

A beneficiary's perspective: How to improve interaction with ESIF Managing Authorities in order to establish synergies

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A few words about the beneficiary

- **The beneficiary: The Cyprus Institute**
 - **A relatively young organization (launched in 2007)**
 - **An international science and technology organization aiming at strengthening the research community of Cyprus, helping transform its economy to a knowledge-based economy and creating a research hub for the Eastern Mediterranean region.**

A few words about the beneficiary

- **Three research centers:**
 - **Energy, Environment and Water (EEWRC)**
 - **Science and Technology in Archaeology (STARC)**
 - **Computation based Science and Technology (CaSToRC)**

Cyl and ESIF

- **Cyl benefited greatly from European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) in the period 2007-2013 utilised for acquiring strategic research infrastructure:**
 - **EEWRC: APAESO:** Autonomous Flying Platforms for Atmospheric and Earth Surface Observations
 - **STARC: STARLAB:** Self-contained, mobile laboratory for archaeological analyses and investigations
 - **CaSToRC: Cy-Tera:** Cy-Tera High Performance Computing Facility for Cyprus

Cyl and ESIF

- **The three projects were co-financed by the by the European Regional Development Fund and the Republic of Cyprus through the Research Promotion Foundation (RPF)**
- **Acquiring the research infrastructure was instrumental in securing further funding through FP7 and H2020**

Cyl successes in FP7 and H2020

- **APAESO (EEWRC): BACCHUS (FP7), ACTIRS (H2020), EMME-CARE (H2020)**
- **STAR-Lab (STARC): GRAVITATE (H2020), E-RIHS (H2020)**
- **Cy-Tera (CaSToRC): PRACE 1IP/2IP/3IP(FP7), LinkSCEEM (FP7), PRACE 4IP (H2020), PRACE 5IP (H2020), VI-SEEM (H2020), SIMDAS (H2020)**

Challenges in interacting with ESIF NA

- **Strict regulations in project implementation (e.g. duration of traveling abroad for research purposes or for participation in conferences)**
- **Exhausting financial reporting and checks that often resulted in substantial delays in receiving payments (particularly difficult for SMEs when faced with a national financial crisis)**
- **As payments to beneficiaries were delayed, the new funding programme was also delayed.**
- **No calls available for almost 4 years.**

Challenges in interacting with ESIF NA

- **RESTART 2016-2020: No results yet though a number of calls had deadlines more than a year ago.**
- **Delays in proposal evaluation impacts negatively on competitiveness of H2020 proposals**

Positive interaction with ESIF NA

- **Stakeholder consultations for Smart Specialisation Strategy of Cyprus that led to a funding programme that corresponds to actual needs and research interests**
- **Promotion of International Brokerage Event**
- **NA officers are easily accessible and proactive in providing support**
- **NA officers actively promote the visibility of research institutions through the co-organisation of public events**

Positive interaction with ESIF NA

- **Calls that actively promote participation in H2020 proposals:**
 - **ENCOURAGEMENT OF PROJECT COORDINATION IN «HORIZON 2020»**
 - **COMPLEMENTARY FUNDING**
 - **HORIZON 2020 – 2nd OPPORTUNITY**

Positive interaction with ESIF NA

- **RPF officers serve also as National Contact Points for Horizon 2020**
 - **Identifying partners;**
 - **Reviewing proposals;**
 - **Communicating with the European Commission**
 - **Organising training events**

Further improvement

- Encouraging participation of local research institutions to networking events on an EU level
- Assist local research institutions understand better processes
- Simplifying procedures

Thank you

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