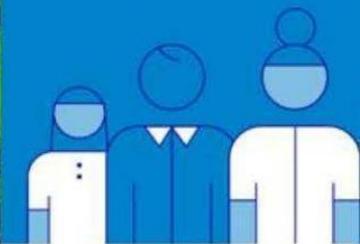


Practitioners' Network – Stronger Together, for effective sustainable European development cooperation worldwide

WORKING BETTER TOGETHER



# Practitioners' Network

## for European Development Cooperation

### ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021

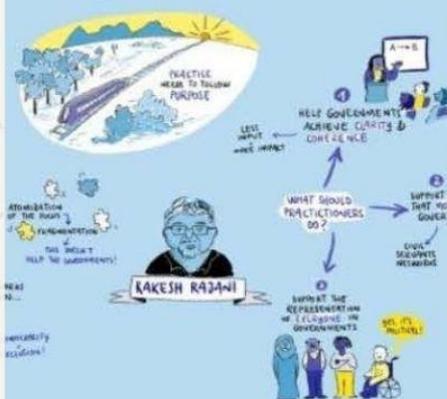
ENABEL AND LUXDEV CO-PRESIDENCY

### PRACTITIONERS' NETWORK FOR EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

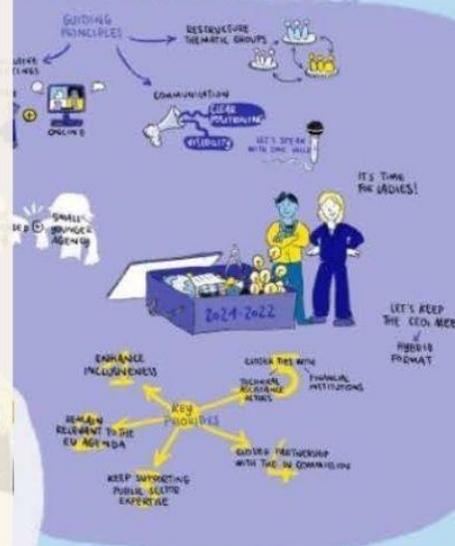
June 2021

COOPERATION

GENERAL ASSEMBLY



NEW CO-PRESIDENCY



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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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**Enabel and LuxDev held the first dual Presidency** of the Practitioners' Network for European Development Cooperation (PN) from 04 May 2020 to 21 May 2021, setting this way a precedent and good practice for a more inclusive participation and contribution of smaller and/or newer members.

**The Covid-19 pandemic shaped the work during this year.** However, the Co-Presidency worked jointly to overcome the challenges with a constructive and resilient approach and ensured coherence and continuity in the Networks' work. Despite the pandemic, **there has been a very high degree of activity** in the PN through online sessions that therefore enhanced **inclusivity**. **Relevant actions have been implemented in the different working groups**, such as the Crisis Fragility & Migration workshops, the Public Sector Expertise Study, collaboration with the Private Sector, the implementation of the external dimension of the European Green Deal workshop, digitalisation (green digital technologies) and the reach-out to other relevant development partners. The organisation of several **CEO meetings**, leading to a joint PN "Declaration on synergies with Public Development Banks" within the framework of the Finance in Common Summit in Paris has also been an innovative initiative this year. The **Team Europe Task Force**, established in the autumn of 2020 to reflect and discuss on the process and design of Team Europe Initiatives, **has become a key instrument for the European Commission** for a dynamic and regular exchange with Member States implementing organisations about the Team Europe approach. For the first time, **the PN has been brought to the field** by organising the first online session of the workshop "Joint Implementation for Tomorrow" with PN members' representatives in Africa.

The Network also continued **improving its internal and external communication**, based on the pillars set out by the previous Presidency of AECID. The visual identity of the Network has been enhanced. A **new PN website** has been launched, offering a wide range of new functionalities, such as an **interactive mapping** with the presence of PN members around the world, an embedded **video animation** with information about the Practitioners' Network, a database with the selected **joint implementation projects** of the PN Members, and Joint Implementation videos, a job opportunity section, in addition to a publications section and a new organisation of the Members Area section with an user-friendly interface.

Looking ahead, members agree on the **relevance of the Team Europe Initiatives** and of working better together, continue enhancing inclusiveness, but also on the importance of **strengthening cooperation and enhancing synergies between European technical assistance and financial assistance providers**, the opportunities and added value of **mobilising European Public Sector Expertise** in development cooperation, the need to focus on key thematic priorities for the EU agenda like the **European Green Deal and digitalisation** as well as to be more present in international development fora to share innovative ideas. In this regard, the new dual Presidency CPMA-GIZ proposes an ambitious work plan including the **restructuring of the current working group compositions**, to better reflect on the coherence of the WG and how to best include the new PN priorities.



## 1. INTRODUCTION

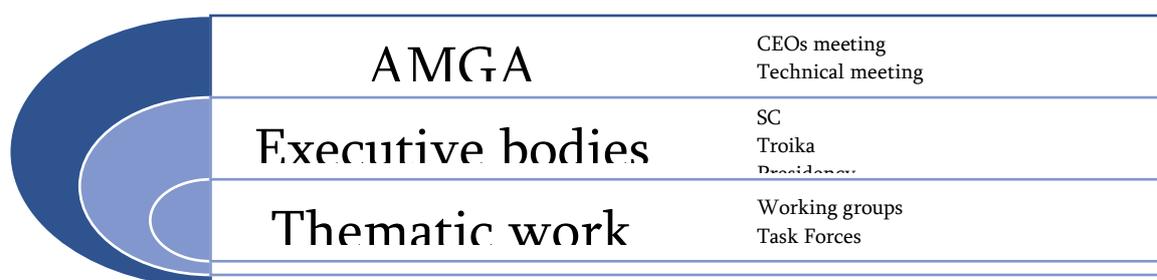
The Practitioners' Network for European Development Cooperation is an informal network of non-profit European national entities, with a public service mission that directly implement development assistance (bilateral and/or European) and that are pillar-assessed - or in the process of being pillar-assessed – 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 Practitioners' 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 PN's strategic framework is aligned with that of European cooperation and with the global commitments made by members states 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 5 May 2020 to 21 May 2021, under the first PN co-Presidency of Enabel and LuxDev.

## 2. PN STRUCTURE AND ORGANISATION

Although the ways of operation of the Network are 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 (or shared by two members) 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 13<sup>th</sup> AMGA

The PN year started with the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the General Assembly (AMGA), held by virtual means due to Covid-19 pandemic on 4 May 2020, where AECID handed over the Presidency of the Network to Enabel and LuxDev. During the AMGA, members discussed the Network's contribution to the European response to the Covid-19 crisis, under the Team Europe approach, to help partner countries deal with the immediate effects of the pandemic and to support their socio-economic recovery in its aftermath. In addition, fourteen PN members endorsed the Culture & Development



Declaration, acknowledging the value of culture, in its many facets, and its contribution to development within the framework of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

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

- Steering Committee 2020-2021: ADA; AECID; AFD, CPMA-GIZ, Enabel-LuxDev; Sida.
- Troika 2020-2021: AECID; CPMA-GIZ; Enabel-LuxDev.
- Presidency 2021-2022: CPMA-GIZ.

## 2.2. Steering Committee

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The PN Steering Committee (SC) held a total of six meetings during this year, the first was held on July 18, 2020, and the last one on May 07, 2021. All Steering Committee meetings were on-line therefore allowing all relevant PN members to participate in the discussions with their contributions and recommendations. Meetings were attended by representatives of the six SC members, representatives of DG INTPA and the Coordination Team. For the work plan follow-up, the co-leads of the working groups and task forces were also invited to participate.

The minutes of the meetings were shared with all the PN members together with supporting documents and uploaded in the members' area of the PN webpage. The SC agendas have also been shared in advance with the whole membership to encourage their contribution and foster inclusiveness.

Main topics covered throughout the year in the SC meetings were:

- Assessment of new applications to the Network 's membership
- Follow-up of studies and activities implemented by PN members.
- Promotion of new initiatives to be undertaken the PN framework.
- Planning and follow-up of PN ad-hoc events and sessions
- Follow up of PN working groups and task force activities
- Follow-up to Team Europe Approach
- Planning and follow up of the PN Communication Plan
- Follow up of the PN financial management
- Assessment and approval of services to be hired
- Revision and updating of PN charter

## 2.3. Presidency

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The pandemic shaped the work during the Co-Presidency of Enabel and LuxDev. The Co-Presidency focused on what can bring PN members together and worked jointly to overcome the challenges with a constructive and resilient approach.

They also strengthened the Stronger Together approach by launching several surveys to count on all the PN Members point of view and reflections and get feedback of the activities developed and implemented by the Co-Presidency. They engaged in ensuring coherence in the Networks' work and maximising its resources and work as practitioners at the international development cooperation level.

Specific strategic achievements led by the Co-presidency are described under section 3.1.



## 2.4. Members, Associates and Observers status

During this year, the Network has officially accepted two new associates: **the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Estonia** and **the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands** have joined the PN in November 2020 after fulfilling the set requirements.

In addition, other European development bodies **Goethe Institut (Germany)**, **NUFFIC (The Netherlands)**, and **Central Finance and Contracting Agency (Latvia)**, raised their interest to join the PN. **Goethe Institut** has already submitted some of the documents required, however **NUFFIC** and **the Central Finance and Contracting Agency** have not yet started a formal admission procedure.

The Practitioners' Network currently consists of **17 Members**, **4 Associates** and **1 Observer** listed below:



### Associates:



### Observer:



## 2.5. PN coordination service

PROEVAL has continued delivering the coordination service to the PN with a team of two consultants. The main consultant, Diego Boero, was replaced in January 2021 by Alejandra Rojo, while Noelia Tiedeke, supporting consultant, has remained within the team since PROEVAL started offering the PN coordination service in September 2019.

The coordination facilitated a tailor-made service to the co-Presidency, supporting all the activities implemented with quality and effective results and enhancing synergies between PN Members thanks to their day-to-day communications. The coordination team has dealt with digitalisation as a key challenge to disseminate information between PN Members, despite these difficulties the coordination ensured effective internal communication among members throughout the co-presidency.



## 2.6. PN Charter amendments

In June 2020, the new version of the PN Charter was signed by all its members after introducing the changes promoted by AECID, during its Presidency.

In addition, and in response to the decision taken at the 13th AMGA to develop a “simple set of criteria” on how to establish members’ contribution fees, in November 2020 the SC approved the following categories which have been included in the Annex C of the charter and will be applied for the 2021-2022 contributions:

NEW CATEGORIES			
PN MEMBERS CONTRIBUTIONS (Minimum)	5.000 €	9.000 €	17.000 €
Volume of operations* (in M €)	< 200	200 - 2.500	> 2.500
PN ASSOCIATES CONTRIBUTIONS (Minimum)	5.000 €	9.000 €	
Volume of operations* (in M €)	< 500	> 500	

\* Volume of funds implemented in development cooperation in the last closed exercise including ODA and delegated funds.

Thus, as of June 2021 the member’s yearly contributions are based on their volume of funds in development cooperation including Official Development Aid and delegated funds.

## 3. PN STRATEGIC AND THEMATIC ACTION

The Network frames its work mainly within established Working Groups and Task Forces, made up of the Practitioners’ Network members, with thematic topics developed and voted by the members taking into account the International Development Cooperation context.

This section aims at capturing what happened with and within the Working Groups and Task Forces, as well as what other broad initiatives have been promoted during the period starting in May 2020 until April 2021.

### 3.1. Results of the PN strategic work plan

The Co-Presidency of Enabel and LuxDev put forward the following initiatives to respond to a changing development landscape and the PN Members' evolving needs:

#### 3.1.1 The Declaration on synergies with Public Development Banks

The Finance in Common (FiC) Summit is the first global summit of all Public Development Banks (PDB) that promotes the collective commitment to the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Agreement, in order to build joint, coherent and concerted responses to major global challenges.

The first edition of the FiC in November 2020 resulted in a joint declaration of all PDBs stating their willingness to contribute to the Covid recovery and align with sustainable finance principles.

On this occasion, the Practitioners’ Network, under its Co-Presidency Enabel/LuxDev, published a declaration on synergies between PDBs and European development cooperation organisations. [The PN Declaration \(Annex 1\)](#) underlines the importance for an increased complementarity between European financial institutions and technical assistance providers.



### 3.1.2. Team Europe Task Force

The Team Europe Task Force was launched in September 2020 to facilitate the contribution of the PN to the TE approach and stimulate a strategic dialogue and exchange between the CEOs/DGs of both the implementing MSOs and DG INTPA and DG NEAR.

The creation of a dedicated Team Europe Task Force emanated from the discussions of the latest AMGA 2020 when the world was facing unprecedented and complex challenges due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The “Team Europe Approach” combines resources from the EU, its Member States (including MSOs, MS Financial Institutions and Technical Assistance providers). The new Task Force provided space for PN members and the Commission to exchange information and actively contribute to the reflection on the design of Team Europe Initiatives (TEI) as an integral part of the ongoing programming process, going beyond the Covid-19 pandemic context. In particular, this TE Task Force facilitates the regular and dynamic exchange and feedback channels between the PN EU MSOs and the Commission services (DG INTPA and NEAR) on methodological approaches in the design of TEI. It therefore allows all PN EU MSOs, including those with little or no permanent presence in partner countries, to be part of the co-creation process.

### 3.1.3. CEOs meetings

A new paradigm to discuss and debate how we can create synergies at the top-level and pursue new forms of international cooperation work.

During the Co-Presidency Enabel/LuxDev in the several CEO meetings, various participants from outside of the Network were invited to present their plans and work within their network and organisations. This strategic dialogue between CEOs created a new impetus for strategic discussions within the Practitioners' Network.

The following invited participants took the floor during CEO meetings:

- **EDFI asbl** represents 15 European government-backed institutions undertaking activities within the field of development finance for the private sector in countries outside the EU, namely bilateral “development finance institutions” (DFIs).
- **AUDA-NEPAD (African Union Development Agency):** The mandate of AUDA-NEPAD is to: a) Coordinate and Execute priority regional and continental projects to promote regional integration towards the accelerated realisation of Agenda 2063; and b) Strengthen the capacity of African Union Member States and regional bodies, advance knowledge-based advisory support, undertake the full range of resource mobilisation and serve as the continent’s technical interface with all Africa’s development stakeholders and development partners.
- **CIDCA (China International Development Cooperation Agency):** The agency aims to formulate strategic guidelines, plans and policies for foreign aid, coordinate and offer advice on major foreign aid issues, advance the country's reforms in matters involving foreign aid, and identify major programs and supervise and evaluate their implementation. Specific assignments will be allocated to different departments.

### 3.1.4. New partnership with European Think Tanks Group

Driving the impact of international development cooperation is one of the priorities of the Practitioners' Network members. As Practitioners in the field, the co-Presidency Enabel/LuxDev



grasped an opportunity for possible pathways for exchanges with the European Think Tank Group (ETTGT).

In May 2021 a MoU on how to collaborate closely with ETTGT Network was signed. This MoU is an opportunity to link policy influencer with practitioners' influencer in order to enhance policy coherence at the international sustainable development cooperation.

### 3.1.5. Green Deal Workshops

The particularity of the EU Green Deal (EGD) is its transformative and ambitious approach. The external dimension of the EGD aims to contribute to the achievement of the Paris Agreement and to promote ambitious environment, biodiversity, climate and energy policies across the world.

During the Co-Presidency of Enabel/LuxDev, the Green Deal approach was promoted by holding a workshop whose objective was to start an exchange on the operationalisation of the external dimension of the EGD through working better together by sharing PN members' experience gained through the EUROCLIMA+ Programme and further exploring possibilities for improved cooperation in partner countries and regions.

Specific information on the EGD workshop is described under section 4.3

## 3.2. Results of the PN Working Groups and Task Forces<sup>1</sup>

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

The working group on Contractual and Financial Frameworks (CFF WG) 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 assure that simplified and viable contractual frameworks are established under which Network members can collaborate with the EU. AFD, EF and GIZ co-lead the WG. For the upcoming year EF and GIZ will continue co-leading the group.

#### **Main outcomes/achievements for the year 2020-2021**

The working group met four times during the year 2020-2021 (June, October 2020 and February and April 2021) and organized two restricted meetings with the EC on behalf of the members (February and May 2021). The new EU financial regulation (EUFRR), for which the PN contributed, was adopted in July 2018. The EUFRR introduced new contractual arrangements (contract template, FPPA, 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 CFF WG have been organized to deal with issues linked to the implementation of the EUFRR and a new contractual set up. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic all WG sessions took place online and will continue virtually for the foreseeable future.

Specific activities according to the work plan are described below:

#### 1. 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 clarification of several questions arose from the new CA Manual, commenting on the published version of the manual and addressing and discussing specific questions around the following topics:

- **How to make budget negotiations more efficient**

<sup>1</sup> Information delivered by the WG co-leads



- What types of bonuses and provisions can be considered eligible
- Eligibility of VAT, and legal commitments
- MPCA contract option

The discussions on the CA Manual and MPCA contract set up, including related dialogue with INTPA and NEAR will continue and will remain one of the main topics in the workplan for 2021-2022.

A task force to work on the PN general understanding and principles guiding the MPCA has been set up and will pursue its work under the new presidency in 2021-2022. A new template for the Partnership Agreement has been agreed and made available for PN members.

## 2. Pillar assessment (PA) and new Commission Decision on Simplified Cost Option

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 WG offered a platform for members to exchange on experience on the ongoing pillar assessments.

A task force was created to continue the discussion with INTPA R3 and R4 on the possibility for a new ex-ante assessment of shared costs. The task force will pursue its work under the new presidency in 2021-2022.

## 3. The EC new IT platform: OPSYS

The EC has been launching its new IT platform OPSYS for over one year now. Since last year, the PN has been in contact with INTPA to better understand its functioning and its use by implementing partners. The CFF WG has offered a platform for a regular exchange with INTPA R5 on OPSYS issues and the specifics of OPSYS for the delegated cooperation. The discussions on OPSYS with the OPSYS Change Management will continue and will remain one of the main topics in the work plan for 2021-2022.

## 4. Exchange with OLAF

OLAF, the European Anti-Fraud Office, joined the CFF WG meeting for the first time in January 2020 to present and discuss an OLAF initiative to work more closely with MS in terms of fraud prevention and investigation with the aim of increasing the effectiveness of the European anti-fraud architecture. The dialogue with OLAF is regular and will continue under the new presidency in 2021-2022.

## 5. Outlook 2021 - 2022

The topics discussed in 2020-2021 remain valid in the new year. Upon request from members, the following topics could be integrated in the 2020-2021 work plan:

- In coordination with the EP WG and building on the OLAF contacts: Risk management and counter-fraud

### **3.2.2. Effective Partnership Working Group (co-lead AFD, British Council, CPMA)**

The Effective Partnerships Working Group (EPWG) is dedicated to the achievement of SDG 17 – Partnerships, through two Result Areas – Joint Implementation and Inclusiveness (including knowledge-sharing and peer-exchange). Below is a summary of the results achieved by members of this working group during the 2020-21 year, facilitated through five half-day online meetings held in July, September and November 2020, and February and April 2021.

#### **Result Area 1 – Joint implementation knowledge and activity amongst PN members are amplified**

***Eight knowledge-sharing, peer-exchange sessions organised***

Under Result Area 1, the EPWG continued to allow space for knowledge-sharing and peer-exchange amongst members, with Danida and GIZ presenting their respective organisational structures and priorities and answering questions from others. Members also took the opportunity to share different initiatives, projects and best practices they are working on, including the Digital for Development Hub (GIZ, AFD, Expertise France, Enabel, LuxDev and Estonian MFA) and research on Scaling Up projects (AFD).

DG INTPA was also very active in contributing to this Result Area, presenting their new structure and transition from DG DEVCO to DG INTPA, as well as facilitating an exchange on Aid Effectiveness through the presentation of their report '*Effective Development Cooperation: Does the EU deliver?*'.

Specific thematic sessions were held under this Result Area, with former DEVCO Unit C5 providing an overview of the current state of play of digitalisation for EU international cooperation and a Comms and Visibility session run by FIIAPP, building on the workshop held in 2018 and focused on consolidating a space for dialogue and coordination on communication & visibility within the PN and between the EC and the PN members.

***Joint Implementation database updated***

At each working group, members were given the opportunity to update on new joint implementation projects that had been signed, keeping colleagues informed of where PN members are jointly delivering interventions. These updates were formalised through work taken on by the Presidency to update the JI database, working with an external design agency to create an easy-to-use tool which can be integrated into the PN website. This work is still ongoing.

***Joint Implementation guidance for PN members created***

During the course of the year, work was carried out to create our own Joint Implementation checklist for PN members, taken from the relevant parts of the Working Better Together guidance. Members had the chance to input and provide feedback on this document, the final version of which is now available on the PN website. JI best practice was also shared through aforementioned knowledge-sharing sessions, such as the Digital for Development Hub, and the EU also contributed to this area of activity through providing an update on the 2023 JI Evaluation.

**Result Area 2 – PN ability to work inclusively with other stakeholders (non PN members, CSOs, private sector, higher education and research institutions, local authorities, foundations) is enhanced*****Four presentations by non-PN members***

In the spirit of inclusiveness and working with organisations outside of the PN, the EPWG welcomed a number of other organisations to join its sessions and present during the year. These spanned other European development agencies (Estonian MFA and Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation), as well as subsidiaries of existing members (AFD Campus) and other networks interested in collaborating with the PN (European Think Tanks Group).

***Planning for one multi-stakeholder event***

With the global pandemic still ongoing, it was decided that the Inclusiveness Workshop planned for April 2021 would be postponed to later in the year, with the hope that we are able to meet in person. Planning is underway for this event; a Steering Group has been created to lead its organisation and Aid Effectiveness is the chosen thematic, with a linked but separate session on Monitoring and Evaluation to be held in the afternoon.

***Two knowledge-sharing, peer-exchange session organised***

As a standalone session outside of regular EPWG meetings, LuxDev organised a workshop on working with local partners and CSOs, presenting a delivery mechanism which allows them to recognise and make use of local partner financial systems. In an effort to expand the knowledge and work of the PN towards that of financial institutions, AFD facilitated an exchange on the Finance in Common summit held in November 2020, providing background to the event as well as encouraging PN participation.

***Public Sector Expertise work line***

As the final deliverable of the EPWG this year, FIIAPP and DG INTPA presented a study and mapping on the research carried out on mobilising Public Sector Expertise (PSE) for development by the EU and its member states, covering Phases I and II and including key findings from 20 states. The final analysis report for Phase II was due to be published later on.

The EPWG has provided a platform for exchange and learning amongst PN members throughout the 2020-21 year, successfully adapting the delivery of its meetings to an online format, and varied content delivered through a variety of means: presentations, roundtables and workshops. A survey carried out amongst EPWG members showed that they found the most useful activities of the past year to be the PSE study, presentations from PN members and information sharing sessions, as well as updates from the European Commission and discussions between members.

“The EU and its Member States mobilising Public Sector Expertise for Development” study consisted of:

- 1) A mapping (phase I) of the EU MS existing operational structures, regulatory frameworks, delivery tools and bilateral initiatives to mobilise PSE; this phase 1 was conducted by INTPA; and
- 2) An analysis paper (phase II) on the strategic potential of mobilisation of European PSE as an innovative cooperation way with our partner countries, commissioned by FIIAPP as leader of the PN Drafting Committee formed by CPMA, Enabel and Expertise France (as PN members) and INTPA (as PN observer).

The recommendations provided in the mapping (phase I) on how to translate the mobilisation of European PSE into concrete actions and assure smooth and inclusive coordination mechanisms amongst the EU Member States, were presented at the Council of the European Union working group (e.g. CODEV) in January 2021 by INTPA.

This allowed for a first ever discussion at CODEV level on the potential of PSE for a value-based external action, while PSE has been introduced as an implementation modality of NDICI-Global Europe and is part of the functions of the Team Europe unit at INTPA. Thus, it is an example of how relevant the joint exercises, discussions and exchanges are within the PN, and its added value to nurture the policy dimension of the European Cooperation System from the implementation perspective, and its contributions to broader debates at policy level.

INTPA and FIIAPP jointly presented the main findings at the PN Effective Partnerships working group in February 2021 to exchange on the main and strategic findings and confirm common needs.



### 3.2.3. Crisis, Fragility and Migration Working Group (co-lead FIIAPP, British Council)

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. Exchanges around human mobility and its impact on development are also an important part of the CFM WG.

The activities carried out in the framework of the CFM WG during the year 2020-2021 have been framed under two dimensions of the Agenda 2030, “peace” and “people”, as framework of reference for the global PN Annual Plan 2020-2021.

As mentioned in the WP, the CFM WG results for the year 2020-2021 have been:

- Exchanges around human mobility as an opportunity and a long-term development issue (migration & development approach) are facilitated.
- The role and experience of PN members operating in Humanitarian - Development (and Security) Nexus is mapped, communicated and potential opportunities for collaboration are explored.
- Mutual knowledge and exchange of PN CFM members is shared in order to collaborate more effectively in fragile contexts.
- The expertise of the PN in the field of CFM is known and understood by relevant CFM EU stakeholders.

The following activities have contributed to reach these results:

#### 1. PN Regular Meetings Outcomes: Exchanging and Sharing

**Three regular meetings** were organised online in September 2020, February 2021 and May 2021 using the three-fold format: A **first session for dedicated topic/publication/policy presentation from the members** (RoAid on the projects implemented by the Agency in the field of disaster risk management and post-conflict reconstruction, between 2018-2019; Sida on its Migration and development Evidence Mapping Brief and AFD on the framework to work in fragile countries developed by AFD Conflict, Crisis and Fragility Department); a **second session for discussion on the WG Work Plan** (feedback on activities/events carried out or in preparation) and a **third session with an external focus** with guests from the **European Commission**. DG INTPA and DG NEAR were invited to update PN members on the EU Trust Fund for Africa (focus on specific objectives 1/2/3/4, MLS and indicators' new methodological notes, presentation of the Impact Evaluation to be carried out, etc.) and DG INTPA was invited to another meeting to update them on the topic of migration. During the 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** to present their project Mainstreaming Migration into International Cooperation and Development (MMICD) and discuss the topic with PN members.

During the last meeting (May 2021), a session was organized to take stock of the past year and discuss the CFM WG Work Plan 2021-2022 on the basis of the participatory process approach through an online survey.



## 2. Thematic Expert Seminar: Migration and Development (November 2020)

FIIAPP and Enabel steered the organisation of a thematic workshop entitled “**Migration and Development: an inclusive and comprehensive approach on human mobility**”. Five remote preparatory meetings were organized between May and June 2020. The final seminar took place online on the 26<sup>th</sup> November 2021. During the seminar, EU institutions, Member States and their development agencies reflected on their frameworks and past experiences in supporting the migration and development-oriented policymaking in partner countries. The challenges faced by development practitioners torn between the contractual need to monitor, evaluate and assess the impact of their specific intervention(s) and the challenge to contribute (and measure) to maximising the development impact of migration were also addressed in the seminar.

## 3. Thematic Expert Seminar: Working in Fragile and Conflict Affected Contexts (September 2021)

Enabel, British Council and Expertise France are organising an **expert seminar on “Working in Fragile and Conflict Affected Contexts”**. The expert seminar includes four preparatory sessions that have taken place between 19<sup>th</sup> May and 9<sup>th</sup> June 2021 where PN members discussed best practices, effective tools and methods. These sessions will contribute to feeding the seminar that is planned for the autumn 2021. Results are expected to be shared in the Paris Peace Forum.

### **3.2.3.1. Education in Emergencies Sub-Working Group (co-lead British Council, Enabel, Sida)**

As part of the Crisis, Fragility and Migration Working Group, the Education in Emergencies sub-Working Group (EiE WG) is dedicated to promoting and supporting more efficient and effective cooperation and coordination for more rapid, predictable and sustainable support to education in emergencies and protracted crises.

The sub-working group coordinated a session at the CFM organized Expert Seminar in June 2020. The session was titled “Linking development and humanitarian aid: Education in emergencies” and explored the opportunities of the humanitarian-development nexus with examples from the education sector. The seminar also shared good practice in programming to ensure access to basic rights and services for refugees or internally displaced persons (IDPs). A key conclusion from the session was that recognising and building on synergies and complementarities between implementers is a good place to start achieving coordination which allows implementation of the Nexus to be achieved.

The sub-working group has been unable to meet this year, mainly due to lack of resources of two co-leads due to long term medical leave. The co-leads, however, have met the European Commission twice this year and identified the following areas of interest for this sub-working group:

- COVID Response
- Refugee Education
- Peace Education

On COVID response, the sub-WG leads were able to mobilise members to respond to a mapping which shows how our different organisations adapted their work to the COVID crisis. This includes sharing a library of resources that members found useful to help their adaptation work.



There is a desire to organise a workshop before the summer to exchange further on the subject. Later in the year, the sub-WG would like to be able to exchange on Refugee Education and Peace Education.

#### **3.2.4. Private Sector Working Group (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 relaunched in February 2020 after some time of inactivity.

The Private Sector Working Group aims at (i) exchange of knowledge and experiences between PN members and the EU commission on Private Sector Engagement (collaboration with private sector to achieve the SDGs) and Private Sector Development (interventions to stimulate SME growth, employment and investment in developing countries); and (ii) development of (joint) new approaches to increase impact of private sector engagement for development.

In the year 2020 – 2021 three PSWG meetings were held in which exchange and discussion took place on, amongst others, the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI), Team Europe Initiatives, the Finance in Common Summit, Joint Implementation Initiatives (e.g. Investment Climate Reform Facility, VET-Toolbox and the Trade and Private Sector Development Facility) and Covid-19 responses in relation to private sector development. A webinar was organized on Green Employment and Enterprise Opportunities.

As regards Covid-19, the PSWG commissioned an assignment on EU Development Agencies response to cushion the effect of the Covid-19 pandemic on the private sector. This assignment comprised two phases. In the first phase, approaches and particularly interesting examples were documented through interviews and desk research to provide an overview of the approach by agency across area of engagement (existing and pipeline). Based on this a dashboard to simply communicate current examples in cushioning the economic impact across agencies- by area of engagement and delivery model- was developed. In the second phase, a series of three webinars were organized to provide a forum for each agency to share approaches, experiences and lessons with others and to identify possible areas of collaboration. The webinars focused on three core areas: (i) the business environment – creating an enabling environment; (ii) market development – addressing binding constraints; and (iii) private sector engagement – engaging individual businesses. Each webinar started by framing the discussion and presenting specific hypothesis for building back better. This was followed by exchange and experiences from member agencies (15 members shared key experiences and insights). The results of the webinars were consolidated in a report on “Learnings, recommendations and synergies from EU development agencies’ private sector development responses to COVID”

Going forward, during the Annual Meeting of the General Assembly, it was proposed and agreed to integrate private sector engagement and private sector development with the Thematic Working Group as there is a lot of synergy with other topics. Identified future topics include Digitalization, Women Economic Empowerment, Blended Finance and the Green Deal.



### 3.2.5. Team Europe Task Force (co-leads AECID, GIZ)

After a complex process of ToR drafting, following the agreement on the concept at the 13<sup>th</sup> AMGA, the Team Europe Task Force was successfully launched in September 2020, in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic, to discuss the consequences of the Covid-19 crisis in partner countries, but also to facilitate a discussion on the operationalisation of the “Team Europe” approach between European Member States Organisations and DG INTPA, DG NEAR and the EEAS.

The regular exchanges with DG INTPA, DG NEAR and the EEAS allowed all EU MS PN members to be better informed about the process, contribute with their ideas and to discuss topics all around the Team Europe approach. Since its creation, the Task Force met four times with a very high participation rate, both of the PN and EC representatives.

Achievements of the TE Task Force between October 2020 - May 2021:

- Exchange on the programming of TEIs
  - Fruitful exchange and discussions among Task Force members to share impressions of the Regional TE Seminars
  - Reflections after the EU DGx meetings on the first and 2nd batch of TEIs
  - Regular updates on the status quo of the programming of Team Europe Initiatives and contribution of MSO's practical expertise and vision to the TEI package;
- Exchange on the changes in the Working Better Together agenda and the NDICI-Global Europe instrument
  - Exchanges were held with DG NEAR, EEAS & DG INTPA on the new programming guidelines (NDICI-Global Europe) and their planned programming. A specific interactive session with Q&A was organised
  - DG INTPA gave members a clear orientation on the Working Better Together as Team Europe Guidance (TE/TEIs approach, including Joint Programming and Joint Implementation processes)
- Reflection on the potential synergies with other instruments and innovative initiatives
  - Open discussions were held on the future programming of ESFD+ to engage with a broad range of actors in an effective way within TE;
  - The combination of different instruments & implementing modalities to ensure participation of IFIs and IOs in TEIs was encouraged
  - Exchanges on joint Estonian-INTPA initiative “Team Europe partnerships portal”

### 3.2.6. Culture & Development Task Force (co lead AECID, Expertise France, British Council)

The Task Force on Culture and Development was created after the 12th PN General Assembly in May 2019, with the aim of sharing knowledge, expertise and best practices, among PN members, on culture and development policies, programmes and activities, as well as working on how to best contribute to sustainable development processes in the framework of the UN 2030 Agenda.

The Task Force started by exploring the notion of Culture for sustainable development. Several meetings and workshops have been held to discuss this notion and culture's contribution, based on the agencies' expertise within the Task Force. With a cultural approach, the Task Force have reflected on aspects such as public space and sustainable urban development, economic sustainable development, human rights and vulnerability, peacebuilding and social cohesion, challenges in times



of COVID, which are of special relevance to the current challenges of sustainable development, in relation to SDGs 4, 8, 11 and 16, among others.

This exchange of ideas has helped to draft a declaration, establishing the concept of culture for development and the framework in which to continue the work of the Task Force. This declaration, with the title “Cooperation in Culture for Development: Towards a Sustainable Transformation”, has been signed by 14 Agencies from the Practitioner’s Network.

The second stage has been to gather practical evidence from Task Force members of how their programmes use culture for sustainable development. The result has been a mapping exercise with contributions from six Task Force members including over 60 projects, with a total budget of over €200 million, and a wide geographical spread. Each member identified key interventions and actions (up to 10 projects each) and provided useful information on their alignment to the SDGs and their cultural content.

Next steps of the TF will be to:

- **Produce an analysis report based on the mapping exercise:** an in-depth analysis to obtain a more qualitative idea of the TF expertise, the impact of culture as an enabler and driver of sustainable development, the relevant stakeholders and the contribution to the efficiency of development processes.
- **Create a Library:** an online repository of literature, research documents, reports or project evaluations from the TF members. To be shared on the PN platforms / PN members’ websites.
- **Deliver webinars:** connecting culture to EU priorities: green deal, science, technology, innovation and digital, sustainable growth and jobs, migration and mobility and Human development, peace and justice.

## 4. OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

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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 the observer. New online 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. Migration and Development: an inclusive and comprehensive approach on human mobility

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On a global level, international development and migration are closely intertwined. At the EU level, development agencies are called to reinforce their approaches to support partner countries in maximising the impact of human mobility on development. In this regard, the Practitioners’ Network Working Group on Crisis, Fragility and Migration has promoted the exchange of practices and approaches between its members through a series of technical seminars. These led to the Migration and Development expert workshop organised in November 2020 by Enabel and FIIAPP.



The workshop focused on the contribution of operational & technical interventions to policy development and programming, and the learning processes, methodologies and approaches. In addition, the workshop provided hands-on reflections on the monitoring, evaluation and capitalisation challenges to be addressed together by EU institutions, Member States and their development agencies in the area of migration and development.

#### 4.2. Online workshop on the external dimension of the EU green deal through Working Better Together

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The European Green Deal workshop, co-organised by FIIAPP, Enabel and GIZ, held its first sessions in December 2020 c. The general objective of the workshop was to start an exchange on the operationalisation of the external dimension of the EU Green Deal (EGD) through working better together by sharing PN members' experience gained through the EUROCLIMA+ Programme and further exploring possibilities for improved cooperation in partner countries and regions.

The workshop was divided in two sessions:

- The EU Green Deal and the state of play of the programming process and Team Europe (TE) Initiatives
- Lessons learnt and best practices of working better together and joint implementation - EUROCLIMA+ experience

The workshop reinforced the idea of the potential of increased cooperation (on EGD Team Europe Initiatives), acknowledging that a joint collaboration requires some time to take form and some genuine interest and trust in each other. The strong will and political ambition on the side of the Commission and the MSO to move forward as Team Europe to advance the external dimension of the EGD agenda needs to be translated into concrete actions to achieve a true green transformation.

Discussions among PN members on the EGD continued and one more session were held in May 2021, already under the new co-Presidency GIZ-CPMA, by sharing PN members' experience and further exploring possibilities for improved joint cooperation in the implementation of the EGD and its sub-strategies in partner countries and regions.

#### 4.3. Joint Implementation for the future workshop

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Within the Enabel / LuxDev co-Presidency framework, a field workshop was envisaged as part of the general strategy. The theme chosen for this workshop was: "Joint implementation for the future". It was selected in order to help PN members to reflect on the opportunities and conditions for JI within the Network.

This workshop, which should have brought together practitioners from the headquarters and from the field, was initially planned to be held in Senegal, however due to sanitary restrictions, the organisers decided to divide the event into two parts:

- An on-line preparatory session that took place online on 21st April. This session allowed participants to better understand the challenges and success factors of joint implementation. Furthermore, the first session enabled us to collect lessons learned of the Joint Implementation at this stage at both political and organizational level.
- A second working session, to identify the necessary conditions and opportunities for developing a joint implementation project, which will occur on 29th September and 30th September 2021 in Dakar.



## 5. INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL COMMUNICATION

As an outcome of the co-Presidency Enabel/LuxDev a communication strategy and an action plan has been developed and implemented based on the pillars set out by the outgoing AECID Presidency.

After a deep analysis of the Study on Inclusiveness and the suggestions by PN Members, the co-

Presidency has drawn a conclusion: a communication strategy (Annex 2) and plan should be put in place to fulfil the expectations of PN Members and to implement the recommendations from the study.



The overall objective of the communication strategy was to enhance the visual identity as a Network and to share information between PN Members in order to strengthen the inclusiveness approach. Therefore, the role set for the communication strategy was to inform, engage, create awareness and promote the Network and the work developed within the working groups. It was vital to transform all PN's knowledge, expertise and activities into a communication strategy. The Communication strategy that has been designed, along with the action plan that has been implemented, has ensured the fulfilment of the objectives of the Network.

In the communication strategy and plan, the Co-Presidency Enabel/LuxDev set ambitious targets for the communication activities, by listing audiences and channels that the co-presidency wanted to reach, promoting the key message (Stronger Together) and finding the most suitable channel for communication success.

PN Members have demonstrated their commitment and aim to collaborate with this innovative and ambitious plan.

### 5.1. New Website

This section of the report summarises the different functions that have been developed within the Website:

Renewal of the Website: The latest co-Presidency held by AECID set the initiative but the execution took place under the Enabel/LuxDev co-Presidency due to time constraints. The new website offers a large range of new functionalities, such as:

- an interactive mapping with the presence of the PN members around the world,
- an embedded video animation with information about the Practitioners' Network
- reorganisation of the content of the website to boost the PN's audience and to make the information more appealing to the readers



- a database with the selected joint implementation projects of the PN Members,
- a section with Joint Implementation videos to showcase how we work together,
- a job opportunity section with information related to positions within different European Development Cooperation organisations
- a publication section with research studies, case studies and publications from PN Members
- a new organisation of the Members Area section with a user-friendly interface that eases the coordinators day-to-day work and workflow of documents
- a subscription section for the PN's Newsletter
- accounting information related to the Network's income and expenditure accessible to any member at any time.



The new website is adapted to the PN Members' needs by automatising processes done in the past manually with databases that allow to track our joint implementation projects and cross information related to PN Members that facilitates exchanges of knowledge and information between the members and day-to-day coordination work.

## 5.2. Newsletter

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A Newsletter to enhance internal and external communication was launched in December 2020. This Newsletter aims to exchange information related to the PN Joint Implementation projects, events, research and studies. The co-Presidency invited all PN Members to share their experiences in the field and to contribute with information that has an inclusiveness and innovative approach. The first pilot Newsletter was very well-received and the second edition had 246 recipients. It was planned to launch quarterly, however, due to time constraints only two editions have been published.

## 5.3. PN Video

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"A picture is worth a thousand words": the co-Presidency Enabel/LuxDev worked with GIZ and AECID to develop a video with a presentation of the work and how the Network contributes to exchange knowledge and experiences within the different working groups. The Practitioners' Network aims to strengthen its role at international cooperation level and to disseminate information related to our work the video will allow improves the PN visibility at both headquarters and field level.



Please scan the QR code to watch the video.

## 5.4. Joint Implementation Brochure

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As requested during a CEO meeting, a [brochure \(Annex 3\)](#) with selected joint implementation projects has been produced with the support of all the PN Members with an inclusiveness approach to promote the joint implementation projects carried out different agencies in the field with a single voice.



## 5.5. Social Media

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The coordination and the outgoing AECID Presidency set up the PN social media channels during the past year, by opening a [LinkedIn](#) and [Twitter account](#). These social media accounts highlighted the importance of active engagement of PN members in order to increase the visibility of what PN does and why.

Posts related to all working groups activities, ad hoc sessions, reports, research studies have been disseminated. In order to increase the engagement of the PN audience and to promote the Stronger Together approach, the co-Presidency upgraded the account to enlarge the numbers of followers. During the last semester (January-July 2021) the number of followers in LinkedIn increased from 800 to 1060, thanks to the effort of all PN Members and the Coordination.

## 5.6. Other communication tools

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In addition to the activities described above and in line with the communication strategy, different communication products have been developed to meet the expectations of PN Members: (i) updated the PowerPoint template of the Practitioners' Network, to be aligned with the new visual identity, (ii) two roll-ups for the events were produced, (iii) updated PN brochure embedded in the website, (iv) produced a document with the Communication Strategy.

To sum up, the communication strategy was created with an inclusive approach by taking into account all PN Members' contributions through the following actions (i) the co-Presidency led a survey to vote for a key message/ slogan to represent the Network and as a result "Stronger Together" was voted the most popular, and (ii) invited all the PN Members to participate in the different PN communication tools with their own photos from the field to illustrate the day-to-day work of the practitioners from the different PN Members. In addition, the Newsletter constitutes a platform for exchanging information and learning from each other.

Our communication activities, encompass new tools and instruments; in addition, the PN members provided information, data, and images, in an example of collaboration and coordination between agencies.

The successful communication tools result from a committed effort from each Practitioners' Network member (especially GIZ and AECID that contributed proactively to all the activities) when deploying their expertise and knowledge and their willingness to contribute to the network's improvement.

Finally, such efforts will be made in order to enhance the visual identity of the PN and raise awareness of the importance of sharing information and knowledge between European Development Cooperation Institutions.

## 6. FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

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The Network has continued fostering transparency in its financial management.

Updated information regarding income, expenditure and balance was presented in the form of a descriptive PowerPoint presentation during each Steering Committee meeting and later shared with all members. In addition, this information is now available for all PN members at the new website, together with all the supporting documents. The online tool allows users to check members' yearly contributions, the foreseen expenditure per budget item and its execution rate in real time.



## 5.1. The 2020-2021 Budget

Regarding income, the PN received a total of 199.167,00 EUR. Expected contributions according to the 13th AMGA amounted to 191.000,00 EUR, but finally they have been 8.167 € higher due to the contributions made by the two new PN associates (MFA Estonia and MFA of the Netherlands).

MEMBER	COMMITTED CONTRIBUTION 2020-2021	RECEIVED CONTRIBUTION 2020-2021	CONTRIBUTION RATE
ADA	5.000,00	5.000,00	100%
AECID	17.000,00	17.000,00	100%
AFD	17.000,00	17.000,00	100%
AICS	9.000,00	9.000,00	100%
BC	9.000,00	9.000,00	100%
CAMOES	4.000,00	4.000,00	100%
CPMA	5.000,00	5.000,00	100%
CZECHAID	5.000,00	5.000,00	100%
DANIDA-DK MFA	9.000,00	9.000,00	100%
FDCO (ex DFID)	17.000,00	17.000,00	100%
EF	9.000,00	9.000,00	100%
ENABEL	9.000,00	9.000,00	100%
FIIAPP	9.000,00	9.000,00	100%
GIZ	17.000,00	17.000,00	100%
LUXDEV	5.000,00	5.000,00	100%
MFA ESTONIA	0,00	2.917,00	
MFA NETHERLANDS	0,00	5.250,00	
ROAID	5.000,00	5.000,00	100%
SAIDC	5.000,00	5.000,00	100%
Sida	9.000,00	9.000,00	100%
SNV	9.000,00	9.000,00	100%
EC/DG DEVCO	17.000,00	17.000,00	100%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>191.000,00</b>	<b>199.167,00</b>	<b>104%</b>

Concerning expenditure, the 2020-2021 budget approved in the last AMGA was of 261.128,01 EUR, while expenses this year (including 2020-2021 commitments not yet paid) amounted to 172.619,07 EUR, which represents 66% execution rate. The main reason that explains this difference between planned and real expenses is the absence of face-to-face meetings and events due to pandemic. The Coordination fee represents 48% of the total PN costs, and the new PN website design 22%.

BUDGET ITEM	2020-2021 BUDGET <sup>2</sup>	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	BALANCE	EXECUTION RATE
1. Coordinator fee	93.150,00 €	83.632,50 €	9.517,50 €	90%
2. Office rent	3.569,50 €	3.569,50 €	0,00 €	100%
3. Office equipment	1.600,00 €	0,00 €	1.600,00 €	0%
4. Communication & other office costs	327,60 €	528,46 €	-200,86 €	161%
5. Travel costs	6.800,00 €	0,00 €	6.800,00 €	0%

<sup>2</sup> As per the Budget modification approved by the SC on October 21, 2020



6. Marketing costs website	44.338,91 €	37.597,96 €	6.740,95 €	85%
7. Marketing other	1.742,00 €	214,50 €	1.527,50 €	12%
8. Advisory, consultancy fees	0,00 €	0,00 €	0,00 €	
9. Studies	35.000,00 €	15.000,00 €	20.000,00 €	43%
10. Event costs WG & SC meetings	9.500,00 €	0,00 €	9.500,00 €	0%
11. Event costs EDD	0,00 €	0,00 €	0,00 €	
12. Event costs General Assembly	10.000,00 €	10.000,00 €	0,00 €	100%
13. Event others	55.000,00 €	22.022,00 €	32.978,00 €	40%
14. Bank expenses	100,00 €	54,15 €	45,85 €	54%
<b>SUB-TOTAL</b>	<b>261.128,01 €</b>	<b>172.619,07 €</b>	<b>88.508,94 €</b>	<b>66%</b>
Contingencies (10%)	0,00 €	0,00 €	0,00 €	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>261.128,01 €</b>	<b>172.619,07 €</b>	<b>88.508,94 €</b>	<b>66%</b>

Low budget execution plus the high balance of the previous year (195.481,19 EUR) have enabled the healthy current financial situation of the PN, ending the 2020-2021 year with a total reserve of 222.029,12 EUR.

BALANCE	EUR
(+) BALANCE PREVIOUS YEAR	195.481,19 €
(+) TRANSFERS RECEIVED	199.167,00 €
<b>(1) TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<b>394.648,19 €</b>
<b>(2) EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>172.619,07 €</b>
<b>(3) TOTAL RESERVE (1) - (2)</b>	<b>222.029,12 €</b>

An internal audit confirming these figures was performed and signed by the 2020-2021 Troika (AECID, CPMA-GIZ, Enabel-LuxDev) at the end of April 2020.

## 6. LOOKING AHEAD

During the 14<sup>th</sup> AMGA held in Brussels, Belgium, on May 20 – 21, 2021, in a hybrid format with 37 in-person participants and 53 online attendees, the following subjects arose:

### 6.2 Future roles and ambition of the PN

The members of the Practitioners' Network reflected on how to increase the strategic contribution to tackle major global challenges from a development perspective, how to promote synergies and partnerships with EDFs and with non-European Development Agencies, and how to better facilitate joint implementation initiatives, with inclusiveness. The CEOs discussion brought several ideas to be developed within the PN. Overall consensus was expressed around the relevance of the Team Europe Initiatives and of working together, but also the importance to strengthen partnerships between European technical assistance and financial assistance providers, the opportunity to mobilise the European Public Sector Expertise in development Cooperation, the need to focus on key thematic priorities for the EU agenda, like the European Green Deal and digitalisation, as well as to be more present in international development fora to share innovative ideas.



## 6.2. The priorities of the CPMA-GIZ co-Presidency

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The PN strategic priorities for 2021-2022 are a continuation of the work that has been done so far by the whole PN community:

- Inclusiveness as a key approach to ensure that all PN members contribute and engage in the activities of the PN.
- Increased focus on the European Green Deal since it is a top priority of the European Commission and most PN members.
- Digitalisation. It is not about duplicating other existing initiatives, but to exchange among PN members experiences of implementing digital projects.
- Public Sector Expertise. A Study of two phases has been made recently providing many recommendations that should be implemented.
- Build a closer partnership between technical assistance providers and financial actors.
- While cooperation with DG INTPA is very efficient, building stronger relations and closer cooperation with DG NEAR, since the Neighbourhood and Western Balkan region are Partner Countries of important programmes financed by the EU and implemented by PN members.

With regard to the global agenda for 2021–2022, the incoming Co-Presidency would like to ensure that all meetings are held in a hybrid modality (i.e., in-person, with the option to join online). It would also like to indicatively propose the participation in/organisation of several events: the European Development Days (15–16 June, 2021); CODEV event (21 June, 2021); PSE infopoint (6 July, 2021); a special event to present the PSE study recommendations (TBD, July 2021); PN on the field, organised by LuxDev–Enabel (TBD, September 2021); Inclusiveness workshop (w/c 18 October, 2021); Paris Peace Forum (11–13 November, 2021); UN Climate Change Conference COP26 (1–12 November, 2021); Finance in Common Summit (TBD, November 2021); PN on the field event in the NEAR region (TBD, January–February 2022); presentation of the PN at the EU Parliament (TBD, March 2021); and the 15th AMGA in Vilnius (TBD, May 2022).

Another innovative initiative of the new dual Presidency is to restructure the current working group composition, an idea which has already been discussed with PN members with wide agreement. The proposal is to reflect on the coherence of the WG and how to best include the new PN priorities, such as the Green Deal and digitalisation, cooperation of technical and financial assistance providers. In this regard, the proposal is to create a widely encompassing Thematic WG to avoid the proliferation of WG as a result of the inclusion of the new topics to be addressed by the PN, to be inclusive by including under this WG all the activities that the different members would like to organise, and to enhance synergies between the different areas. The current WGs and TFs placed under the Thematic WG (most probably CFM WG and EiE Sub-WG, C&D TF and PS WG) of course will continue with their plans and activities. The Effective Partnership and Implementation WG would be on horizontal aspects of members' work. The TE Task Force would continue as it is now. The proposals will be finalised soon to present the definitive option in the first SC meeting of the 2021-2022 year for the final decision.

## 6.3. The 2021-2022 Work plan

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Although the full WG work plan for 2021 - 2022 still must be compiled and finalised, during the 14<sup>th</sup> AMGA the WG and TF co-leads shared their main objectives for the next year:

**Contractual & Financial Framework Working Group:**

For the incoming PN year, the main objective of the WG remains unchanged and is to assure that simplified and viable contractual frameworks are established under which Network members can collaborate with the EU. This involves the continuation of the discussions with DG INTPA and DG NEAR on the CA contract template and its Manual and the recurring issues around the CA contractual set up (VAT, legal commitments, etc.). Also, the MPCA and SCO Task Forces will continue, as well as the exchange formats with the OPSYS Change Management team and OLAF. It is a very general work plan because they wish to address any relevant topic that might arise.

**Effective Partnership Working Group:**

According to the internal survey conducted by the co-leads of the Working Group, key topics of interest to dive into this upcoming year are: innovations in project management; monitoring and evaluation; Joint Implementation; inclusiveness and new alliances with partners (working with CSOs and searching for the bottom-up approach); mainstreaming the gender perspective and EU environment agenda; and public sector expertise. Regarding the ways of working, the vast majority of survey respondents preferred full-day hybrid meetings rather than shorter, fully virtual ones. Some of the initiatives brought forward by the members to look forward to in 2021–2022 are: mainstreaming gender; analysing corruption as an obstacle in development; exploring innovative project management tools; understanding results-based financing; sharing implementation experience; monitoring and evaluation; pivoting projects to respond to COVID-19.

**Crisis Fragility and Migration Working Group:**

According to the results of the online survey conducted, activities proposed are to strengthen mutual technical knowledge and exchange, identify synergies and opportunities for greater joint cooperation, meetings and networking events, and information sharing and updates with relevant EU actors (including EEAS/ECHO). There is also interest to develop a joint document or study on a topic of interest for CFM WG members. Main topics of the WG are: Migration, Crisis and Fragility, and Education in Emergencies. Regarding Migration, members want to follow a holistic approach including migration and development, partnership and policy dialogue, migration related to climate, impact of COVID and comprehensive support to migrant population. Discussion around working on fragile contexts will continue. In this regard a thematic Expert Seminar on “Working in Fragile and Conflict Affected Contexts” organised by Enabel, EF and BC will be held.

**Private Sector Working Group:**

For the upcoming year, the WG foresees an outreach event on the Study on the EU development agencies' response to cushion the economic effect of COVID-19 on the private sector and recommendations to the PN working group. They also plan to have 3 main technical workshops for instance in the areas of: integration of European Green Deal - circular economy, access to finance and investment, sustainable value chains, women's economic empowerment and gender integration, digitalization. The development of a study in one of the areas mentioned above, possibly undertaken in the framework of the newly established partnership with ETTG is foreseen, and a second event or seminar for the promotion of the study. Lastly, they also plan to facilitate the emergence of joint implementation initiatives.

**Culture & Development Task Force:**

The TF will focus on gathering evidence about the link of culture and sustainable development by identifying key interventions developed by PN members (mapping). Complementary to the mapping which includes quantitative and qualitative analysis, they plan to create a library on the PN website collecting literature, research, and reports on the evaluation of projects. They are also preparing a series of webinars on the contribution of Culture to EU priorities (Green Deal; Science, technology,



innovation, digitization; Sustainable growth and employment; Migration and mobility; Human development, peace and governance; Protection of cultural heritage; Development of a comprehensive partnership with Africa; Promotion of the SDGs).

#### Team Europe Task Force:

The TF aims to continue organising exchange on a regular basis together with DG INTPA, DG NEAR and EEAS and coordinate PN members' comments for further TEIs elaboration. Also, they plan to organise workshops on the following topics: TE and the triple nexus (in coordination with the CFM working group), cooperation between Technical Assistance providers and Financial Assistance providers, Monitoring and TEIs evaluation methodologies, and the inclusion of local expertise in the implementation of TE. Finally, they plan to organise a special event to celebrate the first anniversary of Team Europe.

### 6.4. The 2021-2022 Budget

In order to implement these tasks, the PN has a budget of 289.872,46 EUR<sup>3</sup>, 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 several studies; and 3. To promote some events, at WG and global level. The high reserve acquired this year allows this budget increase.

Budget items	2021-2022 BUDGET DRAFT
1. Coordination fee	93.150,00
2. Office rent	3.569,50
3. Office equipment	1.600,00
4. Communication & other office costs	10.590,20
5. Travel costs	8.400,00
6. Marketing costs website	2.508,76
7. Marketing other	1.934,00
9. Studies	80.000,00
10. WG & TF meetings	8.000,00
11. EDDs	2.300,00
12. General Assembly	10.000,00
13. Steering Committee meetings	1.500,00
14. WG proposed events	51.420,00
15. Other events	14.800,00
16. Bank expenses	100,00
<b>TOTAL GENERAL</b>	<b>289.872,46</b>

<sup>3</sup> The budget will be formally endorsed in the first Steering Committee meeting under the CPMA-GIZ Co-Presidency.