



# Horizon 2020 Policy Support Facility

1<sup>st</sup> MLE on Alignment and Interoperability of  
Research Programmes

Final Report  
**NATIONAL COORDINATION**

Angus Hunter  
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# SESSION

## Presentation

- Summary of feedback from the exit interviews
- Reflections of the Experts

## Interactive discussion (round table)

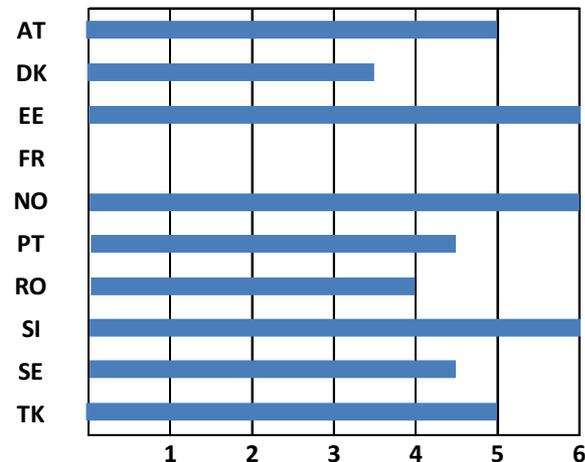
- Comments/suggestions on the draft final report

# EXIT INTERVIEWS

1. To what extent was the MLE relevant and useful for your work?
2. To what extent has the MLE inspired you to bring about a change in the way your country goes about joint programming?
3. What aspect of the MLE did you appreciate most?
4. To what extent are you now in a better position to contact colleagues in other countries to request advice or exchange experience about a particular issue of the JPP?
5. What did you find disappointing, if anything, about the MLE?
6. How can the MLE be improved?
7. What suggestions would you have for a follow-up to this MLE?
8. Would you recommend participation in MLE to a colleague?

# Q1: To what extent was the MLE relevant and useful for your work?

- Generally very positive feedback on relevance
  - Most said ‘very relevant’
- Usefulness depended on the national situation
  - Timing was unfavourable for DK



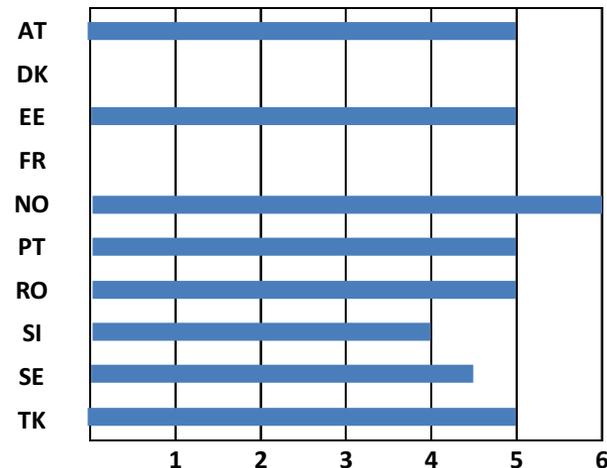
*“We received a great deal of ideas and directions on how to proceed, be more active and become better ERA partner”*

*“MLE was better [than GPC/IG2]. It had professional leadership and expertise. Everyone gets something out of it”*

*“The MLE is a good opportunity to share experience and to identify the issues that exist in structures and processes and to have a mutual reflection about the entire topic”*

## Q2: To what extent has the MLE inspired you to bring about a change in the way your country goes about joint programming?

- Very effective in terms of generating ideas
- Some concern/frustration about the authority of the participants to initiate change
  - It will take some time to influence the position in some countries



*“However, there is a constraint regarding the authority of the participants. We can only give advice to policy makers but not decide anything.”*

*“We need to adapt these solutions to the needs of our national system. For that we will need time.”*

*“Important that it works both ways. That our presence was helpful to others that is also important.”*

*“Yes, it was very inspirational – lots of actions. Some good examples from other countries.”*

*“The internal coordination has been improved. We are on the way to improve the organisational structures and procedure.”*

*“We had a vision before the MLE. We now have a specific strategy on a topic, such as for instance communication.”*

## Q3: What aspect of the MLE did you appreciate most?

- Most mentioned the country-specific workshops
  - High networking value

*“Liked the country-specific workshops very much – higher learning effect than a meeting in Brussels – hear the stories directly from those who have done it”*

*“appreciated the whole process – very good dialogue between the countries”*

*“For us most useful were the discussions and best practices in the reports.”*

*“Had a sense of gradual development of knowledge and ideas for improvement – not so easy to achieve this without support resource”*

*“It was interesting to see that people from different countries face very similar problems”*

*“The chance to discuss with people who are implementing JPIs in different countries and see the problems coming from practical aspects of JPI implementation.”*

# Q4: To what extent are you now in a better position to contact colleagues in other countries to request advice or exchange experience about a particular issue of the JPP?

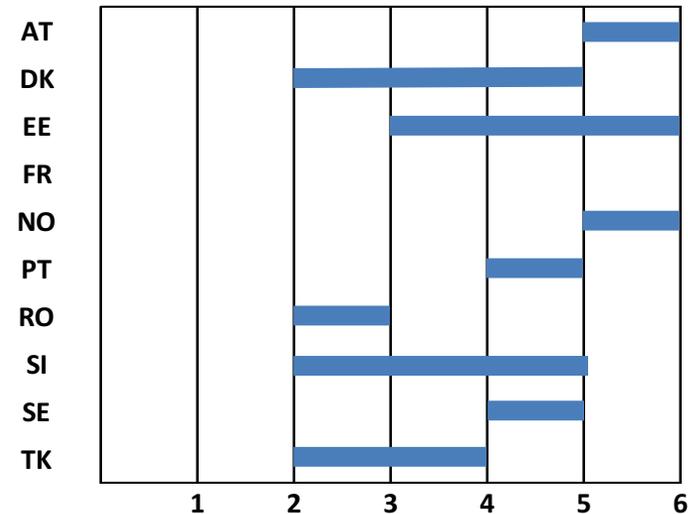
- Everyone indicated improved position
- Some were already at a high level from GPC activities
- Some did not participate in all meetings

*“MLE process helped to develop better personal relationships so easier to follow up”*

*“MLE seemed to enable a more open dialogue [than GPC]”*

*“For me it is a big advantage. I feel more in a position to contact colleagues.”*

*“Already contacted AT, EE, NO, SE colleagues for some documents.”*



## Q5: What did you find disappointing, if anything, about the MLE?

- No one disappointed
  - Most did not have anything they wished to criticise
- Some expressions of irritation, confusion, constraints

*“It was mostly the way that the workshop process was led. It was like a teacher checking my homework. It was expected that from meeting to meeting there would be some changes, which was too high an expectation of something that is a highly political subject.”*

*“Not disappointing but confusing. We thought beforehand that it was only related to JPIs. We later shifted to JPPs and then I understood I needed much more knowledge on the Article 185s and ERA-NETs. In the long term it was good that we broadened the scope but this could have been clearer from the start.”*

*“Not the exercise itself but the constraints regarding the authority of participants.”*

*“Decision on the initial focus of the MLE (pre-meetings) was disappointing as the selected focus was too close to the agenda of the IG2”*

## Q6: How can the MLE be improved?

- Very few suggestions
- Main suggestion was that the time for the country visits were too short
- Some criticism of the reports
  - Partly lack of speed, partly the sense of repetition between the three topics
- One felt the group was too big, another that it should involve more countries
  - most seemed to like the diversity

*“No suggestions for the MLE process – liked the methodology and support”*

*“Maybe the reports – found it difficult to orientate between the three and it sometimes felt a little repetitive”*

*“I particularly liked the country visits with practical examples”*

*“I am not sure whether it is possible to intentionally speed up this process, which would be helpful, I do not know. One should definitely try it. Dinners in Ljubljana and Oslo and exercises were helpful in this regard.”*

## Q7: What suggestions would you have for a follow-up to this MLE?

- Quite a few suggested a reunion in 12 months
- Only one mentioned the other two topics
  - This MLE was supposed to be Sequence No 1

*“Would be good to have some aftercare beyond the final meeting. “*

*“Follow up in a year or two to find out what has happened”*

*“the challenge is how to go on at the same level”*

*“too easy to lose momentum”*

*“Maybe concentrate on particular common issues – eg impact evaluation”*

*“Monitor the structuring effect of the MLE in one or two years from now. We need more time to implement the ideas.*

*“Revisit the other two topics that were one the table at the beginning”*

## Q8: Would you recommend participation in a MLE to a colleague?

- The overwhelming answer was YES
- Some added a caveat, e.g.
  - Only if there is some commitment at home to the subject
  - Only if you are going to be active

*“My recommendation would depend on what the subject was, because it would be important that the government is behind it.”*

*“Yes I have already done that. There is a synergies and widening MLE coming up. I advised my colleague to join.”*

*“From all the working groups I joined, this one has been most beneficial. It gave very concrete recommendations. The good thing was that it is not only about the participation in the workshops but you have to start the national discussions how to implement it.”*

*“Yes. The MLE offers an extraordinary opportunity to analyse and discuss ideas that you can put into place immediately and independently of the political process. That was extremely useful for us.”*

*“Yes. Unique format. Meet with the same people but do not have an agenda. Good contribution to the alignment process”*

# REFLECTIONS OF THE EXPERTS (1)

- **Scope of the MLE**
  - Breadth of the subject had advantages and disadvantages
  - Mixed feedback about the three topics
  - JPI v P2Ps in general created some confusion
- **Self-Assessment Framework**
  - Single conceptual framework (for all three topics) was helpful
- **Iterative workshop format**
  - Seemed to foster a learning community of peers
  - Open atmosphere and trust developed quite early
  - Went beyond discussion of issues towards peer recommendations

# REFLECTIONS OF THE EXPERTS (2)

- **Country Visits**
  - Two day visits would have been better (like Oslo)
    - But needs better planning to schedule
    - 1st country visit (Vienna) was too soon after Brussels workshop
  - Raises the profile of the subject within the host country
- **Interim Reports**
  - Provided the stimulus for thinking and action

# INTERACTIVE DISCUSSION (ROUND TABLE

- Comments on the 2<sup>nd</sup> draft final report
- Any final changes/suggestions?