



# **Stairway to Excellence (S2E)**

## **Achieving better synergies between ESI Funds and other EU Funding Programmes**

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# Rationale

Supporting synergies in the use of two EU funding sources (ESIF & Horizon 2020) may deliver additional gains in terms of:

- innovation results
- close the innovation gap in Europe
- promote economic growth

The overall political rationale of identifying synergies between ESIF, H2020 and other R+I programmes is to **maximize impact** and **efficiency of public funding**.

- Innovation funds increased under cohesion policy from 6% of the funds (2000-2006) to around 25% (2007-2013)
- Roughly 9% of the public spending on R&I in the EU came from the EU budget

# Objectives

S3P supports MSs & Regions to design and upgrade their RIS3 by identifying a limited number of R&D and industrial activities with high innovation potential.

- This innovation potential may be further reinforced & developed by using ESIFs in order to make catching-up MSs & regions more competitive in spatially blind & excellence-based H2020 calls.
- Beyond a stronger innovation generation capacity, there is room for increasing the innovation absorption capacity by new MSs in the context of past FP projects.

The project has **two main objectives**, namely:

- The provision of assistance to EU13 to enhance the value of these two EU funding sources for R&I by promoting their combination;
- Stimulating the early and effective implementation of national and regional Smart Specialisation Strategies.

# General macro-economic indicators

	<b>EU13*</b>	<b>EU15</b>	<b>EU28</b>
Population	105 127 027	401 484 800	506 611 827
GDP - Euro per capita	10 417	29 800	25 700
GDP - Euro per capita in % of EU average	40.5	115.3	100
R&D expenditure - Total (million Euro)	11 521.81	260 036.97	271 558.78
R&D expenditure - Total [% of GDP]	1.05	2.09	2.01
R&D expenditure - Business Enterprise Sector (BES) [% of GDP]	0.54	1.34	1.28
R&D expenditure - Government Sector (GOV) [% of GDP]	0.23	0.25	0.25
R&D expenditure - Higher Education Sector (HES) [% of GDP]	0.27	0.49	0.47
R&D expenditure - Private non-Profit Sector (PnP) [% of GDP]	0.004	0.02	0.02
R&D Personnel** - Total (% of active population)	0.62	1.25	1.12
R&D Personnel - BES (% of active population)	0.25	0.69	0.60
R&D Personnel - GOV (% of active population)	0.15	0.15	0.15
R&D Personnel - HES (% of active population)	0.22	0.39	0.36
R&D Personnel - PnP (% of active population)	0.002	0.01	0.01
Unemployment Rate***	9.9	9.50	9.60

Source: Compiled and calculated by using Eurostat 2013

\* EU13 aggregate not available in EUROSTAT

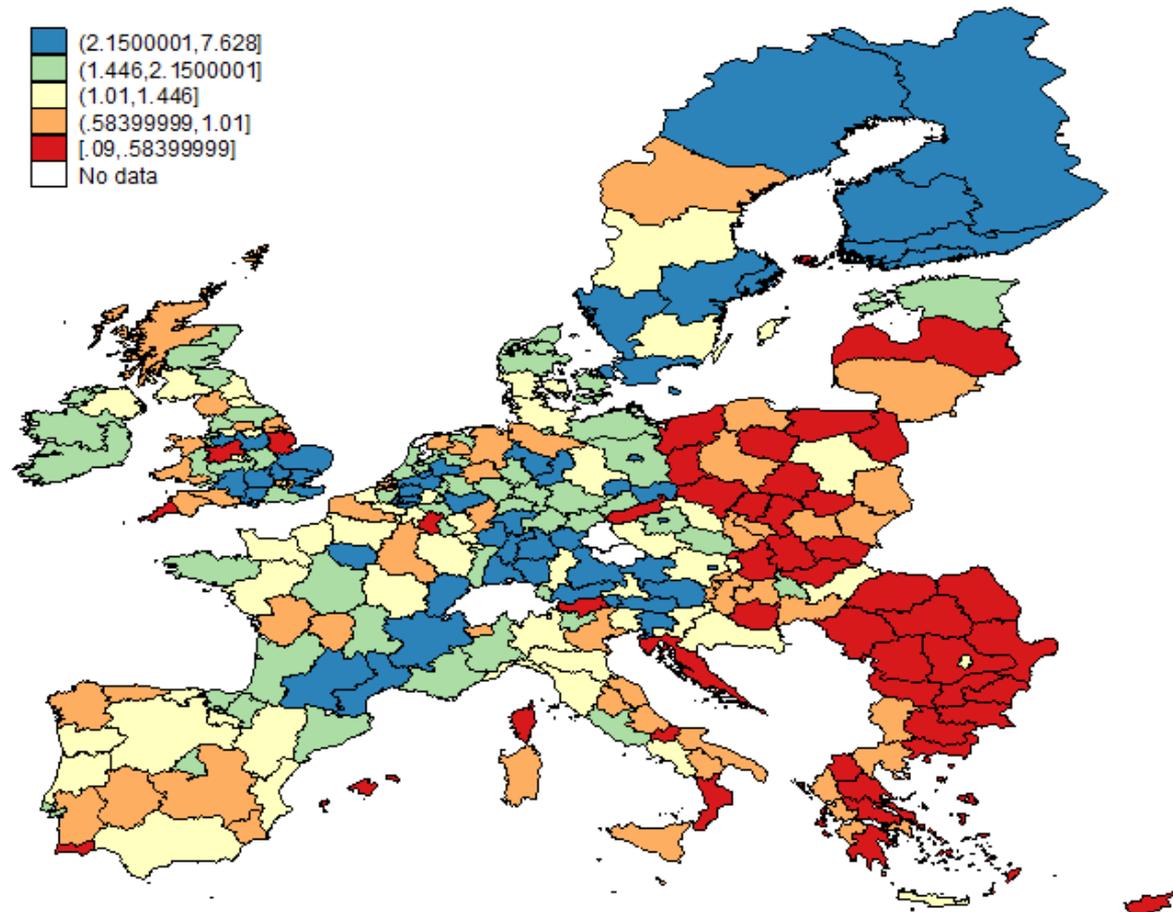
\*\* R&D personnel refer to the number of full time equivalent R&D personnel.

\*\*\*Unemployment uses latest available figures for 2013 age group 15 years and over.



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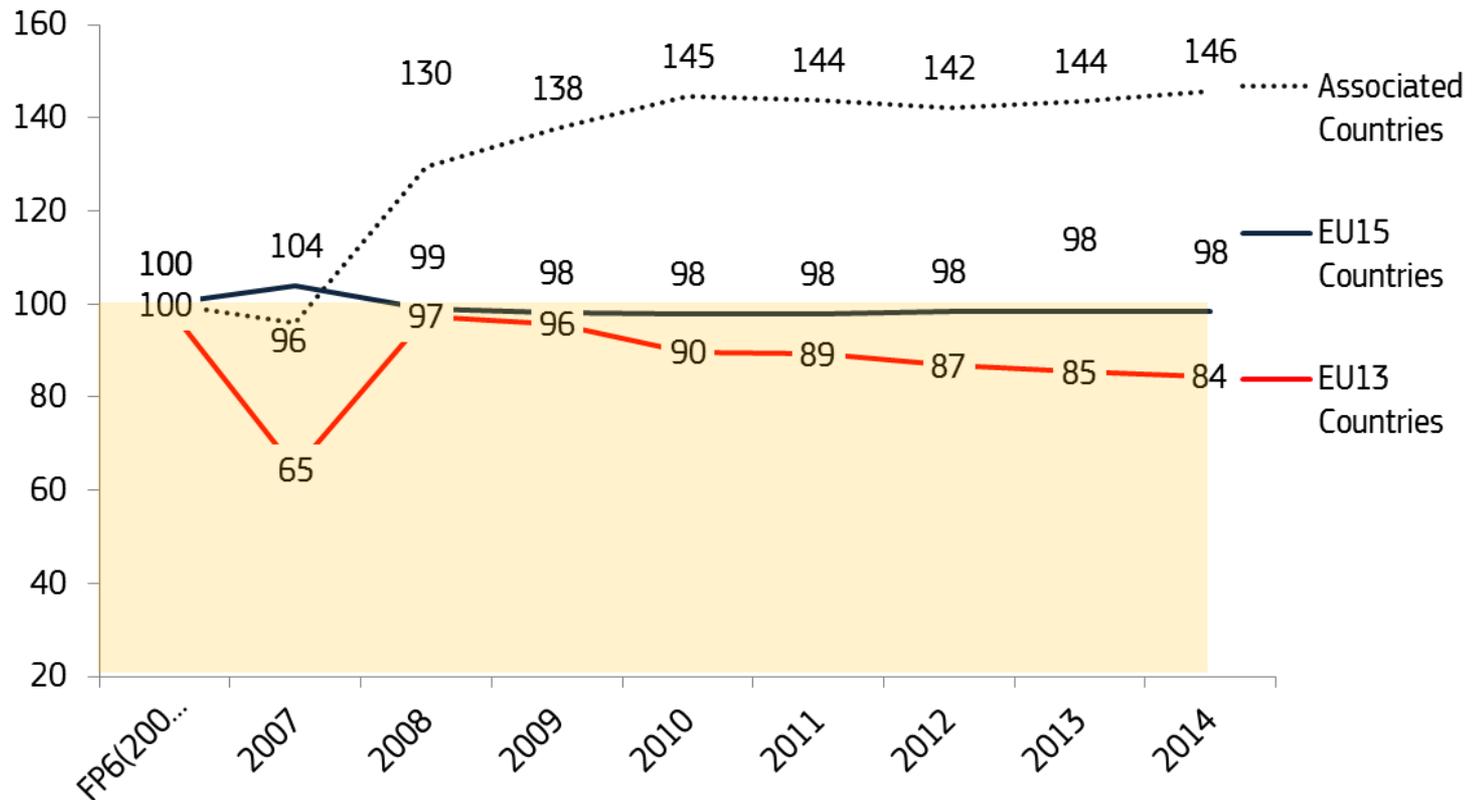
## Regional R&D Intensity as a % of GDP 5 Country Groups



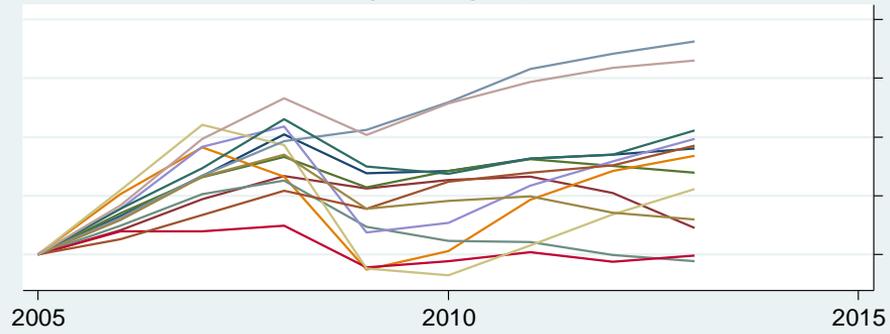
Source: JRC/IPTS

# Where do we Stand?

## Share of EC FP7 contribution received between 2007 and 2014 (starting from FP6)

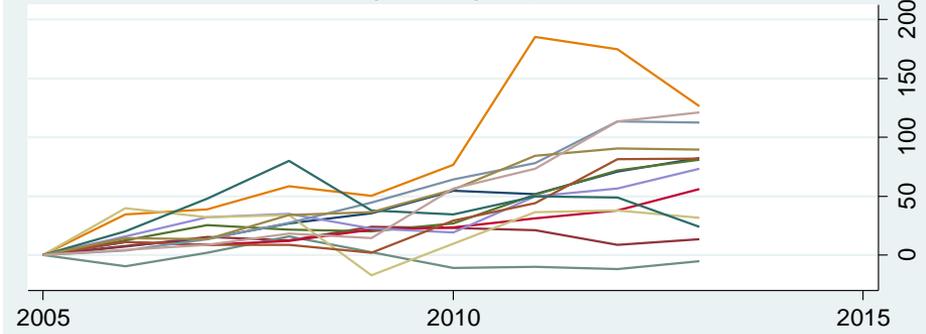


Real GDP per Capita, 2005=100



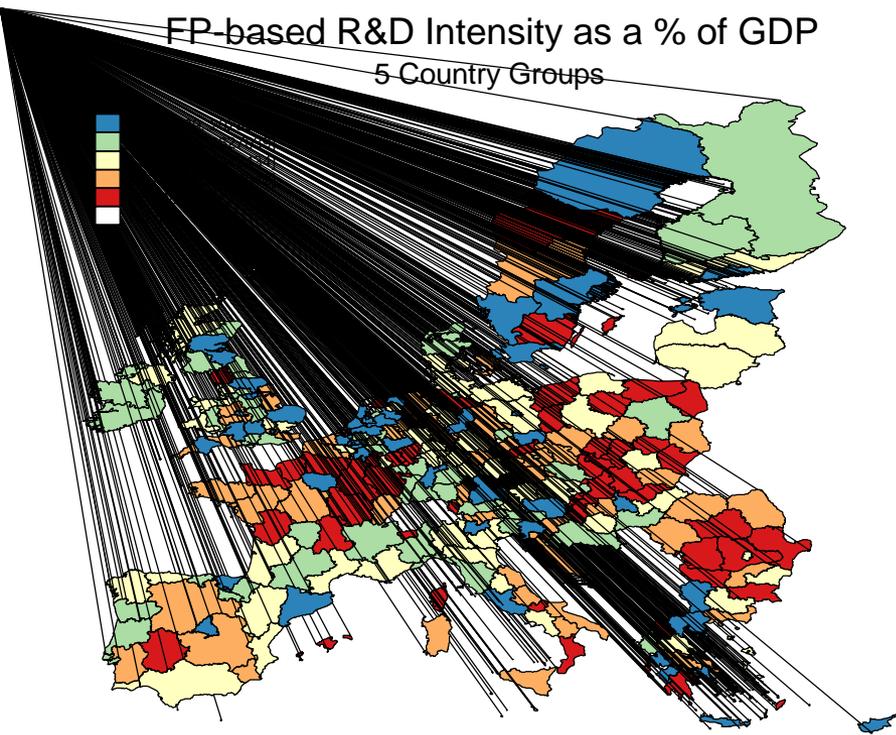
- |                  |            |
|------------------|------------|
| — Bulgaria       | — Cyprus   |
| — Czech Republic | — Estonia  |
| — Croatia        | — Hungary  |
| — Lithuania      | — Latvia   |
| — Malta          | — Poland   |
| — Romania        | — Slovenia |
| — Slovakia       |            |

Real R&D per Capita, 2005=100

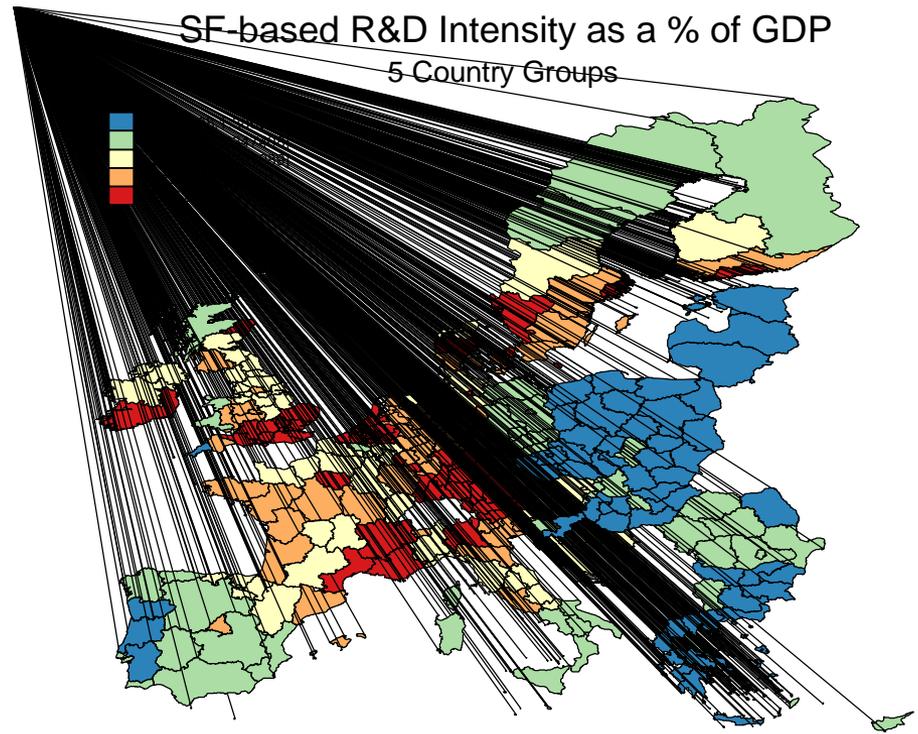


- |                  |            |
|------------------|------------|
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| — Lithuania      | — Latvia   |
| — Malta          | — Poland   |
| — Romania        | — Slovenia |
| — Slovakia       |            |

## Funding Distribution of 7<sup>th</sup> FP and SFs



Source: JRC/IPTS



Source: JRC/IPTS



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# S2E Web

## Objectives & Activities of S2E

The **Stairway to Excellence (S2E)** project aims to support [EU13 regions and countries](#) in developing and exploiting the synergies between European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF), Horizon 2020 (H2020) and other EU funding programmes:

- Assist them in closing the innovation gap, in order to promote excellence in all regions and EU countries;
- Stimulate the early and effective implementation of national and regional Smart Specialisation Strategies.

[More info](#)

## Country & Region Information

Quantitative and qualitative information is produced for [EU13 countries and regions](#):

[National and Regional Fact & Figures](#) aim to draw the European profile of a country/region with statistical and financial information coming from the EU's 7th Framework Programme and Structural Funds dedicated to research and innovation.

[S2E Country Reports](#) provide further analysis on selected policy issues that affect optimal use and the combination of key EU funds for R&I and offer country-tailored

## Events & News

**UPCOMING EVENTS:** S2E is organizing National Events in all [EU13 Member States](#) to:

- Ease understanding of national and regional innovation ecosystems
- Raise awareness to enable synergies between EU funding programmes
- Share experiences in combining Structural Funds and Framework Programme to improve excellence
- Draw lessons for the future and identify follow-up actions to enhance potential synergies

- 30 Oct: [LITHUANIA National Event](#)

**CALL FOR CONTRIBUTION:** S2E keeps inviting contributions to forthcoming national S2E events or the final S2E conference.

### PAST S2E EVENTS:

- 25 Jun 2015: [SLOVAKIA National Event](#) in Bratislava
- 15 Apr 2015: [LATVIA National Event](#) in Riga
- 26 Mar 2015: [CROATIA National Event](#) in Zagreb
- 2-3 Oct 2014: [S2E Launching conference](#) in Prague

More **S3P and other events** of interest can be consulted from the [S3P Agenda](#).

**NEWS** (see also the [S3 Newsletter](#))

## Synergies examples

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**Synergies examples** are being provided in which SF/ ESIF and FP7/ H2020 funds have been combined in order to amplify the R&I investments and their impact, using different forms of innovation and competitiveness support, or carrying innovative ideas further along the innovation cycle or value chain to bring them to the market.

## Instruments, Platforms & Concepts

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**Fiches** are being made available on a selection of **European instruments/ platforms/ concepts** that can be considered as facilitators especially for "downstream activities", to exploit and diffuse results from earlier programming period (FP7) and current one (H2020), and as key elements in monitoring the implementation of synergies in their various forms.

## FAQs

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**Replies** are provided to questions related to practical application of the Guidance on synergies between ESIF, Horizon2020 and other research, innovation and competitiveness-related Union programmes.

A list of acronyms is also available.

## Contact Points

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Contact the S2E at [JRC-IPTS-S2E@ec.europa.eu](mailto:JRC-IPTS-S2E@ec.europa.eu)

[S2E Team members](#)

## Other Relevant Information

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We are gathering references related/ relevant to Cohesion Policy and the synergies with the research and development funds, including:

- **Reference Documents:** guidance for Policy-Makers, Implementing Bodies and Beneficiaries of EU Funds and instruments issued by the European Commission or other bodies, including:

- **Enabling synergies between European Structural and Investment Funds, Horizon 2020 and other research, innovation and competitiveness-related Union programmes**



- **Related Links**, mainly to the **Smart Specialisation Platform (S3P)**

- **Relevant Initiatives, Projects and Platforms**, as there are more and more of these, for example aiming at:

- encouraging a better exploitation of European research and innovation programmes and participation in the ERA (e.g. [MIRRIS](#))
- facilitating trans-national co-operation between NCPs (e.g. [NCP\\_WIDE.NET](#))
- providing advisory services on financial instruments (e.g. [FI\\_COMPASS](#))
- providing support for the Public-Public-Partnerships (e.g. [ERA-LEARN 2020](#))
- exploring the benefits of space technologies (e.g. [NEREUS](#), [CLEAN SKY](#)) and other sectors for Regions and their citizens and to spread their applications
- etc.

## S2E Publications

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**National and Regional Fact & Figures** are available for **EU13 countries and regions** (S2E Country reports will soon be available for all EU13).



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# Eye@RIS3

- Research & Innovation Capabilities
- Business Areas & Target Market
- EU Priority

## EU Priority

Aeronautics & space ▼

Select

Aeronautics & space

Blue growth

Cultural & creative industries

Digital Agenda

Nature & biodiversity

KETs

Public health & security

Service innovation

Social innovation

Sustainable innovation

Specific local policy priority



# National S2E Events

- **A better understanding of the national innovation ecosystem**
- **Raising awareness of the actions needed to enable synergies**
- **Sharing experiences in combining different EU funds**

The events are open to national and regional MAs, NCPs, national authorities in charge of RIS3, selected experts and representatives from business and research organisations.

Lithuania (October 2015)

Malta (July 2015)

Slovakia (June 2015)

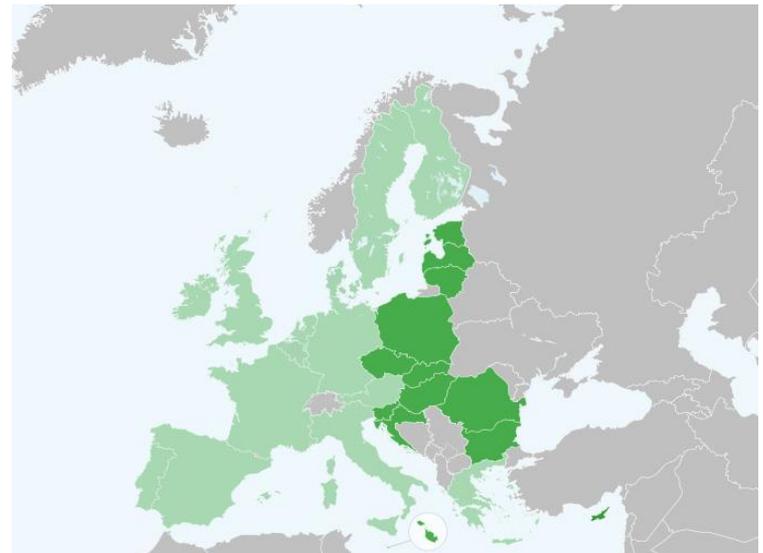
Latvia (April 2015)

Croatia (March 2015)

*Forthcoming Events:*

*Czech Republic, Estonia, Romania, Poland*

➤ ***Joint Statement of the National Event***





Valsts izglītības attīstības aģentūra

## JOINT STATEMENT OF THE NATIONAL EVENT OF LATVIA "The Synergies with Research and Innovation Funds"

*organised by*

European Commission, Joint Research Centre (Stairway to Excellence Initiative)  
Latvian State Education Development Agency  
15 April 2015, Riga-Latvia

1. Consensus for Better Coordination & New Opportunities
2. Upstream activities
3. Downstream activities
4. The Way Forward

*Key Issue 2: The need for improved research collaboration with the Central and Western European countries (EU15).*

**Potential Actions:** e.g. enhancing the network & learning (and adapting) from good practices across Europe.

**Key Issue 5:** Low rate of participation in international research collaboration  
**Key Issue 6:** Long-term availability (sustainability) of ESIF

**Potential Actions:** e.g. establishment of incubation centres, enhanced autonomy for public universities, institute-dedicated budget, alignment of national funds and performance-based funding.

# Thank you!



<http://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu>

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