

# Horizon 2020 Policy Support Facility



MLE on 'National Strategies and Roadmaps for Intl. Coop. in R&I'

Strategic Objectives and Theories of Change

Country Visit France  
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# Variations of R&I Internationalisation

R&I internationalisation of BES  
(often not cooperative)

R&I internationalisation of public  
R&D organisations -often  
cooperative and main  
beneficiaries of

R&I internationalisation policies



# Basic assumptions rooted in innovation economics

- **Growth and change are driven by innovations**
- Growing **world-wide competition for new innovation-relevant knowledge**
- Technological progress has an **endogenous** and an **exogenous** dimension
- Positive spill-overs (e.g. via TT) create added value when the receiving institution has the ability to make use of them and to enhance them through own contribution
- Research organisations and universities are important for developing **absorption capacities** – policy plays an important role too (e.g. resource allocation)
- The capacity of humans to acquire and use new knowledge is essential for assimilation and application of new technologies



# R&I internationalisation strategy

- (socio-)economic development and modernization rest on access to and the ability to apply an international body of high quality knowledge
- a strategy defines clear goals, which go beyond the wish to simply increase international R&D cooperation
- Intern. Coop. is not an end in itself
- Successful RTI internationalisation, both outgoing and incoming, starts at home



# Objectives

## Primary objectives:

- Excellence Objective
- Market (or innovation) Objective
- Global (or Grand) Challenges Objective
- Science Diplomacy Objective

## Secondary objectives:

- Development of the ERA Objective
- Cost and Risk Sharing Objective
- Location Marketing (or nation branding) Objective



# Theory of Change

- Sequence of outcomes that are expected to occur as the result of an intervention
- Explicit **logical connection between the overall objectives and the policy interventions**
  - *plausibility* (i.e. the logic of the outcomes pathway),
  - *feasibility* (i.e. can the proposed interventions realistically achieve the expected long-term outcomes and impact) and
  - *testability* (which refers broadly to the indicators)
- **Question:** *what will have changed or what changes will have occurred due to policy interventions?*
- Focus is on tangible outcomes/results of an intervention or a portfolio of interventions, and not just on the postulation of overall objectives.



# Input – Two illustrative cases

- **The approach of France in international cooperation for Higher Education, Research and Innovation**
- Olivier Steffen (Deputy Head of Unit in charge of bilateral R&I cooperation, MESRI)
- **The strategy for international cooperation of the Research Foundation–Flanders (FWO)**
- Isabelle Verbaeys (Head of International Affairs, FWO)



# Food for thought (1)

- *How important is R&I internationalisation in the national R&I strategy and policy discourses of the countries participating in this MLE?*
- *Is your national R&I internationalisation strategy primarily focussed on Europe or beyond Europe? Do you consider the development of the European Research Area as part of your internationalisation strategy?*
- *Do countries participating in this MLE target their domestic MNEs with specific instruments or programmes? Or is the focus more on SMEs (if at all)?*
- *Are the business sector and the public R&I sector internationalising their activities even without R&I internationalisation policies?*





# Food for thought (2)

- *Which R&I internationalisation objectives are the most important ones?*
- *Do you have other specific principal or secondary objectives explicitly defined in your R&I internationalisation strategy?*
- *Do you agree with the statement that the notion of innovation in international S&T policy-making is disruptive?*
- *How is your market and innovation objective (if available) perceived by your partner countries? Does it influence the cooperation practices with your partner countries? Are “innovation” and “science” cooperation ‘worlds apart’?*
- *Are science for development approaches still relevant in the national/regional R&I strategies? Or are they caught up or replaced by a more focussed Global Challenges approach?*



# Food for thought (3)

- *Are you cooperating with your partner countries in developing and establishing STI policy institutions and infrastructures? If so, is this part of the R&I internationalisation strategy? Who is responsible for this?*
- *How do you approach the Location Marketing (or nation branding) Objective in your internationalisation strategy? Which tools do you use? Do you also partner together with other EU-MS in international promotions and how?*
- *Do we need more frequent re-consideration and re-formulation of goals and combination of goals against the background of the rapidly changing global framework conditions?*
- *Do you have a logical pathway concept which makes the sequence between inputs into R&I internationalisation policies, the policy portfolio of interventions for R&I internationalisation, the attributable outcomes of these interventions and their quantitative and qualitative contribution to reach the overall objectives traceable?*

