



# MLE on 'National Strategies and Roadmaps for International Cooperation in R&I' under the Horizon 2020 Policy Support Facility (PSF)

*Bucharest, 16-17 September 2019*

Venue: Ministry of Research and Innovation, str. Mendeleev 21-25, Bucharest

## Agenda – Tools for R&I International Cooperation: STI Agreements

### 16 September

10:00-10.10 **Welcome from the Chair**

Gunnel Gustafsson

10:10-10:20 **Welcome from Romania**

Viorel Vulturescu (Director of the Department for EU Affairs and International Cooperation; Ministry of Research and Innovation)

10:20-11.20 **Feedback from the SFIC Benchmarking Working Group**

Presentation by Axel Leisenberg and discussion

Theme 1: STI Agreements in the international cooperation tool box and STI strategies

11:20-11:40 **Introduction to Topic 2 Tools: STI Agreements**

Synthesising the Challenge Paper and MLE Templates

Led by Patries Boekholt (Expert)

11:40-12:15 **Discussion (all)**

Questions addressed in this discussion round are:

- *Is your country's experience with STI agreements in line with the analysis presented in the Challenge Paper?*
- *How essential are STI agreements as a tool for your international cooperation strategy?*

- *Can STI agreements function as game-changers?*

12:15-12:45 **Ride to the ELI-NP<sup>1</sup> research facility (Măgurele) by bus<sup>2</sup>**

13:00-13:45 **Working lunch with international researchers at Măgurele**

Discussion topics with the researchers:

- *What were the decisive factors to invest in Romania (particularly to University of Osaka representatives)?*
- *How decisive for your cooperation with Romania was an STI agreement?*
- *What positive factors made you decide to come to Romania?*
- *What specific framework conditions have made your relocation to and stay in Romania difficult?*

Theme 2: STI Agreements: success factors and options for improvement

13:45-14:00 **Input from Ireland:** Experiences with STI Agreements

Presentation from Mary Twomey (Assistant Principal Officer, Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation)

14:00-14:15 **Input from Portugal:** Experiences with CYTED

Presentation from Maria Maia (SFIC Delegate for Portugal)

14:15-15:15 **World Café discussion:** Success factors of STI Agreements (3 Tables)

**Group 1: Mutual interests between beneficiaries**

- *Do we have the appropriate connections and ties with the STI community (from public and private sector) in our own countries and information on your partner country to seriously assess the potential interest in cooperation?*
- *What can we do to increase our strategic intelligence of the potential interests of stakeholders from both sides of the partnership? Do we have good practice examples?*
- *How can we do this early in the decision process so that it can inform geographical location or thematic priorities?*
- *Do mobility schemes need as much strategic intelligence as other types of collaboration?*

**Group 2: Alignment and relationship between implementing agencies**

- *How to keep the communication with the partner country alive in periods where there is little cooperation activity?*
- *To what extent are the Joint Committees or joint management teams essential for keeping the momentum in the partnership?*
- *What is the appropriate level of flexibility in the implementation cooperation? Do annual implementation plans provide the right dynamic?*
- *How much alignment is feasible and how much discrepancy can we allow?*
- *Do we have examples of good practice of building a working relationship with the counterparts in the partner country?*

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<sup>1</sup> ELI-NP, a project co-financed by the ERDF, is hosting the most powerful laser in the world - 10PW (ten millions of billions of Watts)

<sup>2</sup> The bus ride will be organised by the Romanian hosts.

### Group 3: Political commitment and budgets

- *If political commitment fails, what can be done to revive it?*
- *Can we allow ourselves sufficient time to prepare an STI agreement, build relationships with the counterpart and – if necessary – mobilise the consent of our funding agencies before being faced with a ‘fait accompli’ of a politically signed STI agreement?*
- *Should the high-level policy makers involved in science diplomacy be better informed by the STI (policy) community on what works and what does not work?*
- *Should governments refrain from signing new STI agreements if no budgets can be allocated to its implementation?*
- *Should intergovernmental agreements with countries with a very low level of R&D capacity be supported from a development policy perspective rather than a science and technology policy perspective?*

15:15-15:45 Short summary of World Café chairs and open discussion

15:45-16:00 **Coffee break**

16:00-17:00 Learning from when STI agreements are less effective

**Round Table discussion (all)** led by Patries Boekholt, Expert

17:00-17:15 **Wrap up** of Day 1’s discussions so far

Gunnel Gustafsson (Chair)

17.15-18:00 **Guided Tour** through the ELI-NP research facility

18.00-18.30 Bus ride back into town

19:30 **Dinner**<sup>3</sup>

## 17 September

### Theme 3: STI Agreements in the future

09:00-9:15 **Short introduction** on issues for the future

Patries Boekholt (Expert)

09:15-9:30 **Input from Hungary:** Views on STI agreements in the Future

Presentation by Ágota Dávid (Science attaché, Permanent Representation of Hungary to the EU)

10:00-11:00 **Discussion (all)** (supported by interactive workshop techniques led by Patries Boekholt, Expert)

Example of questions to address:

- *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?*

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<sup>3</sup> Dinner reservations will be made by the hosts, but the costs will be covered individually by the participants.

- *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?*
- *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?*
- *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?*
- *Should all EU countries have one common set of regulations and standards towards certain regions (e.g. an all-European China STI-collaboration policy)?*
- *What will be the role of EU STI agreements in relation to national agreements?*

11:00-11.15 MLE partners note their **key ‘Take-Aways’** and lessons from this Workshop

11:15-11:30 **Coffee break**

11:30-12:00 **Stocktaking by the Chair**

Gunnel Gustafsson

12:00-12:45 **Finalising the scope of Topic 3**

Totti Könnölä (Expert)

12:45-13:00 **Information on next meeting and any other business**

Ioana Petre (European Commission, Unit G1 – ERA & Country Intelligence)

13:00 **Closure of workshop**

Gunnel Gustafsson (Chair)