FINDING PARTNERS

Different options for finding partners and consortium building ideas

1. Utilise existing networks
   If you are looking to build or participate in a consortium, the most effective first step is to use your existing network - your contacts and your contact’s contacts. This will give you the opportunity to work with professionals who you already know and trust. Another option also is to use university links and networks to find potential partners in your area. Additionally, you could ensure your professional online profiles are kept up to date e.g. ORCID and LinkedIn so that other professionals are able to find you/see your work.

2. EC brokerage events
   Attend and network during European Commission brokerage events - use conferences and events to get to know other professionals’ work and expand your personal network of collaborators. A list of all EC events can be found here.

3. Specifically dedicated funding mechanisms for networking
   There are specifically dedicated funding streams for networking known as Coordination and Support Actions or COST Actions. COST Actions are science and technology networks with a duration of four years, open to researchers and stakeholders. Academics are able to join existing COST Actions and are encouraged to look at recently successful bids as well as existing actions relevant to their area of expertise (especially those where there is no UK involvement already). To join COST Actions, contact the COST National Coordinator (CNC) for the UK: cost@beis.gov.uk. Likewise, any other networking and travel grants from other funders can also help with expanding your network.

3. Professional services
   There are dedicated professional services for European funding:
   - UK’s H2020 National Contact Points (NCPs) - NCPs are national structures established to give personalised support to applicants.
   - Enterprise European Network (EEN) - The EEN publishes an extensive number of innovation and technology profiles from international companies and research organisations to help identify suitable partners for bilateral business, innovation and technology cooperation. The EEN database is updated with new profiles on a weekly basis. All profiles are published anonymously.

4. CORDIS
   CORDIS is a database of FP7 and H2020 projects funded to date. It provides useful information about projects which have already been funded in a particular field, as well as details such as project description, consortium composition etc. This is useful for those searching for partners as there is the opportunity to locate successful consortiums/partners from a particular field whom they can contact and potentially collaborate in the future.
5. **Dedicated partnering services and web tools – e.g. the H2020 partner search tool**

The Funding and Tender Opportunities Portal has a partner search tool. Organisations are able to:

- Search for organisations based on keywords, see who those organisations search for, and see who they most frequently collaborate with.
- Contact organisations and individual project researchers directly.
- Place partner requests and flag interest in a particular call or topic.

In addition, the H2020 online manual has information on subject-specific partner search services.

6. **Become an evaluator**

Becoming an expert evaluator allows professionals to evaluate proposals and monitor the progress of awarded grants. This provides individuals with the opportunity to meet experts from different backgrounds, countries and sectors which helps in networking at international level.

---

**Contact us for further advice**

EU Unit, Research and Enterprise Funding queries and application support

Contacts:

Dr Mischa Phillips m.phillips@reading.ac.uk - Theme lead: Food; Health; Prosperity & Resilience

Sally Caldwell s.j.caldwell@reading.ac.uk - Theme lead: Environment; Heritage & Creativity

Ioanna Theophanous i.theophanous@reading.ac.uk - General EU support