

# Partos Innovation Hub

## Future Lab - Terms of Reference

Partos is looking for creative, flexible and experienced innovation consultants to design and facilitate one of the workshops of the Future Lab:

### **Community-led Innovations and Human-centred Design**



The Future Lab is a series of workshops aimed at tackling social innovation challenges in international development cooperation. It is a follow-up organized by the Winners of the Partos Collaborative Innovation Awards 2021.



## Partos Innovation Hub

The Future Lab is part of the Partos Innovation Hub, our platform for social innovation & learning, which we will launch in 2022. The innovation hub aims to support innovators working within Dutch development organizations to develop (new) solutions for a just, inclusive and sustainable world. Through our hub, we aspire to celebrate and accelerate social innovation, co-creation and joint-learning on innovation and social challenges within international civil society partnerships. The focus of our program is informed by the needs of both civil society organizations based in the Netherlands and their partners in other regions of the majority world. The Partos Innovation Hub is a key component of the [Partos Learning and Innovation Program](#), a five-year program (2021-2025), funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Partos is a Dutch membership platform for organizations working in development. In 2004, over 60 Dutch civil society organisations initiated Partos, with the aim to establish a strong voice towards the government and other parties. Since then, with 108 members, Partos is the largest cooperation for development organizations in the Netherlands. Through a variety of learning, innovation and Lobby & Advocacy activities and projects, Partos facilitates interaction, collaboration and dialogue between members and their partners.



## About the Collaborative Innovation Awards

The Partos Collaborative Innovation Award recognizes innovative collaborations in international civil society partnerships that developed creative solutions to deal with complex, volatile, and uncertain scenarios in development cooperation. Each year, Partos organizes the Innovation Awards around contemporary topics to celebrate and promote new approaches and champion initiatives that contribute to sustainable social impact.

This year, the call for collaborative innovation aimed to capture what forms of collaborations are needed to better address and navigate today's challenges in international civil society partnerships (climate change, COVID-19, shrinking (digital) civic space, structural racism, shifting power, funding modalities e.g.). Therefore, we have looked for pioneer collaborative approaches; joint projects or initiatives that dare to innovate and adapt in times of uncertainty, complexity and a rapidly changing field of development cooperation. These inspiring innovations have been put in the spotlight at the [Partos Innovation Festival](#) on the 8th of October.

Of the 30 submitted applications, the jury has selected the 10 most inspiring Collaborative Innovations. These changemakers got the opportunity to showcase their innovation at the Partos Innovation Festival. At the award ceremony during the festival, the jury has announced [the 3 winning Collaborative Innovations](#). These 3 innovators won a visual narrative artboard by artists selected by Süd Illustrative Agency about their innovation, and the chance to participate in three exclusive innovation workshops called the 'FutureLab.'



## About the FutureLab workshops

The Future Lab is a series of workshops developed for the winners of the Collaborative Innovation Awards. As part of their price, the three Award winners are designing their own innovation workshop based on their innovation challenges. These workshops, given by cutting-edge innovation agencies, aim to tackle future challenges and design for more impactful innovations. After a collective meeting, the Award winners and Partos identified three different topics for an innovation workshop. We are searching for design agencies/consultants with ample experience and knowledge on these innovation challenges who are fit to co-create and facilitate an innovation workshop on one or more of these topics.

### Purpose

The purpose is the co-creation of a tailored innovation workshop to provide practical tools and methodologies for the innovation challenge of the client (Partos & Award winner).

### Format

The workshop format is indicative and there will be opportunity to co-design the workshop with the Award winners.

- Participants: around 35 – 40 participants. The workshop will be open for the Award winners and their teams (5 people), a select group of Partos members & the jury members (20-25 people).
- Time: ½ day workshop.
- Date: January – February 2022.
- Program: to be determined with award winners & Partos.

### Assignment

We will ask you to co-create and facilitate an interactive workshop on the innovation challenge of Community-led Innovations and Human-centred Design.

Together we learn. That's why the workshop is focused on collaborative learning and exchange between the participants. Furthermore, we value a practice-oriented approach and are looking for agencies that can provide concrete and practical tools & methodologies that can assist the Award winners in addressing their current innovation needs.



## Workshop focus

We are looking for a consultancy to co-design and facilitate a workshop on **community-led innovations and human-centred design**.



Award winner: Virtual Innovation Labs – Innovation for Change

The Virtual Innovation Labs are Creative spaces where Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), entrepreneurs, activists and other social actors work together to design innovative solutions for social problems with a Design Thinking methodology. In these labs, participants are challenged to work together on designing and prototyping for solutions. The team with the best idea receives a seed fund to implement its solution prototype and scale it into a major

project. The most important thing in this process is to capture the real needs and feelings of the people affected by the problem, in order to co-create human-centered solutions.

However, one of the main challenges is creating sustainable and long-lasting human-centered solutions and approaches. Innovation for Change – Latin America & Caribbean Hub – noticed that many CSOs struggle and show resistance in applying social innovation methodologies. The leading question for this workshop is therefore: How do you build-in local ownership & active use of Design thinking methodologies & tools beyond the Lab? The team formulated the following workshop scenario:

*CSOs that have participated in our Labs, whether they have won a seed fund or not, are not necessarily using the methodology to solve their problems in their daily work. How can these efforts have a greater impact on our community?*

The following learning questions should be considered in the workshop development:

- Introducing Human-Centred Design or new methodologies and ideas on how to work on community-owned social innovation within a diverse range of civil society actors?
- Learning by doing: practical exercises to learn work with the methodology.
- Exchange of experiences & best practices between other participants. Learn about experiences of how social innovation has been successfully applied by other non-profits and CSOs.
- How to ensure inclusivity and intersectionality in human-centered design within a diverse community (language, resource needs, identities & advocacy)?



Artwork by Juan Dellacha

We are looking for creative, flexible and experienced innovation consultants with experience in the following areas:

- Innovation methodologies: A good understanding of innovation methodologies and working processes such as design thinking, agile & lean innovation, prototyping and up scaling.
- Human-Centered Design: Great understanding and practical experience in applying human-centred solutions for social innovation challenges. Can translate Community-participation & ownership into practical methodologies and approaches.
- Data-driven and data reliability: Experience with 'how to work with' data and ensure reliability of data.
- Inclusivity: Sensitivity and understanding of inclusion and diversity in workshop facilitation and innovation methodologies. Having worked previously with diverse groups and able to create safe accessible spaces for interaction and learning.
- Social justice: has affinity with social justice areas, sustainability and equity.
- Online facilitation: experience in designing and facilitating fun, creative and participative online workshops.

## **Collaboration**

You will be closely working together with the Partos Team and the Innovation Award winners in co-designing the workshop. Gigi Pasco Ong-Alok, Innovation Facilitator will be your focal point for process and contractual related questions. For each of the workshops, there will also be a main contact person of the winning innovation award team.

## **Process & deliverables**

The workshops will be co-created with the Award winners to ensure that their innovation needs are addressed in the workshop. Therefore, the following steps will be followed:

### **Check-in & Needs mapping with Award winner(s)**

Exploring needs & wishes for workshop with the Innovation Agency.

### **Facilitation of ½ day workshop**

Facilitating the FutureLab workshop with the three Award winners, Partos members & jury members.

### **Reflection session with Award winners**

Reflecting on the FutureLab workshops & identifying remaining learning lessons/knowledge gaps for future Partos activities.

## **Budget**

The available budget for the consultancy per workshop session (including check-in & reflection) is €2000 (excl. tax).

## Timeline

The timeline and planning of the workshop is preliminary and might change on the basis of availability and outcomes of the introductory consultation with the Award winners.

- **November:** Call for consultants shared
- **December:** Innovation agencies and consultants matched with innovation needs & contracted
- **January:** Introductory meeting between Partos, Innovation Award winners and consultants
- **January:** Co-creating workshop outline
- **January – February:** First innovation workshops
- **February – March:** Reflection Session with Award winners & Partos

## Interested?

Interested to make these workshops reality? Please send a proposal (5 pages max.) including a short introduction of the consultancy (team), a (creative) description of the workshop and your approach, a relevant track record and budget estimate before the **10th of December 2021**.

Proposals and further inquiries can be addressed to Gigi Pasco Ong-Alok, Innovation Facilitator at Partos ([gigi@partos.nl](mailto:gigi@partos.nl)).