research and innovation through the leverage effect, concentrate the capacities and capabilities of European countries into a critical mass, and thereby shift the science and technology performance of Europe globally.

In consequence, **the emphasis put on searching for joint solutions to common societal and economic challenges** has gradually gained importance in the concept of the European Partnerships. Similarly, the cross-sectorial and interdisciplinary approach to the **collaboration across topics, institutions and even research and innovation ecosystems** have become more and more significant. One of the key aspects of the cooperation are the synergies that embody the idea of **making the best possible use of available resources.** Synergies in the European Partnerships are understood not only in terms of sharing national and European resources, and research and innovation capacities and capabilities. Synergies represent also links with other funding instruments,

which can complement the European Partnerships or make use of their results more efficient.

The EU Missions, unlike the European Partnerships, **are a brand-new instrument that targets specific and tangible solutions to a wide range of societal and economic challenges, to be reached in the near future.** They have objectives that are targeted, realistic, time-bound and measurable. The EU Missions are destined to change people's lives for the better and provide the right tools to implement the critical solutions for society. The use of synergies in the EU Missions is therefore fundamental. The EU Missions are interdisciplinary in their nature and cut across a broad range of domains. They are primarily based on research and innovation, but their spill-over into other sectorial fields is undeniable. Therefore, the **EU Missions must build on the concept of synergies from the ground up and exploit the full potential.**

Since the beginning of debates on the proposal for the Horizon Europe Framework Programme, which aimed to rationalise the landscape of the European Partnerships and introduce a new concept of the EU Missions, there have been exchanges between the Member States and the European Commission on the potential of synergies between these two instruments. These debates have not ceased with the launch of Horizon Europe. **Setting up and implementing synergies is still at the very beginning as the Horizon Europe's implementation is, and an efficient way of dealing with them has to be identified.**