



Practitioners' Network

for European Development Cooperation

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AECID PRESIDENCY

PRACTITIONERS' NETWORK
FOR
EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT
COOPERATION

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (*Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo - AECID*) has held the Practitioners' Network for European Development Cooperation (PN) annual rotating Presidency from 20 May 2019 to 4 May 2020. Under AECID Presidency, the PN continued to foster **inclusiveness** among its procedures and operations. In this sense, the PN has welcomed the new membership of RoAid and the Steering Committee has introduced sharing the meeting's agendas for contributions with all PN members in advance. The Network continued to promote new formats and activities to open itself up to other stakeholders. Examples are represented by the open EU Inclusiveness event (Feb. 17) "Stronger Partnerships for Sustainable Development Results" hosted and organised together with DEVCO welcoming both PN and non-PN members, and giving prominence to some small/new PN members; and also the ad-hoc session open to non PN members on Disability-Inclusive Development (Dec. 4) organised in the wake of the European Disability and Development Week 2019 (EDDW19).

The Practitioners' Network further strengthened the **coherence and consistency of its thematic action** and approach by structuring its workplan under the 5 Ps of the 2030 Agenda (People, Prosperity, Planet, Partnership, and Peace), and by developing a methodological tool to make the workplan more results-based oriented. The Working Groups Contractual and Financial Framework (CFF), Effective Partnership (EP) and Crisis, Fragility and Migration (CFM) made great progress on their results agenda. In addition, during this year the Working Group on Private Sector (PS) was re-launched in February 2020 and the Task Force on Culture & Development (C&D) was formally established in January 2020.

The Network also improved **its functioning**, by revising its Charter, acquiring the necessary IT resources to finally ensure PN members remote participation, promoting a better internal and external communication, and improving transparency in its financial management. In order to enhance internal communication among PN members, associates and observers, the new coordination team has systematically uploaded information and products related to PN activities in the webpage and spread regularly relevant information among PN members. In order to improve its visibility, the PN enhanced cooperation with its members' communication departments, opened a PN profile in LinkedIn and Twitter; moreover it updated PN Presentation and Brochure, and systematically uploaded on the members' area of its website public information and products related to PN activities. With regards to financial management, a new financial monitoring tool in Excel has been implemented to further professionalise financial management of the PN.

This year, the PN has further increased its visibility by making the narrative more strategic to emphasize the value of inter-agency cooperation, reducing the use of technical language, and further increasing policy makers' demand for the PN. Therefore, the interest of the Network further increased over the last months among stakeholders, the academia, and more specifically the European Commission.

When looking ahead, members agree on the **crucial role of the PN to face the Covid-19 pandemic**. Starting with the overview Excel table developed by PN members to enhance coordinated actions in order to tackle the Covid-19 crisis, the Network supports the European Commission in searching for technical solutions to the crisis and developing effective methodologies. In this regard, the new dual presidency Enabel-LuxDev has proposed ToR to possibly launch a temporary Team Europe Task Force in the near future.



1. INTRODUCTION

The Practitioners' Network for European Development Cooperation (PN) is an informal network of non-profit European national entities, with a public service mission that directly implement development assistance (bilateral and/or European) and that are pillar-assessed - or in the process of being pillar-assessed – by the European Commission.

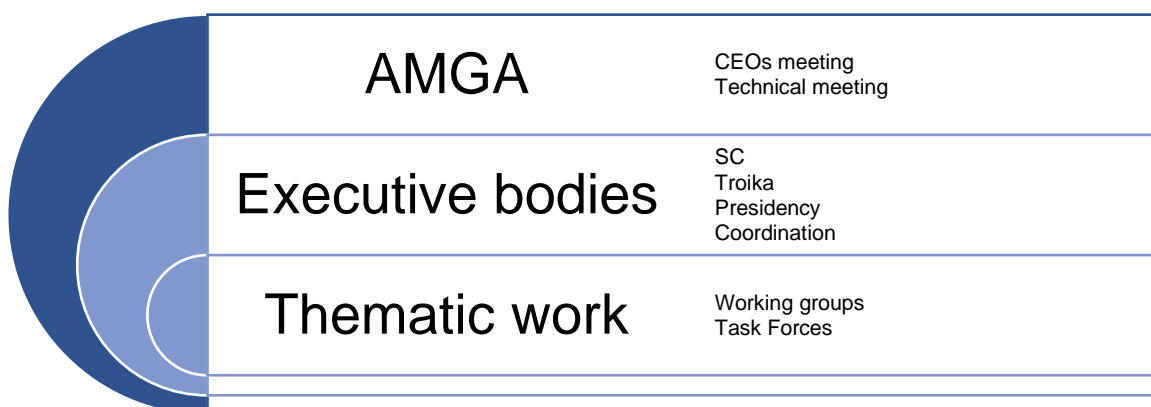
Founded in 2007, the PN is an open platform for exchange, coordination, and harmonisation between European development cooperation organisations, who seek to strengthen cooperation, links and complementarity between them. The Network also enables effective feedback to the European institutions on their policies from the point of view of the implementing agencies and a broader visibility of its members.

The PN has two objectives: 1) Contribute to the coherence of the donor community; 2) Harnessing the diversity and breadth of membership to encourage an integrated, pluralistic and innovative approach to European development cooperation maximizing its efficiency. The Network's strategic framework is aligned with that of European cooperation and with the global commitments made by the agencies and by the EU in the field of sustainable development.

This report aims at capturing what happened with and within the Network during the period from 21 May 2019 to 4 May 2020, under the Presidency of the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID).

2. PN STRUCTURE AND ORGANISATION

Although the operation of the Network is based on informality, the Practitioners' Network is governed by a Charter and is constituted by a General Assembly of all Members. The Presidency is held by a Member in annual rotation. A Steering Committee (SC) of six Members including the Presidency, plus a Coordinator, supports the Presidency and the Network's activities. The budget of the Practitioners' Network is entirely based on Members' contributions.



This section shows briefly what updates have occurred within the PN structure and organisation during this year.



2.1. Main decisions taken at the 12th AMGA

The PN year started with the 12th Annual Meeting of the General Assembly (AMGA), held in Paris on 20-21 May 2019, where Expertise France handed over the Presidency of the Network to AECID. During the AMGA, members committed to more cooperation and increased efforts on Joint Implementation in particular in the field, with the EUDs and partner countries. All members signed the Financial Framework Partnership Agreement (FFPA), which represents a cornerstone of a new relationship between the EU and its Member State Organisations. Members also committed to **making inclusiveness more effective** with bilateral actions and involvement of the EC, by sharing information, good practices and communication around inclusiveness and to support countries that wish to enhance their operational structures.

The newly elected Presidency committed to coordinating the working plan for 2019-2020 and the selection process of the new coordination service.

The General Assembly voted for the composition of the PN executive bodies, with the following results:

- Steering Committee 2019-2020: AECID; BC; Enabel; Expertise France; GIZ; Sida.
- Troika 2019-2020: AECID; Enabel; Expertise France.
- Presidency 2020-2021: Enabel.

2.2. Steering Committee performance

The PN Steering Committee (SC) held a total of 6 meetings during this year, the first was held on July 11, 2019 and the last one on April 28, 2020. All meetings were attended by representatives of the six Steering Committee members and DEVCO. All meetings, except the first one, were also attended by the PN coordination team.

The meetings' agendas dealt with strategic and operational issues. The minutes of all meetings were shared with all the PN members together with all supporting documents and uploaded in the members' area of the PN webpage. Since January 2020, the SC agendas have also been shared in advance with the whole membership to encourage their contribution and foster inclusiveness. This good practice will remain as a good practice also in the future.

Main topics covered throughout the year in the SCM were:

- Revision of ToR and agreement on preselected candidates for the new coordination service recruitment
- Agreement on Joint Implementation and Inclusiveness studies final products
- Assessment of new applications to the Network 's membership
- Planning and follow-up of PN ad-hoc events and sessions
- Follow up of PN working groups and task force activities
- Planning and follow up of the PN Communication Plan
- Follow up of the PN financial management
- Revision and updating of PN charter



2.3. Troika performance

As set in the charter, the PN Troika is composed of the previous, current and future Presidents. It guarantees the strategic continuity of the Practitioners' Network and selects the Coordinator from amongst a shortlist approved by the Steering Committee.

During the month of July 2019 Troika representatives interviewed the pre-selected candidates for the PN Coordination services, deciding on the new coordination service by the end of the month.

Troika representatives also conducted the internal audit at the end of April 2020 for the budget discharge during the 13th AMGA, held on May 4th, 2020 by virtual means.

2.4. Presidency performance

In accordance with the charter, the President calls, organises and chairs Steering Committee and General Assembly meetings. The President ensures the public relations of the Practitioners' Network, with the support of the Coordinator, promotes the representation of the PN at the European level and can act as the face of the Practitioners' Network with the European Commission and other stakeholders. The President also supervises the Coordinator.

The PN presidency held by AECID took over officially on 21st May, during the 12th AMGA. The previous coordinator left her position on May 31st and the current coordination team did not start operation until mid-September. Consequently, for almost four months AECID had to deal simultaneously with both presidency and coordination tasks.

During this year, the PN increased its visibility by holding a new and more strategic narrative to point out the value of the cooperation among agencies, reducing the use of technical language and gaining influence in the policy side. Thus, the interest on the Network has increased among stakeholders, the academy, and European Commission.

Beyond the functions set in charter, the Presidency performed the following specific actions:

- Organisation of the new coordination service selection process and initial coaching of the new Coordination Team
- Integration of the 2030 Agenda into the PN workplan (5P structure)
- Coordination of the global 2019-2020 PN workplan, including the development of a Methodological planning tool to enhance the coherence of the PN workplan
- Review and update of the PN Charter
- Inclusion of new discussions: Culture as a vector for Development and Non-discrimination/disabilities in development
- Involvement of the PN as a key actor in the COVID-19 Team Europe response
- Closer relation with DG NEAR - EC

2.5. Members, Associates and Observers status

During this year, the Network has officially accepted one new member: RoAid joined the PN in October 2019 after fulfilling set procedures.

RoAid is Romania's International Development Cooperation Agency that brings together the work of Romanian public institutions, the civil society, and the private sector towards the global efforts of sustainably alleviating extreme poverty and supporting stronger democratic institutions in



developing countries. Romania became a donor of Official Development Assistance (ODA) in 2007, after joining the European Union. Thus, Romania joined the efforts of the international community to encourage and support the advancement of the economic, social, and political welfare of developing countries.

In addition, other European development bodies (**Goethe Institute** and the **Estonian MFA**), raised their interest to join the PN, although they have not yet started a formal admission procedure.

The Practitioners' Network currently consists of **17 Members, 2 Associates and 1 Observer** listed below:



Associates:

Observer:



Department
for International
Development



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF DENMARK
Danida



2.6. New PN coordination service

As mentioned before, the previous PN coordinator finished her contract at the end of May 2019.

The Steering Committee took the opportunity to review the coordination tasks and responsibilities to adapt them better to the Network's needs and demands. In this sense, the new Coordination's terms of reference removed the strategic aspects and focused the coordination performance rather on operational assignments, increasing the dedication to strengthen internal and external communication and improving budget management.

The Troika selected the candidacy of PROEVAL, consulting firm committed to International Development Cooperation. The relevant contract started in mid-September 2019.

PROEVAL has made available to the PN a team of two consultants for the coordination service: Diego Boero, main consultant and based in Brussels, has performed most tasks, including preparation, recording and reporting of PN activities, internal and external communication and visibility process management, meetings and events management, and financial and operational management. Noelia Tiedeke, supporting consultant, has undertaken the functions where she offers more know-how, has back-upped the prime consultant when necessary, has conducted quality control of



products delivered by the main consultant to guarantee excellence in the consulting service and has supervised the financial management to guarantee transparency.

2.7. PN Charter amendments

During AECID Presidency year the need to update the PN Charter was raised several times at the SCM. The changes introduced are of two types:

- **Factual:** correcting incorrect cross-references between articles (ex. Art 31); including the needed reference to “Associates” where missing: the ‘Associate’ category was introduced in the last review of the Charter in 2018, but it was not always mainstreamed through the text where needed (ex. Arts. 29, 30, 31, 33, 47, 52); adapting the category of Associate to the minimum standard of the Observers (art 24 and 35, Observers have the right to lead a WG, this is not allowed to Associates- the change eliminates this discriminatory approach); and ensuring consistency (art. 28- Observers have no voting rights, it is inconsistent to mention that they “may not take part in the vote”; art. 29- more logical order of the paragraphs) .
- **Substance:** Improvements, following some lessons learnt from the presidency experience, as well as WG/TF co-leaders and SC members experience: greater transparency for SC decisions by adapting the rules presiding the SC’s decisions taken under written procedure to the decisions taken on SC meetings, i.e. sharing these decisions with all Members, Associates and Observers (art.34), and not only within the SC; reimbursement of costs incurred on organising AMGA: these costs are considered in the budget (art.46), but nothing was said about the Presidency recovering them. An additional paragraph was added to art. 29 and they are considered in new Annex F; reimbursement of costs incurred on organising SC meetings and WG/TF meetings: the previous drafting stated that these were for a lump sum of 150 M€ (art. 31 and 37). As this was scarce for a full-day catering for groups between 15 and 40 persons, new amounts have been included on an Annex that is easier to adapt to changing circumstances. In that sense, a new Annex F has been included, stating a per head approach for the catering costs; coordination tasks (art.40): detailing the tasks according to this years’ experience and needs; bank account management (art.43): to avoid that the cumbersome and slow bank procedures to change authorised persons at the bank account hinder the normal management of the PN, at least 2 persons belonging to the troika should be authorised. Thus, future Presidency transitions for the bank account management will be softer; introduction of the Co-presidency rules and format: clarifying that both members of the current, incoming or past co-Presidency will be taken into account as one when it comes to the SC and the Troika tasks. Each member will remain a separate entity when it comes to the rest of the Network activities.

No objections were raised to these amendments during the 13th AMGA. Thus, it is foreseen that the new version of the Charter will be signed by the members in the coming weeks.

3. PN STRATEGIC AND THEMATIC ACTION

The Network frames its work mainly within established Working Groups and Task Forces, that allow Members to exchange views and work on topical issues, which reflect the priorities of the Practitioners’ Network, at both the operational and strategic levels. Each Thematic Working Group is managed in a decentralised way by group leaders. They define their respective terms of reference and agree on their activities and programmes, outputs, and outcomes, including regular thematic workshops as well as the possible commissioning of studies and papers, if approved by the Steering



Committee. New Thematic Working Groups can be created at the request of Members, subject to approval by the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee may also decide to reorient or even dismantle a Thematic Working Group.

This section aims at capturing what happened with and within the Working groups and Task Forces during the period starting in May 2019 until April 2020.

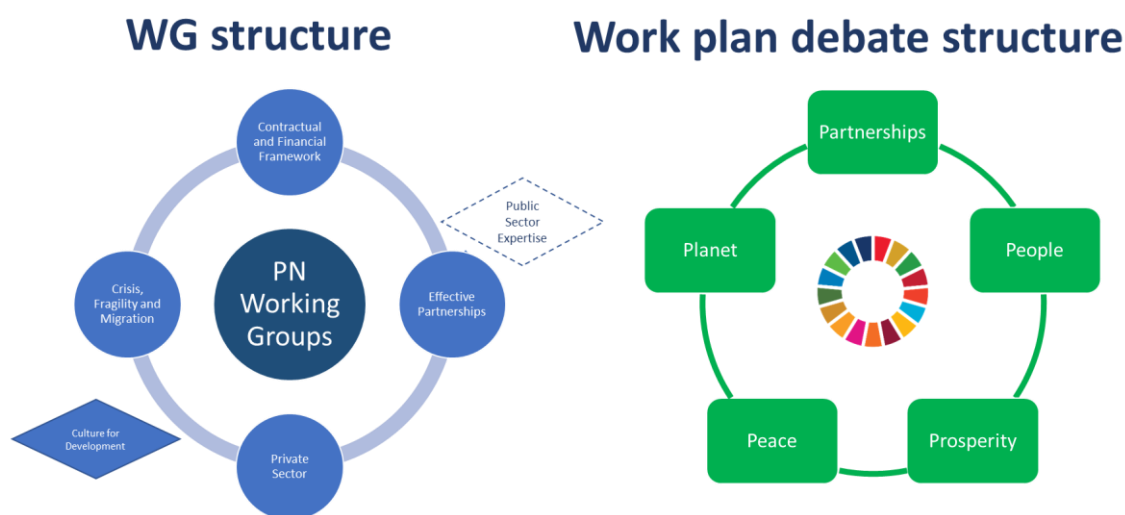
3.1. The PN work plan

3.1.1. Integration of the 2030 Agenda into the PN work plan (5P structure)

At the heart of the 2030 Agenda are five critical dimensions: People, Prosperity, Planet, Partnership and Peace, also known as the 5Ps. Traditionally viewed through the lens of three core elements—social inclusion, economic growth, and environmental protection—the concept of sustainable development has taken on a richer meaning with the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, which builds upon this traditional approach by adding two critical components: partnership and peace. Genuine sustainability sits at the core of these five dimensions:

- **People:** End poverty and hunger in all forms and ensure dignity and equality
- **Prosperity:** Ensure prosperous and fulfilling lives in harmony with nature
- **Peace:** Foster peaceful, fair and inclusive societies
- **Partnership:** Implement the agenda through a solid global partnership
- **Planet:** Protect our planet's natural resources and climate for future generations.

In this framework, AECID Presidency promoted the integration of the 5Ps within the PN work plan, structuring it according to the 5Ps to better illustrate how the PN action contributes to each of the Ps.





3.1.2. Methodological planning tools for better WG coherence

The PN presidency also developed a tool with methodological indications to make the PN work plan more results-based oriented, improving the coherence of the original plan, placing the proposed objectives, results and activities of each WG at the same level within the results chain. This methodological tool has been welcomed by WG co-leaders and used to enhance their efficiency.

3.2. Results of the PN Working Groups and Task Forces¹

3.2.1. Working Group on Contractual & Financial Framework (co-leads GIZ, AFD, EF)

The working group on Contractual and Financial Frameworks (CFF WG) - framed under "Partnership" - was created in 2017 under the co-leadership of the British Council, Expertise France and GIZ with a change of co-leadership in 2018 with AFD replacing British Council. The aim of the working group is to ensure that simplified and viable contractual frameworks are established under which Network members can collaborate with the EU.

Main outcomes/achievements for the year 2019-2020

The working group met three times during the year 2019-2020 (September, January and April) and organized a restricted meeting with the EC on behalf of the members (February).

The new EU financial regulation (EUFRR), for which the PN contributed, was adopted in July 2018. The EUFR introduced a new contractual set up (contract template, FFPA, Manual for CA, new pillars...) on which the PN has been closely working on with the EC.

The work process and many of the outputs/deliverables of the C&F WG have been organized to deal with issues linked to the implementation of the EUFR and a new contractual set up. Some activities foreseen for the end of the Presidency have been delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and should be taken up in the first months of the new PN year.

Specific activities according to the work plan are described below:

The Contribution Agreement Manual

The CA Manual is a guide and explanation to the articles of the special conditions, general conditions and its provisions (annex II a and II b) of the (MP)CA contract format. Last year, the PN contributed to the elaboration of the new CA Manual (following the introduction of a new contract template), commenting on the drafts shared by DEVCO throughout the process of its elaboration and validation.

In September, DEVCO R3 met with the CFF WG to explain the changes made in this new material and receive first comments and reactions from MSOs. The CA Manual has been shared with the PN on September 25th of 2019 in its final version.

The WG ensured a thorough follow up of the integration of comments made by the PN: a presentation was made by the co-leads in January to the Network, shared with R3 and discussed with them during a restricted meeting in February.

¹ Information delivered by the WG co-leads



MSOs have been invited to comment and share their experiences with the document as it is a living document which will be regularly updated over time. The CFF WG is ensuring the consolidation and transmission of the comments.

The planned discussions on the CA Manual and the answer from DEVCO and NEAR on the PN consolidated comments and inputs were supposed to be discussed during the April meeting. Due to the COVID-19 crisis, it has been postponed to a later stage and will be addressed in a separate and dedicated meeting to be set up. DEVCO R3 should propose a new date for this meeting in due time and the CFF WG will have to take it in the work plan for 2020-2021.

Pillar assessment (PA): renewal of the PA and extension of the current PA.

The new EUFR (2018) has resulted in an extension to the current pillar assessment covering three new areas: exclusion from access to funding, publication of information on recipients and protection of personal data as well as potential additional new pillars such as cost accounting practices (*see point 2 on SCO*). The terms of reference for the top-up have been published in April 2019 without any previous information of the PN. The new ToR did not include the new pillar on cost accounting practices since little progress, other than discussions on the expectations for the content, has been made (see below).

Almost all PN agencies received invitations by the Commission to undergo a new Pillar Assessment. A complete re-assessment of all previously assessed pillars (for organisations that underwent the last assessment prior to 2014) as well as the assessment of the additional new pillars (for all organisations) should be undertaken within 2020. The 2020 Pillar Assessment will not only be the necessary condition enabling PN members to implement Union funds in the future, but it also represents an opportunity for further simplification, standardization and efficiency increase in the cooperation with the EU.

There have been three meetings to discuss the PA:

one very fruitful internal session (January) enabled PN members to exchange on their current experience in preparing or starting the procedure for undergoing the new pillar assessment (price estimations, preparatory steps, timeframe and process...) – a new internal exchange could be foreseen;

two additional sessions were held with R2 unit (in September and April) to exchange with the EC and get more information on the state of play for (i) the development of new optional pillar on cost accounting practices / national systems that the EU Financial Regulation foresees, (ii) other efforts by the COM to foster cross-reliance and simplification in the cooperation with MSOs, (iii) the new ex-ante assessment on unit costs and flat rates (or Simplified Cost Options, SCO).

On the latter issue, R2 remains open for the introduction of an optional pillar on cost account practices, this is however a lower priority.

Simplified cost options (SCO)

DEVCO (R2) is working on a new procedure for simplified cost options replacing the previous 2016 EC Decisions. It has been identified by PN members as a priority for 2020-2021. The EC has shared a first draft with the PN in February 2019. The group has been asked to provide comments. Last year in May 2019, DEVCO presented the main points and initiated a discussion with the PN. The PN sent consolidated comments.



A commission decision on unit costs and flat rates was expected before the end 2019. This has not been the case so the co-leads reported the topic for the upcoming CFF WG meeting of April 2020. Unfortunately, no timeline for the finalisation of the Commission Decision on unit costs and flat rates (SCO) could be defined hence the topic remains the focus of R2 and PN CFF WG's work. A follow up could be made next year depending on the date of release.

The Partnership Agreement

A taskforce (including AFD, AECID, the British Council, Enabel, Expertise France and GIZ) was set up to create **a template for PAGO-DA-Co Partnership Agreement** during GIZ presidency (2017-18). It was intended to respond to criticisms made by the EC about the length of time it took Network members to finalise contractual negotiations together. It has now been in use for years and some members have suggested ways to improve the template to make it more useful. This was to be addressed under EF presidency (2018-19): due to the FPPA negotiations, this has been taken up as part of work carried out this year.

Based on a set of criteria proposed by the co-leads and a presentation of their own experiences (September session), PN members were invited to share their feedback and experiences with the Partnership Agreement template (October to January). The necessity of revising the template was shared and confirmed by all agencies. A task force composed by legal units from BC, EF and GIZ was created to work on the necessary revisions on the Partnership Agreement template.

Considering the current volatile situation and the high workload caused by the global health crisis (COVID-19), the task force asked for additional time to finalize the revision (April). A final version should be shared to the PN at the end of May and the approval of the new version was hence reported to the next meeting.

The EC new IT platform: OPSYS

The EC has been launching its new IT platform OPSYS. Since last year, the PN has been in contact with DEVCO to understand better its functioning and its use by implementing partners. OPSYS is currently piloted for DG DEVCO, NEAR and FPI (the so called RELEX Family) and could become a corporate system after 2021. One of the major issues remaining for the PN members is to ensure the adaptation of the platform to delegated cooperation contractual aspects.

The CFF WG has established a regular exchange with DEVCO on OPSYS issues in each meeting of the WG to allow MSOs to (i) receive an update on the roll out of OPSYS for the delegated cooperation, (ii) discuss issues in the use of OPSYS and clarify possible questions raising during the roll-out of the new system.

Three sessions were held (September, January, April). DEVCO presented the latest update on the roll out of OPSYS in each session. Also this year, answering to DEVCO's request, co-leads gathered and shared an updated list of focal points with DEVCO for each MSOs during the roll out and testing phases.

The roll out of OPSYS for delegated cooperation is one of the last processes to be added to the new system. The tentative time frame for the indirect management has been confirmed for summer/fall 2020 during the last meeting (April).

OPSYS will include all contractual and financial aspects of the relationship with the EC: (i) registration of the organizations, contract negotiations, drafting and amendments, encoding, monitoring and



update of logical frameworks, and also reporting; (ii) payments and financial monitoring related functions will be introduced at a later stage. It has been designated as a priority issue for next year.

Regarding activities to be planned, the OPSYS Change Management team informed the PN about their availability and capacities for organizing ad-hoc OPSYS workshops at PN or MSOs level according to the expressed needs.

The contractual and financial consequences of the COVID-19 crisis.

The consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic have affected the implementation of EU funded Actions. Implications for implementation vary greatly among projects.

The CFF WG has quickly issued a draft guidance for MSOs and the co-leads, together with the PN Presidency, ensured exchanges amongst PN members on the COVID-19 contractual and financial consequences since the beginning of the crisis. The CFF WG meeting of April with R3 and R2 was mainly dedicated to it.

As agreed between PN members, this topic should remain a priority next year.

Container for additional up-coming issues

The following topics were not specifically addressed during the 2019-2020 year but could be further analysed in 2020-2021:

- **Follow up and lobby on the new contractual set up** (CA, FFPA, Companion) after one-year implementation.
- **Mutual recognition** in the framework of the Joint Implementation study results
- **Cross Reliance** - the possibility to rely on the national systems of MS Organisations, i.e. audit.
- **Results-based finance** - the possibility to make certain contracts results-based.

3.2.2. Working Group Effective Partnership (co-lead AFD, BC)

The Effective Partnership working group is dedicated to the achievement of SDG 17 – Partnerships. Below is a summary of the results achieved by members of this working group during the year 2019-2020 which were facilitated via 2 meetings during the year – October 19 and March 20.

Result Area 1 – Working better together

During the year, the Joint Implementation study was finalised, approved by the Steering Committee and published on the Practitioners' Network website. The EC (DG DEVCO A2) used the results of the Joint Implementation study to draft a chapter on joint implementation in the "Working Better Together" Guidance, which is destined to help EU Delegations coordinate Europe's joint programming and joint implementation efforts in partner countries. PN members were given the opportunity to contribute to this guidance, after which the EU finalised the document which should be published by the summer. Finally, the PN was invited by the EU to the "Working Better Together" conference in Uganda. The Presidency and some members attended this conference with their regional staff and the PN was given the opportunity to present itself and its JI ambitions. The working group was not able to advance the subject of mutual reliance; however, the EC and some members have encouraged us to take this forward in the coming years. The Presidency and the SC will ensure the complementarity with the CFF WG tasks on the issue.



Result Area 2 – Inclusiveness

During the year, the Inclusiveness study was finalised, approved by the Steering Committee and published on the Practitioners' Network website- members' area. On the basis of the study results, a working note was produced to propose activities for the PN to contribute to a more inclusive European aid architecture. The working note was presented to the Council's CODEV representatives. In February, the EC and the PN had the pleasure to organise and host a workshop under the title of Inclusiveness, which welcomed both PN and non-PN members. The workshop received high interest from stakeholders to continue to promote an inclusive European aid system and stressed the key role of the PN in this process. From the Inclusiveness study, monitoring and evaluation was identified by development actors as a key area upon which there was a desire to exchange and to learn, however, plans to organise a workshop on the subject were halted with the outbreak of COVID-19 and it was decided to postpone this workshop to a later date.

Result Area 3 – New alliances with partners

An external study on Public Sector Expertise (including the mapping of MS bilateral PSE tools conducted by DEVCO and an analysis conducted by FIIAPP, GIZ and Expertise France) was launched in January, after the creation of the Drafting Committee (DEVCO, FIIAPP, GIZ, Expertise France). The 1st phase (mapping) was started through an online survey and interviews with MS identified focal points in the period February-April, by consultants contracted by DEVCO. More than 14 MS responded to the survey and a presentation of the preliminary findings of the mapping will be presented soon.

Result Area 4 – Knowledge Management

The final result area is dedicated to raising awareness amongst members and guests about collective PN capacity. During the year, data has been collected about the field presence of each PN member and the PN coordination has developed an infographic² which has been presented at the AMGA. During the October meeting, both CPMA and SAIDC presented their organisation to group members and a rich exchange followed. The working group unfortunately had to cancel a similar exchange in March due to COVID-19, however, the Slovenian and Estonian MFAs are willing to reschedule for the next meeting. Finally, this working group offered peer-to-peer learning on two development approaches: use of Public Sector Expertise; and Triangular Cooperation.

3.2.3. Working Group Crisis, Fragility and Migration (co-lead FIIAPP, BC)

The Crisis, Fragility and Migration (CFM) Working group was created to promote knowledge sharing, effective coordination and mutualisation of capacity for analysis and implementation in order to strengthen the collective EU response towards resilience in situations of crisis and fragility, by combining the comparative advantages of European aid actors.

The activities carried out in the framework of the CFM WG during the year 2019-2020 have been framed under two dimensions of the Agenda 2030, "Peace" and "People", as framework of reference for the global PN Annual Plan 2019-2020.

The CFM WG results for the year 2019-2020 have been:

- Knowledge and practices on specific thematic issues on migration of PN members are shared.

² See annex 1



- The expertise of the PN in the field of CFM is known and understood by relevant CFM EU stakeholders.
- The role and experience of PN members operating in Humanitarian - Development (and Security) Nexus is mapped, communicated and potential opportunities for collaboration are explored
- Knowledge of PN CFM members is shared in order to collaborate more effectively in fragile contexts.

The following activities have contributed to reach these results:

1. PN Regular Meetings Outcomes: Exchanging and Sharing

Two regular meetings were organised in-person in October 2019 and January 2020 using the three-fold format: A first session for information and knowledge sharing amongst members; a second session for dedicated topic/publication/policy presentation from the members (FIIAPP on its policy and programmes related to Justice and Security; AICS on its “National Summit on Diasporas”) and a third session with an external focus with guests from the European Commission, with the presentation from DEVCO on migration and development in EU’s Development Cooperation policies and actions, and the presentation of the rights-based approach to development cooperation on fragile and conflict affected contexts. During both sessions, discussions took place between the EC representatives and the PN members. The working group reinforced its relationship with International Organizations by extending the invitation to IOM for the session on migration and development.

To wrap-up the year a remote meeting was organised in April 2020 to take stock of the past year and discuss the CFM WG Work Plan 2020-2021 on the basis of the participatory process approach through an online survey.

2. Thematic Expert Seminar: Migration and Development (April 2020, postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic)

CFM members expressed their interest to explore the added value of PN members on migration and human mobility in the framework of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, beyond the sole EUTF instrument. FIIAPP and Enabel steered the organisation of a thematic workshop entitled “Migration and Development: an inclusive and comprehensive approach on human mobility”. The meeting aims at gathering experts of the PN agencies including technical experts from the field for a technical and deep discussion on best and innovative practices, as well as on challenges and lessons learnt from their experience in the field of migration and development. The 2-days workshop was planned to take place in Brussels on the 23 and 24th April with 40/60 participants. In total, 10 PN members committed to showcase their practical experiences and knowledge from the field. Due to the unforeseen global situation with Covid-19, the workshop will be postponed as part of the next PN Working period 2020-2021. To pivot the organisation of the event and continue the engagement each foreseen session will organise a dedicated remote meeting that will prepare for the actual workshop.

3. Education Sub-Group of the PN CFM Working Group

The overall objectives of the sub-group are to contribute to support more efficient and effective cooperation and coordination for more rapid, predictable and sustainable support to education in emergencies and protracted crises; build on relevant work already undertaken by DG ECHO (such as EiE mapping and Nexus pilot), and other relevant global platforms and organisations feed into



higher level dialogue, conferences and fora of e.g. EUMS education experts. The sub-group provides a quarterly update (in bullet point format) to the CFM WG. The Sub-Working Group is open to all members. The sub working group also proposed a session to the thematic Expert Seminar taking the angle of the Nexus and Education as a theme.

4. Ad-hoc Meetings with EU Trust Funds

The working group regularly engaged with the EUTF and Madad Trust Fund. A meeting took place in June 2019 to exchange updates and feedback on the members' relationship with the Trust funds. A clarification request was made in February 2020 on the monitoring and evaluation as its new reporting system raised accountability and implementation issues for members to the Commission. Feedback was received at the end of March 2020.

3.2.4. Working Group on Private Sector (co-lead SNV, GIZ)

The Private Sector Working Group, founded in 2016, serves as a platform of exchange among PN members and with the European Commission on the ever-increasingly important role of the private sector in development cooperation, as well as private sector development. It was re-launched in February 2020 after almost two years of inactivity. It is framed under the Prosperity dimension.

Main outcomes/achievements 2019-2020

Joint Implementation: development of the Investment Climate Reform Facility

Following the idea of a demand-driven Intra-ACP TA Facility for business environment and investment climate by the European Commission, PN members engaged in the joint development of an Action Document. As a result, GIZ (lead), British Council, Expertise France and SNV together with the Commission and ACP built up the TA Facility on Investment Climate Reform (ICR) with the objective of improving the business environment and wider investment climate through a structured dialogue in ACP countries. The Facility became operational in December 2019.

10th February 2020 - 5th Private Sector Working Group Meeting

Participation: PN members: AECID, AFD, British Council, Enabel, Expertise France, GIZ, LuxDev, Sida, SlovakAid, SNV, EC (DEVCO C.3, C.4, C.7, D.3). Guests: FMO and Proparco.

PN members were informed by the European Commission on the latest developments in the implementation of the EIP Pillar 1 and 3. PN members got insight knowledge on the implementation experience of development finance institutions FMO and Proparco, for example on how to link technical and financial assistance. Participants also learnt about DG DEVCO's new "Handbook on improving the Investment Climate through EU action" and upcoming TA support programmes. GIZ shared their experience in setting up the ICR Facility as an example for joint implementation. In a very practical session chaired by Sida, members were informed about the inclusion of the gender aspect in financial instruments in practise and exchanged on good practices of the inclusion of the gender aspect with the Commission. The Commission presented the idea to support the African Continental Free Trade Area by pooling together the EU and Member States' expertise in continental economic integration i.e. via a Technical Assistance Facility.



DEVCO- PN Inclusiveness Workshop – 17 February 2020

The WG gave a presentation on its objectives, and achievements till date to the commission, member state ministries' representatives and PN members. A brainstorm session was organised on how we can promote the participation of Member State Organisations in the EIP

Going forward, working group members agreed on three meetings in 2020/2021. There was a strong wish for a more practice-based exchange and case studies. Identified future topics include Public Private Dialogue, PSD in fragile environments, Women Economic Empowerment, Digital Development & PSD, Job Creation & Youth Employment. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, co-chairs proposed to focus the next meeting on **10th June** (tbc) on an exchange of development agency's approaches on **"Private Sector Development and COVID-19 – how to cushion the economic effects in developing countries"**.

3.2.5. New Task Force on Culture & Development (co lead AECID, EF, BC)

After the 12th General Assembly, PN members agreed to create a Task Force on Culture and Development, under the People dimension, with the aim of sharing 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.

On January 14, 2020 a TF constitution meeting was held, with the participation of AECID, British Council, Expertise France (co-leads), AFD, Enabel, AICS and Sida. The terms of reference were presented and approved, and the Task Force was officially launched.

In this meeting, a survey was presented on the lines of common interest among the TF members to work together, and the European Commission (DEVCO, NEAR, EAC) offered its feedback. The following steps were agreed: the elaboration of a mapping of good practices on culture for development, selected among the projects carried out by the TF members; and the drafting of a declaration, whose purpose would be to raise awareness among PN members on the importance of culture for sustainable development, and to explore ways to collaborate in this area.

With the Declaration *Cooperation in Culture for Development: Towards a Sustainable Transformation*, endorsed by 14 PN members³ during the 13th AMGA, the PN underlines of the value of culture and its contribution to development within the framework of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. It is our encouragement to explore together the forms of cooperation to understand and take advantage of that contribution of culture in our institutions and in the spaces of cooperation that we all share.

3.2.6. Covid-19 Team Europe Response

In response to the Covid-19 crisis occurred in the last presidency quarter, the Network developed a mapping of PN members' response to partner countries, compiling them in an Excel file (PN Platform) that gives an initial overview about what PN members and associates are considering or already implementing in order to contribute to a European response to the pandemic in PN members' partner countries. The map was welcomed by DEVCO representatives, who mentioned it would contribute to the broader exercise launched by DG DEVCO and NEAR with MS CEOs to feed the Team Europe initiative.

³ ADA, AECID, AFD, AICS, British Council, Camões, CPMA, Enabel, Expertise France, FIIAPP, LuxDev, RoAid, Sida and SNV



The contributions in the mapping vary in the level of specification, which is very understandable considering they have been produced at different dates along quite a “long” period, taking into account the hectic weeks due to the crisis. In that sense, the mapping is a living document, and will remain useful if all PN members engage in updating it regularly. The map is uploaded in the PN website, members’ area, to give easy access to members to update and improve it.

During the 13th AMGA, the Presidency raised the possibility to create a temporary Task Force on the Team Europe Response. Some members supported this idea. The incoming co-presidency (Enabel & LuxDev) is currently working on a proposal of ToRs to further discuss the potential creation of this Task Force.

4. OUTREACH ACTIVITIES, INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL COMMUNICATION

In addition to the outreach activities already described in the previous section, the Network made important efforts to broadly promote its visibility among international development cooperation actors (public and private bodies, CSO, IFIs...) also beyond PN members and to improve internal communication among PN members, associates and observer. New formats and activities have resulted in a more open Network towards other stakeholders.

This section explores the different actions carried out in this regard.

4.1. Promotion of ad-hoc sessions

4.1.1. Disability Week: Ad-hoc session on Disability-Inclusive Development (Dec. 4)

On the wake of the Conference “Disability Inclusion in Development Cooperation – The European Way Forward”, organised in Brussels on December 5th (by the EU-funded project “Bridging the Gap – Inclusive Policies and Services for Equal Rights of Persons with Disabilities” (BtG) and as part of the European Disability and Development Week 2019), a workshop on disability-inclusive development was organised in Brussels on 4th December 2019 by the Practitioners’ Network as an ad hoc session foreseen in the current 2019-2020 Work Plan, under “People”, based in the principle of the Agenda 2030 “Leaving no one behind”.

The overall objective of the workshop was to discuss and share among PN members present tools and good practices or experiences of disability-inclusive development cooperation and to stimulate debate and ideas for further replication.

Taking into account that there is an appetite to further discuss about future initiatives in the field of disability-inclusive development, upon proposal of FIIAPP and backed by the PN Presidency, the PN members present at the session agreed to proceed and complete a voluntary PN mapping exercise on disability-inclusive development cooperation activities in order to continue the exchange of knowledge among PN members on this issue. The mapping questionnaire has been facilitated by the project Bridging the Gap and once finished it will be one of the main products of this PN ad hoc session. This is work in progress and will need follow-up during the incoming presidency.

4.1.2. Ad-hoc session on Planet/ EUROCLIMA+

The initial idea was to organise, together with DEVCO, a PN ad-hoc session on Planet to exchange experiences on climate change related programs, building on the EUROCLIMA+ program, with an inclusive approach. The objective was to ask all interested PN members to bring up their expertise in the implementation of climate change related projects in order to share recommendations/



working methodologies. It was discussed within the Steering Committee to plan a session in March 2020, but finally had to be postponed due to the Covid-19 crisis.

4.2. PN presence in development fora

4.2.1. European Development days (Jun. 19)

For the third time, The Practitioners' Network successfully participated with a stand at the European Development Days (18-19 June 2019). While providing visibility to the Network, its Members and its activities, the stand *Working better together through more effective policies to address inequalities* focused on the EDD19 core topic under the overarching theme "Addressing inequalities: building a world which leaves no one behind". It showcased a number of projects that illustrated how maximising partnerships between European Development Agencies through joint implementation can enhance development results, and therefore address inequalities while contributing to the achievement of the SDGs. The stand provided insights into jointly implemented programmes in different areas & regions, using various types of modalities & showcasing how common effort by European expertise can make a difference in practice.

4.2.2. IX EU-LAC Forum in Montevideo (Oct.19)

The two-day Forum (2-3 October) was organised by the EU-LAC Foundation, the Uruguayan Agency for International Cooperation, the OECD, the UN Economic Commission for Latin America, and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the EU's EuroSociAL programme. Around 100 participants attended, including representatives of development cooperation offices from most Latin American countries, EU Member States, DEVCO and Uruguayan civil society. The organisers of the event asked the PN Presidency to circulate the invitation among members and to present the work and added value of the Network. This presentation was done by the Head of Department of Multilateral Cooperation and European Union of AECID.

The Forum focused on the role of international cooperation in the context of the 2030 Agenda and the 'development in transition' approach.

Participants highlighted (i) the need for closer collaboration between the EU and LAC countries through reinforced political dialogue to address the growth of vulnerabilities in Latin America, (ii) the importance of digital economy, (iii) the need to increase cooperation among stakeholders and with the private sector in particular, and (iv) the need to remain flexible in addressing challenges.

4.2.3. Global Learning Event on Joint Programming & Implementation in Kampala (Nov. 19)

The event brought together 80 European participants from DEVCO, EU Delegations, EEAS, EIB, ECHO, Member States, Embassies and development agencies from 13 European countries. The PN was invited as such for the first time in a DEVCO-EEAS-organised event outside Brussels and was represented by its Presidency and the British Council (as sponsor of the Joint Implementation study, under the 2018-19 Work Plan) alongside with the presence of some of its members. The PN Presidency introduced the Network to all participants at one of the panels, where BC summarised the main findings of the Joint Implementation study. The PN was also moderating one of the 7 World Café-style roundtables, on Joint Programming and Joint Implementation, whose main outputs were (as summarised in the debriefing of the event, "Summary of Messages"): "limited knowledge among participants of the existence of the PN; agencies should not formally be instituted in the JP process, but European partners should capitalise on their technical know-how to inform the JP process; there



is a consensus that JP must lead to JI ('natural course of action'); proposal to select pilot countries to learn what linking JP and JI means concretely". On a broader perspective, main objectives of the Kampala event were to facilitate peer learning among country/field offices and headquarters on Working Better Together, share practical examples of joint programming process implemented at the country level, and support the expected European joint programming preference in the next MFF.

4.2.4. GIZ annual event in Brussels (Jan.20)

On 29 January, the GIZ Representation in Brussels hosted a reception to discuss trends for implementing organizations in international cooperation. Roughly 120 representatives of the European Commission, the European Parliament, EU Member States, African countries, civil society, think tanks and the private sector came to exchange on the topic. The PN Presidency was invited to represent the PN. The panel was moderated by the Director for Europe and Geopolitics at Friends of Europe, Shada Islam, and panelists were:

- Tanja Gönner, Chair of GIZ Management Board,
- Aina Calvo Sastre, Director of the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo-AECID) and President of the Practitioners' Network,
- Felix Fernández-Shaw, Director of International Cooperation and Development Policy at the European Commission (DG DEVCO),
- Tanya Cox, Director of CONCORD Europe.

The panel shared their perspective on the new title ("International Partnerships") of the new Commissioner Jutta Urpilainen and the role of implementing agencies in the context of a recently established Commission and a six-month old European Parliament.

4.2.5. Inclusiveness Event + Joint Programming & Implementation Seminar (Feb. 20)

With a wide range of practitioners and policy-makers (100 participants from 25 EUMS including CODEV delegates, Practitioners Network (PN) and non-PN members, MS organisations and MS financial institutions, EIB as well as UK members of the PN), the event organised by DEVCO together with the PN aimed at bringing together EU and MS stakeholders to discuss inclusiveness in joint implementation and to strengthen partnerships for sustainable development results.

There was high interest from stakeholders in continuing to promote inclusiveness in the European approach: 'Working Better Together' in development cooperation through a better integration of new and small Member State organisations to be able to draw on their expertise (stressing the key role of the PN in this process). There was also high interest from participants in further exchanges on the External Investment Plan and more specifically on Technical Assistance to support Pillar 1 and 3, notably for bankability of projects, capacity building to financial institutions, support to public-private dialogue process and strengthening capacities of private sector and public authorities. There was also a request for joint training events with Commission staff (HQ + EUDs) and EU MS staff from the field on European Investment Plan and maintaining an Inclusiveness Event in a similar format on an annual basis.

4.3. PN communication tools

The PN coordination has delivered enhanced PN communication resources in order to achieve both communication objectives established during this Presidency year: 1) Enhance the members



Network, using the PN website as container of information and systematization tool for joint implementation; and 2) Spread PN activities and results achieved in each PN working area to the different stakeholders.

4.3.1. Website management

The Network intended to promote the use of its website among PN members as one of the key tools for information exchange, coordination, and teamwork. In this sense, the coordination team has systematically updated the web page. All agendas, minutes and supporting documents related to the PN activity (SC, WG and TF meetings, ad-hoc sessions...) since September 2019 are uploaded in the members' area of the webpage. The PN focal point mailing list, as well as the WGs and TF mailing lists are monthly updated. Besides, information on other events relevant for the PN have been shared on a weekly basis on the Events webpage. The PN Coordination also encouraged members to use the simultaneous editing option (through GoogleDocs) within the webpage members' area to make contributions and comments to the PN products. This use is still incipient but will be further enhanced in the incoming Presidency once the foreseen technical improvements to the webpage are finalized.

During this year, 7 PN members have asked Coordination to spread 27 events/news (4 were job opportunities) among the Network. This is also an example of the reliance of the PN members in the Coordination service as a channel to facilitate internal communication. Also, the PN is encouraging the members' communication departments to include in their institutional webpages a direct link to PN web. By now, only three agencies⁴ include the link, but during next year the Coordination team will continue working in this regard.

Concerning external communication, the Network expected to increase the webpage's users. In this sense, during this year the web had an average of 460 users per month, which represents an increase of 55,4% compared to last years' figures (average of 296 users per month).

4.3.2. Social Media

The Network opened, for the first time, profiles in social media. Specifically, a LinkedIn account (411 followers⁵) and a Twitter account (275 followers, including 12 PN member agencies) were created. During the year, the PN has published 101 (re)tweets on Twitter and posted 26 messages on LinkedIn. Close collaboration with member's communication departments has also allowed systematic retweeting and sharing of news.

4.3.3. Webex Meetings

With the purpose of continuing the PN activity by remote means during the Covid-19 crisis, at the end of March 2020 the Network concluded an annual Webex Meetings Plus contract, which allows hosting online events with up to 100 participants. The coordination team administrates the platform. So far, 7 PN events have been held through the Webex platform, including the 13th AMGA. The virtual meetings experience has proved to be very positive since it enhances inclusiveness and equal opportunities among PN members. Thus, there is willingness to continue using video links also in post-Covid times to allow participation of members who do not have capacities to travel to Brussels.

⁴ AECID, AICS and RoAid

⁵ On May 12, 2020



During this year an on-going debate has taken place at the SC level, over acquiring the necessary IT means to ensure PN members' remote participation, which is now foreseen in the 2020-2021 budget.

4.3.4. Off-line communication resources

The coordination has also produced an updated PN PowerPoint presentation which can be used by the members in different fora to introduce the Network. The presentation is available in the members' area of the webpage and can also be seen in the webpage public area. Moreover, the Network has printed 500 updated PN brochures, which can also be found in the public area of the website.

5. FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

With the new Coordination some changes in the financial management of the PN were introduced. To begin with, a new financial monitoring tool in Excel was designed to update information in real time regarding income, expenditure, and balance. This excel file, together with supporting documents like signed payment approval sheets, invoices, and monthly bank statements to prove income and payments, is available in both physical and digital formats for any PN member who requests them. The Network has therefore fostered transparency in its financial management.

5.1. The 2019-2020 Budget

Updated information regarding income, expenditure and balance was presented in form of a descriptive PowerPoint presentation during each Steering Committee meeting and later shared with all members.

Regarding income, this year the PN received a total of 193.000 EUR (expected contributions according to the 12th AMGA amounted to 194.000 EUR).

MEMBER	FORESEEN CONTRIBUTIONS AS AGREED ON THE 12 th AMGA			MEMBER FEES RECEIVED	
	MANDATORY CONTRIBUTION	VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION	TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS	CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED	CONTRIBUTION RATE
ADA	5.000,00 €		5.000,00 €	5.000,00 €	100%
AECID	17.000,00 €		17.000,00 €	17.000,00 €	100%
AFD	17.000,00 €		17.000,00 €	17.000,00 €	100%
AICS	9.000,00 €		9.000,00 €	9.000,00 €	100%
BC	9.000,00 €	1.000,00 €	10.000,00 €	9.000,00 €	90%
CAMOES	5.000,00 €	2.000,00 €	7.000,00 €	8.000,00 €	114%
CPMA	5.000,00 €		5.000,00 €	5.000,00 €	100%
CZECH AID	5.000,00 €		5.000,00 €	5.000,00 €	100%
DANIDA-DK MFA	9.000,00 €		9.000,00 €	9.000,00 €	100%
DFID	17.000,00 €		17.000,00 €	17.000,00 €	100%
EF	9.000,00 €		9.000,00 €	9.000,00 €	100%
ENABEL	5.000,00 €	2.000,00 €	7.000,00 €	7.000,00 €	100%
FIIAPP	9.000,00 €		9.000,00 €	9.000,00 €	100%
GIZ	17.000,00 €		17.000,00 €	17.000,00 €	100%



LUXDEV	5.000,00 €		5.000,00 €	5.000,00 €	100%
ROAID	5.000,00 €		5.000,00 €	5.000,00 €	100%
SAIDC	5.000,00 €		5.000,00 €	5.000,00 €	100%
Sida	9.000,00 €	1.000,00 €	10.000,00 €	9.000,00 €	90%
SNV	9.000,00 €		9.000,00 €	9.000,00 €	100%
EC/DG DEVCO	17.000,00 €		17.000,00 €	17.000,00 €	100%
TOTAL	188.000,00 €	6.000,00 €	194.000,00 €	193.000,00 €	99%

Concerning expenditure, the 2019-2020 budget approved at the last AMGA was 159.049,50 EUR, while expenses this year amounted to 73.694,22 EUR, which represents a 46% execution rate. The main reason that explains this difference is the absence of Coordination services from May to Mid-September 2019, of AMGA 2020 costs (since the meeting was held virtually) and of studies, since there was no demand from WG nor TF.

The Coordination fees represented 84% of the total PN costs.

BUDGET ITEM	2019-2020 BUDGET	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	BALANCE	EXECUTION RATE
1. Coordinator fee	102.080,00 €	61.560,00 €	68.465,00 €	60%
2. Office rent	3.569,50 €	3.212,55 €	356,95 €	90%
3. Office equipment	500,00 €	0,00 €	500,00 €	0%
4. Communication & other office costs	4.000,00 €	578,68 €	3.421,32 €	14%
5. Travel costs	600,00 €	0,00 €	600,00 €	0%
6. Marketing costs website	4.500,00 €	2.831,40 €	1.668,60 €	63%
7. Marketing other	500,00 €	0,00 €	500,00 €	0%
8. Advisory, consultancy fees	0,00 €	0,00 €	0,00 €	
9. Studies	30.000,00 €	0,00 €	30.000,00 €	0%
10. Event costs workshops	1.050,00 €	890,45 €	159,55 €	85%
11. Event costs EDD	4.000,00 €	3.917,01 €	82,99 €	98%
12. Event costs General Assembly	5.000,00 €	0,00 €	5.000,00 €	0%
13. Event costs Steering Committee	750,00 €	600,00 €	150,00 €	80%
14. Event others	1.500,00 €	0,00 €	1.500,00 €	0%
15. Miscellaneous	1.000,00 €	104,13 €	895,87 €	10%
TOTAL	159.049,50 €	73.694,22 €	113.300,28 €	46%

Considering income and expenditure, as well as the fact that the year started with a balance of 76.175,41 EUR from the former presidency, at the end of the 2019 - 2020 Presidency the PN had a total reserve of 195.481,19 EUR.



BALANCE	EUR
(+) BALANCE PREVIOUS YEAR	76.175,41 €
(+) TRANSFERS RECEIVED	193.000,00 €
(1) TOTAL FUNDS	269.175,41 €
(2) EXPENDITURE	73.694,22 €
(3) TOTAL RESERVE (1) - (2)	195.481,19 €

An internal audit confirming these figures was performed and signed by the 2019-2020 Troika (Expertise France, AECID, Enabel) at the end of April 2020. The budget discharge for the AECID PN Presidency year was approved at the 13th AMGA.

6. LOOKING AHEAD

During the 13th AMGA held on May 4th, where results of the 2019-2020 year were presented and AECID handed over the Presidency to Enabel-LuxDev, the following subjects arose:

6.1. Define the role of the Practitioners' Network facing the Covid-19 crisis

All members agreed on the crucial role of the PN to support the EU Team Europe approach in the fight against the Covid-19 pandemic. Starting with the Excel table developed by PN members to provide an overview of the initiatives put in place by its members to tackle the Covid-19 crisis, the Network intends to share experiences and initiatives on the ground or related with financial resources that can be useful for all members. The PN wants to support the European Commission in its actions to tackle the crisis in technical ways, and to adapt part of the practitioners' programs to the coronavirus crisis by developing effective methodologies. In this regard, the new dual Presidency will possibly develop ToR to launch a temporary Team Europe Task Force in the near future.

6.2. The Enabel-LuxDev strategic approach

Enabel and LuxDev are planning a strategic approach for the 2020-2021 Work Plan focused on the Working Better Together and inclusive approach. The dual Presidency will also prioritise the joint response to the COVID-19 crisis and the joint involvement in EU 2021-2027 programming and European Commission thematic priorities.

For next year, a face-to-face meeting of PN members' CEOs with DG DEVCO is planned, in order to follow-up on the strategic discussion held during the AMGA. It is also foreseen to increase the presence of the Network in relevant development fora like the EU – Africa Summit or the Paris Peace Forum. Enabel-LuxDev supports the idea initiated by AECID to organise a PN event on the field, which could be held in February 2021. Participation of the PN in DG DEVCO/NEAR Days 2021 could also improve its visibility.

Enabel-LuxDev will keep on implementing the good practices already put in place by the outgoing AECID Presidency, and introduce new initiatives, both to support inclusiveness of all PN members. These include: 1) Promote use of online tools to allow remote participation of members to any event/meeting and reduce PN members' carbon impact 2) Share the draft agenda and related documents of the Steering Committee at least a week in advance with all members of the PN for contribution and reaction; 3) Ensure review and validation of the annual action plan + budget by all



members through a written procedure before the formal validation by the Steering Committee; 4) Settle an agencies' hub in Enabel's office which would host the PN co-Presidency but also the PN coordination (max 2 days a week) and any representative of agencies with no permanent office in Brussels; 5) Organize PN activities (TF/WG meeting or event, ad-hoc activities, large PN event) in another place/country than Brussels/Belgium; 6) enhance PN visibility and internal communication.

6.3. The 2020-2021 Work plan

Although work plan for 2020 - 2021 still must be compiled and finalised, during the 13th AMGA the WG and TF co-leads shared their main objectives for the next year:

Working Group on Contractual & Financial Framework:

For the incoming PN year, the Contractual & Financial Framework Working Group will continue exchanging on the application of OPSYS, assess the contractual implications of COVID-19 on the delegated cooperation, contribute to the future update of the CA Manual and clarify questions around the manual. AFD, Expertise France and GIZ will organise regular Pillar Assessment exchange platforms for MSOs to share experience and deepen the discussions on the possibility of an additional and optional pillar on cost accounting practices with members and the European Commission. The co-leads will also continue the follow-up on the new Commission decision on the simplified cost option and on possible assessments to be realised. Finally, they will release the revised Partnership Agreement Template and do some FFPA follow-up, i.e. sharing MSO Factsheet templates with the EC and collect filled Factsheets from members and share them with the EC.

Working Group on Effective Partnership:

According to the internal survey conducted by the co-leads of the Working Group, the main objective of the Effective Partnership Working Group would be to maintain an inclusive and effective platform for European development cooperation in line with SGD 17. In order to achieve an amplified joint implementation knowledge and activity among PN members, AFD and British Council intend to make presentations of PN members, foster exchanges on EU instruments and frameworks (MFF, NDICI), prepare for the 2023 EC's evaluation on joint implementation, apply the Working Better Together guidance across the PN's own activities and exchange knowledge about development cooperation tools, such as PSE risk management. In order to enhance the ability of the PN to work inclusively with other stakeholders, one or two ad-hoc workshops open to non-PN members on topics where needs were identified for further peer-exchange will be organised, as well as sessions on how to work more effectively with local partners. The Study on Public Sector Expertise will be finalised and an event will be organised to present its results.

Working Group on Crisis Fragility and Migration:

According to the results of the online survey conducted, the Crisis Fragility and Migration Working Group co-leads are planning to approach the following topics during the next PN Presidency year: COVID-19 and its impact on the issues addressed under the Working Group, Humanitarian-Security-Development Nexus and Migration Governance & Development. To address these thematic priorities, according to the results of the online survey, broader use of digital means through webinars on specific issues and remote sessions will be put in place, in parallel with the thematic face-to-face seminars, as the one on Migration & Development.

Working Group on Private Sector:

For the upcoming year, the Working Group on Private Sector is planning three sessions. The main priority is to bring more practical ways of working based on experiences and case studies. SNV and GIZ are happy to have the support from other members to co-lead the Working Group and would



like to engage consultancies in their work. The Working Group has aligned its priorities together with the Commission - Green Deal and EU-Africa strategy - and identified future topics: Private Sector support in times of COVID, Public Private Dialogue in fragile environments, Women Economic Empowerment, Digital Green Development & Private Sector Development.

Task Force on Culture & Development:

The first objective for the incoming year is to conduct a mapping to point out who is doing what and share it with the European institutions. The second objective is to organise meetings and webinars to show how cross-cut culture is across the development world. In the immediate term, the Culture & Development Declaration will be circulated to the PN members who have endorsed it at the AMGA, in order to get their physical signature.

6.4. The 2020-2021 Budget

In order to implement these tasks, the PN has a budget of 237.389,10 EUR⁶ plus an extra 10% for unforeseen costs, as shown in the table below. This budget is higher than previous years, since more investment is foreseen: 1. to purchase remote connection equipment to improve inclusiveness and participation of PN members that cannot travel to Brussels; 2. To launch two studies (approx. 25,000 EUR/ each); 3. To promote several events, at WG and global level; 4. To increase the financial support to AMGA costs and regular WG and SC meeting costs. The high reserve acquired this year allows this budget increase.

Budget items	2020-2021 BUDGET DRAFT
1. Coordinator fee	93.150,00
2. Office rent	3.569,50
3. Office equipment	1.600,00
4. Communication & other office costs	327,60
5. Travel costs	6.800,00
6. Marketing costs website	5.600,00
7. Marketing other	1.742,00
8. Advisory, consultancy fees	0,00
9. Studies	50.000,00
10. Event costs WG & SC meetings	9.500,00
11. Event costs EDD	0,00
12. Event costs General Assembly	10.000,00
13. Event others	55.000,00
14. Bank expenses	100,00
SUB-TOTAL	237.389,10
15. Contingencies (10%)	23.738,91
TOTAL	261.128,01

ANNEXES

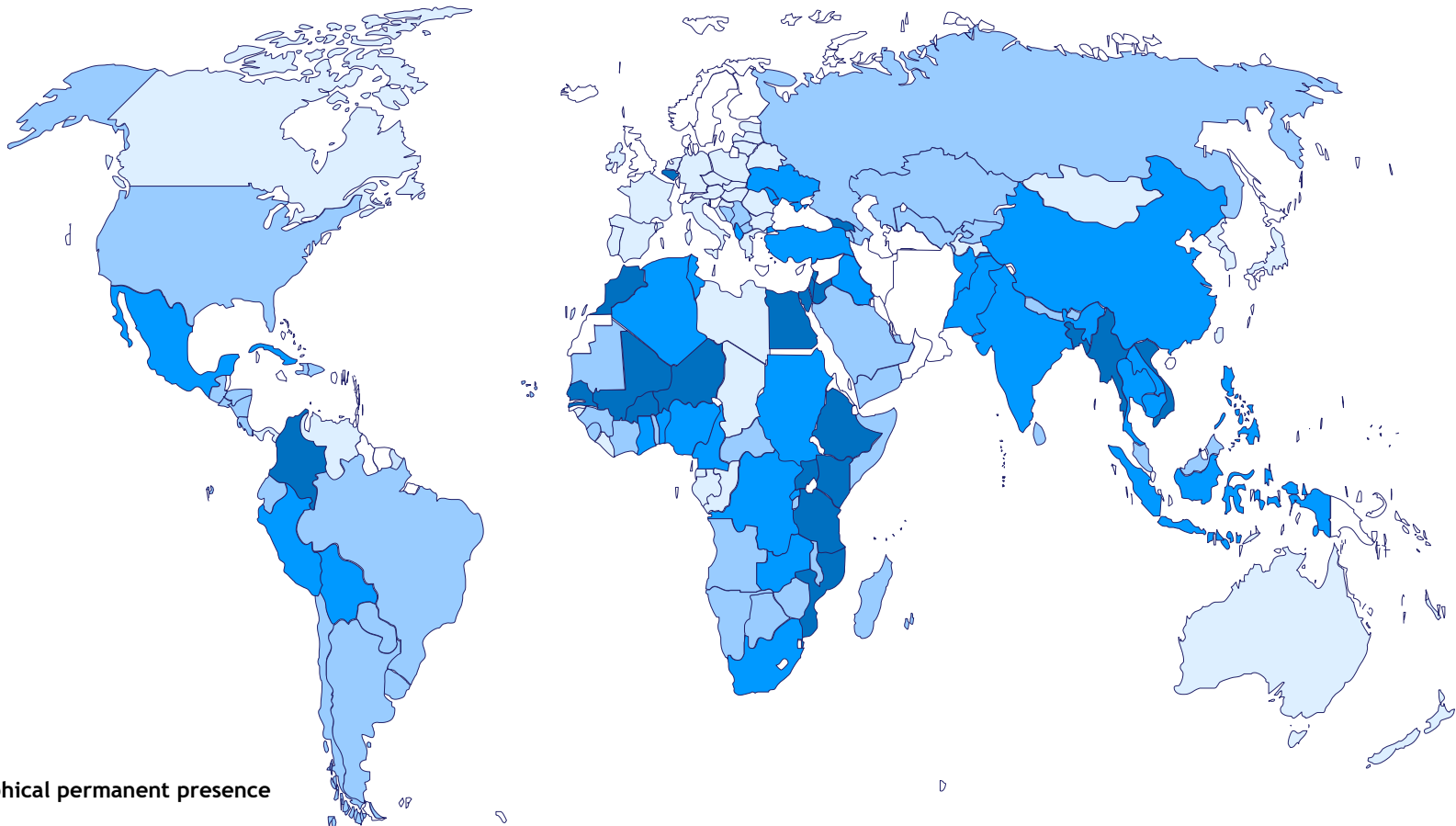
Annex 1: PN presence mapping

⁶ The budget will be formally endorsed in the first Steering Committee meeting under Enabel-LuxDev Presidency.



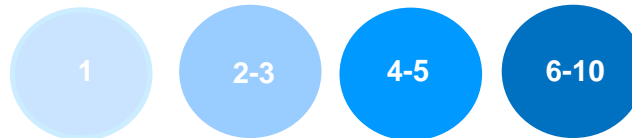
Practitioners' Network

for European Development Cooperation



Geographical permanent presence

PN members and associates* have permanent presence in 156 countries covering five continents (excluding PN member headquarters). The top ten countries where most PN members have permanent resources are mainly located in Africa. The top country with more permanent presence (10 PN members) is Mozambique, followed by Palestinian Territories, Burkina Faso and Ethiopia with 9 permanent offices.

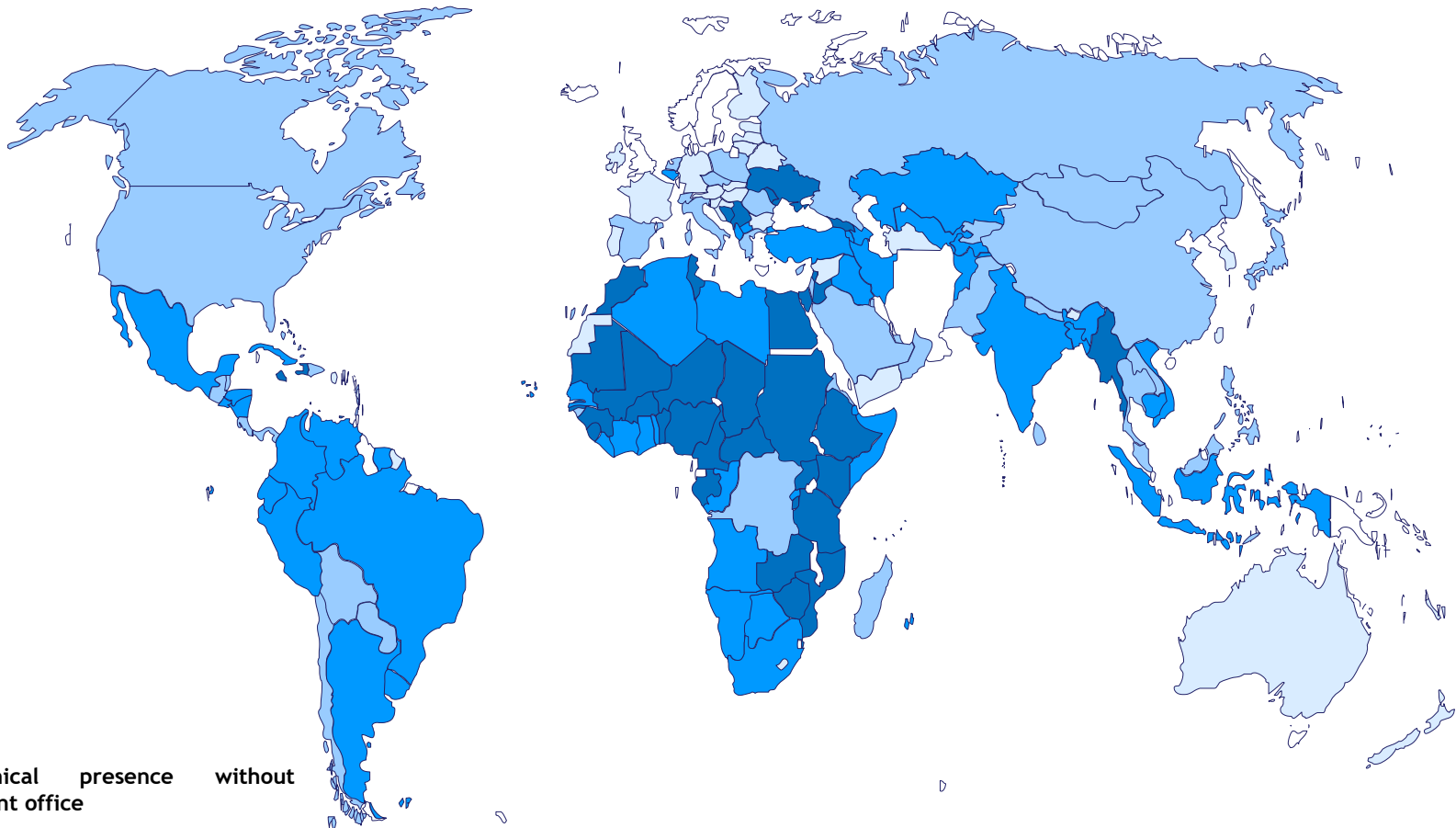


* 18 out of 19 members and associates delivered de information



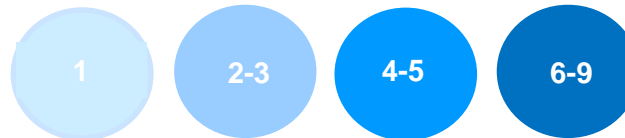
Practitioners' Network

for European Development Cooperation



Geographical presence without permanent office

PN members and associates* develop not permanent activities in 175 countries covering five continents. The top ten countries where most PN members develop activities without permanent resources are mainly located in Sub-Saharan Africa, followed by Eastern Europe. The top three countries with 9 PN members not permanent presence are Tanzania, Uganda and Georgia



April 2020

*18 out of 19 members and associates delivered de information