



REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA  
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
AND RESEARCH



# Implementation of synergies between Horizon 2020 and Structural Funds in Estonia

**Taivo Raud**

Estonian Ministry of Education and Research  
Head on Research Policy Department

11.03.2016 Tallinn  
RIS3 „Stairway to Excellence“ seminar

# Outline

- Synergies in strategies
- Synergies in practice



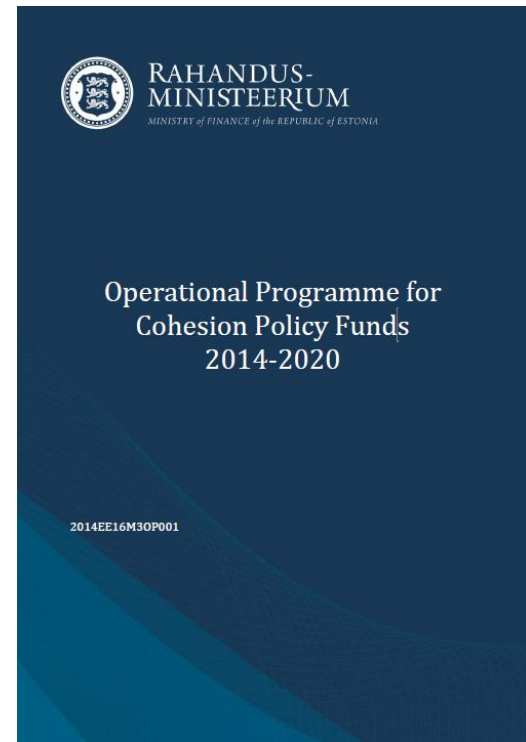
Estonian Research and Development and  
Innovation Strategy 2014-2020

**“Knowledge-based Estonia”**

# **RDI STRATEGY 2014-2020 „KNOWLEDGE-BASED ESTONIA“**

# RDI strategy 2014-2020

- Reinforce, with the help of European Union Structural Funds and activities financed from the state budget, the capacity of Estonian research institutions to participate in forms of cooperation based on quality competition, incl. in the programme “Horizon 2020”.
- ...it is important to achieve a *closer connection with the initiatives of the European Research Area* (incl. joint programming of research, European innovation partnership, initiatives of the common area of the Baltic and Nordic countries) and to participate in pan-European RD infrastructures. *To enhance domestic research and development, it is also important to use the potential of the European Union research and innovation framework programme “Horizon 2020”.*



# ESTONIAN OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME FOR COHESION POLICY FUNDS 2014-2020

# Synergies in the Estonian OP

- In addition, R&D-related activities will support the institutional reforms of universities and R&D institutions, high level research, international cooperation (incl. synergy with the EU 'Horizon 2020' Research and Innovation Framework Programme), the mobility of students, university teachers and researchers, and the emergence of their next generation (OP, p9)
- As regards international research cooperation, priority will be given to investments that will enhance Estonia's participation and visibility in international research cooperation and leverage synergy between the objectives of the Structural Funds and Horizon 2020, while avoiding potential overlaps. (OP, p91)

# **SOME PRACTICAL EXAMPLES FROM THE STRUCTURAL FUNDS**

# Teaming for Excellence

## Horizon 2020

### **Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation**

- **Teaming for Excellence**
- *2 Estonian projects:*
  - *ITEE*
  - *FINEST TWINS*

## Structural Funds

- Support for infrastructure and equipment
- Support for human capital, internationalisation and business cooperation
  - ✓ Directly linked to smart specialisation
  - ✓ + national long-term commitment needed to ensure sustainability



# ERA Chairs

## Horizon 2020

### **Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation**

- **ERA Chairs**
- *Currently Estonia holds 3 ERA Chairs from H2020 and 1 from FP7*

## Structural Funds

- Support for research costs and equipment that is not covered by the H2020
- Support from Mobilitas Pluss up to 200 000 € per project

# European Research Council

## Horizon 2020

### Excellent Science

- European Research Council grants

## Structural Funds

- Support for re-application for researchers who achieve high results in ERC evaluation, but who do not receive a positive financing decision (in the amount of national personal grant up to 100 000 € per year, for up to 1,5 years)
- Trainings and study visits for researchers (to prepare for a successful application)

# ERA NET support

## Horizon 2020

ERA-NET projects

## Structural Funds

- Support for participation in the ERA-NET calls, which are not financed by the European Commission
- Support from Mobilitas Pluss is up to 150 000 € per project

# EIT - KIC

## Horizon 2020

### **European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)**

Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs)

## Structural Funds

- Support for costs that are not covered by the H2020
- Support from Mobilitas Pluss is up to 60 000 € per project



Eesti Teadusagentuur  
Estonian Research Council

# **SOME PRACTICAL EXAMPLES FROM NATIONAL FUNDING**

# Support for application preparation

- Support for preparing successful applications to Horizon 2020
- Evaluation result must be above threshold in H2020
  - Support for coordinators: 3 600 €
  - Support for individual projects: 2 400 €
  - Support for project partner (WP leader): 1 200 €
  - Baltic Bonus: 1 000 € (*extra bonus if LV or LT partners are involved*)

# Baseline funding

## Horizon 2020

Total grant revenue from framework programmes

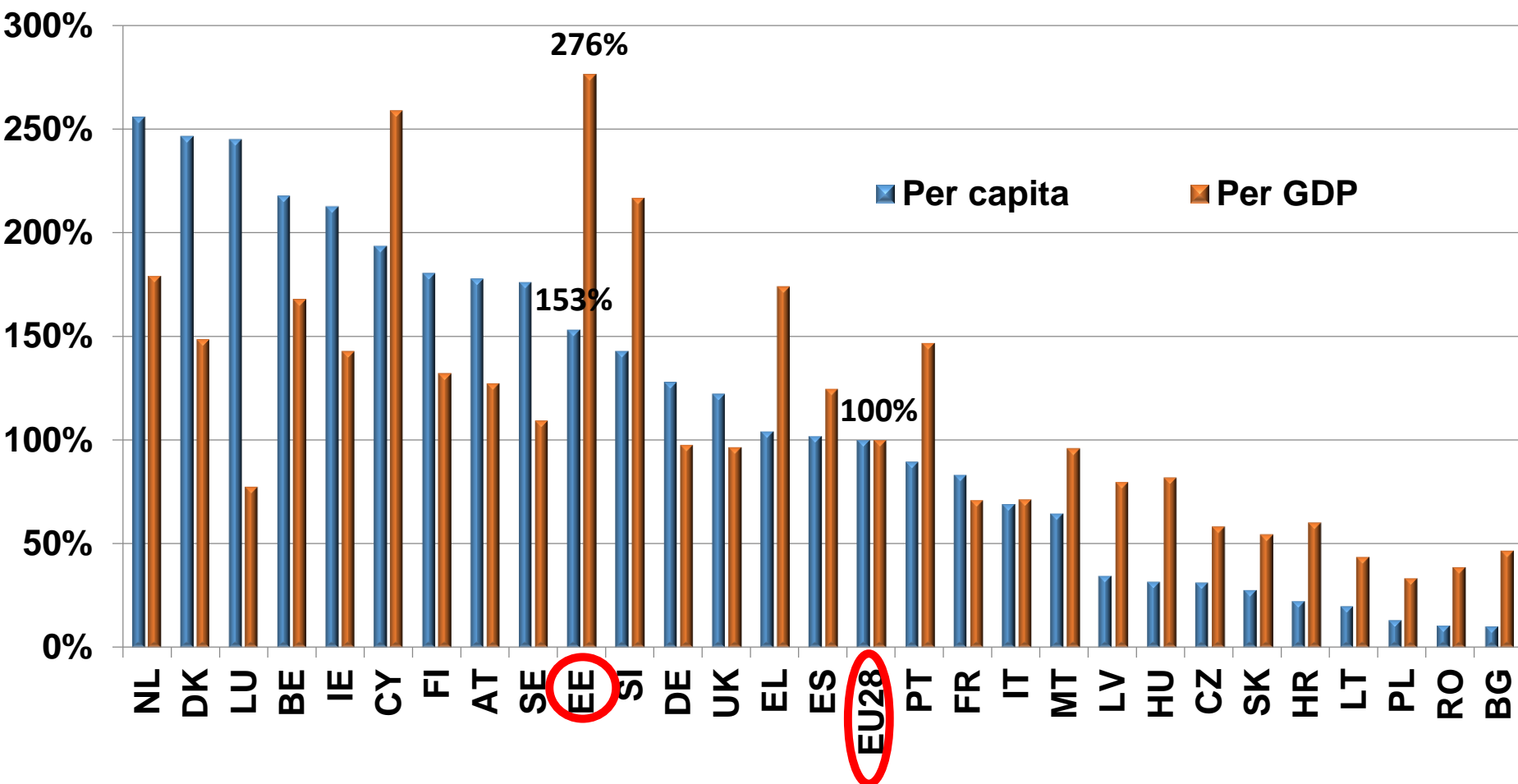
## National funding

- In the base-line funding for Estonian research institutions since 2005 the revenue from FP-s has been taken into account in the national funding formula - institutions get awarded for FP revenues.
- Funding formula:
  - 50% research revenue from abroad and business sector contract research
  - 40% scientific publications
  - 10% Nr of defended PhD degrees

# **CURRENT RESULTS**



# Revenue from Horizon 2020 – per capita and per GDP, % of EU average (EU28 = 100%)



Report generated on: 2016/03/04

E-CORDA extraction date: 2016/02/23

# Challenges for synergies

- Different state aid regulations for H2020 and SF
- Different financial regulations (*cost models*)
- Different selection criteria
  - *H2020 is open to all domains → SF is focused on smart specialisation.*
  - *SF has certain obligatory selection criteria*
- Different funding opportunities (*size of grants*)
- International partners in the project
  - SF has limits for funding partners outside the programme region

# Conclusion

- There are good examples where synergy works  
*(H2020 and SF complement each other)*
- But in Estonia there are no good examples where replacement works
- → Synergies are about complementarity between H2020 and SF, not replacement
- *It takes two to tango...*



REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA  
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
AND RESEARCH

# Thank You!

[taivo.raud@hm.ee](mailto:taivo.raud@hm.ee)

[www.hm.ee/en](http://www.hm.ee/en)  
[www.etag.ee/en](http://www.etag.ee/en)