

Do you want to be part of our new Remote Partnering initiative?



Introducing RPOP

– **the first online programme for those working remotely as partners** –

The Remote Partnering On-line Programme (RPOP) is an exciting and unique concept developed as a collaboration between 5 international organisations (see below) that we believe will make a significant contribution to multi-stakeholder partnering for sustainable development (including achieving the SDGs), humanitarian relief and other forms of collaborative venture.

By using an innovative learning model and an online platform as a mechanism for vocational training, RPOP will:

- Ensure far **greater reach** to those on the front line of partnering work – especially to those unable to access / afford face-to-face partnership training
- Empower those in key partnering roles to have more **confidence and authority** about how to partner effectively in their organisations, partnerships, sectors and contexts
- Create opportunities for valuable **new insights** through peer feedback loops so that new knowledge is generated out of practical experience and context-specific realities
- Significantly help to **shift power and build greater equity** in partnering arrangements
- **Identify and support** a far greater number of partnership practitioners operating in more remote / disadvantaged contexts
- Build a significantly **greater diversity** in the pool of skilled partnership practitioners / brokers / process managers who can act as trainers, mentors, moderators and service providers in the future across the globe

What is the challenge we're trying to surmount?

Remote Partnering is, increasingly, the default position for most partnerships, coalitions and alliances but our research to date has revealed a surprising absence of information, tools and guidelines to support those working on partnerships long-distance putting – despite the fact that for many practitioners this is the norm.

Some of those we interviewed are working in conflict, post-conflict and disaster zones and even with the many more who were working in other contexts, all were operating in the relative isolation of remote locations and / or far away from their lead agencies. In all these scenarios, practitioners report that they face the very significant additional challenges of managing their partnering processes largely unsupported and with few opportunities for building professional partnering skills, competence and confidence.

This has a serious impact on the effectiveness of remote partnering practices and, in our view, means that far too many very important partnerships (or other forms of multi-stakeholder collaboration) are working sub-optimally.

What is the proposed approach?

Based on our research (September-December 2016), a creative design lab (January 2017) and a number of mini-projects (February to May)¹ we are now planning to develop and roll out an **on-line certified learning and professional development opportunity for remote partnering practitioners** (from all sectors and contexts). We believe that this new pedagogy for learning through open knowledge co-construction will contribute to a fundamental change in the partnering landscape as it will democratise access to more diverse groups and increase the variety of contexts that tools and approaches are developed for.

Benefits for course participants and their organisations / partnerships from taking the RPOP

For Participants:

By the end of the Remote Partnering Online Programme, they will have each:

- **Had access to useful curated content** on partnering frameworks, guidelines and approaches including two short video lectures from highly experienced professionals with rich insights to share
- Exchanged points of view with other colleagues and partnership brokers to jointly reflect on their practices and share direct experiences from their unique contexts
- **Identified strengths and gaps** in their own partnering practice and in the approaches of their organisation and / or partners with respect to remote partnering
- **Recognised the need for building their skills** and expertise and knowing when / how to access further external support and resources to strengthen their remote partnering work
- **Experienced the value of diversity** of approaches and learning from counterparts in other organisations and contexts through peer review and community dialogue
- **Considered how best to apply remote partnering approaches** to their own organisation by having a well-constructed and peer reviewed action plan directly relevant and applicable to their work
- **Be more confident** about leading partnering processes in ways that are appropriate for their own contexts and cultures – including being more able to challenge unhelpful practices
- **Have earned a formal certificate** to endorse and recognise significant professional development in this new and important field.

For their organisations and/or partnerships:

By the end of the Remote Partnering Online Programme, their organisations and / or partnership will have:

- **Significantly invested** in increased remote partnering skills and competencies of key staff
- **Explored** what is working/not working in their own partnerships and specific contexts
- **Identified** ways of deepening their relationships with local partners and other stakeholders
- **Benefitted** from new insights / ideas / approaches to their partnering approaches
- **Linked up** to international partnerships with useful experiences to share
- **Provided** content for on-going action research for this new discipline of remote partnering

¹For a full list of resources and research conducted, see dedicated Remote Partnering website: <http://www.remotepartnering.org/outputs/>

- **Contributed** to a cutting edge educational approach to increase reach and scale for those partnering remotely.

Why 'Scholar' as the delivery mechanism?

The Scholar Partnership² was identified for the development of this phase because of the unique approach to its online programme approach and their application of a model that maximises the uses of technology for innovation and co-creation of content.

Opportunity to become a Partner on the Remote Partnering Online Programme

The current partners are keen to extend an invitation to other organisations interested in becoming involved in this exciting initiative. With a **small investment of £5,000** each partner will have the opportunity to help further shape this programme, offer it to its networks and receive free places for up to 10 of their nominated participants (practitioners working remotely) to attend the first roll out of the programme. The indicative time table is to develop the online course throughout June and July and be in a position to deliver the first programme in October 2017. Following a successful roll out of the first programme and any revisions, further on-line programmes are planned in 2018.

If interested please contact the Remote Partnering Project co-curator:

Catherine Russ – Catherine@cathruss.com

Or any of the current partners you may already know:

 <p>Working with BritishRedCross</p>	<p>Lucy Morris British Red Cross LMorris@redcross.org.uk</p>
 <p>THE PARTNERSHIPS RESOURCE CENTRE ROTTERDAM SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT ERASMUS UNIVERSITY</p>	<p>Marieke de Wal Partnerships Resource Centre mwal@rsm.nl</p>
	<p>Mathieu Hermans PAX hermans@paxforpeace.nl</p>
	<p>Robina Shaheen Action Against Hunger R.Shaheen@actionagainsthunger.org.uk</p>
 <p>PARTNERSHIP BROKERS ASSOCIATION LEARNING • TRAINING • TRANSFORMING</p>	<p>Ros Tennyson Partnership Brokers Association Ros@partnershipbrokers.org</p>

We look forward to hearing from you!

² See <http://learning.foundation/what-is-scholar/> for more information