

## Legal status of the partnership

Looking at current experiences of national stop TB partnerships, the following has been observed when partners have to take a decision on the legal status of the partnership.

At the time of exploration and building, it seems most reasonable that the partnership is hosted by one of the partners. The growing time and experience is needed before becoming an independent entity. However, when the partnership moves into implementation of activities and resource mobilization, the second option becomes more interesting.

Below some pros and cons for the two options to help you with this analysis. In any case the decision should be taken by all partners in a participatory way.

	Pros	Cons
<b>Hosted by a partner</b>	The hosting organization provides the partnership with office space, facilities for meetings, administrative support and facilitation of communication among partners.	Partnership has to follow administrative framework and be accountable to the hosting organization. Problems may arise if the host organization: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- does not fully understand its hosting function and claims to be in a privileged position with respect to other partners;</li> <li>- has administrative procedures that are too bureaucratic and not flexible to accommodate the partnership needs.</li> </ul>
	The hosting organization is committed to support the partnership and works as a champion and facilitator for building it from the very beginning.	The hosting organization is perceived by other partners as the 'owner' of the partnership. Partners do not have a sense of responsibility for the partnership.
	<p><u>Note.</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Hosted partnership are characterized by a double accountability system. The partnership is accountable both to the head of the hosting organization and to the ultimate decision-making body of the partnership. This is a pro or a con depending on the type of relationships between the hosting organization and the partnership.</li> <li>2. The branding (image) of the partnership needs to take into account the branding of the hosting organization to which it is inevitably associated. This is a pro or a con depending on the partners you want to reach out and their opinion on the hosting organization. Sometimes it is better to reach out in association with the hosting organization and sometimes as the partnership itself.</li> </ol>	
<b>Independent legal entity</b>	The partnership is perceived by partners as an autonomous and independent entity, not subject to the agenda of any individual partner.	The partnership has to budget for its own office space, meeting facilities, administrative support and communications among partners.
	The partnership can manage its own resource mobilization: apply for proposals, receive and administers the funds.	The partnership gets funding through the hosting organization that might be charging overheads on the funds mobilized.