



The Stairway to excellence (S2E)

Boosting regional growth through innovation

(Panel II Experience from other initiatives – what to learn, what to transfer)

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Michael Schaller

Senior Project Engineer

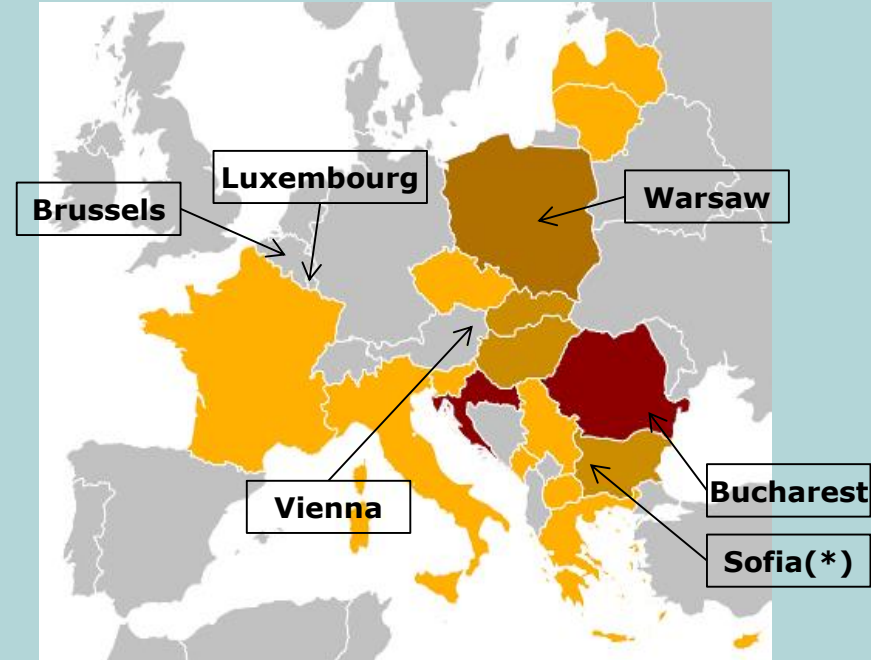
JASPERS/European Investment Bank



JASPERS



- Joint Assistance to Support Projects in European Regions
- Partnership between the European Commission (EC), the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)
- Established in 2006 to provide independent advice to beneficiary countries to help prepare high quality major (mainly) projects for co-financing by EU Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF)
- Fully funded by its partners, so free of charge for the beneficiaries
- Sectors: Roads; Rail, Air, Maritime; Energy & Solid Waste; Water & Wastewater; **Smart Development** (Urban, Education, Health, **RDI**, ICT)



(*) as extension of Bucharest office

RDI What to learn



- Frame: 55 assignments in public R&D (30 major projects) to date
- Focus on public Infrastructure R&D in Health, ICT, Education and Physics (East Europe)
- Challenges (the short list...)
 - Procedural
 - Time frame to a) apply for EU-funding b) prepare project documentation
 - Selection criteria and process of best projects (national call and EU-level)
 - State aid clearance (as applicable) and environmental considerations
 - Project rationale
 - Addressing excellence
 - Project demand, options, sustainability and costing analysis
 - Organisational shortcomings
 - Project management, procurement issues, construction issues
 - Human capital – talent
 - Operational aspects
 - Project deliverables

RDI What to transfer



- Procedural
 - Relying on a strong and stable managing authority (or funding body)
 - In-depth knowledge of EU-funds and H2020 (frequent problem is brain drain)
 - Clear communication lines with Beneficiaries/applicants and the EC
 - Good documentation and guidelines
- Project rationale
 - Strong demand analysis including future demand (national and global). Considering public and private demand as relevant
 - Availability of critical mass of researchers is crucial in promoting excellence (avoiding «white elephants»)
- Organisational
 - Higher success rates when including external experts
 - During implementation, set-up a dedicated PMU an advantage, relevant external experts (e.g legal, procurement, contract management)
- Operational
 - Organisational changes often required (project size dependent)
 - Training and set-up of modern HR management and IRP-facilities

Blending ESIF-EFSI



- ESIF: EUR 454bn (2014-2020), EFSI: EUR 21bn (resulting in leverage of EUR 315bn)
- ESIF and EFSI support mutual objectives
- EFSI can complement national co-financing of projects with a high-risk profile
- ESIF could be used to lower project risk profile and attract private investors
- ESIF and EFSI can be combined at
 - Project level
 - For individual financing instruments
 - Investment platforms
- The blending mechanism is still under development, with projects emerging
- A concept for R&D projects to be examined; possible dedicated investment platforms (funds) targeting higher risk research projects