

MLE “Impact of European Partnerships on national R&I Systems”

Background knowledge: Previous exercises on transnational coordination and capacity building including MLEs and ERA-LEARN experience

Workshop 1: Theme “Transnational coordination mechanisms combined with capacity building”

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Existing national “mechanisms” that are diverse in many respects:

- funding mechanisms - funding and participation rules
- financial and budgetary restrictions
- timing of policy / funding cycles
- administrative burden – EU guidelines and timing on top of those at national level

Capacity building needs cutting across all challenges of transnational coordination:

- skills and knowledge (international R&I collaboration, governance, relations management, stakeholders' mobilisation, foresight, etc.)
- means (e.g. communication, guidance and tools)
- structures and infrastructures (i.e. fora, committees, boards, etc.)
- resources (human, time, financial) also in taking up leading roles

- Partnerships are **key cornerstones of the ERA** by aligning R&I strategies, improving skills and strengthening close collaboration of European research actors (BMR, 2024).
- It is important to **enhance cooperation with the Member States** to achieve Partnership objectives and increase national uptake. (HE Interim Evaluation, 2024)
- MS need to **consider EU programming in national planning**. The set-up of national structures and thematic priorities is key for the successful co-creation of Partnerships. (WS Additionality Partnership Stakeholder Forum 2023)
- The **resources provided to the MS/AS are insufficient** to participate in the preparation and coordination of large partnerships. (Stakeholders DE)
- ...

Overall framework: alignment and coordination (to be addressed in May workshop)

- While EU initiatives provide strong frameworks, **better coordination among Member States** is needed (MLE International Cooperation in R&I, 2020)
- Countries **struggle to integrate international cooperation policies** within their national R&I frameworks and lack well-defined intervention logics for international R&I cooperation – (ibid.)
- **Cross-government fragmentation** (MLE, 2020; 2017) and lack of engagement of sectoral ministries (ERA-LEARN country report interviews)
- Increasing **efforts for national coordination** (BMRs 2022, 2024)

Funding

- Different funding **structures** and **lack of sustainable funding** mechanisms (MLE Alignment and Interoperability, 2017)
- Different **funding rates – side-effect** in choosing partners (ERA-LEARN country report interviews)

Financial and budgetary restrictions

- **Level of funding** per project – max number of projects - **limitations** on types of organisations to fund (ERA-LEARN country report interviews)

Timing of policy / funding cycles

- **Different timing** causing delays in project start or even withdrawal of partners (ibid.)

Administrative burden

- **Different national rules** in relation to otherwise simple things such as getting projects extended by a few months (ERA-LEARN country report interviews)
- Challenges with the Co-funded '**project**' **status** (ERA-LEARN Admin workshop)
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MLE International Cooperation in R&I (2020)

- Align domestic policies with international goals
- Enhance cross-government coordination
- Secure sufficient resources
- Implement robust monitoring and evaluation
- Encourage multi-stakeholder funding models
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MLE Alignment & Interoperability (2017)

- Mirror groups, scientific councillors
- ‘new’ programmes to provide structured funding (e.g. Mission ERA – AT)
- National roadmaps for joint programming and enhancing cross-Ministerial coordination
- Robust monitoring and evaluation Systems
- ...

- **Dedicated funding lines** in line with national R&I priorities (AT)
- **Change of rules** to allow broader participation (who can apply, what type of research) (PL)
- **Alignment of eligible costs** to HEU and Increase of **funding rates** (IT)
- **Timing of start** of national approval and funding (DE, SI)
- **Uniform rules** to all funding programmes (MT) - Adjusting national funders' rules to be in line with joint calls principles (ERDERA)
- **Boundaries** (upper, lower) to **national budgets** allocated to calls (EL)
- **Incentive funds** for potential beneficiaries (IT)
- allowing jumping places in the **ranking list** (SBEP and Water4All)
- **Opening up of national funding** to non-national entities

Prioritised solutions based on results of the PKH survey

1. Establishing **dedicated funding** stream(s) for participation in European Partnerships
2. Full **sharing of information** on national programmes and the outcomes of national funding (projects, beneficiaries, funding etc) to guide strategic planning of R&I funding at EU level
3. **Coordinated funding procedures** (e.g. call deadlines, funding decisions etc.) across the countries participating in a partnership
4. **Harmonised rules and regulations** (eligibility, cost categories, funding rates etc.) across the countries participating in a partnership for funding resulting from European Partnerships
5. **Opening up of national funding** to participation of entities from other EU Member States or Associated Countries

- **Cross-funders** cooperation (AGROECOLOGY)
- Annual coordination **meetings** (EC, REA and partnerships)
- Support to **training** on EU rules (e.g. financial aspects in Co-funded Partnerships) (DE)
- Specialized training for **researchers and administrators** (NO)
- Exchange of knowledge **between more experienced and less** experienced in taking up leading roles
- ...

Thank you.