WORKING GROUP 'H2020 FOR RIS3'

ON OPTISMISING THE USE OF H2020 IN IMPLEMENTING SMART SPECIALISATION

Date: 13th June 2018

Venue: DG JRC Rue du Champ de Mars 21 CDMA 06/144

1050   Brussels (Belgium)

The first meeting of the Working Group is organised as part of the Stairway to Excellence project, managed by JRC in close cooperation with DG REGIO, and seeks to maximise the impact of Smart Specialisation Strategies in EU regions and member states, and to realise the full potential of using EU funding programmes managed at regional, national and EU levels.

Rationale of the Working Group

The establishment of this Working Group is based on the outcomes of a JRC Workshop held on 15th February 2018 in Brussels. Its main purpose was to explore the potential interest of ESIF Managing Authorities and RIS3 managing agencies in a possible dedicated pilot training, aiming to provide them with better knowledge of ways for beneficiaries to access international networks, the use of ESIF funding to design synergies with H2020 and the uptake of H2020 and FP7 project results to create investments or achieve tangible effects. The proposed pilot training included the following modules:

- OBJECTIVE 1- INCREASE THE UPTAKE OF FP7 AND H2020 PROJECT RESULTS
    - o H2020 programming cycle and MA participation
    - o Instruments for the uptake of FP7/H2020 projects
- OBJECTIVE 2- ACCESSING INTERNATIONAL NETWORKS AND CREATING INTERREGIONAL COLLABORATION PROJECTS
    - o 2.1 Understanding the EU research and innovation landscape
    - o 2.2 First steps into EU research - networks and initiatives
    - o 2.3 Learning and support networks
- OBJECTIVE 3- CAPACITY BUILDING THROUGH ESIF CALLS SHAPING
- OBJECTIVE 4- SPECIFIC PROGRAMMES FOR PREPARATION OF COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH PROPOSALS

The previous workshop was focused on objectives 1 and 2 of the pilot training. It was originally envisaged that a pilot for the next two modules (objectives 3 and 4) would be developed in subsequent workshops based on outcomes from the discussions with the regional authorities. The design of the content of the training modules would reflect the topics that raised greater interest and responded to particular difficulties faced by regions. However, during the discussions participants showed a clear preference for mutual learning events instead of traditional training activities. In addition, the small size of the workshop and the mixture of stakeholders allowed greater engagement and more detailed discussion. As a result of the discussion and the responses to

the questionnaire that was subsequently distributed, a comprehensive set of needs has been collected from managing authorities with regard to optimising the use of H2020 for RIS3. These needs will be used as a key input for the Working Group.

Aim of the Working Group

The aim of the Working Group H2020 for RIS3 (WG-H2020-4-RIS3) is to optimise S3 implementation building participants capacities in three directions:

1- Improving capacities of the R&I system through increased international positioning (H2020 participation and uptake of project results, engagement in international networks, collaboration tools, etc.)

2- Integrating multi-level governance perspective in S3 implementation, specially in accessing to funding and shaping funding instruments (national-regional coordination, H2020 information in S3 governance, etc.)

3- Designing and piloting capacity building activities (training, peer-learning, co-design of tools and calls shaping etc.)

The intention is for the WG to meet twice a year to co-design the activities that better adapt to the needs of public authorities to build capacities and be a test-bed for implementing capacity building activities to improve excellence of their local R&I systems.

Expected outcomes of the first meeting of the Working Group

The specific expected outcomes of this first meeting of the Working Group are as follows:

- Prioritisation of the capacity needs, based on those identified in the previous workshop, of managing authorities when dealing with issues related to synergies;

- Exploration of the specific support tools required by managing authorities to tackle the particular capacity needs identified;

- Discussion of a first set of support tools, related to building international networking and widening participation, in particular in relation to COST Actions, EIT KICs, Joint Undertakings, etc.

- Setting an agenda for future meetings of the WG

Composition of the Working Group

The Working Group will be integrated by 10-15 participants with representatives from:

- DG JRC and DG REGIO staff working in capacity building and funding synergies

- Managing authorities and S3 coordinating authorities

- Other EU actors facilitating international networking and collaborations

The countries/regions integrating the group will be selected according to their low participation in H2020 and medium/high ESIF. Advanced regions will be selected to participate in a case by case basis depending on the theme covered in the working group meeting to bring specific expertise and share their knowledge.

Targeted territories

We consider regions according to two variables. Regions are presented according to their R&D intensity and participation in H2020 and planned ESIF allocation.
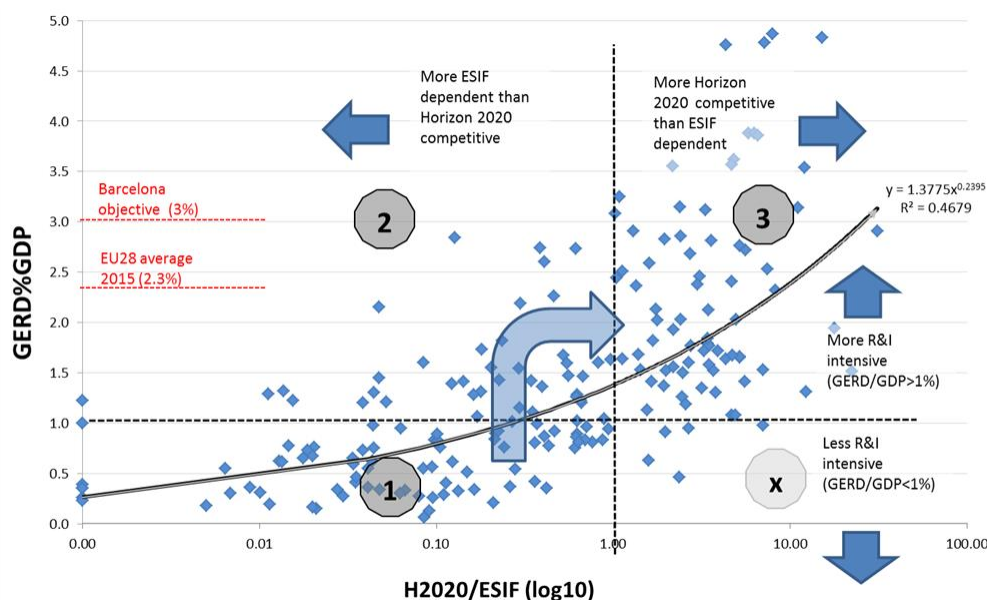

Figure 1: Three main areas defining EU regions according to R&I spending and their use of EU funding

At least three main areas gathering EU regions with similarities can be defined:
- Area '1': the 'lagging R&I regions' area defined by low R&D intensity with higher ESIF dependence and lower capacities to capture H2020 funding (lower left quadrant).
- Area '2': the 'intermediary R&I regions' area defined by a higher R&I intensity combined higher ESIF dependence and lower capacities to capture H2020 funding (upper left quadrant)
- Area '3': the ' better performing R&I regions' area with higher R&D intensity combined with lower ESIF dependence (upper right quadrant).

A path from the area 1 to the 3 can be suggested envisaging a dynamic flow with the area 2 as an intermediary step. For the purpose of the Working Group the main target is on area 2 type of regions (although a limited number of area 1 and area 3 type of regions can be invited).

European Commission

'H2020 for RIS3' Working Group

OPTIMISING THE USE OF H2020 IN IMPLEMENTING RIS3

Agenda

13 June 2018	
09:00– 09:30	Registration and welcome coffee
AGENDA	
OPENING SESSION	
9:30-10:00	**Welcome remarks** • **Karel Haegeman**, DG JRC, European Commission • **Denisa Perrin,** DG REGIO, European Commission • **Pia Laurila,** DG RTD, European Commission **Objectives of the working group and structure of the day** • **Eskarne Arregui -** DG JRC, European Commission
Barriers and Needs of Managing Authorities	
10:00-11:30	**Overview of barriers and needs: Lessons from the Stairway to Excellence (S2E) project I, II and III** • **Nicholas Harrap,** DG JRC, European Commission • **Gerard Carat,** DG JRC, European Commission *Discussion on barriers and needs in relation to H2020 and RIS3* *(Please read document 1.1 and 1.2 attached for discussion)*
11:30-12:00	*Coffee break*
International networking and widening participation (1)	
12:00-13:00	**Engagement modes with Joint Undertakings for ESIF-H2020 synergies** • **Eskarne Arregui -** DG JRC, European Commission *Discussion on targeted support needed for MAs to facilitate engagement* *(Please read document 2 attached for discussion)*
13:00-14:00	*Lunch Break*
International networking and widening participation (2)	
14:00-15:00	**Regional collaborations with EIT- Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs)** • **Karel Haegeman,** DG JRC, European Commission *Discussion on targeted support needed for MAs to facilitate engagement* *(Please read document 3 attached for discussion)*
Capacity needs and targeted support tools	
15:00-16:30	**Exploration of the specific support tools required by managing authorities to tackle the particular capacity needs identified;** *Guided discussion*
16:30- 17:00	***Next steps and conclusions*** European Commission DG JRC and DG REGIO