

The Stairway to excellence (S2E)

Boosting regional growth through innovation





RDI Strategy 2014-2020 "Knowledge-based Estonia"

Reinforce, with the help of European Union Structural Funds and activities financed from the state budget, the capacity of Estonian research institutions to participate in forms of cooperation based on quality competition, incl in the programme "Horizon 2020".

Estonian OP for Cohesion Policy funds 2014-2020.

In addition, R&D-related activities will support the institutional reforms of universities and R&D institutions, high level research, international cooperation (incl. synergy with the EU 'Horizon 2020' Research and Innovation Framework Programme), the mobility of students, university teachers and researchers, and the emergence of their next generation (OP, p9).



Teaming for Excellence

Horizon 2020

Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation

- . Teaming for Excellence
 - 2 Estonian projects:
 - ITEE
 - FINEST TWINS

- Support for infrastructure and equipment
- Support for human capital, internationalisation and business cooperation
 - Directly linked to Smart specialisation
 - + national long-term commitment to ensure sustainability



ERA Chairs

Horizon 2020

Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation

• ERA Chairs (4+1)

- Support for research costs and equipment that is not covered by the H2020
- Support from Mobilitas Pluss up to 200 000 € per project



European Research Council

Horizon 2020

Excellent Science

European Research Council Grants

- Support for applicants who achieve high results in ERC evaluation, but who do not receive a positive financing decision (in the amount of national personal grant up to 100 000
 € per year, for up to 1,5 years)
- Trainings and study visits for researchers (to prepare for a successful application)



EIT-KIC SUPPORT

Horizon 2020

European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)

Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs) - 2

- Support for costs that is not covered by the H2020
- Support from Mobilitas Pluss is up to 60 000 € per project

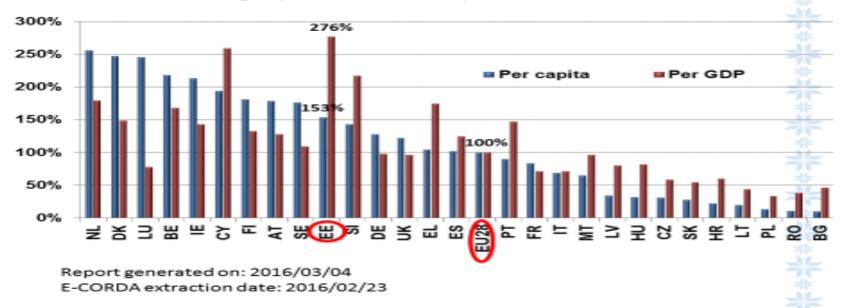


NATIONAL FUNDING. SUPPORT FOR APPLICATION PREPARATION

- Support for preparing successful applications to Horizon 2020
- Evaluation result must be above treshold in H2020
 - Supporf for coordinators: 3 600 €
 - Support for individual projects: 2 400 €
 - Support for project partner (WP leader): 1 200 €
 - Baltic Bonus: 1 000 € extra (if LV or LT partners are involved)



Revenue from Horizon 2020 – per capita and per GDP, % of EU average (EU28 = 100%)





CHALLENGES FOR SYNERGIES (1)

- Different state aid regulations (this is one of the reasons why the "Seal of Excellence" initiative has serious limits/ref State Aid if nat./regional funding).
- The <u>maximum level of aid intensity</u> of economic activity for research infrastructures is too low 20%, should be at least 50-75%. Estonia has made efforts and will continue to foster industry-academia co-operation but the level (20%) would undermine such efforts.
- Different financial regulations (*cost models*). The H2020 indirect cost rate of 25% should also apply for ESIF (right now 15% of direct personnel costs). Similar project funded from different sources should have the possibility to use the same rules.



CHALLENGES FOR SYNERGIES (2)

- Selection criteria
 - H2020 is open to all domains \rightarrow SF is focused on smart specialisation.
 - SF has certain obligatory selection criteria
- Different funding opportunities (*size of grants*)
- International partners
 - SF has limits for funding outside the programme region

Synergies are about complementarity between Research & Innovation Funds and ERDF, not replacements



Thank you!

Ene.kadastik@hm.ee