



## **PILOT TRAINING FOR NATIONAL/REGIONAL AUTHORITIES WITH LOW H2020 PARTICIPATION ON OPTIMISING THE USE OF H2020 IN IMPLEMENTING RIS3**

**Date:** 15<sup>th</sup> February 2018

**Venue:** DG REGIO. Avenue de Beaulieu 1 / Beaulieulaan, Room 046, Ground Floor

1160 Bruxelles / Brussel

### **Aim of the pilot**

The workshop is organised as part of the activities of the Stairway to Excellence project managed by the DG JRC, in close cooperation with DG REGIO, as a way to maximise the impact of Smart Specialisation Strategies in EU regions and member states and realise the full potential of using EU funding programmes managed at regional, national and EU level.

This event is principally targeting regions with low engagement in H2020. The objective of the workshop is to explore the potential interest of ESIF Managing Authorities and RIS3 managing agencies of those regions on a future pilot training targeted to them, aiming to optimise the use of H2020 in implementing RIS3. This includes acquiring a better knowledge about ways for beneficiaries to become a part of the international networks, the complementary use of ESIF and H2020, the uptake of H2020 and FP7 project results to create investments, and the use of European R&I agendas to position ERDF support within European value chains. The event also includes participation of regions with successful participations in H2020 to share their examples and practices.

The current workshop is one of two pilot trainings, each covering a set of objectives related to optimised complementary use of H2020 and ESIF to boost regions' research and innovation capacity and RIS3 impact on the regional development. This first event will focus on questions related to how to increase the uptake of FP7 and H2020 project results, as well as on improving access to international networks aiming for interregional collaboration projects. A second workshop will focus on topics such as synergetic shaping of ESIF calls and H2020, and the design of specific programmes for developing capacities and skills for preparing project proposals.

The workshop will be an opportunity to discuss with a selected number of regional authorities the difficulties and practical examples with regard to optimising the use of H2020/FP7 project results in implementing RIS3 to the benefit of regional development.

The outcomes from the discussions with the regional authorities in the workshop will serve as an input for the design of the content of the training, according to the topics that raised stronger interest and particular difficulties faced by regions in this regard.

The workshop will be targeted at around 25 regional authorities, particularly targeting regions/countries with low-medium participation in H2020 and high ESIF in the programming period 2014-2020.



## **Target group**

The training is targeted to ESIF MA's and to a mix of regional stakeholders working in the implementation of research and innovation policies. This approach considers that multi-level governance of funding programmes by European, national and various regional bodies is a key aspect to improve innovation capacity and the creation of synergies in practice.

A balance of profiles of regions/countries has been considered important to ensure rich discussions, sharing good practices and ways to address the existing challenges. The following profiles will be mixed in the pilot training:

- Region/countries with high availability of ESIF and low level of funding from H2020 programme.
- Regions/countries with high availability of ESIF and high/moderate level of funding from H2020
- Regions/countries with cases of interest in the use of ESIF to improve H2020 participation

The stakeholders invited include ESIF Managing Authorities, S3 managing agencies and implementing bodies, regional innovation agencies, national ministries and experts in H2020.

- ESIF Managing Authorities: as direct managers of ESI Funds will acquire knowledge about how to shape programmes/calls for the uptake of FP7/H2020 results, will learn to navigate the available tools to search for funded projects and become active throughout the whole H2020 project cycle.
- S3 managing agencies and implementing bodies: the knowledge acquired in the training will help to better integrate the EU programmes possibilities into the S3 governance, shape calls that better promote synergies with existing EU and national programmes, and increase collaboration between ESIF managers, S3 managers and other public actors in the region
- Regional innovation agencies and national ministries: will learn how to tackle the existing challenges and failures in their research and innovation systems and investments.
- H2020 experts: will provide a particular expertise in the support, design, definition, evaluation, management and implementation of H2020 projects that will be very valuable for the rest of participants to acquire practical tips to prepare successful proposals.

## **Expected outcomes**

For participants:

- An increased understanding of different ways in which H2020 can be used to support RIS3 implementation and generate investments
- Collect practical examples and cases on synergies between ESIF/RIS3 and H2020
- Become part of a learning community on optimising the use of H2020

For the organisers:

- A collection of training needs and a better understanding of the usability of each training topic
- Refinement of training modules proposed
- Collection of additional practical examples under each training topic

The outcomes of the pilot will feed in to the composition of a training manual that will be used at a later stage to conduct the established training modus.



09:00– 09:30	Registration and welcome coffee
<b>AGENDA</b>	
<b>OPENING SESSION – Aim of the event and context of current RIS3 challenges</b>	
9:30-10:30	<p>Opening – Katja Reppel (European Commission, DG REGIO)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Aim of the pilot training and structure of the workshop</b> - Karel Haegeman (Joint Research Centre)</li> <li>• <b>Synergies between Cohesion Policy (ESIF) and R&amp;I funds</b> - Beate Grajnert (DG REGIO)</li> <li>• <b>Overall picture of the H2020 and opportunities for regional authorities</b> - Pia Laurila (DG RTD)</li> </ul>
10:30-10:45	<i>Coffee break</i>
<b><i>The key role of Managing Authorities and implementing bodies in channelling Structural Funds into research projects and investments</i></b>	
10:45-13:00	<p><b>Moderator:</b> Rafael Ataz Gómez (Instituto de Fomento Murcia Region)</p> <p><b>1. INCREASE THE UPTAKE OF FP7 AND H2020 PROJECT RESULTS</b></p> <p><b>1.1 H2020 programming cycle and MA participation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overview- Eskarne Arregui (JRC)</li> <li>• Experience 1 - José Antonio Pascual Sanchez (Agencia IDEA)</li> </ul> <p><b>1.2 Instruments for the uptake of FP7/H2020 projects</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overview- Eskarne Arregui (JRC)</li> <li>• Experience 2- Daniel Szczechowski (Polish Ministry of Economy)</li> <li>• Experience 3- Eleni Sophocleous (The Cyprus Institute)</li> </ul> <p><b>General Discussion – potential discussion topics:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>How can ESIF calls be shaped to have a leverage effect to participate in H2020?</i></li> <li>• <i>What type of mechanisms could facilitate synergies between ESIF and H2020?</i></li> <li>• <i>How could the relevant information at EU level (calls, policy agenda, actions, etc.) be channelled and contribute to RIS3 implementation?</i></li> </ul>
13:00 -14:00	Lunch Break



***Instruments of Managing Authorities and implementing bodies to increase participation in H2020 – ways to create consortia***

14:00-16:15	<p><b>Moderator:</b> Karel Haegeman (European Commission, Joint Research Centre)</p> <p><b>2. ACCESSING INTERNATIONAL NETWORKS AND CREATING INTERREGIONAL COLLABORATION PROJECTS</b></p> <p><b>2.1 Understanding the EU research and innovation landscape – Nicholas Harrap (JRC)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EU level research agendas and RIS3</li> <li>• H2020 projects</li> </ul> <p><b>2.2 First steps into EU research - networks and initiatives</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overview – Nicholas Harrap (JRC)</li> <li>• Experience 1: M.ERA.NET - Rosalba Maida (Calabria Region, Italy)</li> <li>• Experience 2: Mobilitas Pluss Estonia - Kristin Kraav (Estonian Research Council)</li> <li>• Experience 3: CleanSky - José Antonio Pascual Sánchez (Agencia IDEA)</li> </ul> <p><b>2.3 Learning and support networks – Nicholas Harrap (DG JRC)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regionally focussed European level platforms and networks</li> <li>• Other European associations, networks and support offices</li> </ul> <p><b>Plenary discussion – potential discussion topics:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>How to engage (as who?) in a H2020 project and find potential partners? What is the added value?</i></li> <li>• <i>How to engage in international science? What potential mechanisms are available?</i></li> <li>• <i>Where do I start to search for interesting partners and proposals/partnerships under preparation?</i></li> <li>• <i>What broader support networks are available? How could Managing Authorities engage with them?</i></li> </ul>
16:15-16:45	<p><b><i>Consolidation of training needs and next steps</i></b></p>
16:45- 17:00	<p><b><i>Conclusions</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DG Regio</li> <li>• Joint Research Centre</li> </ul>