



Scoping Paper | Design and development of national strategies for R&I international cooperation

The two keywords which could guide this MLE-INCO with regards to the topic “**design and development of national strategies for R&I cooperation**” seem to be **embedding** and **alignment**.

The matrix below summarises the feedback of MS/AC

Rationales and objectives of international R&I strategy	Added-value of int. R&I coop. (intrinsic R&I & other such as science diplomacy , devco); Impact pathways and theory of change	Fit/integration with national R&I strategies (embedding)	Alignment with multilateral initiatives (incl. intern. organisations)	Process methodology, Governance
Thematic priority setting	Alignment with and embedding in national R&I strategies	Alignment with EU initiatives	Methodology, indicators, benchmarks	Other
Selecting partner countries	Scientific considerations	Economic considerations	Cultural considerations incl. Science Diplomacy	Other ...
Science Diplomacy	Concept and rationales at the interface between science and int. affairs	Governance (incl. EU/MS calibration)	Practices and challenges	Other ...
EU – MS/AC	Synergies of using INCO for national R&I strategies	Patterns of influence, alignment with European initiatives (e.g. ERUEKA, COST etc.); alignment of strategies	Improving framework conditions for better using EU-instruments (e.g. ERA-NETs)	INCO in Horizon Europe
Improving framework conditions (national and EU level)	Dual use	Openness (open innovation), IPR	Ethics, gender	Proposal evaluation

Based on this matrix, the major aspects of designing and developing national strategies for R&I international cooperation could be grouped **into two building blocks**:

1. **Block 1: Strategic configuration of national R&I internationalisation strategies**
 - Added value of national R&I internationalisation strategy (theory of change and impact pathways)
 - Embedding international cooperation within the overall national R&I strategy
 - Definition of thematic priorities and partner countries (regions)
 - Science Diplomacy – how to better use it
2. **Block 2: Synergies through European and multilateral R&I cooperation**
 - Synergies and division of labour between EU level and national level for enhancing international R&I cooperation (incl. Science Diplomacy)
 - Alignment of instruments¹ and initiatives for multilateral international collaboration

The issue of **framework conditions** needs to be both strategically and operationally tackled. This will be addressed by the third topic of this MLE.

If the MLE participants agree with these condensed two building blocks we need to explore during the kick-off meeting the feasibility how they can be addressed in terms of exchange of inspiring practices (who can provide a transferrable case) as well as regards timing and duration.

¹ Alignment needs to be strategically tackled but reaches also out to the instrumental level (i.e. Topic 2 of this MLE).