



SPREADING EXCELLENCE ACROSS EUROPE

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FOUNDATION FOR POLISH SCIENCE

- **Non-governmental, non-political, non-profit institution established in 1991**
- **The major off-budget funding source in Poland (endowment and EU funds)**
- **Supporting science in Poland (spreading excellence)**
- **Supporting innovative research projects**



HR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH

ABOUT THE FOUNDATION FOR POLISH SCIENCE



- **International cooperation**
- **Scientific excellence – the most important criterion in awarding support**
- **Peer-review approach**
- **HR Excellence in Research**
- **2014: San Francisco declaration**

Teaming for Excellence

January 2013: white paper ***“Teaming for Excellence: Building High-Quality Research Across Europe Through Partnership”***

- Creation of centers of excellence in member states that are lagging behind in research, set up **as joint ventures** with excellent partners from other member states
- Signed by research organizations: CNRS, CSIC, CNR, Institute Pasteur, Max Planck Society etc.

December 2013: Horizon 2020 work program ***“Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation 2014–2015”***

- Closing the **innovation gap**
- Plans for creation of new (or upgrading of existing) centres of excellence in low-performing member states

FNP and national strategy

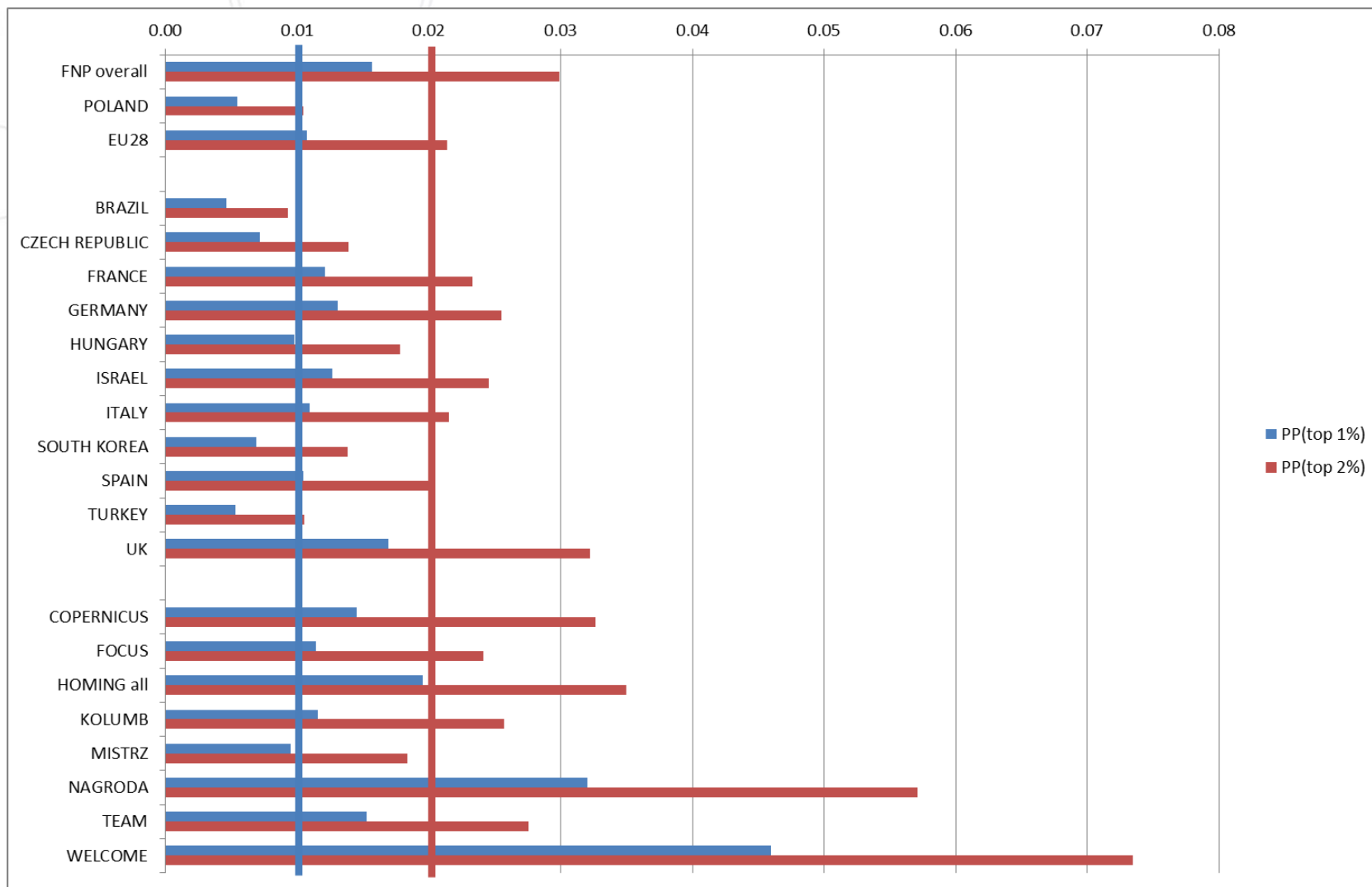
- **Teaming proposals** in Poland
Horizon2020 (WP 2014-2015)
- **Cooperation with the national leader:**
National Centre for R&D (NCBR)
- **Provide national share of funding - programme:**
International Research Agendas –
ERDF 2014–2020 (Smart Growth OP)

Composite Indicator of Research Excellence

- The share of highly cited publications in all publications where at least one of the authors has an affiliation in a given country;
- Number of top scientific universities and public research organizations in a country divided by million population;
- Patent applications per million population;
- Total value of ERC grants received divided by public R&D performed by the higher education and government sectors;

Teaming for Excellence - for MSs below 70% of the EU27 average of the Composite Indicator on Research Excellence (CIRE)

Share of highly cited publications (2002-2012)



Teaming for Excellence

If there is coherence in the teaming approach one could expect an effort to reach a higher level of the Composite Indicator of Research Excellence.

In particular we should aim at:

- Efforts in rising the share of the best papers
- Creation of top research centres
- Rising the number of patents
- Increasing chances in ERC competitions

HOW to achieve this?

Attempts by the European Union's Framework Programmes for Research and Technological Development to close gaps in research excellence across the region have been spectacularly unsuccessful.

In my view, this failure is a result of excessive bureaucracy and a proposal-evaluation system that was seemingly based neither on merit nor on evidence. The misguided focus on upgrading existing research institutions — rather than on creating state-of-the-art structures that are free of the conventional organizational drag on performance — was also a waste of money.

(Żylicz, Nature 2015)

„spectacularly unsuccessful attempts...”

- **Bureaucracy (equal distribution?)**
- **Changing names for the same exercise - networking**
- **Not convincing adequacy of methods vs. objectives**
- **Evaluation system - seemingly based neither on merit nor on evidence (who evaluates proposals?)**
- **Supporting/upgrading existing structures (conventional organizational drag on performance)**
- **Preexisting conditions**
- **Disbelief that excellence is achievable in some countries**
- **Insufficient synergy – e.g. lack of mutual understanding**
- **Different objectives of the parties**
- **Little incentive for and lack of commitment from MS**

FNP programme: INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH AGENDAS



- **Create environment for highest level of the Composite Indicator of Research Excellence**
- **Highest standards of:**
 - researcher recruitment,
 - organisation and administration culture
 - evaluation of PIs/ development of the Research Agenda.
- **Strategic partnership „Excellence breeds excellence”**

It is sometimes easier and faster for an institution or a national system to impose rules of excellence in the context of international cooperation than to develop the same level of excellence in an isolated context.

White Paper: „Teaming for excellence Building high quality research across Europe through partnership”

FNP programme: INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH AGENDAS



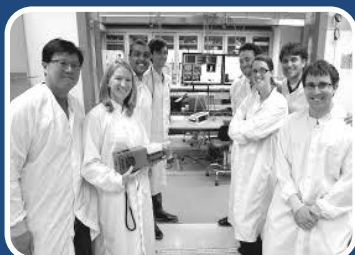
- **Competition for the first director – who will run the centre (application by an individual scientist)**
- **Evaluation of Vision and Mission of the new centre**
- **The centre focuses on an idea, a problem, a global challenge**
- **Research Agenda – a proposal for how to tackle the challenge**
- **Clear competitive advantage (to outperform its competitors)**
- **Creation of „new” organization – autonomous, free from preexisting conditions – real “culture of excellence”**
- **The role of the international scientific committee – strong mandate**
- **International recruitment**
- **Impact on the economic landscape of the country (Smart Specialization)**



Polish strategy for Synergy with Teaming for Excellence



**International Research Agendas
(Smart Growth OP) – 127 mln EUR**



**R&D projects + some infrastructure
(Regional OPs) – 2 bln EUR**



**Polish Roadmap of Infrastructure
(Smart Growth OP) – 453 mln EUR**

FNP- NEW PROGRAMMES

further support for teaming



Homing / Reintegration / First Team



Team



Technology Team (Team Tech)

Thank you for your attention!



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