

**Horizon 2020 Policy Support Facility (PSF) - Mutual Learning Exercise (MLE)
on "National Practices in Widening Participation and Strengthening Synergies"**

Conclusions of the Scoping Workshop of 30 May 2017

On 30 May 2017, the Scoping Workshop took place with the participation of 15 countries: France, Denmark, Cyprus, Finland, Turkey, Sweden, Belgium, Croatia, Spain, Slovenia, Poland, Latvia, Bulgaria, Hungary and Germany (as observer).

1. Conclusions

- Member States agreed on the "*what's in*" in relation to the **scope of the exercise**:
 - Exchanges of national practice at the operational level and learning by peers around concrete existing examples on widening and synergies.
 - Successful practice that improves participation in Horizon 2020, including by examining targeted programmes or actions that support potential participants.
 - Successful practice on how to make best use of the Structural Funds for R&I purposes, and maximise interaction with Horizon 2020.
 - Discussions shall keep a clear focus on how to best exploit the possibilities provided under the current programming period.
- Member States agreed as well on the "*what's out*" in relation to the **scope of the exercise**, and notably on the fact that the MLE is not designed and is not the adequate forum to discuss about changes in the set-up of existing or future EU instruments¹.
- Member States agreed on the following **building blocks** for the MLE:
 - In relation to Synergies, the MLE will look at national practice in relation to:
 - How to enable an effective and structured dialogue between national Managing Authorities of the Structural Funds and R&D authorities ("breaking silos").
 - Synergies at policy and strategy level: S3, JPIs, macro-regional strategies, etc ...
 - Synergies at operational level: financial sources at the programming level of ESIF and FP (i.e. Interreg, Cofund, application of state aid rules, EIB, EFSI).
 - In relation to Widening, the MLE will look at national practice to:
 - Attract qualified R&D staff, including in the business sector.

¹ With the exception of any technical and practical issues that appear during the discussions as limiting the scope for operational actions around the topics addressed by the MLE, within the frame of existing programmes.

- Encourage science-business cooperation.
- Improve networking through participation in various actions (including through macro-regional initiatives)
- Support skills development and training.

2. Information request addressed to Member States

- As agreed at the Scoping Workshop of 30 May 2017, the proposed building blocks remain broad in nature. It was therefore decided that Member States would reflect on proposals for the *specific priority topics* that they wish the MLE to address under these broad topics.
- In line with this request, **Member States are kindly asked to provide their suggestions for specific priority topics by 8 June 2017.** These can be addressed to the MLE Chair (gonzalo.leon@upm.es) and the PSF support team for the MLE (Ralitsa.Atanasova@ec.europa.eu and Marta.Truco-Calbet@ec.europa.eu).
- As agreed, the second round of discussions to agree on the final priority topics for the MLE will take place at the Kick-Off meeting in September 2017.