



ANNUAL REPORT

2022 – 2023

FIIAPP – SNV co-Presidency



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

FIIAPP and SNV held the third dual Presidency of the Practitioners' Network for European Development Cooperation (PN) from 12 May 2022 to 11 May 2023, standing out for the promotion of deeper strategic reflections and collaborations with other networks and partners, the involvement of partner countries and the PN effectiveness and impact in a wide range of activities.

Over the course of this year, the co-Presidency focused on *"inclusiveness, Policy First principle and partner countries' involvement"*, promoting the role of the PN as a key driver for strengthening better European development cooperation. Taking into consideration the ambitions outlined in the PN Strategic Vision 2030, the co-Presidency worked on practical aspects of the Network's "how to" and working better together, development effectiveness and the role of technical cooperation within the European Architecture for Development (EAD), Global Gateway Strategy and Team Europe approach. The co-Presidency has invested considerable efforts in promoting deeper synergies between technical and financial cooperation, engaging with private sector actors and effectively mobilising public sector expertise. Furthermore exchanges and learnings among the PN Members have been deepened and boosted, especially on prioritised topics such as digitalisation, fragility and gender. Finally, the co-Presidency has created space for more strategic dialogue among CEOs and high-level networks.

The annual Inclusiveness Event co-organised by the PN and DG INTPA was dedicated to the promotion of effective partnerships between European implementers and Development Finance Institutions (DFIs) and culminated with the endorsement of the Joint EDFI-JEFIC-PN Statement of Intent. This Statement serves as a new step towards fostering closer collaboration and dialogue among the three networks, in the context of Team Europe and the Global Gateway strategy.

Moreover, the FIIAPP-SNV co-Presidency organised the first ever PN country visit to Kenya and ensured the active participation and representation of the Network in several high-profile international fora, such as the European Development Days (EDD 2022), G4AW: Space 4 Food Security, Finance in Common Summit 2022 and the 27th session of the Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27).

Internally, the co-Presidency focused on inclusiveness as a key approach to guarantee that all PN Members contribute and engage in the activities of the Network. They also continued the work of the CPMA-GIZ co-Presidency, by fine-tuning the WG/TF structure with the creation of one new Task Force on Gender Equality and by reviving of the previously existing Public Technical Cooperation Task Force.

The establishment of periodic co-leads coordination meetings improved the coordination and synergies amongst the different WGs. Furthermore, the co-Presidency developed a bi-annual Communication Action Plan together with the incoming President, Expertise France. The plan provided a consistent and regular schedule to the external communication activities of the PN and reinforced the communication for specific events and activities. The reinforcement of the Coordination team with an additional consultant specialised in communication has effectively improved the management of the website, the systematisation of documents and resources in the Members Area and the overall visibility and external communication activities of the PN.

The incoming Expertise France Presidency shared with all PN Members the priorities for 2023–2024, focusing on the policy areas highlighted during the CEOs roundtable.

The PN 2023–2024 Work Plan was drafted after a rigorous consultation process with all PN Members and is guided by the values and principles of inclusiveness, involvement, and utility. It integrates the Team Europe approach and Working Better Together, as well as the need for continuity and sustainability of the Network. The main areas to develop are the PN role in the context of the European Architecture for Development, the engagement of the Network with external partners and determined the continued reflection on the added value of the PN for its membership. In order to implement these priorities, Expertise France will ensure a constant link with the Troika, Steering Committee Members, co-leads of the WG/WS/TF, and dissemination of information to all PN Members. EF will organise a PN retreat (in the last week of September 2023), a second PN Country Visit, and the Inclusiveness Event jointly with PN Members and DG INTPA.

1. INTRODUCTION

The Practitioners' Network for European Development Cooperation is an informal network of national European non-profit bodies with a public service mission in development cooperation as a core activity and which directly implement European or bilateral development cooperation and are 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.

Members closely work with policy makers and contribute to informing policy processes with practitioners' experience, while implementing European development policies with impact.

It supports and contributes to the operationalisation of the Team Europe (TE) approach, while promoting inclusiveness in the EU external action. It acts on the basis of complementary competences between PN organisations and the European Commission.

As European organisations and key partners to the EC, within their diversity PN Members are committed to closely cooperate with each other and to ensure efficient and effective implementation of European development policies and agendas, at the EU, national and partner country levels. A strong commitment to a complementary division of labour and joint implementation is part of PN Members' operational approach

This report aims at capturing what happened with and within the Network and its key achievements during the period from 12 May 2022 to 11 May 2023, under the FIIAPP-SNV co-Presidency.

2. PN STRUCTURE AND ORGANISATION

2.1. MAIN DECISIONS TAKEN AT THE 15TH AMGA

The PN activities for the period 2022–2023 started with the 15th Annual Meeting of the General Assembly (AMGA), held in a hybrid format in Vilnius on 11–12 May 2022, where CPMA and GIZ handed over the co-Presidency of the Network to FIIAPP and SNV. The Members of the Practitioners' Network (PN) celebrated the 15th anniversary of the PN looking back at the highlights of their contributions, experiences, added value, challenges and learnings, but also looking ahead to future challenges, opportunities in European and Development Cooperation and the role of the PN until 2030.

During the AMGA, Members recognised the PN as a valuable platform for dialogue with the EU and among Members, with an inclusive approach, open to receive new Members, and effective in strengthening coordination. Looking ahead, it was agreed that the recovery from the pandemic and the Russian war against Ukraine requires enhanced capacity to resist to shocks, to work even closer together, to be open, flexible, and resilient, given the pressing interconnected global challenges. PN Members agreed in sharing their work in a co-creation spirit, building complementarity, synergies, and unity.

The PN successes were also highlighted such as the endorsement of relevant declarations and action plans including the Strategic Vision PN 2030, the Declaration on the importance of maximising European Public Sector Expertise, and the Joint Statement on the Coordination of European Development and Finance Institutions on the Africa Continent.

The General Assembly agreed on the composition of the PN executive bodies, with the following results:

- Steering Committee 2022–2023: ADA, Enabel, Sida CPMA–GIZ, FIIAPP–SNV, Expertise France
- Troika 2022–2023: CPMA–GIZ, FIIAPP–SNV, Expertise France
- Presidency 2023–2024: Expertise France

2.2. STEERING COMMITTEE

The PN Steering Committee (SC) held a total of seven meetings during this year, the first was held on 7 July 2022, and the last one on 25 April 2023. All Steering Committee meetings were held in a hybrid format in Brussels and two online (February and April 2023), thus 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. The minutes of the meetings were shared with all PN Members together with supporting documents and uploaded in the Members' area of the PN website. 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:

- PN management issues, such as:
 - Assessment of new applications to the Network 's Membership.
 - Approval of studies and follow-up of activities implemented by PN Members.
 - Promotion of new initiatives to be undertaken in the PN framework.
 - Planning and follow-up of PN ad-hoc events and sessions.
 - Planning and follow up of the PN Communication Action Plan.
 - Follow up of the PN financial management, approval of expenses.
 - Assessment and approval of services to be hired.
- Strategic reflections, such as:
 - European architecture for development/Team Europe structure.
 - External Partners and Friends of the PN.
 - Partnerships and Joint Statement with EDFI and JEFIC.
 - How to operationalise the Policy First principle.

2.3. CO- PRESIDENCY

The FIIAPP and SNV co-Presidency was notable for its excellent organisation, its promotion of deeper strategic reflections and stronger partnerships and structured dialogue with external partners. They continued working on the "how to", co-organising an Inclusiveness Event together with DG INTPA in March 2023. The event resulted in recommendations on how to collaborate more deeply and effectively with DFIs. Furthermore, the relationship and dialogue with EDFI and JEFIC was reinforced with a CEO meeting and the endorsement of a joint Statement of Intent among the three networks.

Moreover, the FIIAPP-SNV co-Presidency organised the first ever PN country visit to Kenya and ensured the active participation and representation of the Network in several high-profile international fora in order to reinforce the visibility of the PN.

Finally, they also held several discussions on strategic communication and building joint narratives in the framework of Team Europe and Global Gateway. Across the year they organised consistent dialogues among CEOs in order to share the relevant information and to enhance trust and cooperation.

Specific strategic achievements of the co-Presidency are described under section 3.1.

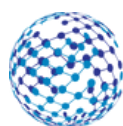
2.4. MEMBERS, ASSOCIATES AND OBSERVERS STATUS

During this year, the Network has officially accepted two new Associates, the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO) and the Latvian Central Finance and Contracting Agency (CFCA), who have joined the PN in May 2023 after fulfilling the set requirements.

The Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO) is already pillar assessed and Central Finance and Contracting Agency (CFCA) is in the process of becoming pillar assessed.

In addition, other European development bodies raised their interest to join the PN such as CIVIPOL from France, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland and NUFFIC, a Dutch organisation focused on education.

The Practitioners' Network currently consists of **16 Members, 7 Associates and 1 Observer** listed below:



Practitioners' Network
for European Development Cooperation

2.5. PN COORDINATION SERVICE

In 2022, the coordination service provided by PROEVAL has been enriched with one part time consultant focused primarily on improving internal and external communication, recruited with an open call for applications and a selection procedure carried out by a panel composed of 6 Troika representatives. The Coordination Team is now composed of Alejandra Rojo, main consultant since January 2021, Noelia Tiedeke, supporting consultant since PROEVAL started offering the PN coordination service in September 2019 and Sonia Perez communication consultant since mid-October 2022.

The coordination team has supported all the activities of the co-Presidency and the Working Groups and Task Forces of the PN with quality and efficiency. The addition of a communication consultant has effectively improved the management of the website, the systematisation of documents and resources in the Members Area and the overall visibility and external communication activities of the PN. The overall coordination of the PN and support to the Members and the management of new Membership application has been ensured by the Coordinator and the financial management of the PN has been carried out smoothly by Proeval.

2.6. WORKING BETTER WITHIN THE PN

2.6.1. CREATION OF THE GENDER TASK FORCE AND RE-LAUNCHING OF PUBLIC TECHNICAL COOPERATION TASK FORCE

The PN Gender Equality Task Force (GETF), and the Public Technical Cooperation Task Force were respectively set up and relaunched in May 2022, following the agreement reached at the Annual Meeting of the General Assembly of the Practitioners' Network in 2022 in Vilnius.

The GETF, co-lead by FIIAPP and Sida, developed its Terms of Reference in July 2022 with the objective of increasing mainstreaming and integration of gender equality (GE) in the Practitioners' Network's work.



The Public Technical Cooperation TF was relaunched and renamed in May 2022 after having acknowledged the increasing relevance of public sector expertise within the European cooperation agenda, following the Council conclusions on European Public Sector Expertise (PSE) "EU public sector expertise: a key asset at the service of EU's partner countries" endorsed at the Foreign Affairs Council (Development) on 19 November 2021 and the PN Declaration on the importance of maximising European PSE potential for EU and its MS external action on 16 December 2021. These two TFs prove the importance of the PN as a relevant forum for promoting synergies and mutual learning in order to maximise the full potential and benefits of European public sector expertise; and contribute to advancing towards the achievement of Gender Equality.

2.6.2. CO-LEADS COORDINATION MEETINGS

One of the most successful innovations for the internal coordination and communication of the PN WG/WS/TF was the establishment of regular co-leads coordination meetings, prior to each SCM. Co-leads of the different WG/WS/TF found in these meetings a space to plan their future activities, harmonise agendas and elaborate topics and ideas in a complementary way. This resulted in enhanced coordination, structuring calendars and minimisation of overlapping. Moreover, during the meetings co-leads had the opportunity to build synergies across their respective topics and brainstorm on potential collaborations and joint sessions. The meetings were also useful to discuss internal deadlines and reporting duties with Coordination, introduce and test innovative features in the Members' Area and encourage the timely updating of the Calendar of Activities and the Workplan.

Overall, the co-leads meetings contributed to facilitate coordination, communication and cohesion in the internal work of the PN.



3. PN STRATEGIC AND THEMATIC ACTION

3.1. RESULTS OF THE PN STRATEGIC WORK PLAN

3.1.1. STRATEGIC DISCUSSIONS WITHIN THE SC

3.1.1.1. EMERGING EUROPEAN ARCHITECTURE FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION SYSTEM

Under the FIIAPP-SNV co-Presidency, the SCM discussed and endorsed an internal document on the [European Architecture for Development \(EAD\)](#). The co-Presidency introduced the strategic reflection document on the EAD, aligned with the Strategic Vision 2030 approved at the AMGA 2022. As a PN internal document, it intends to develop a strategy between the three networks PN, EDFI and JEFIC, and reinforce the narrative about the role of technical cooperation and the PN added value in relation to financial cooperation. Besides, this non-paper established a roadmap to operationalise the EAD, for the PN to contribute from its technical cooperation (mainly) and implementation perspective to the construction of an emerging European cooperation system, as part of the PN engagement within the European development context. It also acknowledged the importance of the agreement among the three networks and showed their interest in the “Policy First principle”. For inclusiveness purposes, the document was shared within the PN and brought to the TETF. As it is an internal document of the PN, it has not been published.

3.1.1.2. TECHNICAL COOPERATION AND POLICY FIRST

As one of the key strategic discussions during the meetings of the SC, brought in during the FIIAPP-SNV co-Presidency continued was on [How to operationalise the Policy First principle](#), in particular the role of technical cooperation, in the emerging European cooperation system. The aim was to kick start the discussion about the strategic role of technical cooperation in the evolving priorities of the EU and those of partner countries, and the added value that the PN could have in promoting technical cooperation within the European Architecture for Development, in complementarity to other cooperation modalities.

Policy First principle refers to a methodology that practitioners can use to nurture and facilitate the policy dialogue in order to identify shared priorities with partner countries, building horizontal and inclusive partnerships with them.

Members discussed the important role of technical cooperation actors as implementing partners but also as strategic partners with experience and capacity to inform policy making decisions. In Global Gateway there is a role for technical cooperation to create the enabling environment and facilitate the involvement of the private sector to make those policy priorities a reality. The co-Presidency stressed the role of Policy First as a guiding principle of implementation and not only referring to the policy priorities of the EU. In the implementation phase, the Policy First principle serves to highlight the strategic role of technical cooperation in 1) guiding other cooperation modalities like financial cooperation or private sector investments, towards transformational development results, adapting the whole Team Europe toolbox to the iterative policy reform processes needed in partner countries; and 2) in structuring permanent policy dialogue mechanism with partner countries.

3.1.1.3. FRIENDS OF THE PN AND EXTERNAL PARTNERS

During the last few years, the PN has seen an increase in its engagement, visibility, and recognition, both within the European development cooperation context and globally. This has been demonstrated by its presence and participation, through the different (co-)Presidencies, in important multilateral fora for development cooperation. The co-Presidency presented a [Partnerships document](#) with a first mapping of like-minded actors. Some of the organisations mentioned in the document have already entered a form of partnership with the PN, like EDFI, and JEFIC, among other EU and non-EU partners. Most of the Members supported this document but also emphasised the need for clarity on these new partnerships as the PN is already a complex structure. In addition, they welcomed the idea of fostering deeper dialogue with some of these organisations on an ad-hoc basis. Members suggested initiating a mapping of partners starting from WG/WS & TF partners, to be shared with SC Members.

3.1.2. CEO MEETINGS AND PN REPRESENTATION AT THE EUDGX MEETINGS

In line with the outline of priorities presented at the 2022 AMGA, and building on the work of previous co-Presidencies, the FIIAPP-SNV co-Presidency strived to promote meaningful occasions for strategic dialogue among CEOs, in addition to the traditional meeting at the AMGA. To this end, two in-person CEOs meetings were convened.

The meeting of the PN CEOs, that took place on 17 March 2023, gathered representatives from the three Brussels-based networks representing Team Europe actors: the Practitioners' Network, European Development Finance Institutions (EDFI) and Joint European Financiers for International Cooperation (JEFIC). This represented a unique opportunity to gather partners that do not often have the opportunity to exchange on deepening their collaboration.



This represented a unique gathering for partners that do not often have the opportunity to exchange.

A roundtable discussion was organised to endorse a joint Statement of Intent to enhance coordination and leverage their respective expertise to better align the three Networks' actions in the implementation of the Global Gateway strategy, in line with the Team Europe approach. The discussion was chaired by the PN co-Presidency, namely Simon O'Connell (SNV) and Anna Terrón (FIIAPP). Rémy Rioux, CEO of AFD, represented JEFIC, and Bruno Wenn intervened for EDFI. The European Commission was represented by Luc Bagur, Director of DG INTPA Directorate D.

This joint Statement of Intent sets the foundations to accelerate and scale up collaboration between and across technical cooperation actors within the Practitioners' Network and finance institutions, ultimately leading to greater impact'
said Simon O'Connell, SNV CEO and PN co-President.

The three networks represent more than 40 organisations from 21 countries, 18 of which are EU Member States. The Joint Statement can be found [here](#).

A few weeks later, on 29 March 2022, CEOs gathered in Nairobi for a high-level meeting with local and international partners, which was organised in the framework of the PN Country Visit to Kenya (see 3.1.5).

PN REPRESENTATION AT THE EUDGX MEETINGS

For the first time this year, the Practitioners' Network co-Presidency had the opportunity to participate in the EU Development Directors-General (EUDGx) meetings, organised periodically by DG INTPA. This allowed the PN to interact with MS representatives and bring the perspective of the Network in these high-level discussions around the implementation of the European Development Cooperation system.

In their interventions, the PN co-Presidency focused on the **"how to"** perspective emphasising the operational needs of its membership in the implementation of the Global Gateway strategy and highlighted its commitment to Team Europe Initiatives (TEIs) as an opportunity to achieve more ambitious development effectiveness objectives.

In the aftermath of the EUDGx meetings the PN organised virtual CEOs meetings to report on the topics discussed and collect Members' views and positions to inform future policy dialogues. This additional space for informal exchange at CEO level was very much welcomed by Members.

Beyond a more vigorous private sector mobilisation, the PN raised the need to balance how much development actors leverage private sector with other key aspects of working in fragile contexts and emphasised the necessity of a closer cooperation between technical and financial institutions. The EUDGs also agreed on the need to coordinate the role of non-ODA tools (ie. export promotion).

3.1.3. DG INTPA & PN INCLUSIVENESS EVENT 2023

The 3rd edition of the PN Annual Inclusiveness event focused on the “Effective partnerships between European implementers and Development Finance Institutions (DFIs): bridging the financing gap in developing countries” and was organised by DG INTPA and the Practitioners’ Network. The event took place on 16th March 2023, in Brussels, Belgium; with possibility to connect online too. It was moderated by Dr San Bilal, Senior Executive at ECDPM (European Centre for Development Policy Management). The event brought together multiple European development actors including the Practitioners’ Network (PN), European Development Finance Institutions (EDFI), Joint European Financiers for International Cooperation (JEFIC) and representatives from the European Commission and the EIB.

This event aimed at bringing together different actors involved in technical and financial cooperation for an exchange of experiences with a view to identifying important next steps and recommendations towards effective partnerships between development cooperation agencies, and financial assistance providers like DFIs and development banks in the EU’s contribution to the Addis agenda and Agenda 2030. During the event, participants exchanged on how a relevant mix of technical and financial cooperation can best contribute to development impact in partner countries, in the frame of their efforts to design and develop their Integrated national financial frameworks (INFFs).



A list of recommendations was identified by the participants after the presentation of eight different example cases of coordination between DFIs, MSOs, EC, and public development banks. Among the recommendations, the participants agreed on the need to foster greater collaboration between technical cooperation and financial providers during the programming, implementation, monitoring and evaluation phases. At the institutional level, the recommendations suggest setting an explicit mandate for coordination, share information on competences and responsibilities, embrace peer learning to get to know each other better, and agree on a common methodology and standards. At the country level, enhancing local presence, addressing systemic issues in a holistic manner, conducting a joint analysis of partner countries’ situation, identifying financing gaps based on INFFs (Integrated National Financing Frameworks), include different stakeholders and using existing TEIs’ governance and management structures were mentioned. Finally suggestions included the opportunity to consider cooperation beyond technical and financial cooperation partners, and beyond EU actors.

Participants highlighted the added value of Technical and Financial Cooperation working together in order to improve the feasibility, and social and political sustainability of investments; enhance inclusiveness and participation of all actors in a highly fragmented system; reduce transaction costs; or develop “public policy roadmaps” and improve regulatory and policy frameworks.

3.1.4. ENDORSEMENT BY EDFI, JEFIC AND PN OF THE JOINT STATEMENT OF INTENT ON AN ENHANCED COLLABORATION OF THE THREE NETWORKS

On March 17th, the **Practitioners' Network (PN)**, the Association of bilateral **European Development Finance Institutions (EDFI)**, and the **Joint European Financiers for International Cooperation (JEFIC)**, endorsed a joint Statement of Intent to further enhance the collaboration among the three networks. This declaration was the outcome and major deliverable of the dialogue that was initiated by the co-Presidency at the High-level Panel in the EDDs22 and the structured dialogue that followed at technical level between the three networks from July 2022 to February 2023.



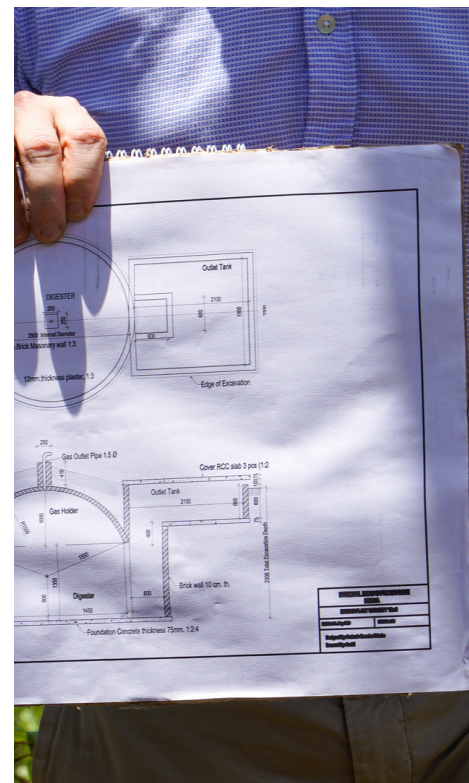
This **Joint Statement of Intent** recognises the variety and diversity of actors and tools that are part of the **Team Europe approach**, and the distinctive elements of the European development cooperation system. The development organisations of the three networks have identified potential cooperation areas and are leveraging their strengths, added value and expertise to deliver appropriate solutions together with our partner countries. In line with the Policy First principle, nurturing policy dialogue with partner countries ensures that technical and financial cooperation actions are guided towards impactful development results (SDGs).

Each Member of the three networks brings their own knowledge of country needs and priorities, expertise in public policy dialogues, understanding of investment readiness and experience in working with both the public and private sectors. By working together, they can leverage the collective knowledge of the country's needs and priorities towards transformational impact. This endorsement also intends to further continue the successful collaboration and promote the **Global Gateway Strategy** and Team Europe Initiatives, with a view to reaching more impact together under the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The full Joint Statement of Intent can be accessed [here](#).



VISIT TO KENYA



3.1.5. PN COUNTRY VISIT TO KENIA

In 2023, for the first time in the history of the PN, the FIIAPP–SNV co–Presidency organised a joint visit to Kenya. From 28 to 31 March, more than 30 participants from 16 PN Member organisations gathered in Nairobi for an intense programme of meetings, project visits and learning sessions. The visit featured 10 projects, jointly implemented by several PN Members, distributed over the four days. Each day tackled a specific thematic area: Green Energy Transition, Climate Change, Digitalisation and Youth Employment and Water.

On the first day, the PN was hosted by the Delegation of the European Union to Kenya for an opening meeting. During this meeting, PN Members discussed the EU priorities for cooperation in Kenya and in the surrounding region of East Africa and the Team Europe Initiatives and Global Gateway Flagship Projects taking place in the region.

After the meeting, the PN delegation moved on to visit four project sites, two per project. The two projects, “Energising Development” (GIZ–SNV) and “REACT SSA” (SIDA) worked on energy transition and access to clean energy through the installation of biodigesters, solar–powered machines and water–pumps in small–holder farms.

The second day started with a visit to the “Integrated & Climate Smart Innovations for Agro–Pastoralist Economies and Landscapes in Kenya’s ASALs (ICSIAPL)” project implemented by SNV in the Arid and Semi–Arid Lands of Kenya. The visit was followed by a High–Level CEOs Meeting with international and Kenyan partners, moderated by the awarded journalist and TV host Jeff Koinange. The purpose of the meeting was to deep dive into the themes of the visit and explore opportunities for better partnerships in the face of global challenges such as climate change, food insecurity, energy access and structural unemployment. Principal Secretary for Energy, Mr. Alex Kamau Wachira, welcomed PN Members and participants with a keynote speech.

On day three, the PN was invited by the Goethe–Institut to discover the transformative power of their “Culture and Creative Industries Programme” (jointly implemented with GIZ) and its ramifications in the domains of digitalisation, youth employment and women empowerment. The visit was followed by a learning session with four project presentations: “SOCIEUX+” by FIIAPP, Expertise France and Enabel, “D4D Hub Initiative for Digital Government and Cybersecurity” by FIIAPP, Expertise France and GIZ, “Digitalisation of primary and secondary schools and enhancement of digital skills of teachers in Machakos County” by SlovakAid and “Growth, Environment and Maritime Security along the Kenyan coast” by Expertise France, AICS and Camoes.

The last day of the visit revolved around the topic of water, opening with a presentation of the “Climate proofing infrastructure for improved water supply and sanitation in ASAL regions” project by SNV, followed by a visit to Hydroponics Africa, beneficiary of the “Water and Energy for Food” project managed by GIZ.

The visit concluded the four–days programme, which was particularly appreciated by participants for the unique opportunity to discover innovative joint initiatives and learn from each other and from numerous Kenyan partners from the public and private sector and civil society. Finally, the joint mission contributed to enhance the visibility and profile of the PN towards the partner country and other international actors, including the Delegation of the European Union to Kenya.

3.2. RESULTS OF THE PN WORKING GROUPS AND TASK FORCES

3.2.1. EFFECTIVE PARTNERSHIP & IMPLEMENTATION WORKING GROUP

The Effective Partnerships and Implementation Working Group (EPIWG), promotes an inclusive and effective platform for European development cooperation in line with SDG 17. It does this through three Result Areas:

- 1) Enhancing the PN's ability to work inclusively with other stakeholders
- 2) Amplifying joint implementation knowledge and activity
- 3) Sharing knowledge of cross-cutting issues.

Below is a summary of the results achieved by Members of this working group during the 2022–2023 year, facilitated through:

- Five meetings
- Four new or non-PN Members introduced to the working group: ESTDEV, Goethe-Institut, Mission of Norway to the EU and an introduction to the Organisation of African, Caribbean and the Pacific states.
- Seven knowledge sharing presentations from PN Members: AFD, AECID, Sida, LuxDev, SNV, FCDO and CPMA.
- A report on the EU's external democracy action was also presented by International Idea.

Result Area 1 – PN enhances ability to work inclusively with other stakeholders

Four presentations by non-PN Members

In the spirit of inclusiveness and working with organisations outside of the PN, the EPIWG welcomed ESTDEV, Goethe-Institut, Mission of Norway to the EU, and the Organisation of African, Caribbean and the Pacific states to present their respective organisations and development work.

Result Area 2 – Amplifying joint implementation knowledge and activity

Seven knowledge-sharing, peer-exchange sessions organised

AFD presented a knowledge sharing presentation on the Sustainable Development Analysis and Opinion mechanism, sharing their experience of working with the above mechanism to promote dialogue throughout the project development cycle by raising questions regarding the operations' development impact on sustainable development and incorporating feedback into project design.

AECID and AFD shared their experience of blended finance and types of financial instruments, providing examples of projects implemented while using blending.

The Team Europe Initiative (TEI) on Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) in Sub-Saharan Africa was shared by Sida. TEI SRHR alignment to continental policy instruments was presented, together with the process to develop TEI.

Furthermore, International Idea presented a report on the EU's external democracy action in a new geopolitical reality, within the context of the Covid-19 pandemic, Russia's war against Ukraine, European democracy face new challenges. The report provided preliminary considerations and key recommendations for strengthening the EU democracy toolbox.

CPMA presented Aid Effectiveness through the establishment of funds, providing two case studies. A Multi-Donor Trust Fund was introduced, which is used for consolidating donor support to the independent Belarusian University in Exile. Another – Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid Fund – was presented from the angle of funding reconstruction projects in Ukraine.

Result Area 3 – Sharing knowledge of cross-cutting issues

LuxDev and AFD presented Human Rights Based Approaches (HRBA) and their integration in project implementation.

A session on Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (PME) was presented by SNV, illustrating the main principles, global indicators, minimum standards and health checks.



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3.2.2. CONTRACTUAL & FINANCIAL FRAMEWORK WORKING GROUP

The CFF WG, co-lead by Expertise France and GIZ, pursued its activities throughout the year, holding 3 meetings on issues related to contractual and financial issues. Proof of its importance for all PN organisations, it has been assessed as one of the most useful Working Groups by PN Members themselves. It is reflected in the high level of participation that we see during the sessions. Promoting peer exchanges and offering a unique channel of communication with the European Commission on these topics, the CFF WG remains one of the pillars of the PN.

- The first meeting was organised in June 2022 in response to unilateral changes that were made by the **EC to the Contribution Agreements templates**. It allowed me to start a discussion with the Commission to (i) better understand what the changes would entail for practitioners and (ii) advocate for further knowledge-sharing and prior coordination.
- In November 2022 the WG organised a broader discussion on several topics of relevance for PN MSOs, such as the **impact of inflation on the costs of projects and the experience of practitioners when working with UN agencies** (especially when subcontracting). Further, an MPCA task force note was presented during the session by the MPCA task force Members.
- In May 2023, the last 2022–23 working year meeting followed up on several topics such as the **experience of MSOs when working with UN agencies, the MPCA task force note and OPSYS**. These topics were discussed with colleagues from DG and allowed all Members to ask questions and raise issues they may encounter. Following the meeting, DG INTPA provided us with written replies to the most pressing issues: the document is now available to all PN Members and is used as guidance when working with UN agencies.
- On the case of **digital labour platforms**. This workshop's main purpose was to bring PN Members, partner organisations and the European Commission to exchange on the potentials and risks of digital labour platforms in the digital economy and the future of work. The meeting highlighted that the gig economy is becoming increasingly important, and platform work cannot be ignored. It is expanding across sectors, while the number of people in the EU working through labour platforms is expected to double by 2025.

The CFF WG is fully committed to pursuing its work in 2023–2024, addressing policy priorities from a Practitioners' perspective, sharing lessons learned among its Members, and engaging with the Commission.

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3.2.3. THEMATIC WORKING GROUP

3.2.3.1. CULTURE & DEVELOPMENT WS

During 2022–2022, the Culture and Development workstream has reinforced the exchange of experiences among group Members through regular meetings, exchange webinars and the promotion of a workstream study project on the monitoring and evaluation of initiatives and programmes in the culture sector.

The webinar **Cultural heritage as resource for sustainable economic and social development of cities and rural settlements in Central America**, led by AICS and AECID, was held on the 28th of June 2022 and counted 60 participants from PN Members, EU institutions, UNESCO, EUNIC. With contributions from field offices in Cuba, El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, Mexico, the webinar aimed to reflect and exchange experiences on possible different approaches to urban regeneration in Central America by means of actions on local cultural heritage, with a particular attention to the economic and social development processes that can be activated.

In September 2022 the co-leads promoted a **Consultation with DG NEAR** on the *South Med culture programme* (€6M, 2020–2024) with the aim of having an early intelligence on the programme, which currently foresees 3 components with specific objectives on the theme of gender and culture:

- 1) cross-cutting issues e.g. green and digital (€4M open call)
- 2) gender equality (€2M)
- 3) women entrepreneurship (€2M).

8 PN Members took part to the online consultation useful to the drafting of a document to be presented in September to the NDICI Committee.

In February 2023 a presentation on the Mondiacult Declaration was held by UNESCO and a series of opportunities to engage with UNESCO activities were shared. The PN C&D group agreed to develop a Joint Statement from PN on the endorsement of Mondiacult Declaration.

In February 2023 the co-leads submitted the Terms of Reference for the **M&E Research 'Development of a common study for a framework for the measurement, monitoring and evaluation of the social, economic and environmental impact of development cooperation programmes and projects on culture'** to the Steering Committee, which was approved on 21 February 2023. The allocated budget for Phase 1 is €10,000 for the Research and €5,000 for the workshop.

British Council offered to launch the Call for Proposals and manage the contract and payment with the selected supplier. The call was launched on Tuesday 7 March and the research Team Kollektiva was selected to conduct the research. Following desk analysis and gathering of PN Members M&E frameworks and tools, a workshop has taken place in Brussels on the 19–20th of June with the following participants : AICS, AECID, British Council, GIZ, Goethe-Institut, Expertise France (online); follow up will take place also with other Members who have expressed an interest: Enabel, Camoes, Sida. The aim of the workshop was to share first results and define next steps of the study.

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3.2.3.2. DIGITALISATION WS

The Digitalisation Work Stream, was successfully revived this year thanks to the collaboration between the GIZ and Expertise France. It drafted terms of reference to better ensure continuity and coherence among the group and its activities; held two meetings throughout the year and carried out a mapping exercise to further foster synergies and information-sharing.

In complementarity with the D4DHub, the mapping exercise has been key in strengthening mutual knowledge between PN agencies, allowing Members to develop synergies on common thematic and geographical areas of interest.

Further, the WS organised two meetings over the course of 2022–2023:

- In November 2022, the WS organised a discussion on digital transformation. Gathering participants from the European Commission, the Ministry of foreign affairs of Finland and practitioners, the meeting aimed at addressing the role of Global Gateway in digital transformation through connectivity. More precisely, the main purpose of this workshop was to understand the role of the **Global Gateway initiative for digital connectivity**, share PN Members' implementing and learning experiences on the topic, and further explore possibilities for intervention and cooperation for effective implementation. For all Members, the meeting was the opportunity to increase their knowledge about a sometimes complex-to-catch concept, and exchange on topics such as public-private partnership; the issue of procurement guidelines; and the growing importance of Latin America, besides the African continent.
- On 15 February 2023, the Digitalisation WS convened to exchange with the European Commission and researchers on the important topic of the digital economy and the future of work, with a focus on the case of digital labour platforms. This workshop's main purpose was to bring PN Members, partner organisations and the European Commission to exchange on the potentials and risks of digital labour platforms in the digital economy and the future of work. The meeting highlighted that the gig economy is becoming increasingly important, and platform work cannot be ignored. It is expanding across sectors, while the number of people in the EU working through labour platforms is expected to double by 2025.

The Digitalisation WS is set to continue its work in 2023–2024, exchanging with international partners, addressing policy priorities from a Practitioners' perspective and sharing lessons learned among its Members.

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3.2.3.3. FRAGILITY WS

The Fragility Work Stream, can be considered to some extent the successor of the previous Crises Fragility and Migration WS, with a proposed workplan focused mainly on different aspects of the work in fragile and context afflicted settings. Expertise France has been leading the WS in 2022–2023 with the strong involvement of SNV.

The WS organised two meetings over the course of 2022–2023:

- On 21 October 2022 the WS organised a **session on the EU initiative to establish Solidarity Lanes to ensure the transit of goods to and from Ukraine**. In particular, the session was organised to respond to a specific request from DG NEAR and DG MOVE, whose aim was to gather inputs from practitioners and coordinate their potential contributions to the initiative. DG NEAR and DG MOVE presented their initiatives both in the short term to put in place capacity to significantly increase grain exports and rapid transit across the border and long-term structural interventions to strengthen the existing infrastructure in Ukraine and Moldova. Moreover, AFD presented some of their planned and ongoing interventions in Moldova especially in the railway sector, while ESTDEV outlined their programming for reconstruction in Ukraine. The meeting allowed several agencies to coordinate with the Commission and strengthen synergies between their respective activities.
- On 16th February 2023, the Fragility WS convened Members for an expert workshop on fragility and migration. Internal displacement and migration sit at the very centre of the humanitarian–development–peace nexus. The intersectionality between migration and fragility results in complex dynamics: migration can be at the same time a result of conflicts at its origin and a source of conflict at the destination. The IOM was invited to present their Toolkit on how to mainstream migration in international cooperation and development in fragile contexts. The toolkit was developed in the framework of a project financed by DG INTPA with the aim of filling the knowledge gap when dealing with the multidimensional aspects of migration, after DG INTPA introduced a 10% target of funds earmarked towards migration. In the second part of the session PN Members (SNV; British Council) shared their experiences on working in refugee camps and on better migration management.

The Fragility WS is set to continue its work in 2023–2024, exchanging with international partners, addressing policy priorities from a Practitioners' perspective and sharing lessons learned among its Members.

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3.2.3.4. PRIVATE SECTOR WS

The Private Sector Workstream has commissioned a study to the European Think Tank Group (ETTG) on blended finance to achieve better collaboration with the private sector since it is a key topic for the EC, financial assistance actors and the PN. The study, entitled Enhancing coordination between European donors, development agencies and DFIs/PDBs, featured 8 case studies and overall conclusions and recommendations.

A hybrid panel discussion on the study was held in September 2023. It gathered participants and speakers from ETTG, the European Commission, PN Members as well as representatives from EDFI and other financial assistance stakeholders.

The Private Sector Workstream held another four meetings, notably addressing the crucial issue of EU state aid rules in the context of development cooperation and women economic empowerment/access to finance for women.

In all its activities, the Workstream aimed at creating synergies with other groups of the PN, as well as with other relevant stakeholders.

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3.2.4. TEAM EUROPE TASK FORCE

During 2022/23 the TFTE met **three times** with its Members as well as representatives of DG INTPA, DG NEAR and EEAS. These meetings focused on updates on Global Gateway and TEIs, as well as sharing feedback on TEI experience from the field (Presentation of the Agropole Centre as part of the Green Senegal TEI, Enabel) and building the Joint Intervention Logic (JIL) for TEIs (LAC Regional TEI on Security and Justice, FIIAPP).

TETF organised presentations and discussions about the PN co-Presidency non-paper on a **European Architecture for Development (EAD)**, the **new EU Guidelines on Communication and Visibility**, the **Monitoring, Results and Evaluation (MORE) Framework for TEIs**, the role of **Technical Assistance actors** in supporting the implementation of **Global Gateway** as well as the **JEFIC network** and its upcoming activities.

The Task Force aims not only to foster inclusiveness between PN Members – fully in line with the Team Europe approach –, but also to engage with a broader range of stakeholders and bring in their perspectives and voices into the discussion: external invitees to the TF meetings included ECDPM to discuss the Briefing Paper: “How is Team Europe doing?”.

In addition, in July’s meeting, the PN and DG INTPA organised a presentation on joint narratives as Team Europe. The objective of the meeting was to continue a conversation about how to communicate strategically as Team Europe and the role of the PN in the European Development Architecture. **Last but not least, Team Europe Task Force celebrated its second anniversary in November 2023.**

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3.2.5. PUBLIC TECHNICAL COOPERATION TASK FORCE

The Public Technical Cooperation Task Force promotes the debate over the EU and its MS policy framework(s) to enhance the strategic role of the European public sector in the European development cooperation system (dimension of implementation) and promote the exchange of ideas, knowledge, practices, technologies between EU MS, EU MSOs and EU institutions, in line with SDG 16.

Below is a summary of the results achieved by Members of this TF during 2022–2023, when the Joint INTPA and PN Action Plan on PSE has continued to be implemented, mainly through:

- 1) The relaunch of the pre-existing PN Task Force and renaming it as Public Technical Cooperation Task Force.
- 2) Continuation of the series of workshops on PSE for improving and encouraging coordination, synergies, learning exchange among EU MS, EU MSOs and EU institutions, and enhancing awareness of PSE benefits in external action (Workshop on PSE incentives mechanisms in February 2023 in Brussels).
- 3) Participation to external events, reinforcing dialogue with PN external stakeholders (EUPAN Network Meeting at DG level in June 2022 and Institutional Building Days in November 2022).

The TF was **relaunched in May 2022**, following the agreement reached at AMGA and after having acknowledged the momentum and increasing relevance of PSE within the European Cooperation agenda for a value-based EU and its MS external action. In order to focus on the institutional rather than individual dimension of Public Sector Expertise mobilisation, the TF was renamed Public Technical Cooperation Task Force.

The dialogue with other European networks, such as EUPAN has been reinforced, through the participation of the TF jointly with INTPA D1 in the EUPAN DGs meeting that took place in Paris in June 2022.

Furthermore, the TF participated with Sida and INTPA in another external event: the Institutional Building Days, organised annually by DG NEAR and during which TW and TAIEX EUMS National Contact Points gather in Brussels. It took place in November 2022 under the session: “Public Sector Expertise Upside Down”. During this session, it was discussed how PSE, as a form of international technical cooperation, can be used to promote reforms, create public value, and sustainable and inclusive development policies within the EU and partner countries.

As part of the above-mentioned series of workshops, in February 2023 a workshop was organised in Brussels. EUMS in the PN (Germany and Slovakia) and outside the PN (Ireland) shared their respective experiences and jointly reflected on how to overcome challenges to effectively mobilise PSE, in particular on the identification of incentives mechanisms.

During the following PN year, the work of the TF will include continuing the series of workshops, in which topics such as assuring the gender perspective in PSE mobilisation or how to structure the European offer of PSE during programme implementation, will be addressed. The joint INTPA and PN Action Plan on PSE will be updated, and the TF will keep nurturing INTPA’s PSE roadmap and assuring synergies with it.

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3.2.6. GENDER EQUALITY TASK FORCE

The PN Gender Equality Task Force (GETF), was **set up in July 2022** following the agreement of SC Members. With the objective of increasing mainstreaming and integration of gender equality (GE) in Practitioners' Networks' work, its Members' exchange, and knowledge sharing, expanding peer-to-peer learning of PN and EC colleagues and access to practical tools for gender mainstreaming. This exchange and knowledge sharing should be extended based on examples of good practices to other Working Groups, Task Forces and Work Streams of the PN, and any other relevant EU fora in order to inform policy making.

Below is a summary of the main achievements by Members of this Task Force during the 2022–2023 period:

The **1st meeting of the GETF** was held on the 27th of April consisting of the first peer-to-peer learning and exchange on good development practice among Member State Organisations (MSO) and with the European Commission (DGs INTPA and Evaluation Team), this Task Force provided an adequate forum for learning and exchanging in order to advance on gender equality and women's empowerment.

Also, **foreseeing the NDICI-Global Europe mid-term review in 2024**, as part of the same meeting, the PN GETF organised a methodological workshop with the main purpose of receiving an update and assessment on the GAP III Mid-Term Evaluation by the European Commission.

During this meeting:

- Gender Focal Points and experts from PN Members gathered together for the first-ever time and exchanged their work towards Gender Equality (GE) and expectations of the PN TF.
- A presentation of the preliminary results of the Mid-Term Evaluation of GAP III implementation was made by INTPA Evaluators; these results suggest there is a need to stream and align GAP III with the programming processes and the importance of CLIPs.
- PN Members and MSO (Spain's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, AFD & Expertise France, GlZ) stressed the importance of Gender Mainstreaming practices, vision, and strategies within organisations and implementation of programs/projects.
- Willingness of all PN Members to continue with this exchange space and in particular to share knowledge and experiences e.g., strategic documents, and gender toolboxes was expressed by all TF Members.
-
- Furthermore, the TF started the dialogue with other WG/TFs to integrate the gender equality perspective in their work and thus, the overall PN work.

The GE TF will continue working on this during 2023–2024, in particular focusing on a compilation of information for the creation of a PN Best Practice Guide on Gender Equality, and a PN workshop to identify joint creative initiatives for gender equality.

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3.2.7. AD-HOC MEETINGS

Strategic communication has become a relevant topic for PN Members during the past year. Team Europe and Global Gateway have had a major impact on the approach to strategic communication of European development cooperation initiatives. In addition to the reflections held with DG INTPA.02 in the framework of the Team Europe Task Force, the PN has organised ad-hoc meetings with PN Communication Focal points to internally discuss among PN Members on issues such as adaptation and impact to recent changes on INTPA Communication & Visibility Guidelines.

Two sessions have been organised during the 2022–2023 PN year. The first one took place in December 2022. It allowed PN Communication Focal points to engage and exchange on the **new Communication & Visibility**.

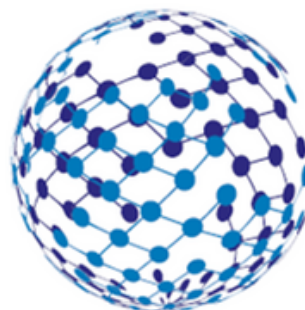
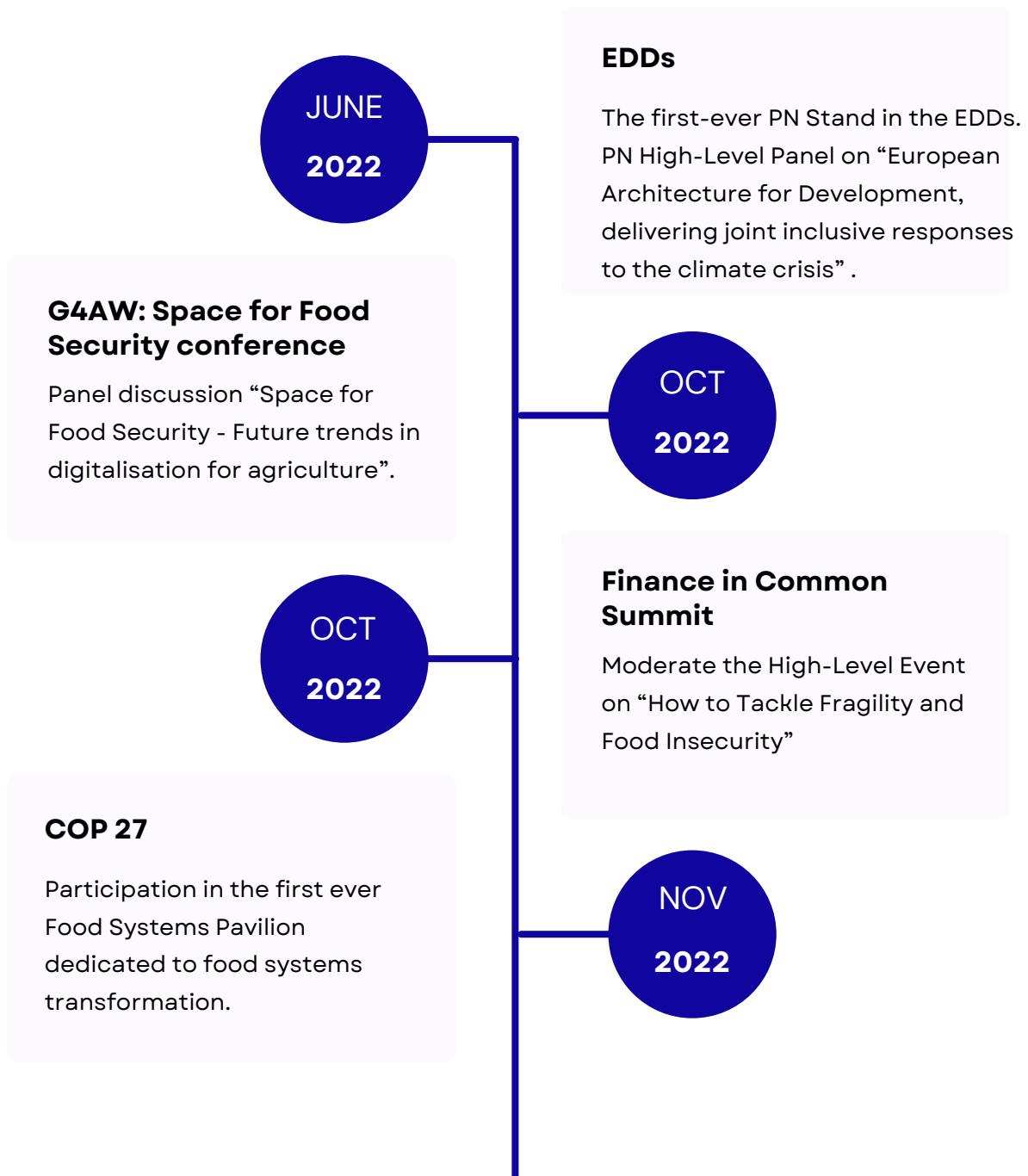
A second session was organised in February 2023 to follow up on the impact of the new communication guidelines and the Global Gateway Communication Strategy. Participants shared their experiences, exchanged best practices and reflected on how to better address this topic together with DG INTPA.

These two sessions **have allowed MSOs to involve their communication teams from HQ**, which until now had not been engaged in the work of the Practitioners' Network.

Its ad-hoc nature allowed flexibility to organise sessions when most convenient and it will continue to be the format to follow up on these issues in the coming year.

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4. HIGH LEVEL PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL FORA



4.1. EDDS 2022

The participation of the PN during the 2022 European Development Days consisted of a High-level Panel presentation and a PN stand displaying the work done by Members. Furthermore, a PN CEOs Tour to different stands of PN Members was also organised, showing the stronger together spirit among PN CEOs. And the PN cocktail organised by the co-Presidency allowed PN Members and its partners to get together and exchange on the various topics addressed during the EDDs.

The PN **Stand in the EDDs**, jointly organised by more than 10 Members hosted a series of debates and project presentations around delivering effective and impactful development cooperation in the areas of climate change and Public Sector Expertise. The debates opened a reflection about an emerging European/Team Europe Architecture for Development to maximize the impact, inclusiveness, and effectiveness of the EU toolbox. The speakers of these debates from DG INTPA, ECDPM and the PN exchanged on how technical cooperation could better coordinate with financial cooperation and how the added value Public Sector Expertise has for EU and its MS external action could be maximised. Above all, the stand served as a convenient meeting and exchanging space for PN Members and partners.

The **PN High-Level Panel on “European Architecture for Development, delivering joint inclusive responses to the climate crisis”** took place on 21 June 2022 at the Brussels Expo. The panel aimed at discussing how to align investments for a just energy transition by applying the Policy First approach defending that the joint identification of shared (EU, MS, partner countries) policy priorities require structured, permanent, and tailor-made dialogue mechanisms with partner countries during both programming and implementation.



The panellists were the PN co-Presidency, Simon O'Connell (SNV CEO) and Anna Terrón (FIIAPP Director), Ambroise Fayolle (EIB Vice-President), Vitória Galvao (Young Leader from Brazil), Mandy Rambharos (General Manager, Eskom JET Office, South Africa), Rémy Rioux (CEO of AFD Group as member of Enhanced Partnership and EDFI-Proparco), with the moderation of Carl Michiels (ECDPM Director). Speakers discussed how Working Better Together between DFIs, development agencies, the private sector and civil society is crucial to achieving impact and development effectiveness towards the 2030 Agenda. **The panel agreed that there was a need to achieve real coordination of the whole EU development toolbox, from technical to financial cooperation.** The Team Europe approach requires a wider structural debate about an emerging European Architecture for Development (EAD), which means articulating financial and technical cooperation, within the emerging European cooperation system. The 3 main networks that gather implementing agencies and technical cooperation (Practitioners' Network), financial institutions (EDFI, and Public Development Banks – JEFIC-), have a key role to play within this European cooperation system and this requires further coordination between the three of them.

This HLP generated a great debate, also bringing concrete experiences from various the PN Members in the field.

This panel concluded that achieving the SDGs and tackling the causes and consequences of climate change requires much more cooperation within EFAD and with civil society. Panellists stated that Team Europe must help local actors to avail of European financing and that there is no 'one size fits all' solution. Moreover, marginalised communities and youth need to be connected with finance opportunities and smaller tranches of financing need to reach micro-enterprises.

The whole session recording can be accessed [here](#).

4.2. G4AW: SPACE FOR FOOD SECURITY CONFERENCE

In October 2022, the PN was invited by the Netherlands Space Office and Rabo Foundation to the 'Space for Food Security: On the Right Track' conference. The event revolved around the potential of space technology, geodata, and digital technologies to improve smallholder livelihoods with more sustainable agriculture practices and improved access to finance.



The co-Presidency, represented by SNV CEO Simon O' Connell participated into the panel discussion **"Space for Food Security – Future trends in digitalisation for agriculture"**.

The panel engaged in a conversation about the application of digital technologies to address developmental challenges in the agro-pastoralist sector. In his intervention for the co-Presidency, Simon O' Connell touched upon the issue of the availability of digital solutions and technologies and the structural inequalities that prevent certain groups from access. Moreover, he reiterated the value of partnerships to ensure that no one is left behind and technologies benefit the most vulnerable segments and groups of society.

4.3. FINANCE IN COMMON SUMMIT 2022

From 18 to 20 October 2023, the PN joined the 3rd edition of the Finance in Common Summit, co-organised by the African Development Bank and the European Investment Bank in Abidjan, Ivory Coast. This year's theme was Green and Just transition for a sustainable recovery.

The PN, represented by SNV's CEO Simon O'Connell, was called to moderate the **High-Level Event on "How to Tackle Fragility and Food Insecurity"** organised by the African Development Bank.



The panel discussion dealt with the overlapping food, climate and security crises and their impact on the most vulnerable populations especially in fragile contexts. Speakers from the Islamic Development Bank, the African Development Bank, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the International Crisis Group highlighted the need for investment in green infrastructures, education, employment, skills and the priority to work on structural drivers of fragility with a medium- and long-term vision. In his opening remarks, Simon O'Connell reiterated the transformative potential of the triple nexus approach adopted by many PN Members in their operations in fragile settings and called upon all actors, donors, practitioners and finance institutions to enhance coordination and break the silos approach.

4.4. COP 27 2022

From 6 to 18 November 2022, Egypt hosted the 27th Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC (COP27) in Sharm El-Sheikh, bringing together 46,000 participants and 112 heads of State under numerous thematic pavilions to showcase climate action around the world and across different sectors.

In this international forum, the PN co-Presidency, represented by SNV's CEO Simon O'Connell, participated in **the first ever Food Systems Pavilion dedicated to food systems transformation.**

This was also the first time the topic was introduced in the agenda of these negotiations and the first time the PN participated as a Network to the Conference.



The PN co-Presidency alongside several PN Members engaged in different events and panel discussions related to the big overarching themes of COP27 (e.g. climate mitigation-adaptation):

- Opening Day: “Food at the Table” at the Food Pavilion.
- Opening session on Finance Day- “The Challenges and Opportunities to Mobilize Finance Solutions for Food System Transformation” at the Food Pavilion.
- Session on Finance Day- “How to mobilize private sector finance towards inclusive climate resilient food systems” at the Food Pavilion.

During the PN interventions in Finance Day and the Resilience Agriculture Day, Simon O’Connell (SNV CEO) on behalf of the PN reinforced the main messages of ensuring better partnerships with different stakeholders and brought to the conversation the main recommendations from the **PN study “Enhancing coordination between European donors, development agencies and DFIs/PDBs”** conducted by the European Think Tanks Group (ETTg):



- To build bridges between financial and technical cooperation to maximize development effectiveness and mobilising public-private investment to fund impact at scale.
- Take a “piloting approach” to test ideas, projects under the idea of risk-aversion.
- Focus on longer-term perspectives.

The PN participation at COP27 represented a unique visibility opportunity to present the PN network to an international audience and to potential (future) partners, raising the Network’s profile and to relay the message of the PN’s commitment with the most pressing climate challenges and to fulfill the targets of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

The PN was positioned as a good example of how to deepen partnerships to accelerate the 2030 Agenda.



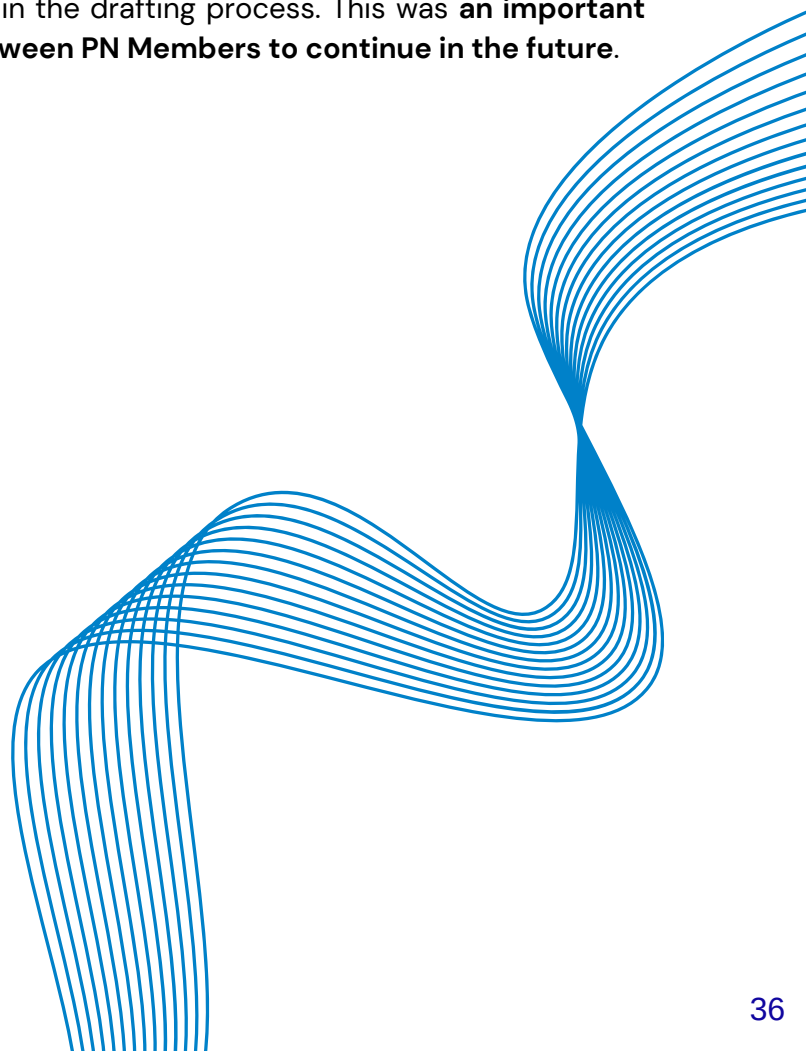
5. COMMUNICATION

5.1. BIENNIAL COMMUNICATION ACTION PLAN

In order to further develop the existing foundations and promote a more targeted and aligned internal and external communication strategy in line with the PN's Strategic Vision 2030, a [biennial Communication Action Plan](#) has been formulated. This plan ensures continuity with the previous (co-)Presidencies while also allowing for adaptation to the current strategic discussions within the Network.

The focus is on achieving a more predictable and well-planned external communication approach, as well as the systematization of communication processes. With this in mind, the purpose of this document was to outline the communication activities of the Practitioners' Network to be implemented during the SNV-FIIAPP co-Presidency and Expertise France Presidency.

The plan covers a two-year period from May 2022 to April 2024. It represents the culmination of extensive efforts led by the new Communications Support Coordinator to restructure communications within the PN. The aim was to incorporate new expertise, priorities, objectives, targets, and ambitions and to set a new way of working between presidencies engaging the future Presidency in the drafting process. This was **an important step to promote a stronger cooperation between PN Members to continue in the future.**



5.2. SOCIAL MEDIA

A set of dissemination activities has been systematized during the past year, specifically focusing on social media channels:

- All PN events have been lively disseminated on Twitter
- New campaigns have been launched in relevant dates, such as: International Women's Day campaign, PN 16th anniversary, Europe Day.
- A monthly editorial plan has been established.

This translates into the fulfillment of all foreseen communication KPIs for this year have been achieved.

KPIs	Baseline (May 2022)	Milestone	May 2023
Number of followers (LinkedIn)	1.900	2.500	2.803
Engagement Rate (LinkedIn posts)	7%	5%	5%
Periodicity of LinkedIn posts	not periodicity implemented	minimum 2 / week	2 / week
Number of followers (Twitter)	798	1.000	1.002
Periodicity of Twitter posts	not periodicity implemented	minimum 2 / week	2 / week
Engagement rate (Twitter)	2,2%	3%	3,8%

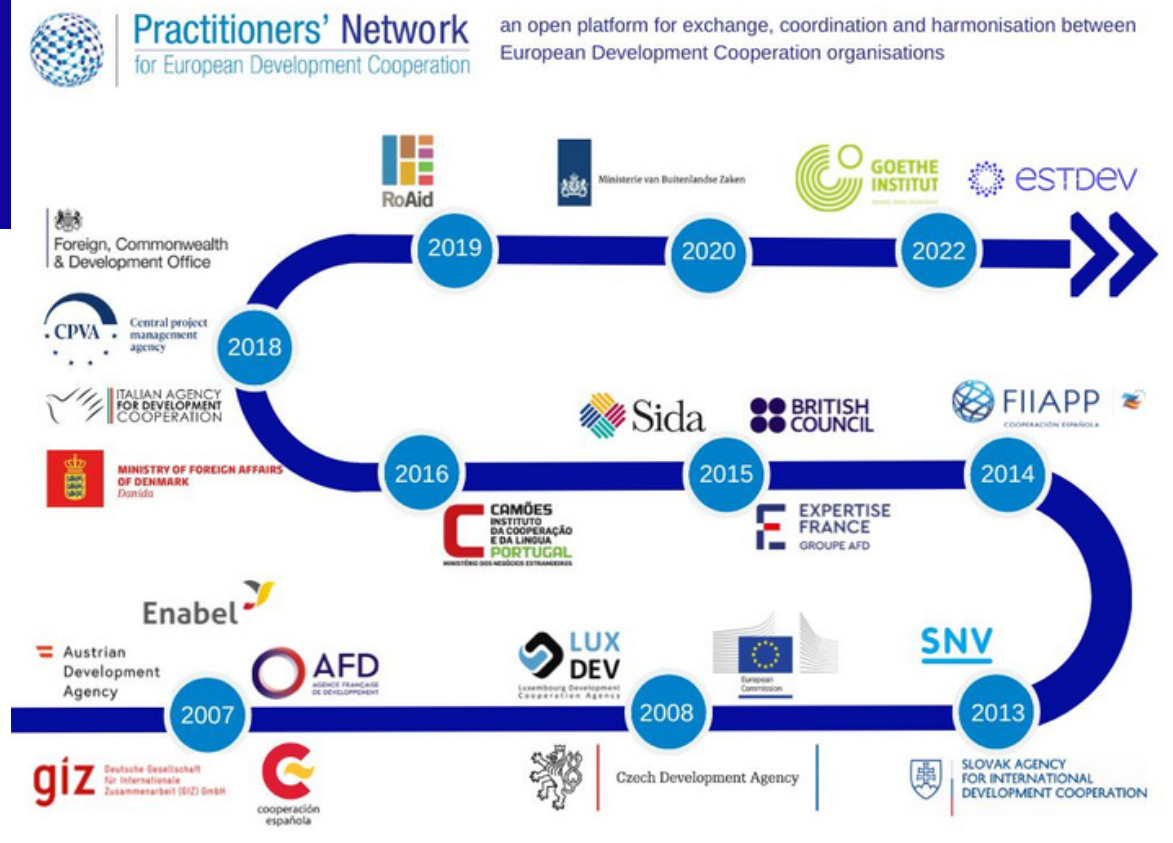
5.3. COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGNS

The systematic organisation of processes and targeted communication campaigns have significantly amplified the engagement of PN Members and increased the joint visibility efforts of the PN.

Materials are now distributed among Members ahead of any PN event, facilitating their dissemination on social media platforms. Additionally, live broadcasting of PN Events has been implemented for each event.

Several distinct social media campaigns, derived from information and materials shared by Members, have been successfully executed, including:

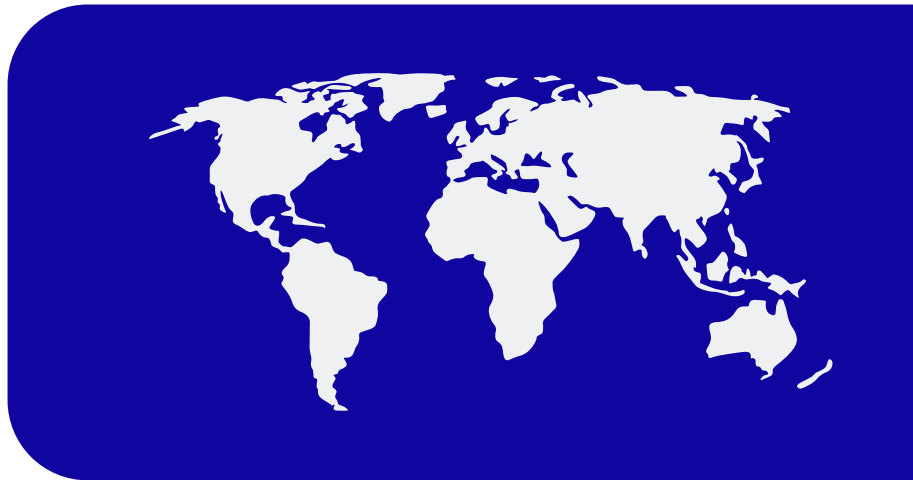
Several distinct campaigns, derived from information and materials shared by Members, have been successfully executed, including:



5.4. EXTERNAL AND INTERNAL (MEMBER AREA) WEBSITE REVIEW

During this past year, the **Member Area** on the [website](#) was systematised to serve as a platform to share information and store important documents. Notably, several IT glitches were fixed.

The appearance and layout of sections such as events, news, contact us, job offers, and the drop-down menu have been modified. Additionally, the website has been enhanced with the active involvement of all Members, including the addition of descriptions, photos, and a news section that is populated based on PN activities and joint implementation projects.



Furthermore, [new high-quality video content was produced for the YouTube channel.](#)



6. FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

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 available for all PN Members at the budget app of the 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 and ensures transparency.

6.1. THE 2022-2023 BUDGET

Regarding income, the **PN received a total of 195.000,00 EUR**, matching the total expected contributions according to the commitments confirmed at 15th AMGA.

Member Name	TOTAL CONTRIBUTION	RECEIVED CONTRIBUTION 2022-2023	CONTRIBUTION RATE
ADA	5.000,00	5.000,00	100%
AECID	9.000,00	9.000,00	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	5.000,00	5.000,00	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%
EF	9.000,00	9.000,00	100%
ENABEL	9.000,00	9.000,00	100%
FCDO	9.000,00	9.000,00	100%
FIAPP	9.000,00	9.000,00	100%
GIZ	17.000,00	17.000,00	100%
Goethe Institut	5.000,00	5.000,00	100%
LUXDEV	5.000,00	5.000,00	100%
MFA ESTONIA	5.000,00	5.000,00	100%
MFA NETHERLANDS	9.000,00	9.000,00	100%
ROAID	5.000,00	5.000,00	100%
SlovakAid	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 INTPA	17.000,00	17.000,00	100%
TOTAL	195.000,00	195.000,00	100%

Concerning expenditure, the 2022–2023 budget approved in the last AMGA was of 301.838,70 EUR, while expenses this year (including 2022–2023 commitments not yet paid) are foreseen to amount to 232.948,23 EUR, which represents 77% execution rate. The Coordination fee represents 56% of the total PN costs, followed by the Kenya visit expenses representing 14%.

BUDGET ITEM	2022-2023 BUDGET	PAYED EXPENDITURE	PENDING EXPENDITURE + PREVISIONS	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	EXECUTION RATE
1. Coordination fee	139.725,00 €	118.927,50 €	11.745,00 €	130.672,50 €	94%
2. Office rent	3.569,50 €	3.714,70 €	0,00 €	3.714,70 €	104%
3. Office equipment	0,00 €	0,00 €	0,00 €	0,00 €	
4. Communication & other office costs	592,20 €	783,05 €	0,00 €	783,05 €	132%
5. Travel costs	7.200,00 €	3.527,73 €	0,00 €	3.527,73 €	49%
6. Marketing costs website	4.600,00 €	2.319,12 €	1.800,00 €	4.119,12 €	90%
7. Marketing other	3.812,00 €	0,00 €	0,00 €	0,00 €	0%
8. Advisory, consultancy fees	0,00 €	0,00 €	0,00 €	0,00 €	
9. Studies	45.000,00 €	11.550,00 €	0,00 €	11.550,00 €	26%
10. WG & TF meetings	8.000,00 €	808,00 €	0,00 €	808,00 €	10%
11. EDDs	4.300,00 €	5.072,03 €	0,00 €	5.072,03 €	118%
12. General Assembly	10.000,00 €	0,00 €	25.000,00 €	25.000,00 €	250%
13. Steering Committee meetings	6.300,00 €	675,88 €	0,00 €	675,88 €	11%
14. WG proposed events	34.200,00 €	0,00 €	15.000,00 €	15.000,00 €	44%
15. Other events	34.000,00 €	1.764,60 €	30.000,00 €	31.764,60 €	93%
16. Bank expenses	540,00 €	260,62 €	0,00 €	260,62 €	48%
TOTAL	301.838,70 €	149.403,23 €	83.545,00 €	232.948,23 €	77%

Low budget execution plus the high balance of the previous year (211.707,67 EUR) have enabled ending the 2022–2023 year with a total expected reserve of 168.775,04 EUR, but the reserve is decreasing compared to the previous years.

BANK RECONCILIATION AND BALANCE	
ENDING BALANCE 2021-2022 AUDIT (INCLUDES 5.000 € FEES RECEIVED BELONGING TO 2022-2023 PERIOD)	305.216,58 €
(-) 2021-2022 EXPENDITURE AFTER 2021-2022 AUDIT	93.508,91 €
(1) TOTAL BALANCE 2021-2022 PERIOD	211.707,67 €
(2) 2022-2023 FEES RECEIVED IN 2022-2023 PERIOD	190.000,00 €
(3) TOTAL 2021-2022 AVAILABLE FUNDS (1) + (2)	401.707,67 €
(4) + FINANCIAL INTERESTS AND OTHER INCOME	15,60 €
(5) + 2023-2024 MEMBER FEES RECEIVED	- €
(6) - 2022-2023 EXPENDITURE	149.403,23 €
(7) BALANCE IN BANK (3) + (4) + (5) - (6)	252.320,04 €
(8) PENDING 2022-2023 EXPENDITURE	83.545,00 €
(9) TOTAL FORESEEN BALANCE OF 2022-2023 PERIOD (7) - (8)	168.775,04 €

An internal audit confirming these figures was performed and signed by Expertise France, FIIAPP-SNV and Sida at the end of April 2023.

7. LOOKING AHEAD

7.1. FUTURE ROLES AND AMBITION OF THE PN

We are a European partnership of Practitioners jointly working for more effective development cooperation, based on trust and mutual learning. **We bring together European Development partners to learn from each other and exchange good practices, to work towards increasingly implementing projects together and creating synergies, to speak with one voice when useful for its Members.**

Expertise France's mission for the PN Presidency is to continue and improve PN approaches aiming at:

- Bringing together European Development partners to learn from each other and exchange on lessons learned, good and less good practices.
- Building relationships and trust among Members and towards the European Commission and other key partners.
- Harmonising efforts, creating synergies and jointly implementing development projects and programs, in a Team Europe approach.
- Speaking with one voice for more effective development cooperation.

The key principles and values guiding our work in the Network and during our Presidency are:

Inclusiveness, involvement and utility: we stand for an inclusive network that serves the needs and interests and ensures the best possible involvement of all Members.

Team Europe approach and ***Working Better Together***: we commit to create synergies, work for better coordination, joint creation and implementation of projects to reduce transaction costs and for more effective development cooperation.

Continuity & sustainability: in line with the Troika spirit, we commit to work for more continuity, financial stability and long-lasting sustainability of the network to ensure consistency of its work overtime and make the network fit for the future.

7.2. THE PRIORITIES OF THE EF PRESIDENCY

Based on the comprehensive consultation processes conducted with PN Members, in line with existing strategic orientations of the Network (in particular the PN Charter and the Strategic Vision – PN 2030), Expertise France will set the following objectives for the upcoming year:

1. The Network within the European Architecture for Development

- **Advance on the Team Europe approach and the *Working Better Together* agenda:** promote a balanced approach on improving joint programming / creation & implementation; identify, discuss & replicate good practices; joint positions, simplification of legal a.o. documents.
- **Continuing exploring interlinkages between Technical & Financial Cooperation:** continue dialogue and improved cooperation EDFI-JEFIC-PN, with all interested PN Members, capitalising on their comparative advantages (ex: AFD Group structure mirroring the 3 networks; AECID Member of PN and JEFIC etc.); work on follow up mechanisms for existing statements, declarations; identify innovative methods to collaborate.

2. The PN & External Partners

- **Visibility towards External Partners:** promote speaking with one voice when relevant and useful, making the voice of the PN and its Members heard.
- **Further define and concretise the PN relationships with External Partners** (“Friends of the PN”): continue reflections on relationships with external actors.
- **Avoidance of Duplication:** identify and focus on selected areas where PN has genuine comparative advantage (and do not address those that are covered by others).

3. The PN for its Members

- Provide Incentives for more Inclusiveness, participation and involvement.
- Work towards more effective deliverables and more effective support and guidance to Members.
- Governance of the Network notably:
 - Growing membership: reflect on consequences for the identity and efficiency of the Network.
 - Reflect on the legal organisation of the PN, analysing practices of other European networks.
- Financial sustainability for greater visibility, involvement and inclusiveness.

To implement Expertise France’s priorities, we will ensure a constant link with the Troika, Steering Committee Members, co-leads of the WG/WS/TF, and dissemination of information to all PN Members. EF will organise a PN retreat (eventually last week of September 2023), a second PN Country Visit, and the Inclusiveness Event jointly with PN Members and the European Commission.

7.3. THE 2023–2024 WORK PLAN

Working Group on Effective Partnerships & Implementation (co-leads BC and CPMA):

Proposes three result areas for the following year. (1) Keeping up the work with other non-PN Members and stakeholders. (2) Stepping up Efforts on joint implementation and financing, as well as sharing best practices in this area. (3) focusing on sharing knowledge on cross-cutting functional project management, and capacity building for colleagues in Brussels, in HQ and in partner countries.

Working Group on Contractual & Financial Framework (co-leads EF and GIZ):

Intends to continue the discussions with EC on Contribution Agreement Manual and recurring issues around the Contribution Agreement contractual set up and the Multi Partnership Contribution Agreement Task force. They also consider the creation of additional task forces should the need arise. They will maintain this WG as an exchange platform with the OPSYS Change Management Team in the EC.

Culture & Development Work Stream (co-leads AECID, AICS and BC):

Work plan for the upcoming year includes the completion of the study on M&E, as well as a second workshop in June. Promoting the debate with EUNIC, EU and UNESCO. They propose to draft a declaration to support the UNESCO on establishing culture as a public good and a right with a cross-cutting approach.

Digitalisation Work Stream (co-leads EF and GIZ):

Work plan for the following year includes addressing topics like twin transitions, digital and gender and cybersecurity.

Fragility Work Stream (co-leads EF and SNV):

Plan for the upcoming year includes the organisation of exchanges and activities on the topics of GESI and adaptative programming in fragile settings, the role of the PN Members in fostering the localisation agenda, the need of a rights-based approach and the creation of monitoring and evaluation frameworks in fragile settings.

Green Deal Work Stream (co-leads Enabel and SNV):

Plan for the next period tackles the topics of Circular Economy, Climate Finance, Green Jobs and Just Transition.

Private Sector Work Stream (co-leads GIZ and SNV):

Intends to provide a platform for policy updates from the EC, exchanges on implementation with various organisations and exploring possible synergies within Team Europe. It foreseen to tackle certain topics, such as: Women's Economic Empowerment, circular economy, just transition, cooperation with the European private sector under Global Gateway, and to create synergies with other Working Groups. There is a willing to promote a new study on the access to finance for women as a continuation to the study that was conducted last year.

Gender Equality Task Force (co-leads FIIAPP and Sida):

Work plan includes the elaboration of a simplified practical best practices guide for PN Members on gender equality at operational and organisational level. A Forward-looking workshop, with the purpose of identifying joint creative initiatives for gender equality, will be organised. Finally, the work will continue towards the inclusion of the gender equality perspective in the PN work by promoting joint activities with other WS, WGs, and TFs.

Public Technical Cooperation Task Force (co-leads FIIAPP):

Plan for the following year includes continuing the series of workshops, in which topics such as assuring the gender perspective in Public Sector Expertise mobilisation or how to structure the European offer for PSE offer will be addressed. The TF also intends to update the joint INTPA and PN Action Plan in Public Sector Expertise, as well as continue nurturing INTPA's PSE roadmap of activities and assuring synergies with it.

Team Europe Task Force (co-leads AECID and GIZ):

Objective remains to exchange among Task Force Members and with the EU on implementing in a Team Europe approach and on the sustainable implementation of the Global Gateway. Regular meetings will be maintained promoting regular exchanges with DG INTPA and DG NEAR.

7.4. THE 2023–2024 BUDGET

In order to implement the foreseen activities for the new year, the PN has a budget of 282.494,20 EUR, as shown in the table below. Fixed costs amount to 184.002,20 EUR and include coordination costs, office, catering for meetings, general assembly, communication, website, meetings of the different WGs and TFs and bank expenses. The optional costs, amounting to 98.492,00 EUR include extra costs for the AMGA, studies for the WGs, events proposed by the incoming Presidency, like a country visit, CEO meetings and a PN team building meeting, and travel cost.

Budget Items	FIXED	OPTIONAL	TOTAL
1. Coordination fee	150.480,00 €	0,00 €	150.480,00 €
2. Office rent	3.751,00 €	0,00 €	3.751,00 €
3. Office equipment	0,00 €	0,00 €	0,00 €
4. Communication & other office costs	340,20 €	252,00 €	592,20 €
5. Travel costs	6.300,00 €	2.200,00 €	8.500,00 €
6. Marketing costs website	4.791,00 €	0,00 €	4.791,00 €
7. Marketing other	0,00 €	3.040,00 €	3.040,00 €
8. Advisory, consultancy fees	0,00 €	0,00 €	0,00 €
9. Studies	0,00 €	40.000,00 €	40.000,00 €
10. WG & TF meetings	6.000,00 €	0,00 €	6.000,00 €
11. EDDs	0,00 €	0,00 €	0,00 €
12. General Assembly	10.000,00 €	10.000,00 €	20.000,00 €
13. Steering Committee meetings	1.800,00 €	0,00 €	1.800,00 €
14. WG proposed events	0,00 €	5.000,00 €	5.000,00 €
15. Other events	0,00 €	38.000,00 €	38.000,00 €
16. Bank expenses	540,00 €	0,00 €	540,00 €
TOTAL GENERAL	184.002,20 €	98.492,00 €	282.494,20 €



Practitioners' Network
for European Development Cooperation

