

Horizon 2020 Policy Support Facility



MLE on National Strategies and Roadmaps for International Cooperation in R&I Topic 2: Tools: STI Agreements

Country Visit 2
Bucharest
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Challenge Paper No. 2

Tools for International Cooperation in R&I: STI Agreements

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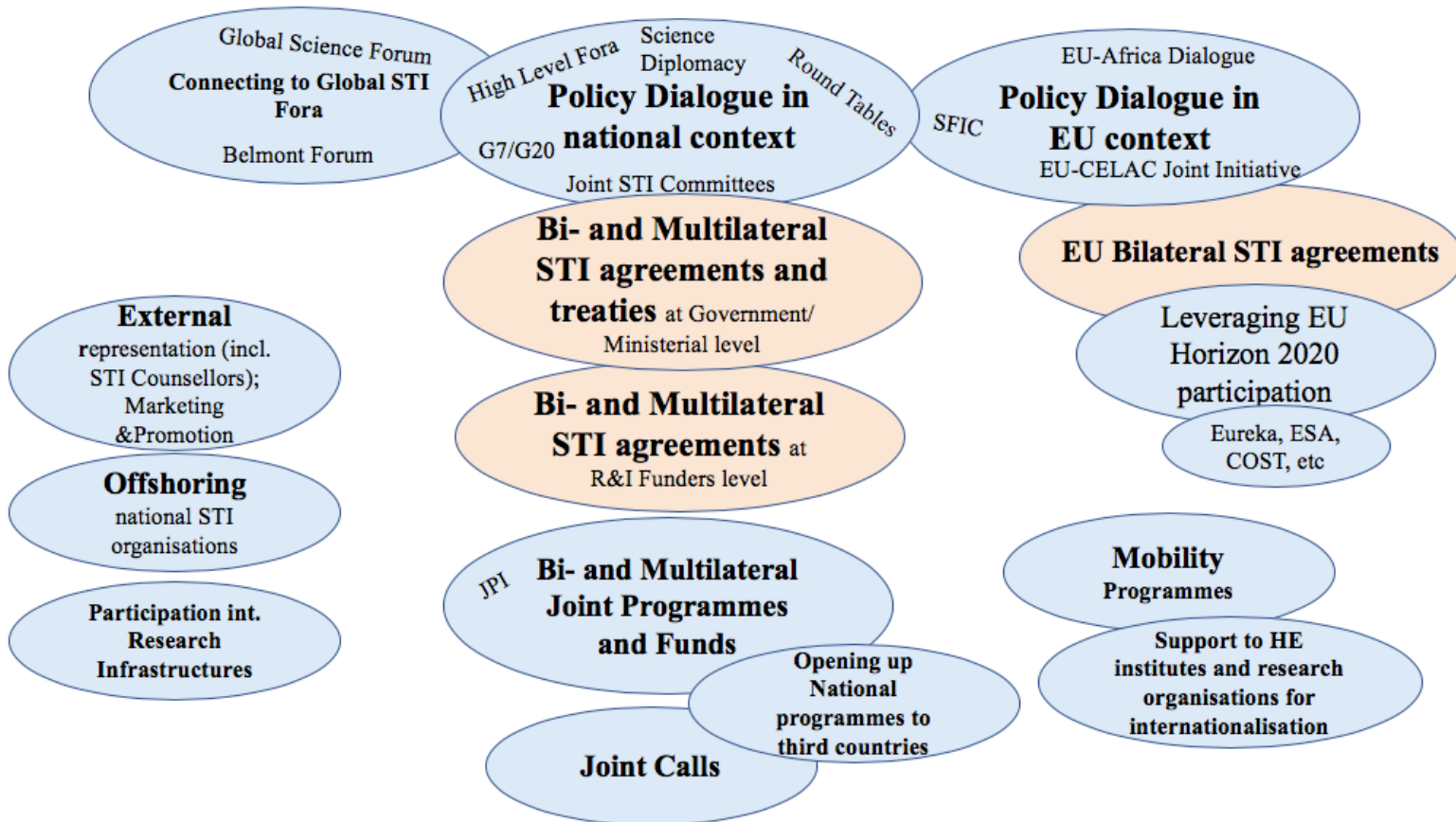


STI agreements frequent tool in international cooperation toolbox (1)

- Literature shows that great majority of European countries have STI agreements
- Rationales vary: range from science excellence – market entry - diplomacy
- The agreements are mostly the legal framework (intergovernmental or MoU)
- Implemented through various mechanisms, existing or dedicated to the STI agreement
- Very few are evaluated, limited data available
- The SFIC Tools and draft Benchmark report confirm these findings



STI agreements frequent tool in international cooperation toolbox (2)

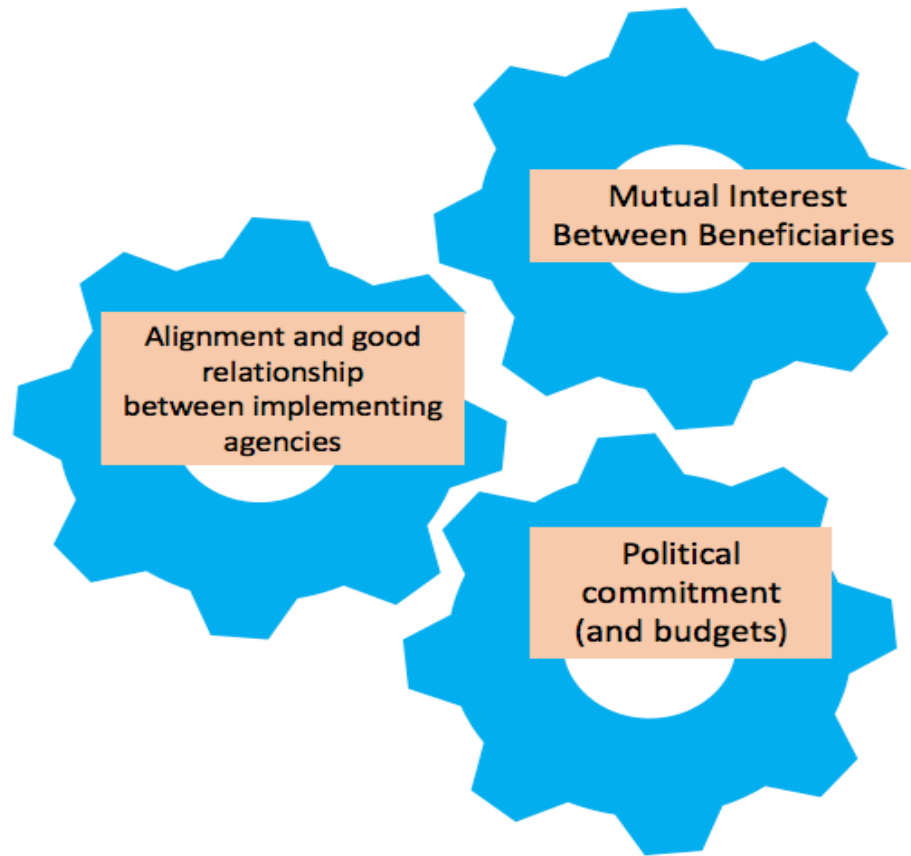


MLE success cases

- What success means is quite different for each MLE participant:
 - Successful implementation (fast and straightforward, smooth cooperation, good communication, professional implementation, increasing number of agency/ministry staff involved in cooperation)
 - The number and quality of the proposals received and their success rates
 - The number of projects initiated or volume of mobility achieved
 - The continuation of cooperation between the project partners (e.g. in a Horizon 2020 project, planned joint events in future)
 - Positive feedback from scientists, more opportunities for young researchers, market access for companies
 - More co-publications, improved science
 - The improved quality of the policy relationships with the partner country (strong financial commitment, increased co-operations between the countries and agencies)



MLE success cases: three critical success factors



What is less pronounced as critical success factor according to responses

- Legal status of the STI agreement and governance models -> e.g. Joint Committee
- Whether agreement is general or thematic -> they are mostly general frameworks with thematic implementation
- Geography
- Reciprocity: implicit and disbalance sometimes an issue, sometimes accepted

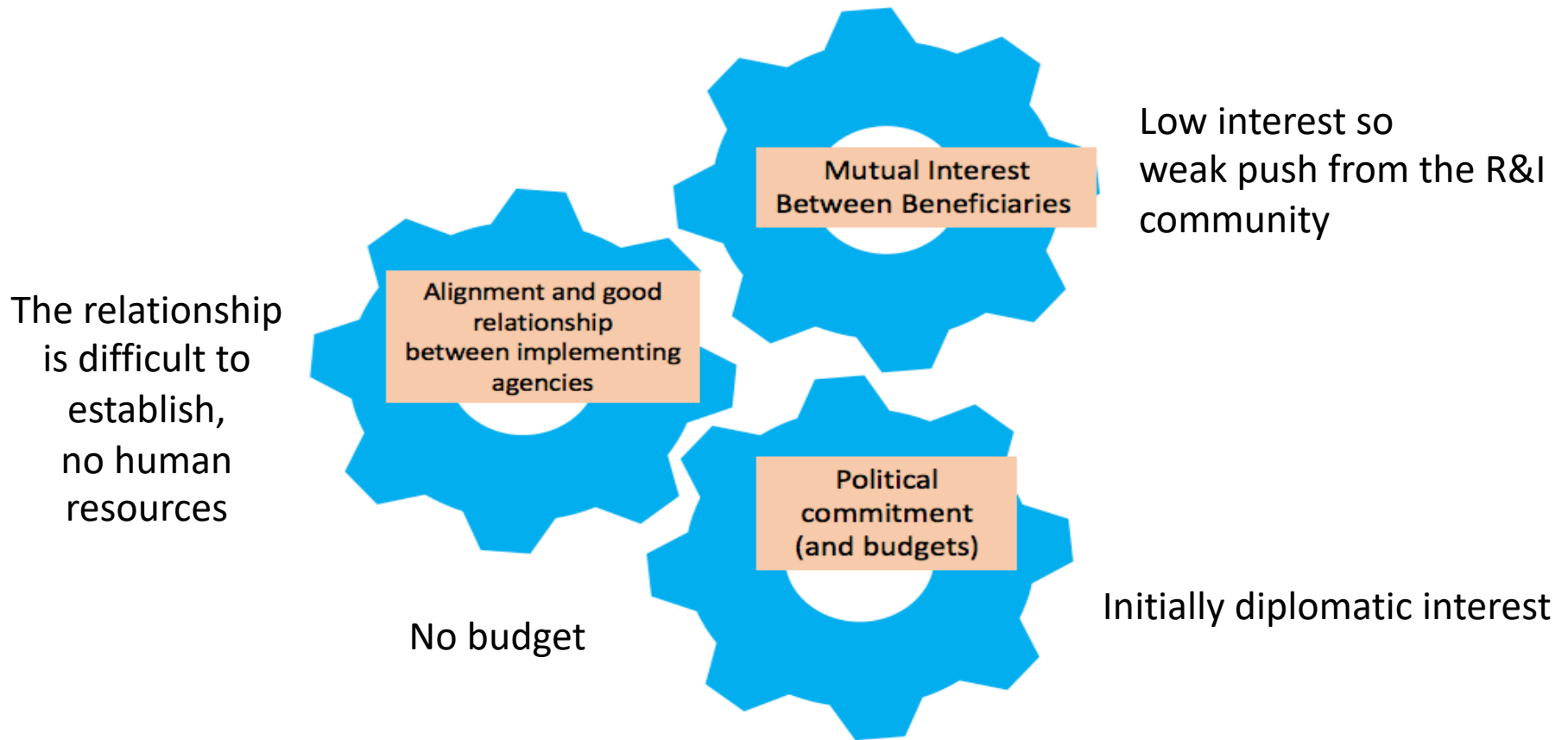


When STI agreements do not work (well)

- Intergovernmental Agreements
- Science Diplomacy often rationale
- No implementation mechanism foreseen
- Joint Committee or similar not really working
- Geography: often – but not always - low level of R&I capacities on partner side
- Little interest from the R&I community -> but as many haven't even started, this is not really tested



When STI agreements do not work (well) the gears are broken



Many important lessons from the MLE participants... just to pick a few

- Agree on the fundamentals while keeping flexibility in the implementation
- Transparent communication
- Keep close ties with national R&I community in order to offer more
- Stay in touch even in times of inactivity
- Dedication of implementation bodies important
- Never sign an agreement in a short time
- ...



Questions for discussion before lunch

- In how far is the combination of the three critical success factors recognisable for your country?
- Are we missing important features/issues in this analysis?
- In how far can we use the success cases as illustration in Final Report on Topic 2?



Success cases



World Café – Questions in Agenda

- Group 1 Mutual Interests between beneficiaries
 - Follow Totti
- Group 2 Alignment and relationship between implementing agencies
 - Follow Klaus
- Group 3 Political commitment and budgets
 - Follow Gunnel



Non-success cases



Questions for Discussion

- In how far do you recognise the analysis in the Challenge Paper?
- Political Commitment -> Budgets -> Implementation: which is the chicken, which is the egg?
- In how far can non-successful agreements be avoided in future?
- In how far are your organisations 'in charge' of avoiding agreements that are not likely to become a success?
- Do we have examples where a non-functioning agreement is revitalised? How did this happen?
- Diplomatic benefits: at what cost?



Future of STI agreements



What does the future bring us?

- The case studies seem to imply that the number of STI agreements will not drop in future
- Science diplomacy leads to increase of STI agreements
- Ministry <-> Agency position different?
- Still very much a national perspective: what do we expect from European alignment?
- The global (diplomatic) arena is in turmoil and global challenges are becoming more urgent: what does this mean for the key tool for international cooperation?



Future of STI Agreements: questions for debate

1. What will the **landscape** of STI agreements look like 10 years from now? Do we still need them? Can we still afford them? What should change?
 - What is the tendency: bi-laterals, multi-laterals, more/less of them?
 - To what extent can we continue to proliferate the STI agreement landscape?
 - Should we have a different type of Science Diplomacy to avoid more empty shells?
 - Should intra-EU agreements still exist in future? Can this not be done without a legal framework?
2. To what extent can **European level STI agreements** serve as the legal framework for setting cooperation standards and procedures (replacing high level political national agreements), followed by more focused implementation at national or even regional level?
 - What will be the role of EU STI agreements in relation to national agreements?
 - Should all EU countries have one common set of regulations and standards towards certain regions (e.g. an all-European China STI-collaboration policy)?
3. In order to address global **challenges**, should STI cooperation be developed from a multi-policy perspective rather than STI and foreign policy alone? How do we start this process?
 - How do we take into account new topics such as Artificial Intelligence, 5G, Quantum Computing but also urgent global challenges?



Key 'Take-Aways'



Post-It Notes

- What have you learned from this MLE workshop? What are the Key Take Aways?

