

# The Stairway to excellence (S2E)

### **Boosting regional growth through innovation**

Brussels, 08 March 2017 europa.eu/!Wx96NN

**#S2Einno** 

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## STRUCTURE

- 1. Background information
- 2. Presentation of examples illustrating synergies between funds in Latvia
- 3. Lessons learned
- 4. A way forward



# **MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE**

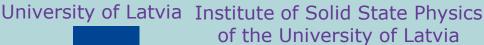
5 policy areas – education, research, language, youth, and sports

22 government-funded RI, including 6 universities

LV – the fastest growing innovator in the EU









Institute of Organic Synthesis





## **ROLE OF THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE – THE INNOVATION ENABLER**

<b>Demand</b> consumers (final demand) producers (interim demand)				Framework conditions financial environment, tax regime, entrepreneurship and innovation incentives, regulatory environment, state aid, mobility			
Industry system Traditional economic		System of Educat		nd Science		Political system The Saeima, Cabinet of Ministers MoES MoE, line	
Future growth sectors with high added value		Research institutes, National research centres		ligher education and research	Cabi		
	Techno	ence Centres, logy transfer	Vo	ocational education and training		ministries and agencies	
Sectors with high horizontal impact		⇒		earch commissioned y the public sector		R&D&I and Industrial policy, RIS3	
•				•		• Infrastructure	
Banks, venture capitalInformationR&D&I and busic support instrum			s Research Standards and		and		



# **LATVIA'S PARTICIPATION IN HORIZON 2020**

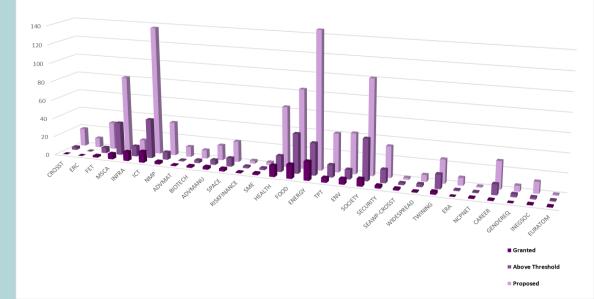
**35%** of all submitted proposals (with LV participants) are **«above the threshold»** 

**37%** of proposals had received grants from Horizon 2020



#### Latvia is funding:

- the «above threshold» Horizon 2020 participants whose project proposals (ERC, MSCA or ERA-Chair) are evaluated at EU level;
- networking for new Horizon 2020 proposals.





## SYNERGY BETWEEN THE PROJECTS: CRITICAL MASS FOR EXCELLENCE

#### LV RIS3 specialization areas:

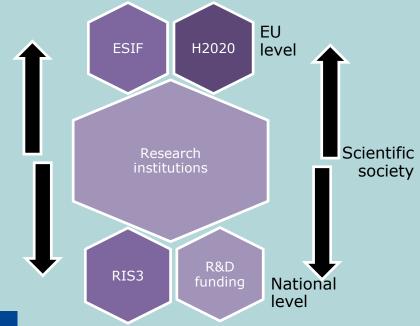
1. Knowledge-based bio-economics

2. Bio-medicine, medical technologies, bio-pharmacy and biotechnologies

3. Advanced materials, technologies and engineering systems

4. Smart energy

5. Information and communication technologies





# PROGRAMME FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION PROJECTS IN RESEARCH AND INNOVATION



#### 32.5 MEUR (ESIF 27.6 MEUR, SB 4.9 MEUR)

**Aim of the programme:** to promote the participation of Latvian researchers in European Research Area, thereby promoting international cooperation in research and technology.

#### Main results of the programme:

- Doubled the number of international partners;
- Doubled the number of R&D projects evaluated above the quality threshold H2020 (compared to the FP7);
- Supported 458 H2020 project applications evaluated above the quality threshold.

**Challenges**: Application of State Aid rules for refinancing of H2020 projects (different level of co-financing, re-evaluation(?), ineligible costs). Impossible to finance ERA-NET COFUND projects with H2020 co-financing.



# PROGRAMME FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION PROJECTS IN RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

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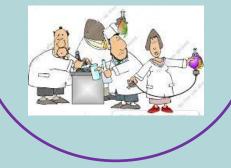
	٨	INSTITUTIONAL ACTIVITIES		
	Ministry of Education and Science	Research Institutions		
COSTS ACTIVITIES	Participation in JPI, strengthening the representation of national interests, activities with LV diaspora	EXPANSION OF H2U2U NCP,	Implementation of H2020 projects (ERA Chairs, MSCA, ERC)	Networking activities to increase the performance in H2020
	12,5 mEUR	5,7 mEUR	9,3 mEUR	5 mEUR
RESULTS	<ul> <li>(1) Participation in 5 JPI</li> <li>(2) Supported 10 JPI projects</li> <li>(3) Organization of World Congress of Latvian Scientists in 2018</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>(1) Implemented the plan for NCP for support of RI in H2020</li> <li>(2) Supported 10 ERA-NET COFUND projects</li> <li>(3) Supported 65 above the threshold evaluated projects in H2020</li> </ul>	Funded 15 H2020 projects	Supported 458 H2020 projects



## **APPLIED RESEARCH PROGRAMME**

### 76.5 MEUR (ESIF 65 MEUR, SB 11.5 MEUR)

Practical research in scientific groups



**Aim of the programme**: to support research projects that contribute to:

- Smart specialization strategies' (RIS3) goals;
- Development of R&D of human capital;
  - Creation of new knowledge to improve the competitiveness of the economy.

### Main results of the programme:

- 306 new positions for researchers;
- 114 new products;
- 80 companies that co-operate with RI;
- 192 high quality scientific publications.

*If two projects receive equal evaluation, the priority is given to support the project submitted for H2020 and evaluated above the threshold* 

**Challenges**: *Do we need to re-evaluate the project submitted for H2020 if there is no consortium?* 



## **POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH PROGRAMME**



64 MEUR (ESIF 54.5 MEUR, SB 9.5 MEUR)

**Aim of the programme:** to support young doctors who obtained their degree no more than 5 years (+2) ago for career start-up opportunities at research institutions and enterprises **Main results of the programme:** 

- 384 new positions for new researchers
- 416 new products
- 1280 high quality scientific publications

The evaluation process is organised by the external experts (from COM database) according to Marie Sklodowska-Curie Actions Individual Fellowships evaluation approach and principles

**Project** proposals submitted for Marie Sklodowska-Curie Actions' Individual Fellowships and which are evaluated above the threshold are welcome

Synergy with Marie Sklodowska-Curie co-funding of regional, national and international programme<mark>s (MSCA</mark> COFUND)



## H2020 TEAMING PROJECT CAMART<sup>2</sup> / THE EXCELLENCE CENTRE OF ADVANCED MATERIAL RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER 32.3 MEUR (H2020 15 MEUR, ESIF 15.3 MEUR, SB 2 MEUR)



CAMART<sup>2</sup>

**Aim of the project:** to ensure efficient transfer of new materials and technologies into products for commercial and public benefits based on the exchange of knowledge and synergy with innovation-intensive Consortium partners

**Coordinator**: Institute of Solid State Physics of University of Latvia **Partners**:

KTH Royal Institute of Technology Acreo Swedish ICT Implementation period: 2017-2023

**Challenges**: Administrative burden and timing. State Aid rules.



## **LESSONS LEARNED**

Reason: Lack of consensus among policy makers about the role of national R&I systems and ESIF R&I funding as a contributor to overall EU global competitiveness

#### Obstacles for synergy between H2020 and ESIF:

- Lack of distinction between ESIF R&I measures targeted at small scale regional/local level and <u>those</u> <u>contributing to tackle grand societal</u> <u>challenges (international</u> <u>collaboration/EU importance);</u>
- Difference of administrative rules between H2020 and ESIF, and overall complexity;
- Legislative uncertainty and inconsistency of audit approaches;
- Requirement to apply State Aid rules to successful H2020 projects if funding is provided from ESIF.

#### **Consequence:**

If State Aid rules are applied:

- The EU co-funding rate is lower in ESIF projects;
- There is considerable
   increase of administrative
   burden, delays and
   implementation risks both
   for final beneficiaries and
   national authorities.



## **A WAY FORWARD**







Projects which are evaluated at EU level (H2020) and are eligible for funding must not undergo repeated evaluation

State aid rules must not apply to H2020 projects with EU impact regardless of the source of funding

### SIMPLIFICATION

- Apply the best practice from H2020 in ESIF
- Unit costs/lump sums
- Realistic goals, monitor impact, control results
- Avoid double controls
- Respect specific character of scientific work and right to failure



# Thank you!

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