# Mutual Learning Exercise (MLE) on Research Integrity

## Modus Operandi

Research and Innovation

**MLE on Research Integrity: Modus Operandi**

# Mutual Learning Exercise on Research Integrity

## Modus Operandi

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# 1 CONTEXT

To support countries in reforming their research and innovation (R&I) systems, DG Research and Innovation has set up a 'Policy Support Facility' (PSF) under Horizon 2020, aimed at "improving the design, implementation and evaluation of R&I policies". The PSF provides best practice, leading expertise and guidance to Member States (MS) and Associated Countries (on a voluntary basis) through a broad range of services to address their specific needs.

In this way the Horizon 2020 Policy Support Facility replies to the strong need expressed by the Member States (i.e. ERAC consultations) to offer more customer-oriented services to support evidence-based policymaking.

There are three main services offered by the Horizon 2020 PSF to the Member States and Associated Countries:

• Peer reviews of national R&I systems which are in-depth assessments of a country's R&I system carried out by a panel of experts and leading to concrete recommendations to the national authorities on reforms necessary to strengthen their R&I system.

• Specific support to countries which can take form of 'pre peer review' (providing a solid evidence-base and focus areas for a subsequent full peer review), 'post peer review' (providing concrete advice on how to adjust and strengthen the implementation of peer review recommendations) and 'ad-hoc requests' (providing a set of concrete recommendations on how to tackle a specific issue R&I policy issue and how to implement the accompanying reforms).

• Mutual learning exercises which are demand-oriented, focused on specific R&I topics of interest to several volunteering countries, more hands-on, and translated into a project-based exchange of good practice..

# 2 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Research integrity is a foundation of excellent science and the cornerstone of societal trust in researchers and research institutions. Advancing research integrity across Europe is of the utmost importance in order to ensure the high quality of science, including reproducibility of research results, and to ensure a fruitful relationship between science and society.

Societal trust is primarily based on the belief that science is conducted in an ethical way, adhering to high standards of research integrity. Deliberate or non-deliberate misconduct undermines science and, if it goes undetected, can have broad negative implications. This is especially the case when faulty results form the basis for policy decisions, product developments or new processes. The long term costs of misconduct (both in economic and social terms) can thus be considerable.

In December 2015 the Council of the European Union put research integrity for the first time on its agenda and adopted Conclusions recognising "research integrity as the foundation of high quality research and as a prerequisite for achieving excellence in research and innovation in Europe and beyond" . The Council underlined the contribution of research integrity to socio-economic development and the consequent high cost of research misconduct, stressing the importance of its prevention.

Advancing research integrity is a shared responsibility and should be a priority for all relevant stakeholders, including the European Commission, national governments and institutions as well as individual researchers. The shared responsibility of all stakeholders and coordinated efforts in this regard are seen as key to maintaining the highest standards

of research integrity in Europe. To this end, the Council of the EU has invited all actors involved "to define and implement policies to promote research integrity and to prevent and address research misconduct, including questionable research practices."

In this regard, promoting research integrity is a top priority for the EU's research policy. In order to advance research integrity in the EU, the European Commission fostered the revision of the "European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity"[1] developed by the European Science Foundation (ESF) and All European Academies (ALLEA) and funds research projects aiming to explore the different dimensions of research integrity while stimulating cooperation and exchange of practice between relevant organisations across Europe.

At the level of the Member States, many European countries have adopted laws, codes or guidelines, aiming to promote research integrity and prevent research misconduct. Furthermore, ministries, research funding organisations and universities across Europe have established relevant policies and structures. However, to date, the policies, structures and definitions of research integrity and misconduct (when available) are quite varied among Member States. This variability is based among others on cultural differences and values. While respecting this diversity, Member States may benefit greatly from each other's experience, through exchanging best practices and sharing expertise in this field.

This MLE constitutes an opportunity to take stock of current or planned policies and best practices at Member State level and beyond and to share experience among policy-makers and national authorities on the formulation and implementation of policies promoting research integrity and combatting research misconduct.

## 3   SCOPE AND PRIORITY TOPICS

The Horizon 2020 PSF MLE on "Research Integrity" implements the application for an MLE on the issue of research integrity submitted by France to the Commission services in July 2017: "This is indeed an important topic which would benefit from the exchange of best practices between MS/AC representatives, especially given the level of variability between different countries, some being quite advanced on this issue (with a dedicated structure, procedures, etc.) and some others less advanced. However, for the benefit of science, it is important to promote research integrity in all countries.

In the submission, France added: "Moreover, there are already networks at the level of RFOs/RPOs and integrity offices (in particular ENRIO) but there is a lack of a forum for integrity at the level of national authorities (ministries) although the issue of integrity also calls for policy actions. This MLE would be very relevant following Council Conclusions adopted in December 2015."

Following France's request, the MLE will have a focus on the exchange of practices on how to best design and implement national strategies for promoting research integrity, procedures to tackle cases of research misconduct and positive incentives for the upgrade of the quality of research.

On 23 March 2018, a concept note was circulated to ERAC in view of exploring countries interest in participating in the MLE on "Research Integrity". 14 countries (France, Denmark, Finland, Sweden, Spain, Bulgaria, Ireland, Luxembourg, Estonia, Lithuania, Austria, Greece, Norway and Moldova) expressed their interest in taking part in this MLE. All the 14 countries provided feedback to the Concept Note on the main challenges the MLE should address and their expectations.

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[1] The European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity (revised edition):
   https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/other/hi/h2020-ethics_code-of-conduct_en.pdf

- **Scope of the exercise:**

On 10 July 2018, a Scoping Workshop took place with the participation of 13 countries. In addition, on 14 November a Kick-off meeting took place with the participation of 14 countries. The objective of the workshop and the kick-off meeting was to agree on the initial scope and work plan of the MLE. Units SAM and A4 participated and facilitated the discussions to ensure a clear focus of the MLE.

Member States and Associated countries agreed on the **scope of the exercise:**

✓ Exchanges of national practices at the operational level (with a focus on the day to day level) and learning between peers around concrete existing examples in the field of research integrity.

✓ Practices (both successful and unsuccessful) at national level intended to promote, improve and spread research integrity practices to all levels– institutional, national and cross-border.

✓ The ALLEA Code of Conduct will be used as a base for the common understanding of the concepts. In this regard, the exercise will not debate or provide a definition regarding research integrity, research ethics and the relation between the two.

✓ The Member States agreed on four main building blocks for the MLE:Incentives; communication and dialogue; training and education; and processes and structures.

- **Preliminary topics:**

Member States also agreed on the following **priority topics** for the MLE:

1. Processes and structures:

Participating countries expressed the need for sharing experiences in relation to good practices in establishing structures and processes to promote responsible conduct of research and deal with allegations of research misconduct. The following topics emerged as priorities for discussion:

- Comparison of national and institutional structures among participating countries

    o Exchange of best practices

    o Challenges related to the expertise and competing interests of members of the research integrity (RI) bodies

    o Monitoring of institutional bodies

- Exchanging best practices regarding processes for dealing with research misconduct

    o Challenges in implementing principles and requirements in real life, with all stakeholders subscribing to best practices

    o Challenges in addressing legal regulation vs and ethics policies, which may not overlap (e.g. fraud vs ethical breach)

    o How to protect whistle-blowers as well as the accused in allegations of research misconduct?

- Challenges related to definitions

- o Exploring differences among countries: "good" research vs misconduct

- o Normative problems: research integrity vs research ethics, research fraud vs research misconduct, questionable research practices vs detrimental research practices, crime vs ethical breach

- Challenges related to resources

  - o Best practices and different roads in ensuring sufficient resources

- Cross-national/cross-institutiona/cross-sectoral/cross-disciplinary issues

  - o How to cross different barriers in investigating research misconduct?

  - o How to ensure that structures and processes work across different barriers?

- Emerging challenges: Application of the General Data Protection Regulation – exchanging best practices

## 2. Incentives:

Participating countries manifested an interest in comparing and sharing practices, experiences and proposals to encourage good research practices at the institutional and individual level. In particular, the MLE will aim to:

- Compare approaches to promote and encourage the adoption of research integrity and/or open sharing policies at the institutional level, including:

  - o Incentives to implement RI policies

  - o Incentives to comply with RI requirements

  - o Research performance evaluation criteria

- Compare approaches to promote and encourage research integrity and/or open sharing of data and methods amongst individual researchers and lab leaders, including:

  - o Incentives to implement good research practices and/or sharing of data and methods

  - o Incentives to train and be trained in RI

  - o Research performance evaluation criteria

- Share experiences, successful and unsuccessful, of setting either positive rewards (e.g. badges, criteria for promotion, prizes and awards) or punitive sanctions. In particular, sharing experiences about:

  - o Whether to require mandatory compliance rather than optional compliance with research integrity and data sharing standards

  - o Methods of verification of institutional and individual compliance with research integrity and Open Science

  - o Assessing the effectiveness of policies in improving research practices

- Gain a deeper understanding of possible intended and unintended consequences (costs and benefits) of:

- o Specific research integrity policies

- o Specific data sharing requirements

3. Dialogue/communication:

Participating countries expressed their interest for sharing experiences regarding good practices in promoting the dialogue on research integrity within and among relevant institutions and the communication with the public to enhance a culture for RI and to engage key stakeholders. The following topics emerged as priorities for discussion:

- Best practices in developing the culture that fosters open communication and dialogue

    - o How to find a "comfort zone" for all stakeholders to find a common ground for communication and subscription to RI practices?

    - o What is the best way to communicate the results of RI investigations?

    - o How to engage researchers (bottom-up) and policy-makers (top-down) in the dialogue (e.g., research on RI)?

- Dialogue among the three levels of RI: institutional, national, transnational

    - o How can countries learn from each other (e.g. RI Country Report Cards)?

- Dialogue with the public

    - o Who can lead this dialogue?

    - o Who has the responsibility and resources for this dialogue?

- Dialogue to prevent research misconduct and increase responsible research

    - o Is prevention (promoting RI) better than treatment (punishing misconduct)?

4. Training and education:

Participating countries expressed the will to share and compare knowledge and experiences of education and training initiatives. In particular, it was suggested that the MLE should aim to:

- Compare training programs on research integrity, with regards to aspects including:

    - o Objectives, content and structure of the courses

    - o Mode of delivery, i.e. whether online or in-person

    - o Assessment of the courses, whether in the form of feedback from course participants, or a test of the knowledge acquired during the course, or as a study on changes in the beliefs and behaviour of participants

- Share successful and unsuccessful experiences about different aspects of training, such as:

    - o Mode of course delivery: online training modules, vs in person teaching, versus role playing and other interactive approaches

- o Incentives to the course, e.g. making the training mandatory rather than optional, and how to make it more interesting and fun for participants

- o Career level and occupation of participants: from undergraduate students to senior-level lab leaders or even administrative staff and policy makers

- An overarching challenge to be explored will concern the necessary trade-off between generality and specificity of training: to what extent should the content of the course be tailored to the specific culture and needs of a country, an institution, a discipline or even a specific research field?

- The MLE will explore the issues related to the establishment and use of databases of anonymized cases to be presented in research integrity courses

## 4    OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES

The MLE will facilitate the exchange of national practices, with a focus on the operational, day to day level, intended to promote, improve and spread research integrity practices. The exercise will include learning among peers on concrete existing examples and best practices in the field of research integrity.

The final aim of this MLE is to support Member States and Associated countries in designing, implementing and/or evaluating different policy instruments in relation to the four topics in the field of research integrity identified in Scoping workshop. The exercise will adopt a hands-on "learning by doing" approach supported by external expertise.

In addition to the tacit learning, there will be a written report drawing lessons for policy design/implementation/evaluation covering the four different topics. The report will identify practices (both successful and unsuccessful), include a set of concrete operational recommendations, lessons learned and success factors based on robust evidence about the impacts of the measures and the contextual factors that may explain the impacts. It will contain a solid policy-oriented Executive Summary.

## 5   MEETINGS

The MLE will be structured around five meetings, plus one dissemination event:

| MLE Research Integrity Time Schedule | | |
|---|---|---|
| **14** | November 2018 | Kick-off Meeting in Brussels of the MLE with participant countries and independent experts |
| **30** | January 2019 | First country to Norway in topic 1 |
| **11-12** | March 2019 | Second country to Greece in topics 2 and 3 |
| **14** | May 2019 | Third country to France on topic 4 |
| **tbc** | June/July 2019 | Final Meeting in Brussels |
| | tbc | Dissemination Event |

## 6   WORKING APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY

The MLE will follow the standard methodology for conducting Mutual Learning Exercises in the context of the Horizon 2020 Policy Support Facility "Mutual Learning Exercise- a new methodology"[2]. As a *Member State driven* and *policy challenge*-based activity the MLE will promote mutual learning between the participating countries.

The participating countries will get together to explore the best ways to tackle the identified policy challenges, wishing to learn from experiences in other countries.

It will take the form of a project-type of collaboration for a set period of time, in principle, up to 12 months, with defined resources and goals.

Each participating country is expected to gain tailored information and expertise from the process, and is also open to other participants to learn from their circumstances/experiences. Thus, the project is based on open, frank, and confidential knowledge exchange between the participating countries. All participating countries are expected to participate actively, in a forthright manner, and to collect and synthesise the necessary empirical evidence in a timely manner and provide friendly peer support for mutual learning. The specific knowledge interests around the identified policy challenges may vary to some extent between the participating countries, but they are sufficiently close in order that the process can benefit all participants and that learning is mutual. This process is called *peer-supported learning.*

## 7   DISTRIBUTION OF WORK

MLE on Research Integrity require:

- Participating countries: 14 countries (France, Denmark, Finland, Sweden, Spain, Bulgaria, Ireland, Luxembourg, Estonia, Lithuania, Austria, Greece, Norway and Moldova) have confirmed their interest to actively participate in the MLE. Participating countries will appoint as their representive(s) one or two sufficiently quilified  person(s) with experience and knowledge on the policy challenge. The representatives are expected to actively contribute to the MLE, by providing data and information as the process requires and by allotting time to attend meetings

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[2] Mutual Learning Exercises in the context of the Horizon 2020 Policy Support Facility "Mutual Learning Exercise- a new methodology, Terttu Luukkonen, DG RTD

and potential country visits, among others. In addition, the national representatives are expected to actively contribute to the preparation of the deliverables of the MLE (see section 9).

- Independent Experts: The MLE will be supported by 4 independent experts: a Chair, selected by the Commission (Prof. Göran Hermerén), a Rapporteur (Hub Zwart) and 2 more experts (Ana Marusic and Daniele Fanelli). Section 8 provides details on their tasks and Section 9 on their profile.

- Commission services: The Directorate General for Research & Innovation will actively support the work of this MLE. The Policy Support Facility Team within Unit A4 – 'Unit A4 'Reforms and economic impact – country intelligence', closely cooperates with the Ethics and Research Integrity Sector, SAM Unit–' Scientific Advice Mechanism'. The contacts are Ignacio Baleztena from Unit A4 and Louiza Kalokairinou and Isidoros Karatzas from SAM Unit.

- Project Manager: The PSF contractor will provide full support to the Chair and the Rapporteur, and notably be in charge of operational and logistical tasks concerned with the organisation of meetings, country visits and overall development of the MLE. The Project Manager, Viola Peters, will make sure that all official and working (non-confidential) documents will be prepared for upload on the RIO/PSF website.

## 8    TASKS OF THE INDEPENDENT EXPERTS

- Chair: Göran Hermerén, the Chair of the MLE, with a strong proactive support of the contractor and in close interaction with the three other experts, the representatives of each participating country and Commission services, will ensure good progress of the MLE and solve potential conceptual bottlenecks encountered through the process. The Chair will steer the MLE ensuring focus and incentivizing engagement and ownership of participating countries, providing policy guidance at all stages, identifying information needs and planning (together with participating countries) the activities according to the policy challenges addressed and the agreed Modus Operandi of the MLE.

- Independent Expert 1, Rapporteur (Hub Zwart): The Rapporteur will assist the Chair and the Commission in providing support to the MLE. The Rapporteur will support the Chair in the preparation of all meetings and country visits and coordinate with the other experts to ensure the timely preparation of the meetings as well as the quality of its outcomes, in liaison with the Commission services.  He/she will have the full support of the PSF contractor, notably in relation to the organisation of meetings and country visits.

  With a strong proactive support of the contractor, he/she will carry out the following tasks:

  ✓ *Coordination and organisation:*

  – Support the Chair in the preparation of the MLE meetings, country visits and activities;
  – Support the Chair in keeping track on MLE progress and help to solve potential content specific problems encountered;
  – In close interaction with the representatives of each participating country help them to provide their contribution and identify information needs.
  – Interact with experts and ensure that they will timely prepare appropriate material and provide support throughout the process as envisaged.
  – Moderate dedicated parts of the workshops/country visits/meetings; identify suitable discussants for his/her session of the workshop/meeting and brief them to ensure a constructive debate.

–   Help identifying relevant stakeholders and discussants which may participate in the process.
–   Writing together with the Chair agendas and preparing presentations.

✓   *Reporting:*

–   Report of the "Modus Operandi" on the basis of the agreements reached at the Kick off meeting;
–   Provide all support needed to participating countries, Chair and experts and take an active part for an effective mutual learning (preparing and analysing surveys to participant countries, presentations, moderation of debates, etc.).
–   Actively contribute and provide input to the challenge papers and thematic reports of Experts 2 and 3.
–   Draft and final Report on MLE Research Integrity with contributions of Experts 2 and 3 and participating countries with identified good practices, lessons learned and success factors based on robust evidence about the impacts of the measures.
–   Prepare qualitative and quantitative information needed throughout the process.

- Independent Expert 2 (Ana Marusic):  Expert 2 will assist the Chair, the Rapporteur and the Commission in providing support to the MLE by carrying out the following tasks:
  –   Provide all support needed to participating countries, Chair and Rapporteur and take an active part for an effective mutual learning on two topics on "Research Integrity" (preparing and analysing surveys to participant countries, presentations, moderation of debates, etc.).

  –   Provide two Challenge Papers on "Research Integrity" topics 1 and 2 with the contributions from participating countries, the rapporteur and Expert 3. The papers will identify the main policy challenges.

  –   Provide two reports on "Research Integrity" topics 1 and 2 with good practices, lessons learned and success factors identified through the MLE and based on robust evidence about the impacts of the measures. The reports will be drafted with the contribution of the Rapporteur and Expert 3.

  –   Actively contribute and provide input to the  Challenge Papers and Reports on "Research Integrity" topic 3 and 4

  –   Actively contribute and provide input to the draft and final Report on "Research Integrity".

- Independent Expert 3 (Daniele Fanelli): Expert will assist the Chair, the Rapporteur and the Commission in providing support to the MLE by carrying out the following tasks:

  –   Provide all support needed to participating countries, Chair and Rapporteur and take an active part for an effective mutual learning on two topics on "Research Integrity" (preparing and analysing surveys to participant countries, presentations, moderation of debates, etc.).

  –   Provide two Challenge Papers on "Research Integrity" topics 3 and 4 with the contributions from participating countries, the rapporteur and Expert 2. The papers will identify the main policy challenges.

  –   Provide two reports on "Research Integrity" topics 3 and 4 with good practices, lessons learned and success factors identified through the MLE and based on robust evidence about the impacts of the measures. The reports will be drafted with the contribution of the Rapporteur and Expert 2.

  –   Actively contribute and provide input to the Challenge Papers and Reports on "Research Integrity" topics 1 and 2

–  Actively contribute and provide input to <u>the draft and final Report</u> on "Research Integrity".

## 9    MEETING INPUTS AND DELIVERABLES

The **Challenge Papers** are prepared before the meetings where the relevant topics are discussed and are meant to set the scene and form the basis for further discussion. The Challenge Papers are prepared by the designated experts with input provided by the participating countries.

The Challenge Papers  on each topic should have the following structure:

(1)    **Introduction**

This very short section should briefly identify the topic, locate it within the context of the MLE as a whole, and explain why it is relevant to the widening and/or synergy themes (referencing evidence-bases as appropriate).

(2)    **Scope**

This section should elaborate on the nature of the topic, outlining aspects of particular interest to the MLE that it would be useful to examine further in the MLE workshops. The section should draw upon the issues identified in the Kick-off meeting and include mention of potential/actual interactions with other MLE topics.

(3)    **Landscape**

At this stage, prior to a workshop, this section should describe the types of policy measures that are relevant to the topic, highlighting differences in approach in different settings and drawing upon practices mentioned in the Kick-off meeting.

(4)    **Lessons**

This section should focus on the lessons that can currently be learnt from existing evidence (studies, evaluations etc.) concerning good (and bad) practice, barriers to success, critical success factors and interactions between different policy initiatives.

(5)     **Challenges**

This section should identify the main challenges that should be addressed in more detail over the course of the MLE. It should also suggest particular issues, approaches, practices, interactions and lessons that it would be worth focusing on in more detail in the workshop dealing with the topic, with potential examples drawn from both participants in the MLE and others.

In preparing the Challenge Papers, the Experts will draw upon their own expertise and the general literature. They should also draw on contributions provided by participating countries.

To this end, prior to each workshop, participating countries will be asked to provide material relevant to the preparation of the Challenge Paper and the organisation of the workshop at which it will be discussed.

In particular, on each specific topic they will be asked to provide:

- Short descriptions of issues related to the topic that should be considered for inclusion in the Challenge Paper (in **Section 2. Scope**) and discussed at the relevant workshop;
- Short descriptions of different types of initiatives that they consider best practice (in their own or other countries) and that they would like to be covered in the Challenge paper (in **Section 3. Landscape**) or discussed at the relevant workshop;
- Short descriptions of the lessons they have learnt from particular instances of good or bad practice in their own countries, to be considered for inclusion in the Challenge Paper (in **Section 4. Lessons**) or discussion at the relevant workshop;
- Short descriptions of the main challenges faced in their own particular countries that they would like to be included in the Challenge Paper (in **Section 5. Challenges**) or discussed at the relevant workshop.

They will also be asked if they would like to make a presentation at the workshop, and to prepare relevant material if this is agreed by the Chair.

The **Topic Reports** prepared by the Research Integrity Experts on each topic should build on the Challenge Papers, expanding and amending them in the light of the discussions at the workshops. They should therefore have a similar format, keeping the first three headings, transposing the fourth and fifth headings, and adding a new final heading covering policy recommendations.

The format of the Topic Reports is thus:

(1) **Introduction**

(2) **Scope**

(3) **Landscape**

(4) **Challenges**

(5) **Lessons**

(6) **Recommendations**

The structure of the Final Report will be discussed during the Second Country Visit on March 2019. A first draft of the Final Report will be circulated at the beginning in mid-June for discussion at the Final Meeting in Brussels in June/July 2019.
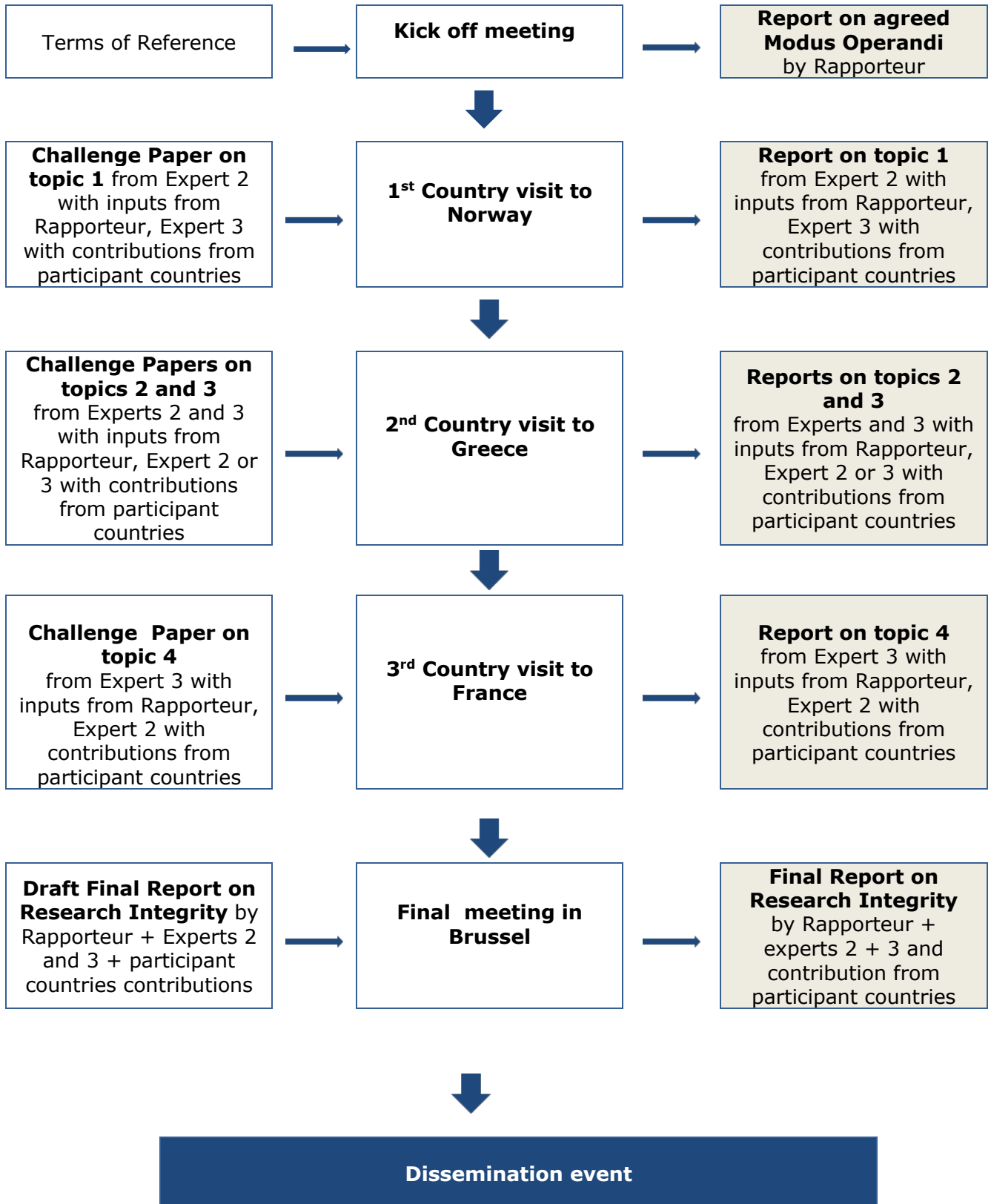
The Timetable in the last column of the following Table has been agreed, though some flexibility still exists. Any suggested changes will need to be further discussed and agreed by the participants in the MLE.

**Table 1 Overview of meetings**

| Overview of meetings | Preliminary schedule (to be further discussed/ agreed) |
|---|---|
| **Kick off meeting in Brussels**<br><br>Each country will provide additional inputs on main challenges / topics to be addressed. The EC will present a preliminary roadmap.<br><br>*Input: Draft* MLE Modus Operandi<br>*Deliverables:*<br>Final agreement on the scope and topics.<br>Agreement on Modus Operandi (roadmap, workplan, expected outcomes, country visits, stakeholder's involvement and distribution of tasks). | 14 November |
| **1st Country Visit to Norway**<br><br>The Expert 2, on the basis of countries' contributions, will present a Challenge Paper on topic 1 that has been identified as focus of the MLE. Good practices will be presented by participating countries with specific emphasis on the host country if the meeting is a Country Visit.<br><br>Experts and participating countries' representatives discuss preliminary experiences, focusing on the provision of specific information and methodology.<br><br>*Input:* Challenge Paper on topic 1<br>*Deliverable:* Report on topic 1 (overall challenge, together with Expert 3, Rapporteur and with inputs from participating countries). | 30 January 2019 |
| **2nd Country Visit to Greece**<br><br>The Experts 2 and 3, on the basis of countries' contributions, will present the Challenge Papers on topic 2 and 3 that have been identified as focus of the MLE. Good practices will be presented by participating countries with specific emphasis on the host country if the meeting is a Country Visit.<br><br>Experts and participating countries' representatives discuss preliminary experiences, focusing on the provision of specific information and methodology.<br><br>*Input:* Challenge Papers on topics 2 and 3<br>*Deliverable:* Reports on topics 2 and 3 (overall challenge, together with Experts 2 or 3, Rapporteur and with inputs from participating countries). | 11-12March 2019 |

| | |
|---|---|
| **3nd Country Visit to France**<br><br>The Expert 3, on the basis of countries' contributions, will present a Challenge Paper on topic 4 that has been identified as focus of the MLE. Good practices will be presented by participating countries with specific emphasis on the host country if the meeting is a Country Visit.<br><br>Experts and participating countries' representatives discuss preliminary experiences, focusing on the provision of specific information and methodology.<br><br>*Input*: Challenge Paper on topic 4<br>*Deliverable:* Report on topic 4 (overall challenge, together with Expert 2, Rapporteur and with inputs from participating countries). | 14 May 2019 |
| **Final meeting (Brussels)**<br><br>The Rapporteur will present the report of the MLE and discuss it with participating countries and other experts to agree on the findings, experiences and conclusions or recommended ways to tackle the challenges that are the focus of the MLE.<br><br>*Input:* Draft Report on MLE "Research Integrity".  Together with experts 2 and 3 and participating countries<br>*Deliverable:* Report MLE on MLE Research Integrity with identified good practices, lessons learned and success factors based on robust evidence about the impacts of the measures. | June/ July 2019 |
| **Dissemination workshop:**<br><br>The results of the MLE will be presented to a wider audience.  It will also highlight possible follow-up initiatives of the MLE. | tbc |

## 10    FLOW OF MEETINGS AND REPORTS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Terms of Reference | **Kick off meeting** | **Report on agreed Modus Operandi** by Rapporteur |
| **Challenge Paper on topic 1** from Expert 2 with inputs from Rapporteur, Expert 3 with contributions from participant countries | **1st Country visit to Norway** | **Report on topic 1** from Expert 2 with inputs from Rapporteur, Expert 3 with contributions from participant countries |
| **Challenge Papers on topics 2 and 3** from Experts 2 and 3 with inputs from Rapporteur, Expert 2 or 3 with contributions from participant countries | **2nd Country visit to Greece** | **Reports on topics 2 and 3** from Experts and 3 with inputs from Rapporteur, Expert 2 or 3 with contributions from participant countries |
| **Challenge  Paper on topic 4** from Expert 3 with inputs from Rapporteur, Expert 2 with contributions from participant countries | **3rd Country visit to France** | **Report on topic 4** from Expert 3 with inputs from Rapporteur, Expert 2 with contributions from participant countries |
| **Draft Final Report on Research Integrity** by Rapporteur + Experts 2 and 3 + participant countries contributions | **Final  meeting in Brussel** | **Final Report on Research Integrity** by Rapporteur + experts 2 + 3 and contribution from participant countries |

**Dissemination event**

## 11  STAKEHOLDERS IN THE PROCESS

The MLE participants will consider the ad hoc involvement of stakeholders to provide additional expertise which may contribute to the learning and purpose of this MLE. The format (workshop, specific session, etc…) timing and level of involvement will be discussed and agreed at the kick-off meeting.