



Scope of this Mutual Learning Exercise

Scoping Workshop

**Mutual Learning Exercise (MLE) on
"National Practices in Widening Participation and
Strengthening Synergies"**

Magda De Carli
DG RTD, Head of Unit B5
'Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation'
European Commission

Brussels, 30 May 2017

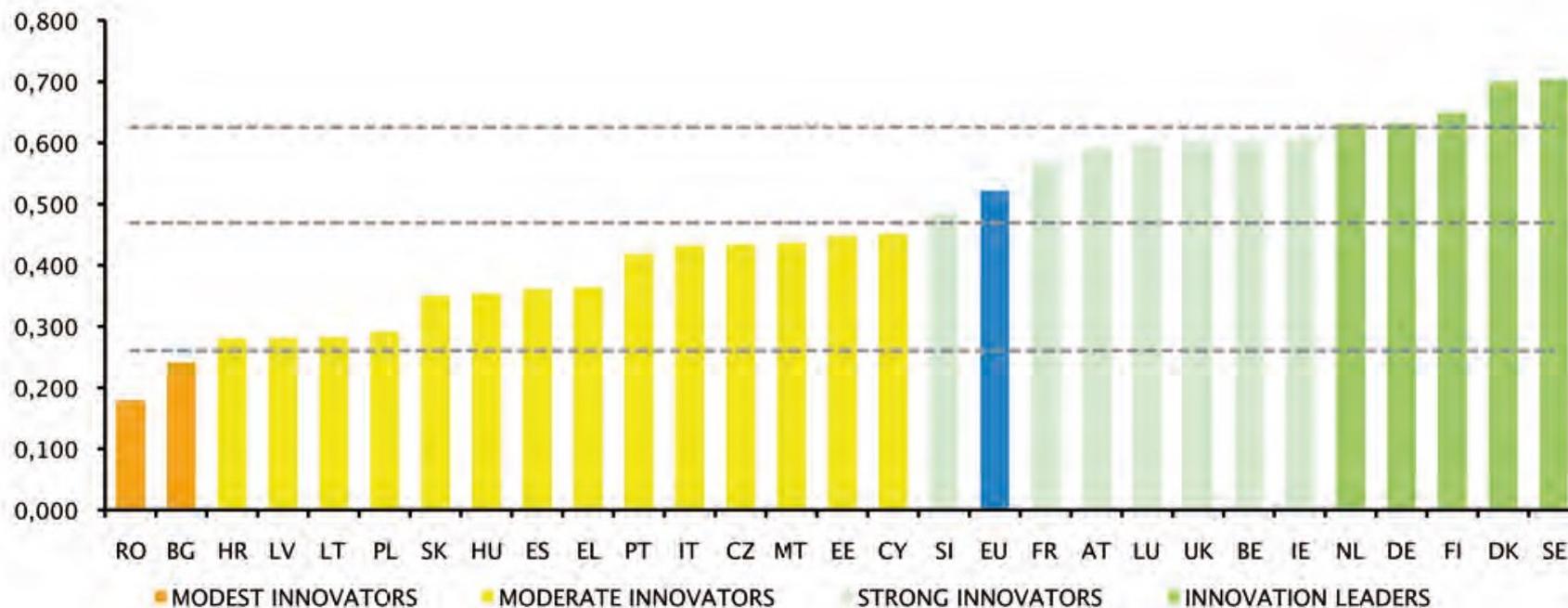


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The fact

European Innovation Scoreboard 2016

EU Member States' innovation performance





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The assumptions

Research and innovation are key drivers of economic growth and competitiveness

Disparities in R&I performance still exist

H2020 and ESIF can play a significant role to closing the innovation divide if the opportunities offered can be properly grasped



The ULTIMATE PURPOSE of the MLE is to identify:

The **reasons why** certain countries in Europe are lagging behind with their innovation performance

What can be learned from those countries that were able to become solid innovation performers, developing their research and innovation systems which has made them impressive players at European and global level



2011 ANALYSIS

- FP participation directly correlated with performance of national R&I system (availability of high qualified R&D human resources and infrastructure, linkages universities-firms..)
- Existing networks might constitute barriers
- System learning effect slows down the process of engaging in successful practices
- Information Communication Advice Training is key and need to be strong

In addition:

- Efficient use of all available resources to maximise the impact of investments in R&I is key in moment of fiscal consolidation



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SYNERGIES

Maximising synergies is a political priority for President Juncker and a political mandate to Commissioners Moedas and Crețu

Synergies not an end in itself, but a way to maximise quantity, quality and impact of research and innovation investments

Synergies starts at a strategic and programming level (linked with the national research decision making system) until the implementation at the operational level



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The FOCUS

FOCUS of the Mutual Learning Exercise is pure exchange of operational practice (Ref Section E of the scoping paper):

*The MLE will **propose specific initiatives** that can be put in place at national level (...) look at the **difficulties** encountered by some countries in the practical implementation of synergies (between H2020 and ESIF, and other) and analyse **examples of implementation that yielded the desired results**. It will facilitate the exchanges of experiences and thus identify good practices, lessons learnt and success factors based on robust evidence **about the impacts of the measures and the contextual factors**.*



EXAMPLES OF TOPICS FOR WIDENING

(Ref. Section D of the Scoping Paper)

- > Measures to attract and retain qualified R&D staff*
- > Reforming universities and encouraging academia-business links*
- > National support to improve networking among researchers at EU level*
- > Measures related to skills development, information, communication, training for improved participation in FPs and better management of ESIF funding.*



EXAMPLES OF TOPICS FOR SYNERGIES

(Ref. Section E of the Scoping Paper)

- > Experiences Formulation and implementation of synergies on the ground (scope and limitations)*
- > Addressing difficulties from different national rules for projects*
- > Synergic use of H2020 and ESIF to widen participation in FP*



Inputs received for the Mutual Learning Exercise

Raitsa Atanasova
DG RTD, Policy Officer, Unit B5
'Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation'
European Commission

Brussels, 30 May 2017



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Scoping Note circulated on 4 April 2017

15 countries expressed interest in participating
Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany (participating as an observer), Hungary, Latvia, Poland, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey

11 countries sent comments on challenges and expectations:

Belgium, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Latvia, Slovenia, Turkey



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Recognition of the challenges:

WIDENING

- > How to achieve higher in-depth knowledge to understand the common challenges and factors for the low participation in FP for widening countries and barriers to increase their performance;
- > How to make information and communication systems more effective;
- > How to improve barriers to new entries.

SYNERGIES

- > Early experiences, actions and practices among policy-makers on the formulation and implementation of synergies to ensure synergetic financing of an idea;
- > Operational practice in making use of the Seal of Excellence – where and how.



EMERGING TOPICS: exchange of national practices on how to...

- Support low performing R&I MS and AC to improve their R&I systems
- Improve the efficiency of national R&I systems and overcome the reluctance of governments and other actors to adapt their policies for a better innovation systems
- Enhance the visibility of widening activities through good practices – embedding Widening in national regulation
- Reflect upon challenges and factors for low participation in FP for widening countries and concrete barriers (including diverging views) to increase performance



(....)

- Facilitate access to research networks and partnering for newcomers; To establish new networks and make the old networks (so called “closed shops”) more accessible
- To facilitate the discussion on “excellence vs. cohesion” and help find win-win solutions for all Member states (whether low or high RTD performing) in bi- or multilateral actions
- Convince actors through positive experiences by peers in other countries how they will benefit from policy changes. Have actors in the field become more acquainted with one another and spontaneously engage in additional multilateral contacts
- Improve information and communication systems (NCP, training, etc)



Other issues : anything that does not concern existing practice at the national level

- > **Future orientations** for the next FP9
- > Engagement in **H2020 programming processes**
- > **Assessment** of current EU measures
- > **Changes** proposed in the last 3 years of **H2020 and in FP9**
(sub-evaluation criteria under 'impact', identify research topics of regional significance, funding more small scale projects, ...)
- > **New Indicators** for different groups of countries e.g. strong/medium /weak participant in the FP to be identified and targeted solutions developed
- > Simplify the **funding landscape** of European Programmes, including FPs



EMERGING TOPICS:

exchange of national practices on how to...

- Specific obstacles for newer states with low R&D investment who have lack of experience in implementing ESIF funds
- Good practices of synergies of financial sources at the programming level of ESIF and FP
- How to enable dialogue between MA and R&D stakeholders
- Early experiences, actions and practices among policy-makers on the formulation and implementation of synergies and learn from peer countries' experiences
- Cross-sectoral synergies
- Best practices using Seal of Excellence – where and how (type of projects which can be implemented at national level)



Other issues :

anything that has a straightforward answer and does not concern existing practice at the national level

> Clarify if the same set of rules from H2020 to be applied to the national component financed from ESIF; if the national managing authority for ESIF can approve cost models and reporting requirements different from ESIF but the same as H2020; How to organise in practice an ERA-net CoFund using ERDF: which borders are to be taken into account, (legal, state aid rules), content, timing, cost models, as well as for the Seal of Excellence.

> Need to simplify ESIF procedures; align reporting requirement and different cost categories for each funding instrument; change state aid rules; post-2020 discussion and recommendations on how to improve widening and synergies in the 2014-2020 programming period



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THANK FOR YOUR ATTENTION

NOW TIME TO DISCUSS!