### Putting Strategic Partnering Into Practice

Check-in code Strategic876



Karen Ward October 23, 2024



# REIMAGINE NOW LEA GLOBAL WORLD CONFERENCE 2024

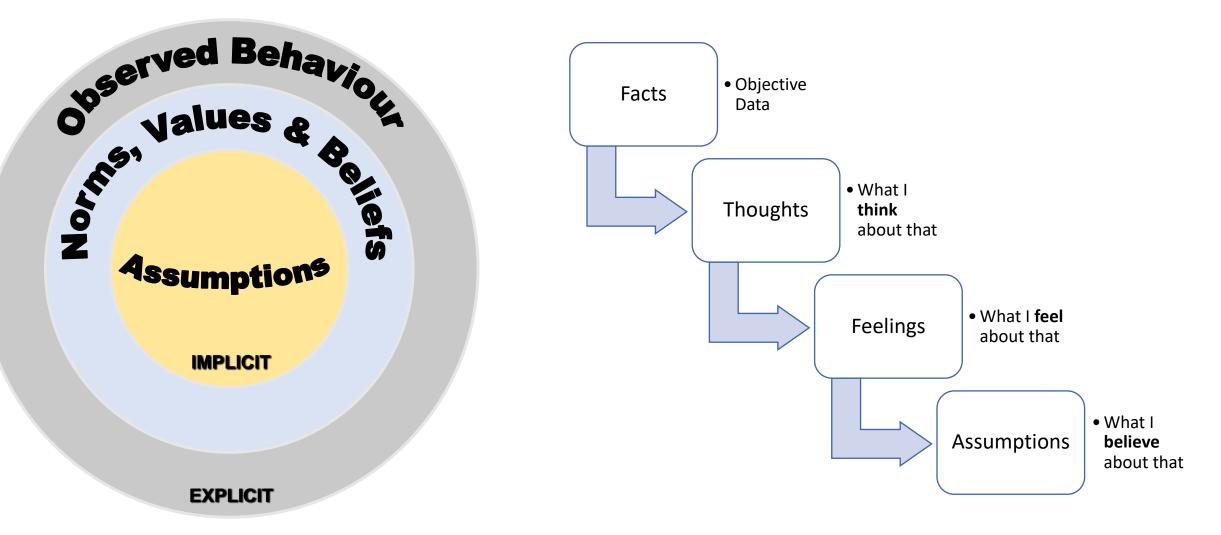


- S Strategy
- C Culture and Chemistry
- O Organisational and Operational
- P Performance Measurement
- E Equality

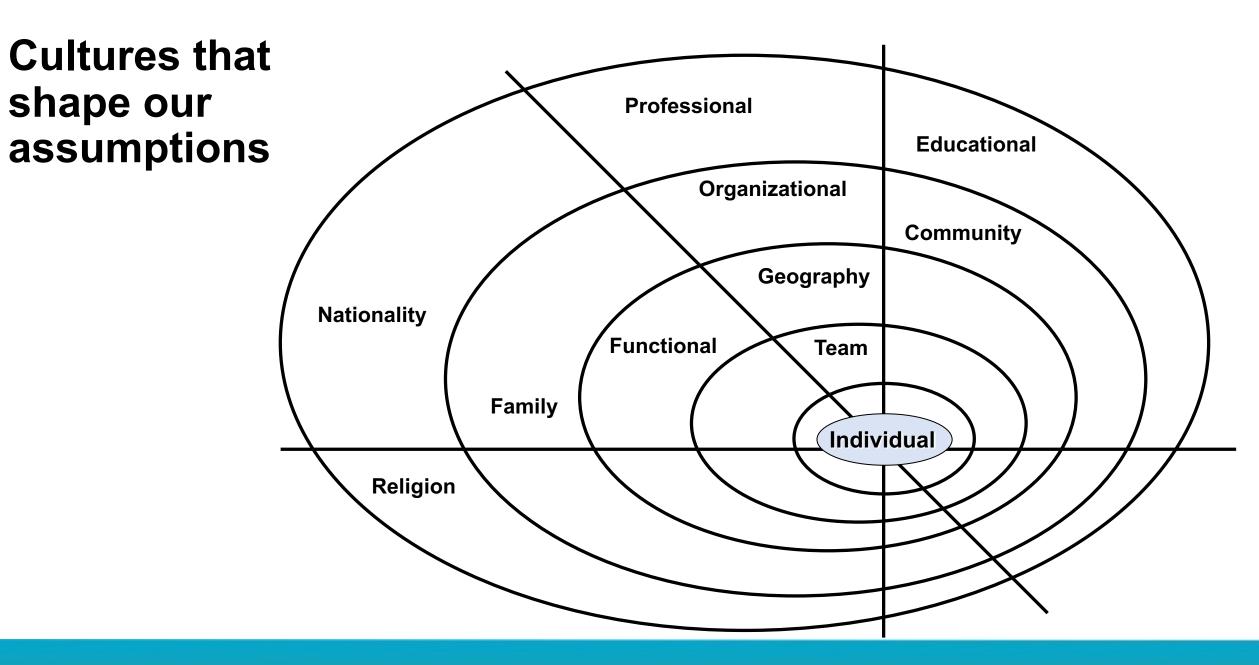
#### Culture & Chemistry

- "Planning for the mechanics of value extraction is worthless unless employees are both willing and able to implement them"
  - How do you ensure that the culture of the proposed partner can work effectively within or alongside your culture?
  - What are the 'hot buttons' in your culture that a potential partner would need to understand to be able to work with you?

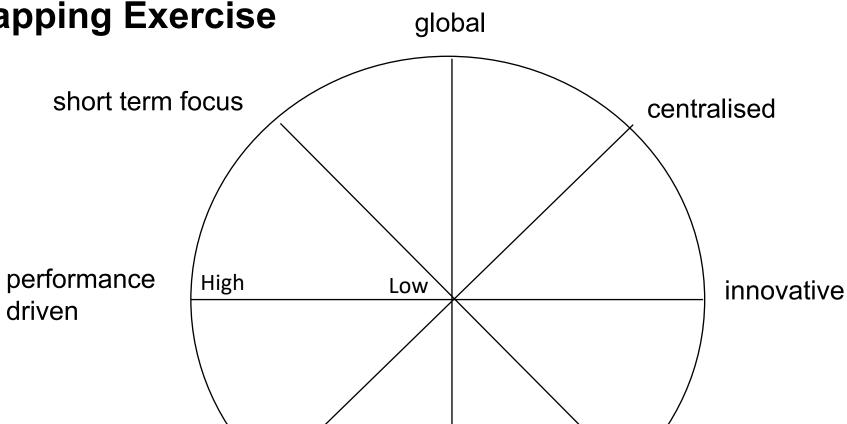
### **Success Factors: Culture**



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### **Cultural Mapping Exercise**



technology focused

cost conscious

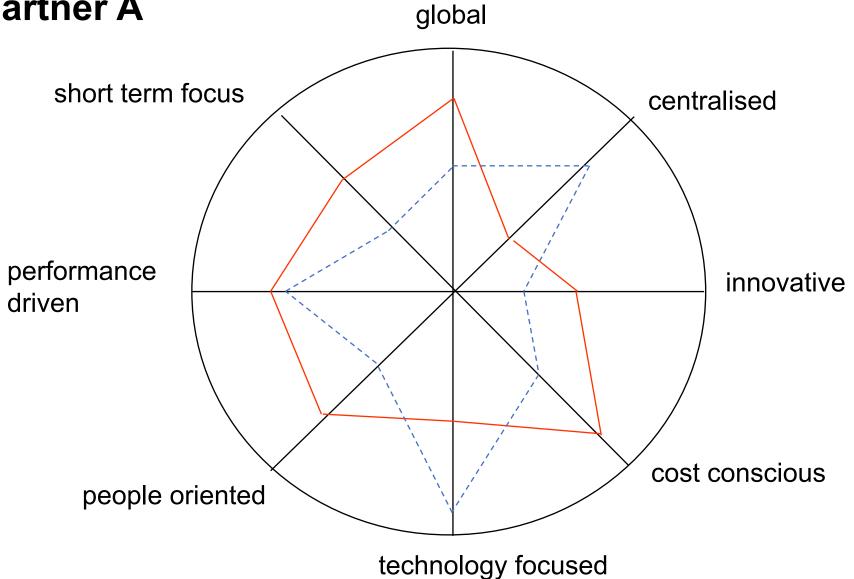
people oriented

# Which of the potential partners would you choose to partner with?

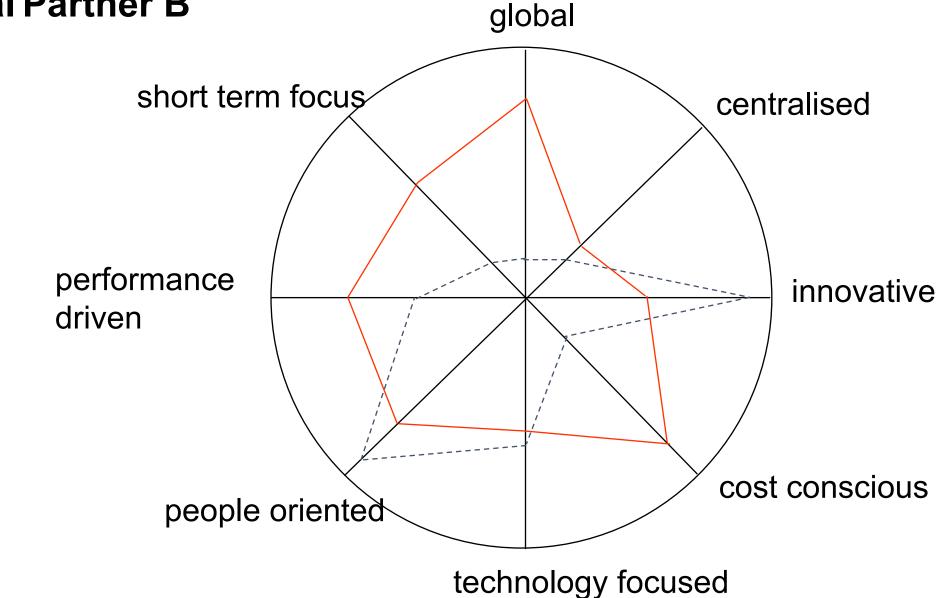
# A, B, or C

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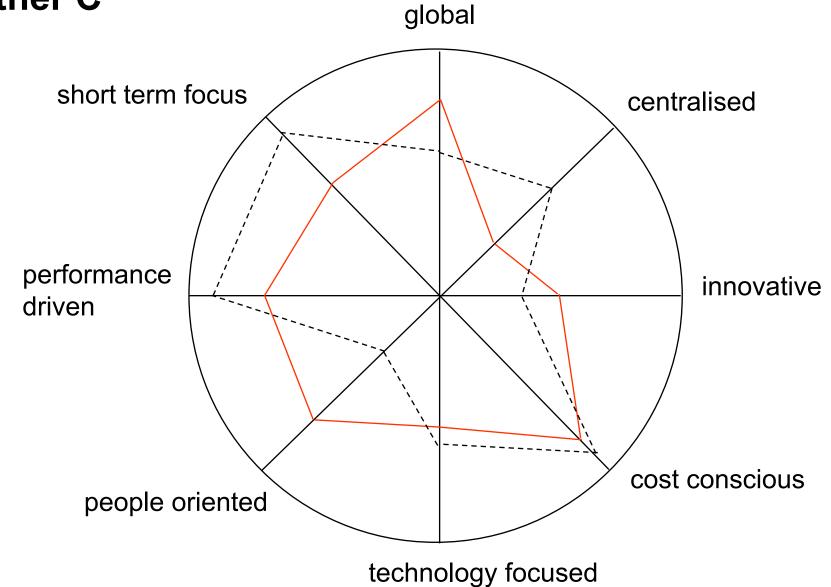
### **Potential Partner A**



### **Potential Partner B**



### **Potential Partner C**



# **Cultural Mapping in practice**

- There is no single right way of seeing the world
- The starting point for cultural awareness is yourself...
  - What are your norms, values and beliefs?
  - What are your untested assumptions?
  - What are your blind spots?
- How well do you really know what shapes behaviour in your organisation?

# Why does culture matter?

- A better cultural fit = better understanding = increased trust and openness = fewer surprises post deal
- Personal relationships reinforce the cultural fit but cannot substitute for a poor fit
- Too close a fit can lead to complacency and lack of innovation
- You must **respect** the other culture even if you don't like it
- Organisations who pay close attention to resolving cultural issues early in the planning phase (i.e. well before the deal is closed) are 26% more likely to have a successful alliance that creates value.

#### Operational and Organisational

- "Many companies have neither the resources nor the know how to give cross boundary alliances the priority they require"
  - How will you operate the proposed business combination?
  - What are the key roles and responsibilities throughout the process?
  - How will the management team lead and support the alliance activities?

# **Relationship Map: As Is**

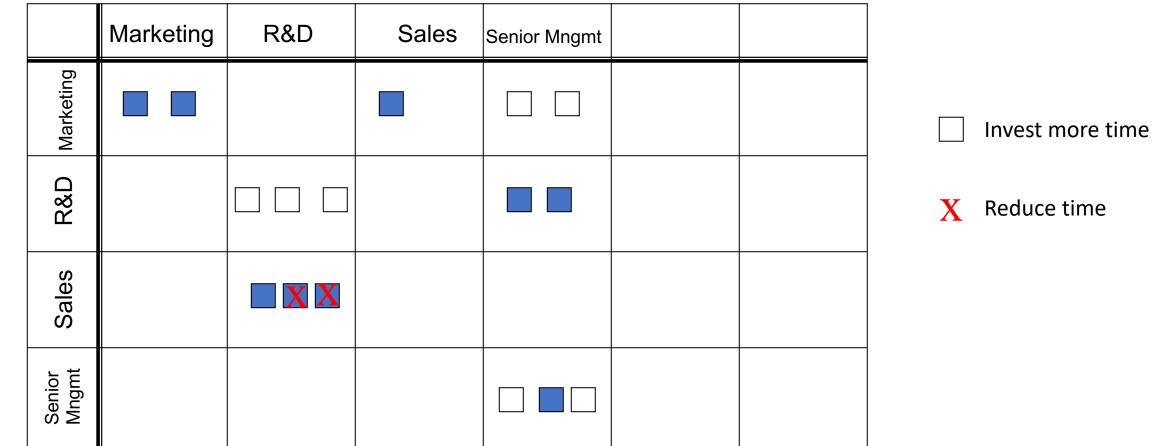
Partner B



Partner A

# **Relationship Map: Planning**

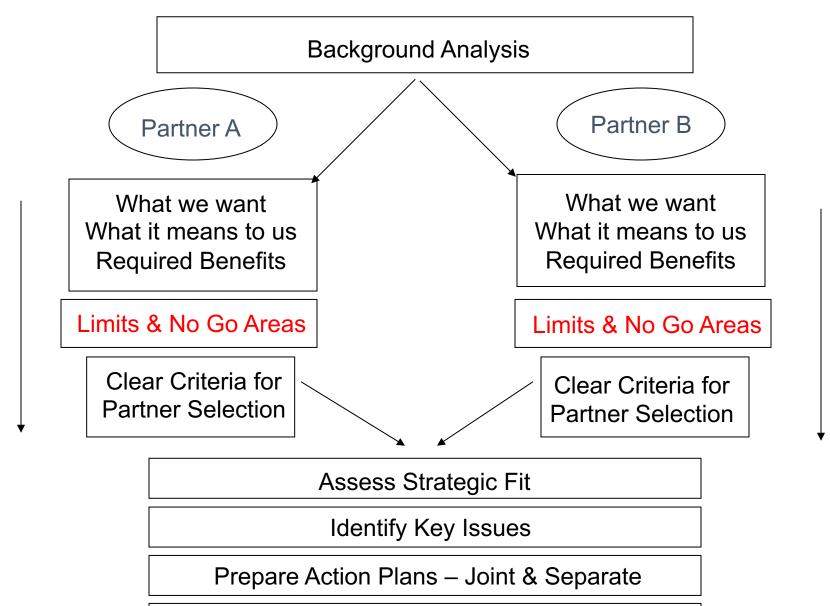
Partner B



Partner A

#### Performance Measurement

- "75% of senior management believed their partnering activities had been successful. Only 30% of them had actually created value"
  - How will you know if your proposed business combination has been successful?
  - What factors do you need to measure to track the progress of a successful alliance?



Agree Success Criteria & Measurement Process

### **Acid Test - examples**

- 1. Does it feel like joint ownership (even if it isn't)?
- 2. Do you treat each other as equals (even if you are not)?
- 3. Do you keep trying to extend the scope?
- 4. Can it survive a major restructuring by either partner?
- 5. Do you never/rarely look at the contract?
- 6. What happens when a major mistake is made? (Joint problem solve or apportion blame)
- 7. How do you behave when times are bad? Support or retrench?
- 8. Do you regularly and jointly evaluate performance and set revised future plans?
- 9. Are you willing to expose your weaknesses to each other?
- 10. Do you evaluate the relationship regularly?
- 11. Are your people fighting to work in this alliance?
- 12. Do your competitors find it impossible to break in?
- 13. Is it producing innovation?
- 14. Are you pushing each other outside your comfort zones?
- 15. Is it great fun?

#### • Equality

- You must respect your potential partner and value what they are bringing, even if you don't like some of the individuals involved in the negotiation
- You should be striving to create a genuinely mutual relationship which produces significant added benefit to both parties