Effective Partnerships and Implementation Working Group

Series of workshops on how in practice we could contribute to the improvement of the mobilisation of European Public Sector Expertise in international development cooperation

Workshop 1 - Presentation of the EU-PN Study and Action Plan on PSE and work to do in 2021-2022

Monday, 25th October (9:30-12:30) | Venue: Online

Workstream leads: DG INTPA & FIIAPP

DRAFT REPORT

DEBATE CONCLUSIONS

DG INTPA and FIIAPP jointly presented the main results of the EU-PN Joint Study on the mobilisation of European Public Sector Expertise in international development cooperation and the Action Plan approved at different levels to keep working on improving the mobilisation of PSE for EU and its MS external action and development cooperation.

In total, 42 people from 10 MS (Belgium, Croatia, Finland, Italy, Germany, Lithuania, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden), and EUPAN attended the workshop.
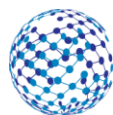
Key takeways of the discussion

Challenges:

- To match the demand with offer
- Declining use TW and TAIEX (declining demand)
- Diversity of regulatory framework of EUMS: Measures needed to improve incentives for mobilising public sector expertise and overcoming administrative and legal constraints at MS level.

Understanding/agreement:

- **International partnership approach:** policy first principle and EU normative power.
- **Driver for EU agenda:** Team Europe, WBT, inclusiveness, MICs and A2030/ECD.
- **NDICI – Global Europe:** as opportunity.
- **MSOs** (support structure): their role to promote the use of PSE.
- **TAIEX events for/to EUMS.**
- **Support participation in Twinning and TAIEX:**
    - Specific rules at national level
    - Access to information on participation
    - Existence of support structure (GMB)
    - Resources of NCP

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- o Flexibility for institutions to define modalities for staff deployment
- o Financial incentives (fees vs PPP)

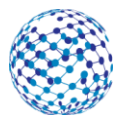## Comments/presentations from Member State(s)/MS organisations on:

- **HR**: case study on regulatory and operational framework: increased interest/offer.
- **BE**: different EUMS set-ups.
- **DE**: roadmap, national framework requires time (systematic approach), definition of PSE and role in external action (standalone or part of a bigger initiative with partner countries).

Key ideas, proposals from the discussion held around the guiding questions:

- **Do you recognize common challenges and needs identified in the EU-PN study on PSE (i.e. strategic, institutional, and financial)?**

  - Important to keep discussions and exchanges.
  - Important to recognize the diversity of regulatory frameworks in EUMS, but also to reform.
  - Important to exchange through peer-to-peer learning between EUMS (PN and other fora).

Reflections on the main and strategic recommendations. Suggestions on how best we could implement them (based on EU-PN Action Plan on PSE):

- **How to make a coherent and coordinated use of PSE in external actions/international development cooperation?**

  - Agenda 2030/SDGs as key driver of PSE.

- **How can we increase the decreasing use of PSE, including Twinning and TAIEX, in NDICI-Global Europe for the 2021-2027 MFF?**

  - Make PSE/TW more attractive: not only for MS but looking at partner countries (need survey/study on choice of PSE vis-à-vis other instruments, when is PSE demanded by partner countries?).
  - TEIs in-country promote a mix of modalities including PSE: need more info on PSE for TEI, actions design.
  - Starting small: TAIEX as a trigger for more demand of PSE later (need to work step by step, no one day to another).
  - Broadening TW and TAIEX to INTPA countries: Work to be done to explain TW-TAIEX to INTPA countries.

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- Role of MSOs to promote the use of PSE.

- **How to manage the demand for European PSE from partner country's side?**

  - How to manage demand for PSE and fit PSE in larger portfolio of other instruments.
  - The debate showed the need to continue further discussions on how to better and more strategically structure demand from partner countries for PSE.
  - Examples of how to manage demand strategically: Pilot exercise/country roundtables in LAC (Mesas Covid19/Team Europe), supporting EUDs, high-level policy dialogue on implementation to adapt ongoing TE actions to evolving needs -> connection to TEI guidelines on implementation.
  - EUMS national meetings (recommendations).

- **In which way/through which actions can we increase the offer of European public sector expertise?**

  - Discuss with national ministries about the PSE Study.

Next steps, according to the EU-PN roadmap presented during the session:

- Policy:
  - COM: Programming (TE-TEIs)
  - Council: **Council Conclusions FAC DEV 19th November**
- Implementation:
  - PN (CEOs strategic discussion and technical workshops):
    - Workshop 2: Discussion around the existing and new incentives to involve EU MS public experts in international PSE assignments and the ways to tackle administrative, financial, legal and procedures related constraints for mobilising public experts in PSE activities – January 2022 (tbc).
    - Workshop 3: gender dimension of PSE (or other relevant topics that might be of interest)
    - Promote the use of the WBT as a Team Europe Guidelines (Joint Implementation dimension) to further extend the use of PSE.

  - Commission (IBDs):
    - **18th November – panel on way forward based on the main findings of PSE Study**
    - Include PSE elements in the update of the Working Better Together as a Team Europe Guidelines

- Outreach and communication actions:
  - High Level Event to be organized in coming months end 2021/early 2022.
  - EU-PN PSE awards.