



The Stairway to excellence (S2E)

"Synergies between European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) & Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Funding"- practical tips

Panel I – "GOVERNANCE AND IMPLEMENTATION TO ACHIEVE GREATER FUNDING EFFICIENCY"

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#S2Einno





The Cyprus Institute (www.cyi.ac.cy)

- A research and educational institution suited to a knowledge economy.
- A European institution, for the Eastern Mediterranean based in Cyprus.
- A non-governmental institution devoted to the public benefit and for advancing peace and prosperity in the region, using science and technology.
- Based on three centres:
 - Energy, Environment & Water (EEWRC)
 - Science Technology in Archaeology & Culture (STARC)
 - Computation-Based Science & Technology (CaSToRC)



Best Practices

1. **The Research and Innovation Management Support Office (RIMS):**

- A single administrative support structure with overview of all projects
- Staffed with project managers who have a scientific background
- Identifies opportunities for funding and synergies
- Advises on dos and don'ts for synergies

2. **Combining Structural (ERDF) and FP7/H2020 funding:**

- Build infrastructure using structural funds (CSP facility, fleet of UAVs, High-Performance Computer)
- Leverage these facilities for participation into major H2020 consortia
- Upgrade facilities using structural funds etc.

3. **Research aligned with Cyprus Smart Specialisation Strategy**

4. **Result:** CyI 11 times the EU average for FP7 funding (per researcher).



Bottlenecks

- **Structural funds and H2020 calls not synchronized**
- **The right type of funding is not always available when needed**
→ *The responsibility falls on the recipient to "create" synergies*
- **Researchers don't always "see" potential synergies**
→ *CyI RIMS office helps identify synergies*
- **Uptake of H2020 results onto the market still a bottleneck**
→ *Collaborating with Oxford University Innovation on IP/knowledge transfer*



Implementation issues

Implementation of synergies requires:

- In-depth knowledge of upcoming calls
- Flexibility in programming to grasp new opportunities
- Alignment with national smart specialization strategy
- A network of potential consortium partners ready at any time
- A relationship at the policy level to guarantee matching funds

→ The bulk of the work is done between calls