

**Practitioners' Network**  
for European Development Cooperation

# Practitioners' Network for European Development Cooperation

January 2024

# WHAT IS THE PN?

**Founded in 2007, the Practitioners' Network is an open platform for exchange, coordination and harmonisation between**

**24 European development cooperation organisations with a public service mission**

and

**European Commission as observer.**



# WHO ARE ITS MEMBERS?



# WHAT ARE ITS OBJECTIVES?

**Contribute to coherence within the EU development organisations community**

**Benefit from a wide range of organisations active in the field to encourage an integrated, pluralistic and innovative approach to European development cooperation, implemented as efficiently as possible.**

**Strengthen cooperation, links and complementarity between European development players with a public service mission.**

**Create opportunities for cooperation and synergies at the implementation level.**



# HOW IS IT ORGANISED?

## General Assembly:

Main organ, composed by all Members and meets at least once a year.  
**Defines PN strategy** and determines PN budget, among others.

## Steering Committee:

Comprises 6 Members: 3 Members represented by the incoming, current and outgoing Presidency and 3 other Members appointed by the General Assembly.

**Prepares and implements decisions taken by the General Assembly**, promotes PN representation at European level and can act as PN face in dealings with the European Commission and other stakeholders.



# HOW IS IT ORGANISED?

- **Troika:**

- Composed by the previous, current and future Presidency.
- Guarantees the **strategic continuity and ownership of the PN.**

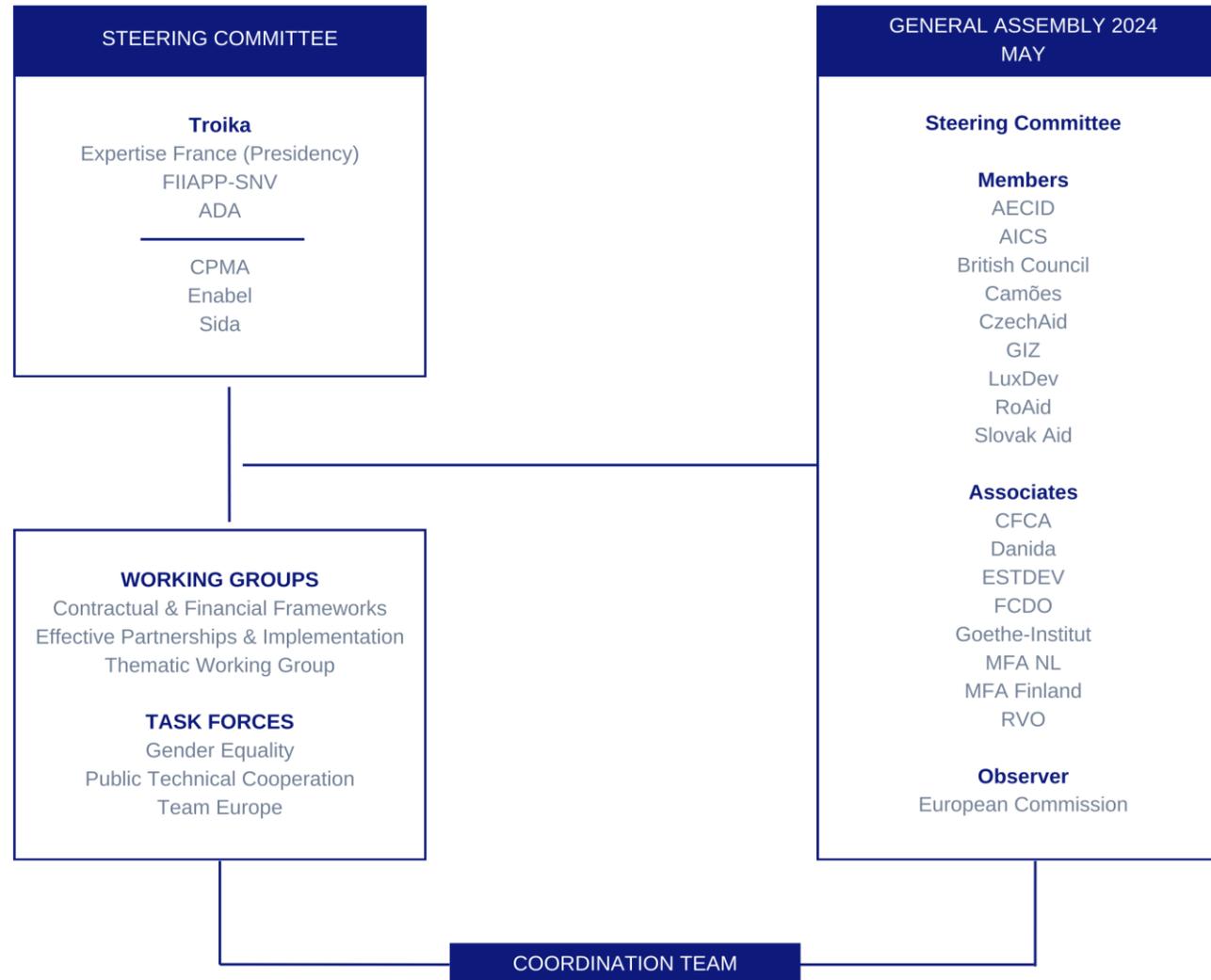
- **Presidency:**

- Rotates with a 1 years' nomination. Volunteers or is appointed by the General Assembly.
- Calls, organises and chairs PN meetings, ensures PN public relations and promotes its representation, among others.



# Governance Structure

24 Organisations from 19 European countries + DG INTPA



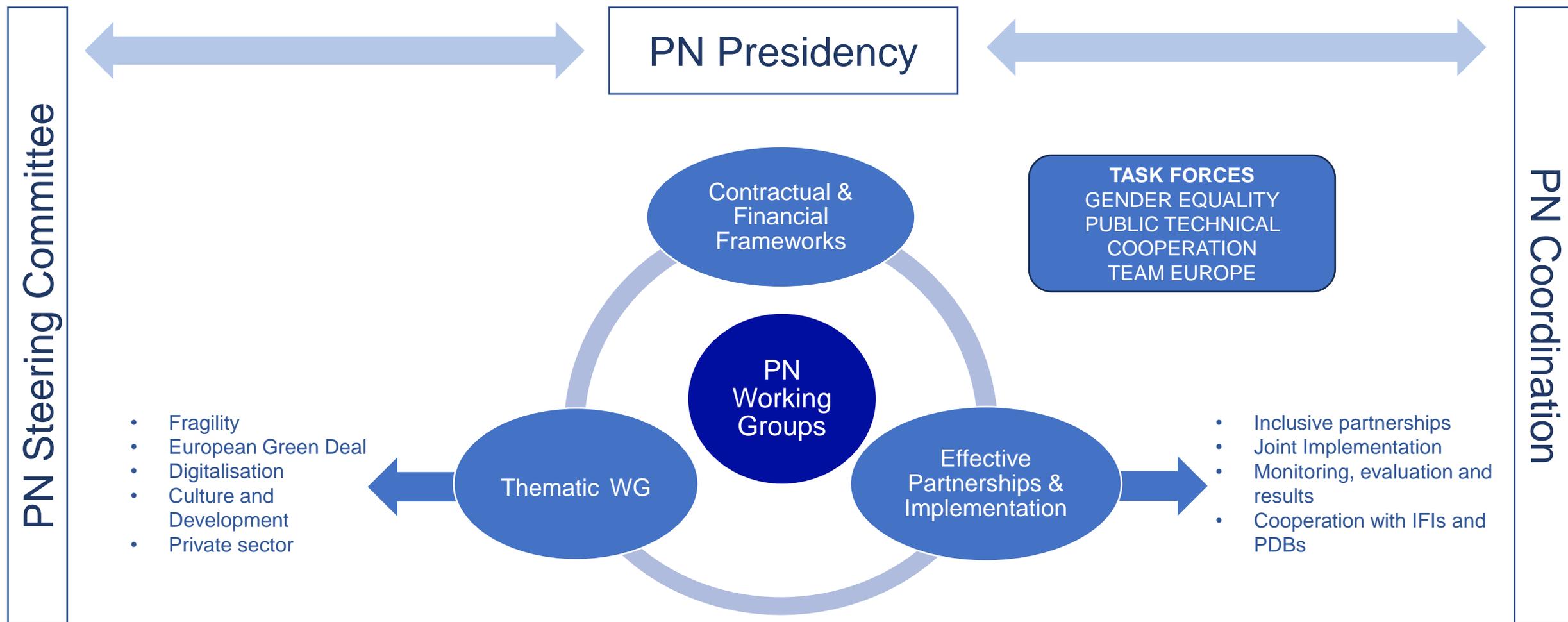
# HOW DOES IT WORK?

Strategic engagement on EU relevant issues of importance for the network that are explored on a quarterly basis in **3 Working Groups and 3 Task Forces to:**

- **Exchange information and experience** on development cooperation.
- **Provide feedback to the EU** on European development policies and actions from a practitioner's perspective.
- Work together with EU to **improve financial & contractual processes.**



# STRUCTURE



# Working Group

## EFFECTIVE PARTNERSHIPS & IMPLEMENTATION

**Promotes general mutual knowledge, effective coordination, enhanced partnerships among Members and the European Commission**

### **Objectives:**

1. Strengthen mutual knowledge and exchange in order to fully foster the principles of the Network.
2. Contribute to improve joint implementation practices.



# Working Group

## CONTRACTUAL & FINANCIAL FRAMEWORKS

**Assures establishment of simplified and viable contractual frameworks under which PN Members can collaborate with the EU.**

### Including:

1. Working toward simplified and robust contractual frameworks to maximise impact while reducing administrative burden.
2. Dialogue and knowledge exchange with the Commission on the clarification of rules and their application.
3. All issues related to the Financial Regulation, Pillar and Ex-ante Assessments, Financial Framework Partnership Agreement (FFPA), contract documents (Contribution Agreement), implementation and cost eligibility.



# THEMATIC Working Group

**This widely encompassing WG avoids the proliferation of WG as a result of the inclusion of the new PN priorities such as the European Green Deal and digitalisation, cooperation of technical and financial assistance providers and enhances synergies between the different areas.**

## Objectives:

1. **Private sector:** exchanges among PN Members but also with the Commission on the ever-increasingly important role of the private sector in development cooperation and fosters a formal private sector in partner countries.
2. **Culture and Development:** shares knowledge, expertise and best practices, among PN Members, on culture and development policies, programs and activities, as well as working on how to best contribute to the 2030 Agenda through Culture.
3. **European Green Deal:** shares best practices on climate change projects (both thematic and methodological), identify added value of PN Members and joint actions on climate change projects in the framework of EU Green Deal and identify joint actions that could be replicable in other contexts.
4. **Digitalisation:** shares experiences, knowledge and best practices among network Members on digital matters.
5. **Fragility:** promotes knowledge sharing, effective coordination and capacity pooling for analysis and implementation, in an effort to strengthen the collective EU response towards resilience in situations of crisis and fragility by combining the comparative advantages of European aid actors.

# Task Force TEAM EUROPE

**Facilitating the communication channels between the PN EU MSOs and the Commission services and create a platform for exchanges on PN EU MSOs contribution to “Team Europe” and reflections on methodological approaches**

## **Objectives:**

1. Facilitate the exchanges among PN EU MS organisations and the EU to contribute to the effective implementation of the “Team Europe” approach
2. Foster synergies and complementarity between TA and financial cooperation
3. Provide a platform for open exchanges and information sharing at technical level between the PN MSOs and the Commission services on NDICI, programming, “Team Europe” approach



# Task Force GENDER EQUALITY

**Considering that in their development cooperation, the European Commission (EC) as well as Member States (MS) prioritise Gender Equality (GE) as a key aspect of human rights and through gender mainstreaming, as a strategic vehicle for achieving the 2030 Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (in particular SDG 5).**

## **Objectives:**

1. Provide an adequate forum for learning and exchanging in order to advance on gender equality and women's empowerment.
2. Increase mainstreaming and integration of gender perspective in PN's work through the exchange and provision of best practice examples and knowledge sharing.



# Task Force PUBLIC TECHNICAL COOPERATION

**The aim is to analyse the potential for further expanding the participation of public sector experts in international technical cooperation projects.**

## **Objectives:**

1. Enhance the strategic role of European public sector development cooperation system (dimension of implementation)
2. Promote Informed and structured discussions and exchanges on learnings and practices/experiences/methodologies are nurture by the PN, to feed the broad exchange process that leads to overcoming challenges faced by EUMS in mobilising experts for PSE assignments



# RECENT HIGHLIGHTS



## STRONGER PARTNERSHIPS

- EDFI-JEFIC-PN Joint Statement of Intent
- DG INTPA-PN Inclusiveness event 2023
- PN visit to Kenya



## Practitioners' Network's achievements 2022-2023



## PRESENCE IN INTERNATIONAL FORA

- European Development Days 2022
- G4AW: Space 4 Food Security
- Finance in Common 2022
- COP27



## KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

- +25 meetings of the Working Groups, Work Streams and Task Forces
- Dissemination of PN Studies
- Exchange with external actors

#StrongerTogether



Practitioners' Network  
for European Development Cooperation

# Stronger Partnerships

- 16 March 2023 - **DG INTPA and PN Annual Inclusiveness Event** on Effective Partnerships between European implementers and DFIs.
- 17 March 2023 – First joint **EDFI-JEFIC-PN** CEOs meeting and **Endorsement of the Statement of Intent.**



# Widening the scope of the PN

- **First ever PN Country Visit 28-31 March 2023:**
  - Opening meeting at the Delegation of the European Union to Kenya.
  - High Level Meeting with national and global stakeholders on green energy transition, climate crisis, youth employment and digitalisation.
  - 10 jointly implemented projects featured.
  - 16 PN Members participating.



# Strengthening Strategic Discussions

**During 2022-2023, the SCM addressed the following strategic topics:**

- Emerging European Development cooperation system.
- Technical cooperation and policy first.
- Friends of the PN and External Partners.

- Working Better Together, the working groups and task forces had:
  - More than 25 meetings and Anniversary of Team Europe Task Force.
  - Exchange with external actors and partners.
  - Started the co-leads coordination meetings (5)



# Thanks!



**Practitioners' Network**  
for European Development Cooperation