



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION,
SCIENCE AND SPORT

Stairway to Excellence

**„Exploring collaboration opportunities and synergies
between Research and Innovation Strategies for Smart
Specialization (RIS3) and EIT Climate KIC under the Regional
Innovation Scheme (EIT-RIS)“**

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What do we mean by Synergies

1. Per territory

- Synergies at **EU programme level (EU innovation ecosystem)**
- Synergies at **national/regional, transnational/transregional level**

2. Per subject of interest

- Synergies between **policies and programmes**
- Synergies between **funding instruments**
- Synergies between **business sector and public research**

3. Per approach

- **Top down** synergies
programmed by policymakers, programme owners, managing authorities
- **Bottom up** synergies
programmed by research and innovation and business stakeholders



Framework for synergies 2014-2020 in Slovenia

Regulative basis are implemented for the following instruments:

ERC → complementary scheme & ERC Fellowship to visit ERC Grantee

ESFRI → National research infrastructure roadmap + Operational programme planning

ERA-NET Cofund → national budget + strategic approach

JPIs

Article 185 and 187 of TFEU

Widening instruments (teaming, ERA chair)

SME Instrument → Seal of excellence



Good practice examples

National Institute of Chemistry (NIC):

SRA: funding of basic research programme - ongoing

ERDF 2007-2013: Centres of Excellence (research infrastructure)

FP7: EUROLIS → research project: Li-Sulfur battery project, 5 countries and 11 partners: coordinated by NIC

Mobility schemes:

ERASMUS+ scheme and ESF support

Erasmus+ operation/action: funding of mobility of students

ESF 2014-2020 operation: incentives for mobility of students to increase participation of disadvantaged students in mobility programmes

H2020:

Teaming project

SME Instrument „Seal of Excellence“ (Ministry of the Economy)

Marie Curie Cofund Seal of Excellence



Challenges within policy

1. How to **optimize a sustainable ecosystem of policies**, taking into account **different existing policy area perspectives, instruments and systems**, by merging and aligning?
2. How to **better and promptly integrate and align** the **always growing EU and international policy and programme context** (cross-border and transnational, national, macro-regional, and specific policy priorities from oriented PPPs, other)?



Challenges within programming

1. some risk factor on the regional absorption performance, due to uncertain „destiny“ of the H2020/EIT... proposals

- speculative nature of the result
- speculative number of actions financed
- short time to adequate and re-allocate (long procedure of realizing the fact if the ESIF investment, has the chance to be realized)
- Higher risk, in case of substantial investment for co-financing the synergy

Versus

2. National budgetary rules and perspective support low risk and premade analytically supported planning, especially on investments on larger scale

3. National sectorial (R&D) regulation supports horizontal national policy, not narrowly prioritized financing, limited to a single priority/thematic area



Challenges within implementation

- **ESIF restrictions to other programme (H2020/EIT/COST...) allowances**
- **Additional State aid restrictions to national funding**
- **National assets to tackle:**
 - Different timeline of instruments at different levels
 - Different terminology
(on the very same notions – project, infrastructure, applicant)
 - Different proposal assets (on expenses, on data fulfillment...)
 - Different eligibility criteria



Lessons learned...

From the policymaker perspective:

1. The „strategic“ planning of a synergy (ex.: ESIF, within OP), based on a broad knowledge and expertise upon existing instruments, seems crucial.
2. The risk factors should be tackled by a pre-defined intervention logic upon uncertainty aspects, that limits possible success (by a clear and concise prioritizing strategy on the financing landscape)?
3. Prior negotiations among MA of different programmes might be a solution to timing variables among different instruments.

From the stakeholder/applicant perspective...?



Position of Slovenia for the future

- The **combination of ESIF and next FP funds (and other)** shall be strongly promoted in all cases when objectives and targets are aligned
- The **same state aid rules** should apply to projects positively evaluated in EU-wide competition
- **Mechanisms and schemes** shall be **developed on the system level**, already **in the programming phase** of the next perspective (at least some pilot ones)
- **Harmonized instruments to address societal challenges** through different existing financial instruments.

Despite of the fact that financial sources are the fact object on which synergies apply, there is a vast area within governance, that can by aligning, and we can achieve at least as much effect as on the first one. We do believe that by effective alignment of policies an automatic synergetic effect would be reflected in the optimized use of FP, national, ESIF and other funds in order to deliver common objectives.



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Thank you for your attention!

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