

3rd Partnership Committee meeting

Minutes, 24 March 2023
Version 1.0, 26 April 2023



Minutes

3rd Partnership Committee meeting

Friday 24 March 10:00-12:00 (UTC+2)

Virtual, MS Teams

Agenda

- P03.01 Opening
 - Welcome and adoption of the agenda
 - Summary of what happened since the last meeting
- P03.02 Partnership Deputy Chair vote
 - Presentation of candidates and vote
- P03.03 Call 2022 – reserve list of JRPs implementation
 - Presentation of reserve list and possible scenarios
 - Vote on the scenarios
- P03.04 Call 2023 and 2024
 - Call 2023 CSA CB bidding
 - Call scope 2024 CSA communication and impact
 - Cap increase for Partnership projects
- P03.05 Result of vote for Partnership Deputy Chair
- P03.06 Any other business
 - AOB
 - Next meetings

P03.01 Opening

P03.01.01 Welcome and adoption of the agenda

Maguelonne welcomed everyone to the third Partnership committee meeting, which was held virtually via MS Teams. A number of countries had been invited as observers i.e. Bulgaria, Greece, Romania, Serbia, Switzerland and the UK, as they were members of EMPIR but had not yet made a commitment to the Partnership or completed an association agreement to Horizon Europe.

Maguelonne reminded the committee of the two main reasons for the additional committee meeting; namely to select additional projects to be funded from call 2022 and to elect a new Deputy chair as unfortunately Marc Pieksma, was not able to undertake his role at present for personal reasons and had decided to step down from the role.

The minutes of the P02 Partnership committee meeting had been circulated previously to committee representatives by email for comment.

No.	Topic	Decision
P03-D01	P03.01.01 Adoption of the agenda	The agenda paper P03.01.01_d1 (1)) was adopted.

P03.01.02 Summary of what happened since the last meeting

Maguelonne provided a summary of what had happened so far regarding the Partnership. The onsite pillar assessment visits to Braunschweig and Teddington had taken place immediately after the November committee meeting. A report on the pillar assessment had been received from the auditors, with good feedback and only a few minor findings. Maguelonne expressed her thanks to the Braunschweig office and the MSU for all their hard work and effort. The report was now with DG Budget for approval. A successful pillar assessment was required for the Partnership to go forward.

The 3rd meeting of the Steering Group was held on 14 March. The group had been asked for their first input on future metrology needs which they considered could feed into the preparation of upcoming work programmes. Their initial focus would be on the work programme for 2024. EURAMET would write a synthesis per grand challenge / topic and would disseminate this information to the EMNs, TCs, and the Partnership committee. The Steering Group had also discussed potentially opening the project coordination to external participation. They concluded that for Call 2023 coordination by external participants for FUN and NRM would be possible, with internal participant coordination only of IND and RPT proposals. Maguelonne explained that this was a significant change and a potential risk, as the external participants do not sign the liability agreement. Under the Partnership EURAMET could however use the Mutual Insurance Mechanism (MIM) for Horizon Europe, which all participants contribute to. Any appropriate organisation from a country eligible for Horizon Europe funding would be eligible to coordinate a FUN and NRM proposal for call 2023. The current version of the 2023 work programme was uploaded as Paper P03.04.01_d1. Dagmar confirmed that the work programme for 2023 was not yet agreed and would not be approved by the Commission until the end of March due to the Steering Group input. There was a discussion about regulatory needs and the possibility of holding an open consultation event on the regulation call, provisionally proposed for 2025.

The contribution agreement for 2022 (this is essentially the annual financing between the Commission and EURAMET) was in the hands of the Commission, and EURAMET was still waiting for feedback. It will not be possible to fund any of the call 2022 projects (nor issue the grant agreements) without this signed agreement.

No.	Topic	Action	Responsible	Due
P03-A01	P03.04.01 Call 2023 external coordination	External coordination permitted for Call 2023 TP FUN and TP NRM. Dagmar to provide detailed information to committee members in the next monthly email.	Dagmar	Apr 2023

P03.02 Partnership Deputy Chair vote

P03.02.01 Presentation of candidates & vote

Two letters had been sent to the committee members, firstly explaining the need for the election of a new Partnership Deputy Chair and seeking nominations (paper P03.02.01_d1) and secondly listing the nominations received (paper P03.02.01_d2). Two candidates were standing for the position of the Partnership Deputy Chair, Erkki Ikonen and Peter Pavlasek, and their CVs and mission statements were available to the committee as papers P03.02.01_d3 and P03.02.01_d4 respectively. Each candidate provided a short overview. The election was then run as an e-ballot during the meeting.

P03.03 Call 2022 – reserve list of JRP implementation

P03.03.01 Presentation of reserve list and possible scenarios

At the November committee meeting 25 projects from Call 2022 had been selected for funding, this included 2 DIT, 6 HLT, 6 IEM, 7 NRM and 4 RPT. Negotiation meetings had been held and these projects would start over the summer. It had subsequently been agreed that, due to the delays in the UK association to Horizon Europe, UK participants would be switched to associated partners for the Call 2022 projects, with 4 973 960.03 € available for funding additional projects as a result.

Dagmar presented the various scenarios and information about the relevant proposals (uploaded subsequent to the meeting as P03.03.01_d1). The scenarios are identified in the table below. All remaining RPT proposals scored below threshold and were not eligible to be funded, hence no RPT proposals were included in the funding scenarios.

	Scenario	No. of proposals added	Spare budget (€)
A	All above Nov funding decision	0	4 973 960.03
B	adds 2 IEM	2	386 276.28
C	adds 1 DIT + 1 IEM	2	620 901.28
D	adds 1 HLT + 1 IEM	2	1 304 446.28
E	adds 1 IEM + 2 NRM	3	615 417.33
F	adds 1 HLT + 1 IEM + 1 NRM	3	232 106.08
G	adds 2 HLT + 2 NRM	4	40 126.08
H	adds 1 DIT + 2 HLT	3	45 610.03
I	adds 1 DIT + 1 HLT + 1 NRM	3	705 164.83
J	adds 2 HLT + 1 NRM	3	913 269.83

The NRM proposal immediately below the November funding line had the same score of 16.875 as the funded project immediately above it, but the referees separated them. The NRM proposal below that one, in position 9 had a low score. For both HLT and IEM, the proposals in positions 8 and 9 were tied but the referees separated them. In both cases, funding 2 additional HLT or 2 additional IEM proposals would only fund position 8 and hence split the ties. The DIT proposal below the November funding line had a very low score of 14.5, compared to the NRM, HLT and IEM projects below the line.

Committee members were reminded that in the Partnership EURAMET had the ability to carry over funds from one year to the next, however, this concession was hard won from the Commission and EURAMET should limit the amount of funds transferred to the following year.

The scenarios were discussed in detail by the committee. The referees had untied those projects with equal scores around the funding lines, however some committee members preferred not to fund one tied project and not the other one. Maguelonne reminded the committee that funding had been reallocated from HLT and IEM to fund the pilot DIT call in 2022, and there would be a further DIT call in 2024. For both HLT and IEM only 6 out of the 15 proposals in each TP had been selected for funding at the November meeting.

P03.03.02 Vote on the scenarios

Following the discussions and with the aim of reducing the number of scenarios to be voted on, Maguelonne asked committee members whether they supported a particular scenario. There was no support for scenarios A, E, G, H and J.

An initial round of voting was therefore held on scenarios B, C, E, F and I, with scenarios B and D receiving the highest weighted votes (scenario B 20.9 %, C 0 %, D 48.8 %, F 14.0 %, I 16.3 %). A second round of voting was then held between scenario B (adding 2 IEM) and D (adding 1 HLT + 1 IEM). The results of the weighted voting were, scenario B 27 votes, 31.4 %, scenario D 59 votes, 68.6 %. Scenario D for the updated funding lines for call 2022 was therefore approved, funding 1 additional HLT (h06) and 1 additional IEM (s13) project. The MSU would inform the coordinators of the two selected projects of the outcomes.

No.	Topic	Decision
P03-D02	P03.03.01 Selection of additional call 2022 projects	Paper P03.03.01_d1 (8) ranked lists of proposals from Call 2022 (DIT, HLT, IEM, NRM, RPT) endorsed. Initial voting round (weighted vote, scenario B 20.9 %, C 0 %, D 48.8 %, F 14.0 %, I 16.3 %). Second voting round (weighted voting, scenario B 27 votes, 31.4 %, scenario D 59 votes, 68.6 %). Ranked lists and Scenario D for the updated funding lines for call 2022 (1 additional HLT (h06) and 1 additional IEM (s13) projects) approved.

P03.04 Call 2023 and 2024

P03.04.01 Call 2023 CSA CB bidding

A coordinating and support action (CSA) call on capacity building would be held in 2023, aligned with the JRP stage 2 call. This call would be rather different to the JRP call for several reasons. It would (i) be held as a one stage call, (ii) the bidding consortia were likely to include only one or a few countries, and (iii) the majority of the funding would be cascaded from the coordinating organisation to other organisations e.g. recipients of RMGs, hosts of training courses, beneficiaries of mentoring awards. In addition, it was possible that the coordinating organisation might be from a country with a relatively small national commitment, and a bid in the CSA call could consume much of its bidding capacity. As a result, it was proposed that the bidding for the CSA call should not be included in the total bidding, to avoid deterring countries from bidding. It was important that a decision was taken at the meeting, so that consistent information could be provided to potential coordinating organisations. The proposal was supported unanimously.

No.	Topic	Decision
P03-D03	P03.04.01 Bidding table	Bidding for the Call 2023 CB CSA to be excluded from the overall total in the bidding table.

P03.04.02 Call scope 2024 CSA communication and impact

It was currently proposed to hold a CSA call on communication and impact in 2024. The rationale for the call was that the Partnership cash contribution was insufficient to fund impact and communication activities at the same level as for EMPIR. Without this CSA there would be few or no high-level stakeholder events, news stories, case studies, EMN website support etc. It would not be possible to fund all these activities by another route, so the only other option would be to not undertake most or all these activities. In response to a question from Erkki, Dagmar confirmed that the final impact evaluation of EMPIR would be funded from EMPIR funds.

The draft CSA call scope had been circulated to the committee some time ago, however Dagmar was only aware of one comment from EMN MathMet. Miruna and Geir explained that they had also sent some comments. A few committee members expressed some concerns about whether there it might be difficult to encourage a suitable consortium to bid, and whether the proposed budget was appropriate.

Before proceeding further, a clear indication was required from the committee that they considered that these activities were important and needed. Dolores commented that in her opinion the activities were needed, and a strategic communication plan for EURAMET also needed to be developed. There was no opposition to the proposal, which would be discussed further at the sub-committee research meeting at the start of April.

P03.04.03 Cap increase for Partnership projects

Throughout EMPIR the maximum project budget for each TP remained broadly unchanged, except for NRM where it was recognised relatively early in the programme that the cap was too low and was therefore increased. In EMPIR external participants received a 25 % contribution to the overhead, whilst internal participants received 5 %. In the Partnership all participants will receive 25 % contribution to overhead. At the start of the Partnership the project caps were increased on an ad-hoc basis.

The slides in Paper P03.04.03_d1 calculated the maximum project budget for each TP that would be required to maintain the same number of person months effort as for EMPIR, taking account of the increased contribution to overhead for the internal participants and an annual inflation rate of 1.5 % since the start of EMPIR. The data showed that for all TPs except GRD, the current increased maximum project budgets were very close to the calculations. The data indicated that a further increase in the project cap of around 200 k€ would be appropriate for GRD to bring it into alignment with the other TPs.

It was noted that larger projects would result in fewer projects, which should be easier for the MSU to manage. However, if the caps were increased noticeably then this should be reflected in the call scopes and the content of the PRTs, and proposers needed to be made aware of this. The maximum project budget would be discussed at the sub-committee research meeting in April and draft maximum project budgets provided to the committee for the June meeting.

No.	Topic	Action	Responsible	Due
P03-A03	P03.04.03 Potential project cap increases	Subcommittee Research to discuss the potential project cap increases for 2023 and 2024 at their meeting at the start of April and to provide a draft to the committee for the June meeting.	SC R	Jun 2023

P03.05 Result of vote for Partnership Deputy Chair

P03.06.01 Outcome of vote

The results of the election for the Partnership Committee deputy chair were announced at the end of the meeting. Peter Pavlasek was elected as the Partnership Committee deputy chair. 21 ballots were received, with 9 votes (40 weighted, 44.0 %) for Erkki Ikonen and 12 votes (51 weighted, 56.0%) for Peter Pavlasek. There were no abstentions. Peter confirmed that he accepted the appointment as Partnership Committee deputy chair with his term of office running from 23 March 2023 to 31 May 2025. Maguelonne then welcomed him as the new deputy chair.

No.	Topic	Decision
P03-D04	P03.05 Election of Deputy Partnership Chair	Peter Pavlasek elected as the new Partnership Deputy Chair (21 ballots were received. 9 votes (40 weighted, 44.0 %) for Erkki Ikonen, 12 votes (51 weighted, 56.0%) for Peter Pavlasek. There were no abstentions). Peter confirmed that he would accept the position. Term of office from 24 March 2023 to 31 May 2025.

P03.06 Any other business

P03.06.01 AOB

Hugo Lehmann explained that he now had a new role within METAS and would therefore change to become the deputy EMPIR committee member for Switzerland, whilst Peter Blattner would take over as the EMPIR committee member.

P03.06.02 Next meeting

The next EURAMET General Assembly would be held in the week 30 May to 2 June 2023 in Tallinn, Estonia. The next meeting would be held in hybrid format towards the end of the 2023 General Assembly week, on 1-2 June, with the EMPIR committee meeting scheduled for 14:00 on Friday 2 June.

Maguelonne thanked the EURAMET staff and committee representatives for their contributions, and then closed the meeting.

Decisions agreed at the 3rd Partnership Committee Meeting

No.	Topic	Decision
P03-D01	P03.01.01 Adoption of the agenda	The agenda paper P03.01.01_d1 (1)) was adopted.
P03-D02	P03.03.01 Selection of additional call 2022 projects	Paper P03.03.01_d1 (8) ranked lists of proposals from Call 2022 (DIT, HLT, IEM, NRM, RPT) endorsed. Initial voting round (weighted vote, option B 20.9 %, C 0 %, D 48.8 %, F 14.0 %, I 16.3 %). Second voting round (weighted voting, option B 27 votes, 31.4 %, option D 59 votes, 68.6 %). Ranked lists and Scenario D for funding lines for call 2022 (1 additional HLT (h06) and 1 additional IEM (s13) projects) approved.
P03-D03	P03.04.01 Bidding table	Bidding for the Call 2023 CB CSA to be excluded from the overall total in the bidding table.
P03-D04	P03.05 Election of Deputy Partnership Chair	Peter Pavlasek elected as the new Partnership Deputy Chair (21 ballots were received. 9 votes (40 weighted, 44.0 %) for Erkki Ikonen, 12 votes (51 weighted, 56.0%) for Peter Pavlasek). There were no abstentions. Peter confirmed that he would accept the position. Term of office from 24 March.2023 to 31 May 2025.

Actions agreed at the 3rd Partnership Committee Meeting

No.	Topic	Action	Responsible	Due
P03-A01	P03.04.01 Call 2023 external coordination	External coordination permitted for Call 2023 TP FUN and TP NRM. Dagmar to provide detailed information to committee members in the next monthly email.	Dagmar	Apr 2023
P03-A02	P03.04.02 Call 2024 scope CSA communication and impact	Dagmar and Maguelonne to discuss the CSA on communication and impact in detail with the subcommittee Research at the meeting at the start of April and to present an acceptable version to the Partnership Committee following that. To provide information on this discussion to the next BoD regarding the potential communication strategy.	Dagmar, Maguelonne, SC R	Apr 2023
P03-A03	P03.04.03 Potential project cap increases	Subcommittee Research to discuss the potential project cap increases for 2023 and 2024 at their meeting at the start of April and to provide a draft to the committee for the June meeting.	SC R	Jun 2023

PAPER LIST

Reference number	No	Title	Action required	Author
P03.01.01_d1	1	Draft agenda	For approval	
P03.01.02_d1	2	State of play Partnership	For information	Maguelonne
P03.02.01_d1	3	Election for Partnership Deputy Chair (letter 1)	For information	Julien
P03.02.01_d2	4	Election for Partnership Deputy Chair (letter 2)	For information	Julien
P03.02.01_d3	5	CV & MS Erkki Ikonen	For information	Julien
P03.02.01_d4	6	CV & MS Peter Pavlasek	For information	Julien
P03.02.01_d5	7	Ballot	To vote	Julien
P03.03.01_d1	8	Selection scenarios Call 2022 – where to draw the lines	For discussion and vote	Dagmar, Fiona
P03.04.01_d1	9	Work Programme 2023	For information	Dagmar
P03.04.02_d1	10	Call Scope 2024 CSA impact	For discussion	Dagmar
P03.04.03_d1	11	Cap Increase Partnership projects	For information	Dagmar, Fiona

List of Participants

A) Partnership Committee - Representatives

N°	Country	Name	Organisation & position
1	Austria	Petra Milota	BEV, Partnership Committee Representative
2	Belgium	Miruna Dobre	SMD, Partnership Committee Representative
3	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Alen Bošnjaković	IMBiH, Partnership Committee Alternate
4	Croatia	Danijel Sestan	FSB, Partnership Committee Alternate
5	Czech Republic	Jiri Tesar	CMI, Partnership Committee Representative
6	Denmark	Michael Kjaer	DFM, Partnership Committee Representative
7	Estonia	Mari Aru	Metrosert, Partnership Committee Representative
8	Finland	Erkki Ikonen	VTT, Partnership Committee Representative
9	France	Maguelonne Chambon	LNE, Partnership Committee Representative, Partnership Chair
10	France	Stéphane Plumeri	LNE, Partnership Committee Alternate
11	Germany	Jörn Stenger	PTB, Partnership Committee Representative
12	Hungary	Zsolia Nagyné Szilagy	BFKH, Partnership Committee Representative
13	Italy	Filippo Levi	INRIM, Partnership Committee Representative
14	Netherlands	Marijn van Veghel	VSL, Partnership Committee Alternate
15	Norway	Geir Samuelson	JV, Partnership Committee Representative
16	Poland	Adam Brzozowski	GUM, Partnership Committee Representative
17	Portugal	Isabel Araújo Godinho	IPQ, Partnership Committee Representative
18	Slovakia	Peter Pavlasek	SMU, Partnership Committee Representative
19	Slovenia	Rado Lapuh	MIRS, Partnership Committee Representative
20	Spain	Dolores del Campo	CEM, Partnership Committee Representative
21	Sweden	Jan Johansson	RISE, Partnership Committee Representative
22	Turkey	Mustafa Cetintas	TÜBITAK UME, Partnership Committee Representative

B) EURAMET officials, observers and invited guests

N°	Country & Organisation	Name	Function in the Meeting
23	EURAMET	Dagmar Auerbach	Programme Manager
24	EURAMET MSU	Fiona Redgrave	Keeper of the minutes, Deputy Programme Manager
25	EURAMET	Mikko Merimaa	General Secretary
26	EURAMET	Jan Rethmeier	Legal advisor
27	EURAMET	Julien Vuillemin-Toledo	Member Services Manager
28	Bulgaria	Boryana Koleva	BIM, Observer, EMPIR Committee Alternate

29	Romania	George-Florian Popa	INM, Observer, EMPIR Committee Member
30	Switzerland	Hugo Lehmann	METAS, Observer, EMPIR Committee Member
31	United Kingdom	Louise Wright	NPL, Observer, EMPIR Committee Member

Apologies for absence

N°	Country & Organisation	Name	Function in the Meeting
32	Ireland	Paul Hetherington	NML, Partnership Committee Representative
33	Lithuania	Arunas Gudelis	FTMC, Partnership Committee Representative
34	DG Research and Innovation, CE	Måns Lindberg	Representative of DG Research and Innovation, CE
35	Greece	Alexandros Lefkopoulos	EIM, Observer, EMPIR Committee Member
36	Serbia	Cedomir Belic	DMDM, Observer, EMPIR Committee Member