



# **Smart specialisation across Europe**

**Achieving better synergies between ESI Funds  
and other EU Funding Programmes**

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**European Commission**

**DG Joint Research Centre**

**Nicosia, 22/09/2016**

# Smart Specialization

## Smart Specialization Platform:

- Since 2011 supporting Member States & Regions to design and implement their S3 by identifying a limited number of R&D and industrial activities with **high innovation potential**.

[REGIO Infoview Page - CYPRUS](#)

[ESIF Open Data Platform - CYPRUS](#)

[RIO-PSF page - CYPRUS](#)

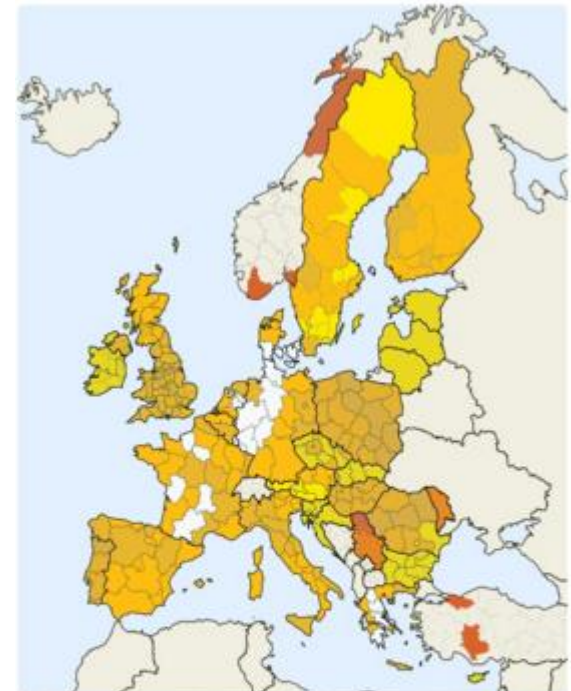
[National S2E Profile](#)

[KEEP-Territorial Cooperation Programmes - CYPRUS](#)

CYPRUS

Facts & Figures

S3 Priorities



- EU Countries registered in S3P: 18
- EU Regions registered in S3P: 167
- Non-EU Countries registered in S3P: 2
- Non-EU Regions registered in S3P: 7
- S3P Peer-reviewed Countries: 15
- S3P Peer-reviewed Regions: 60



European Commission

# Main activities of the S3 Platform



**Synergies ESIF-H2020  
"Stairway to excellence"**

**Guidance and analysis:  
RIS3 Guide;  
Digital Agenda Toolbox;  
S3 policy briefs**

**Targeted  
Support to  
regions**

**Trans-national focus  
Peer Reviews**

**Eye@RIS3  
Interactive web tools**



**Thematic focus on  
actors, process,  
learning and common  
priorities**

**Value chains and  
alignment of  
innovation roadmaps**

**RIS3  
assessment  
and support to  
REGIO desks**

**Focused approach on digital  
growth; energy; agro-food and  
industrial modernization (TSSP)**





European Commission

# Eye@RIS3

## Research & Innovation Capabilities

Select

## Business Areas & Target Market

Select

## EU Priority

Blue growth

- Select
- Aeronautics & space
- Blue growth**
- Cultural & creative industries
- Digital Agenda
- KETs
- Nature & biodiversity
- Public health & security
- Service innovation
- Social innovation
- Specific local policy priority
- Sustainable innovation

Select

- Agriculture, forestry & fishing**
- Construction
- Creative, cultural arts & entertainment
- Energy production & distribution
- Human health & social work activities
- Information & communication technologies (ICT)
- Manufacturing & industry
- Mining & quarrying
- Public administration, security & defence
- Services
- Tourism, restaurants & recreation
- Transporting & storage
- Water supply, sewerage, waste management & remediation activities
- Wholesale & retail trade

## EU Priority (Subcategory)

Select

- Select**
- Aquaculture
- Blue renewable energy
- Coastal & maritime tourism
- Fisheries
- Marine biotechnology
- Offshore mining, oil & gas
- Shipbuilding & ship repair
- Transport & logistics (incl. highways of the seas)



- EU Countries with Encoded S3 Priorities
- EU Regions with Encoded S3 Priorities
- Non-EU Countries with Encoded R&I Priorities
- Non-EU Regions with Encoded R&I Priorities

# S3 Priorities – Cyprus

## Description

Tourism: sustainable tourism, alternative forms of tourism, digital tourism applications, management and promotion of tourism product

Energy: renewable forms of energy, solar energy, Solar-thermal technology SolarPhotovoltaic, Technologies for Solar Heating and Cooling, energy storage and transfer

Agriculture–Food Industry: Agricultural and livestock production, Agriculture, FoodSecurity and Climate Change.

Construction Industry: Sustainable Urban Development, Sustainable Construction, Existing Building Stock, Innovative and Intelligent Materials and Reuse of Building Materials, Cultural Heritage

Transportation: Marine, Shipping, Intelligent Transport Systems, road freight.

Health: e-health, prognosis - prevention and treatment of diseases, health pharmaceutical industry.

# Other S3 Tools

1. Benchmarking Regional Structure
2. Revealed Competitors and regional competitiveness scoreboard
3. ESIF – viewer: planned Investments under ESIF
4. R&I Regional Viewer

Countries  Regions

[▶ Show advanced filters](#)

- All OP Type
- Regional
- Multi-regional
- National
- Transnational

- Productive investment
- Energy infrastructure
- Environmental infrastructure
- Transport infrastructure
- Sustainable transport
- Information and communication technology (ICT) infrastructure
- Social, health and education infrastructure and related investment
- Research and development and innovation
- Business development
- Information and communication technology (ICT) – demand stimulation...
- Development of endogenous potential - Environment
- Development of endogenous potential - Other
- Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour m...
- Promoting social inclusion, combating poverty and any discrimination
- Investing in education, training and vocational training for skills and lifelo...
- Enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders a...

Thematic objectives

Categories of intervention

# Objectives of S2E

## Stairway to Excellence (S2E) Initiative:

- Pilot Project funded by the European Parliament
- Initiated in October 2014 (Launching Conference in Prague)

## Objectives:

- The provision of assistance to Member States and Regions to enhance the value of these two EU funding sources for R&I by promoting their combination (2015/2016: focus on EU13).
- Stimulating the early and effective implementation of national and regional Smart Specialisation Strategies.

## Stakeholders Involvement:

- COM services (JRC, REGIO, RTD, ENER, CNECT, GROW) and other European Institutions (EP, CoR, EIT)
- Stakeholders' Representatives (EARTO, EBN, ERRIN, KICs)
- Regions and Member States (S3P network, S2E National events)
- FP / H2020 Network (NCP, regional networks, innovation agencies)



# Stairway to Excellence (S2E) Initiative

## Economic Rationale

- Structure of R&I Investment at the European Level (GBAORD) across public/private division and geographical composition
- New Role of ESIF in supporting broad intangibles investments
- Leverage effect of EC R&I funding by matching programmes with:
  - ✓ (apparently) different objectives – efficiency and effectiveness of R&I investments
  - ✓ different management of the programmes. ESIF supports catching-up MSs & regions more competitive in spatially blind & excellence-based H2020 calls.
  - ✓ different support to innovation life cycle. Beyond a stronger innovation generation capacity (*upstream activities*), there is room for increasing innovation absorption capacity (*downstream activities*) in the context of past R&I projects.

## Legal Novelties

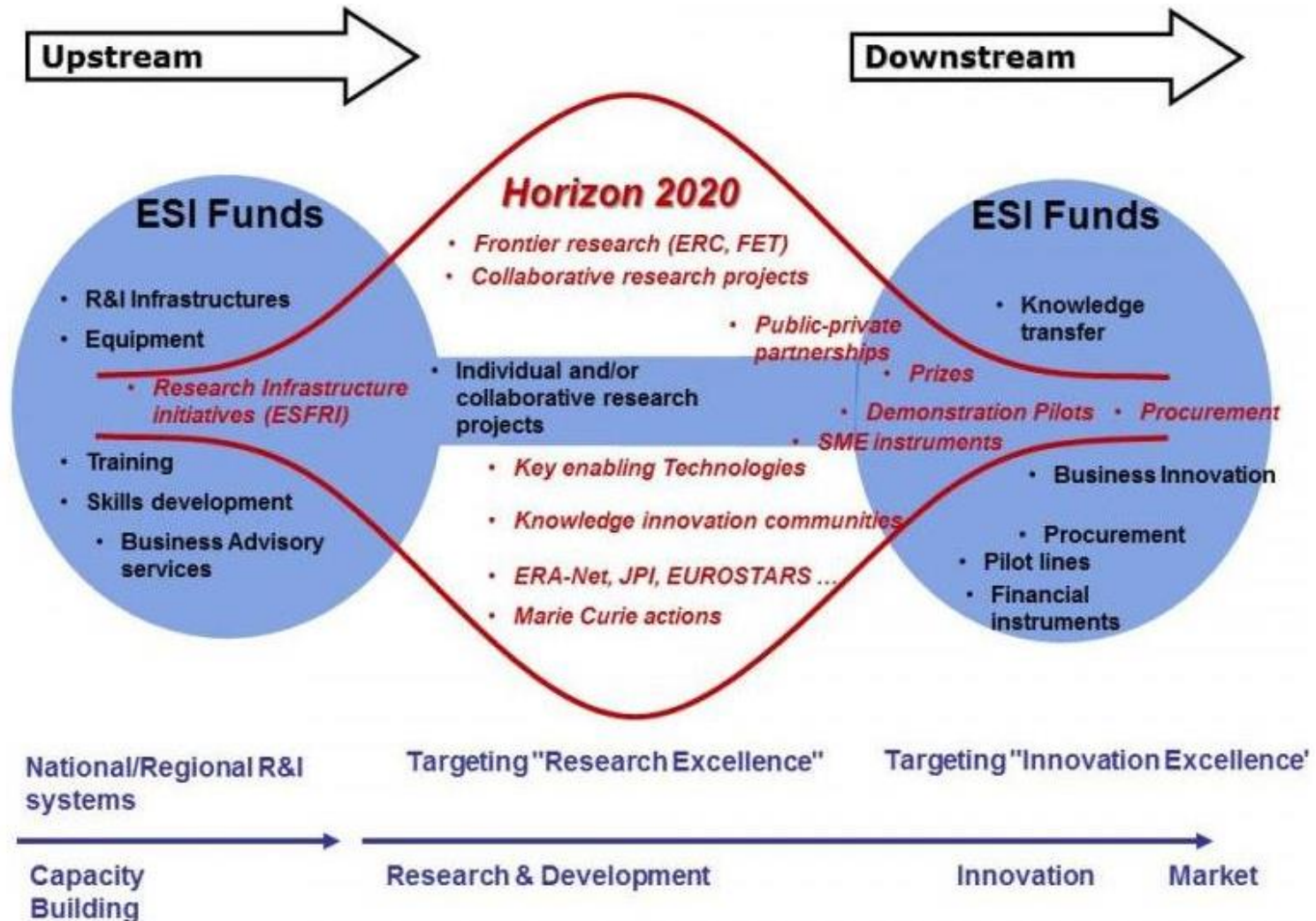
- Synergies under the new MFF 2014-2020 (COM Guide on Synergies, spring 2014)



## Four cases of combined funding (COM Guide on Synergies):

- 1. Joint or simultaneous funding:** Different funding sources within a single project. ESIF could also be used for some "complementary" funding (cost items eligible under ESIF but not under H2020).
- 2. Sequential funding:** separate successive and legally/financially not linked projects with alternating H2020 or ESIF support. Sequential funding can go in both directions: capacity building (e.g. raising readiness to participate in H2020) and/or innovation exploitation (e.g. exploitation of H2020 results).
- 3. Additional/parallel funding:** ESIF money is not directly linked to a H2020 project, but a regional/national authority decides to fund a project to enhance the impact of a H2020 R+I project or Erasmus+ or COSME in its region (i.e. skills development or capacity building or for amplifying the impact of Joint Technology Initiatives).
- 4. Alternative funding:** ESIF money could be used for project proposals with a positive evaluation under H2020 or Erasmus+ that could not be funded due to a lack of H2020 funds under the call (i.e. SME instrument projects from a single country / projects submitted under the Fast Track to Innovation pilot scheme).

# S2E Rationale & Case Studies

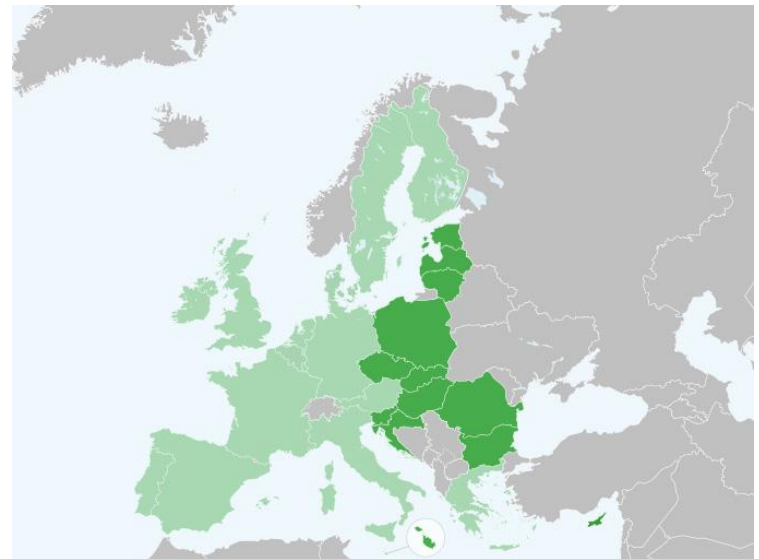


# National S2E Events

- **A better understanding of the national innovation ecosystem**
- **Raising awareness of the actions needed to enable synergies**
- **Sharing experiences in combining different EU funds**

<u>Bulgaria</u>	(July 2016)
<u>Romania</u>	(June 2016)
<u>Hungary</u>	(May 2016)
<u>Poland</u>	(April 2016)
<u>Slovenia</u>	(April 2016)
<u>Estonia</u>	(March 2016)
<u>Czech Republic</u>	(March 2016)
<u>Lithuania</u>	(October 2015)
<u>Malta</u>	(July 2015)
<u>Slovakia</u>	(June 2015)
<u>Latvia</u>	(April 2015)
<u>Croatia</u>	(March 2015)

The events are open to national and regional MAs, NCPs, national authorities in charge of RIS3, selected experts and representatives from business and research organisations.



# General macro-economic indicators

	<b>EU13*</b>	<b>EU15</b>	<b>EU28</b>
Population	105 127 027	401 484 800	506 611 827
GDP - Euro per capita	10 417	29 800	25 700
GDP - Euro per capita in % of EU average	40.5	115.3	100
R&D expenditure - Total (million Euro)	11 521.81	260 036.97	271 558.78
R&D expenditure - Total [% of GDP]	1.05	2.09	2.01
R&D expenditure - Business Enterprise Sector (BES) [% of GDP]	0.54	1.34	1.28
R&D expenditure - Government Sector (GOV) [% of GDP]	0.23	0.25	0.25
R&D expenditure - Higher Education Sector (HES) [% of GDP]	0.27	0.49	0.47
R&D expenditure - Private non-Profit Sector (PnP) [% of GDP]	0.004	0.02	0.02
R&D Personnel** - Total (% of active population)	0.62	1.25	1.12
R&D Personnel - BES (% of active population)	0.25	0.69	0.60
R&D Personnel - GOV (% of active population)	0.15	0.15	0.15
R&D Personnel - HES (% of active population)	0.22	0.39	0.36
R&D Personnel - PnP (% of active population)	0.002	0.01	0.01
Unemployment Rate***	9.9	9.50	9.60

Source: Compiled and calculated by using Eurostat 2013

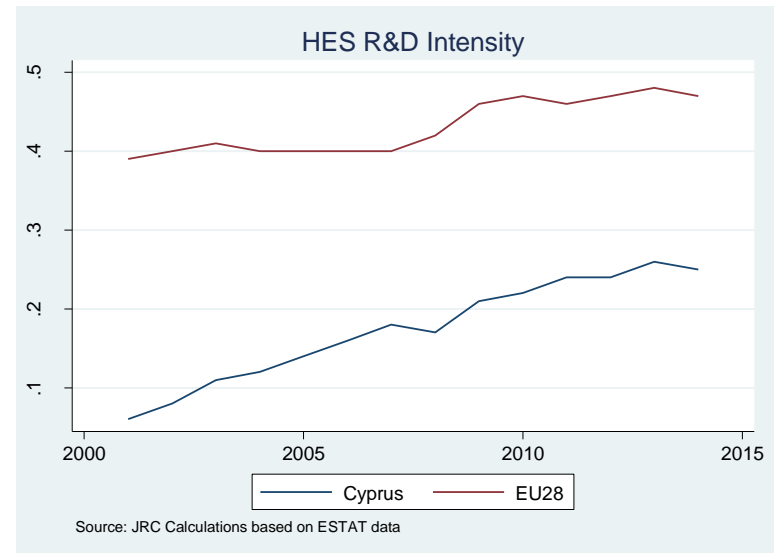
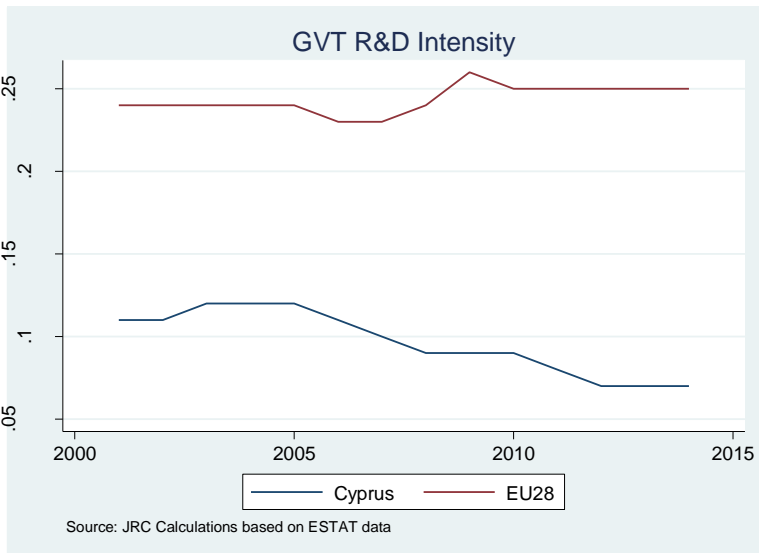
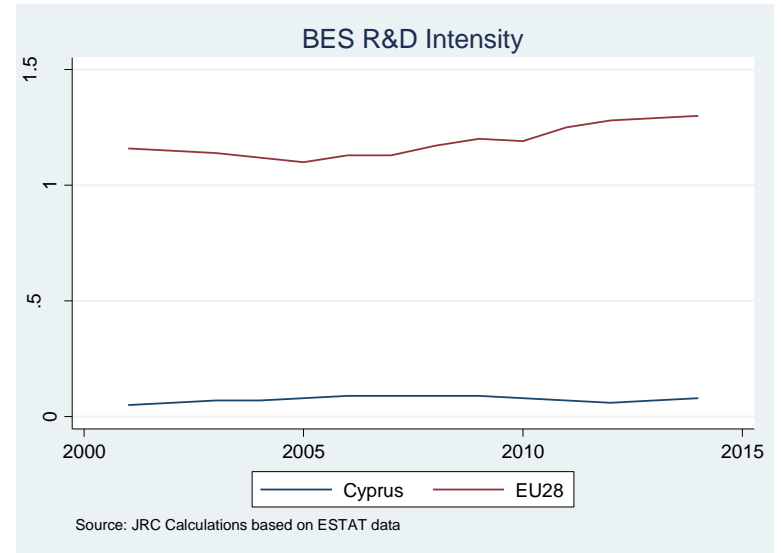
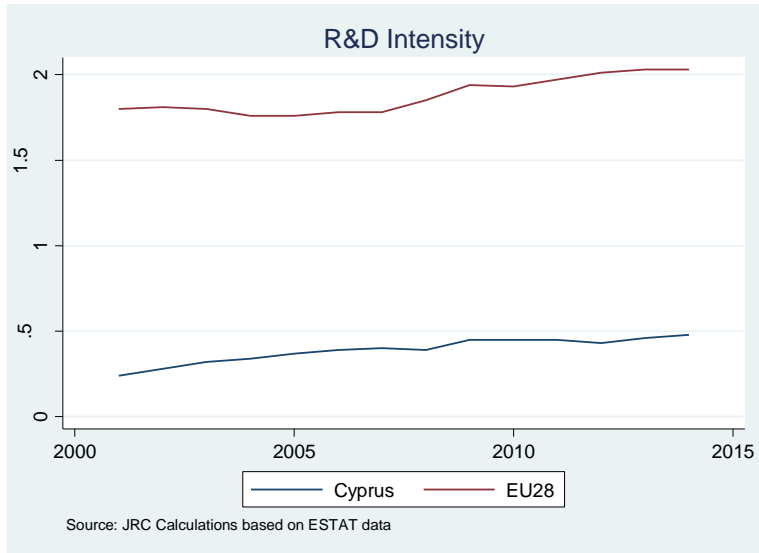
\* EU13 aggregate not available in EUROSTAT

\*\* R&D personnel refer to the number of full time equivalent R&D personnel.

\*\*\*Unemployment uses latest available figures for 2013 age group 15 years and over.



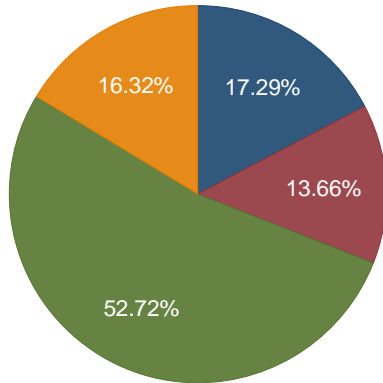
European  
Commission





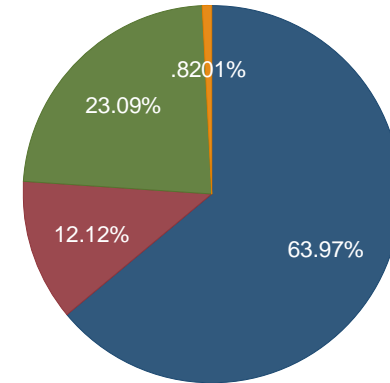
European  
Commission

R&D Investment - Cyprus 2014



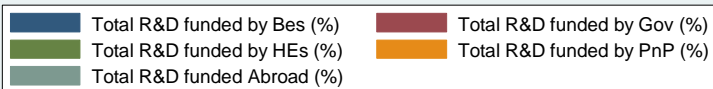
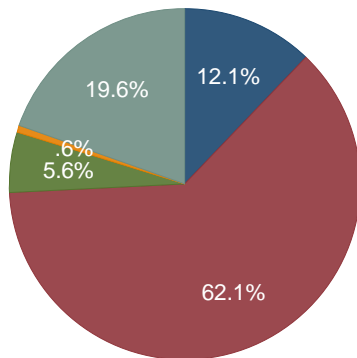
Source: JRC Calculations based on ESTAT data

R&D Investment - EU28 2014



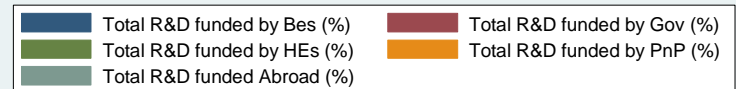
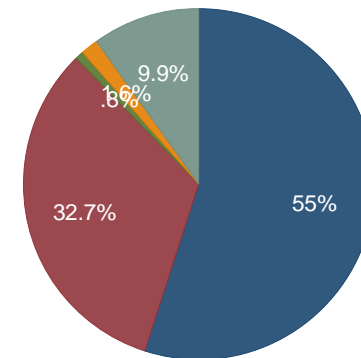
Source: JRC Calculations based on ESTAT data

R&D Investment - Funding - Cyprus 2013



Source: JRC Calculations based on ESTAT data

R&D Investment - Funding - EU28 2013

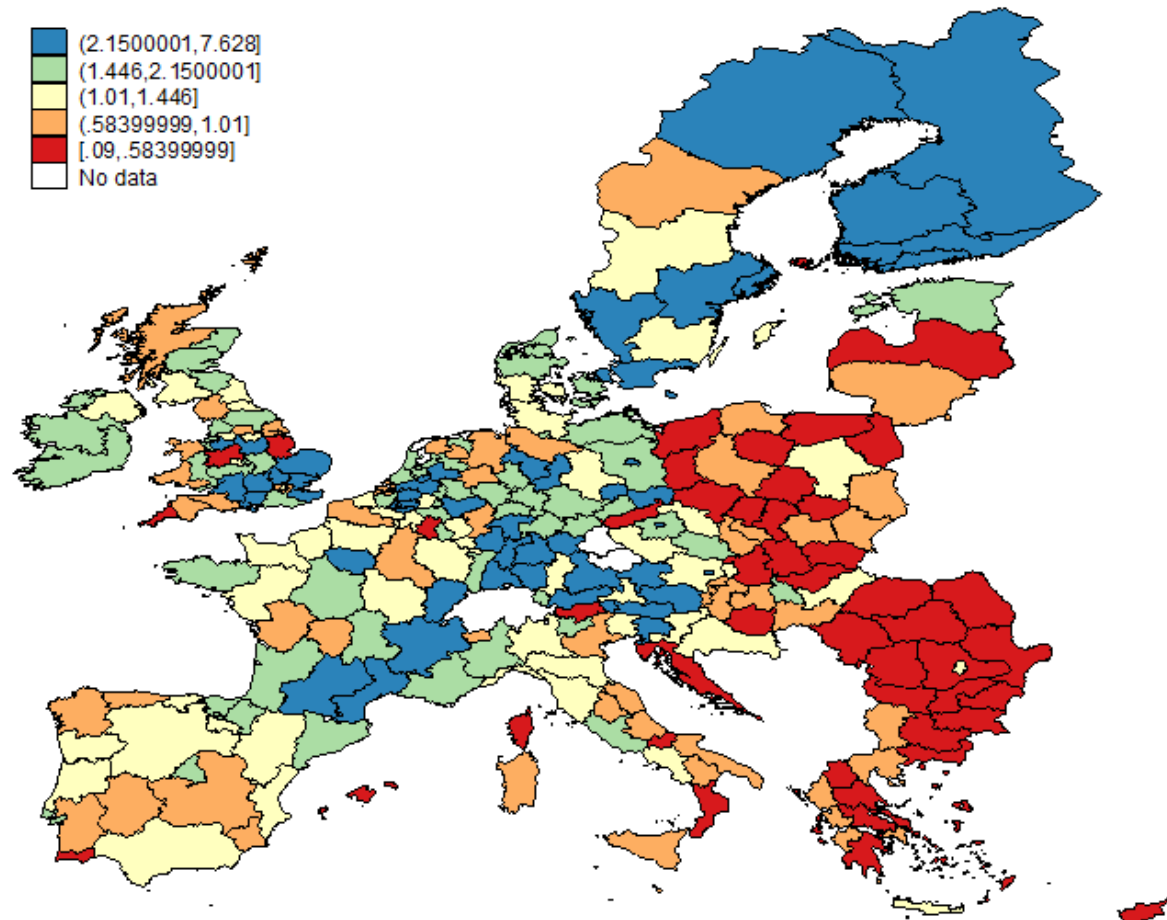


Source: JRC Calculations based on ESTAT data



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## Regional R&D Intensity as a % of GDP 5 Country Groups

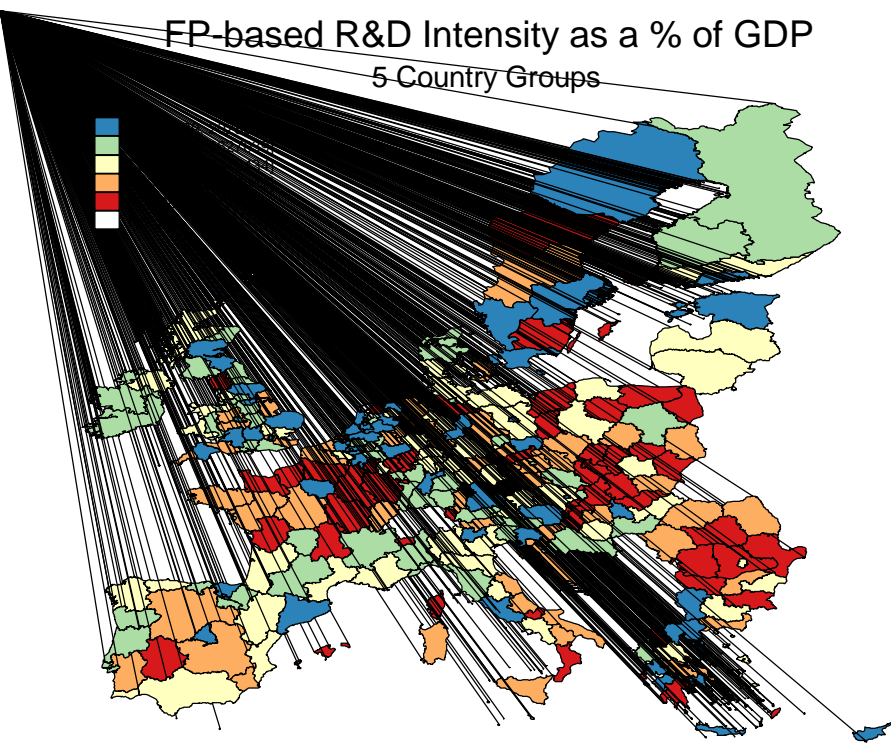


Source: JRC/IPTS

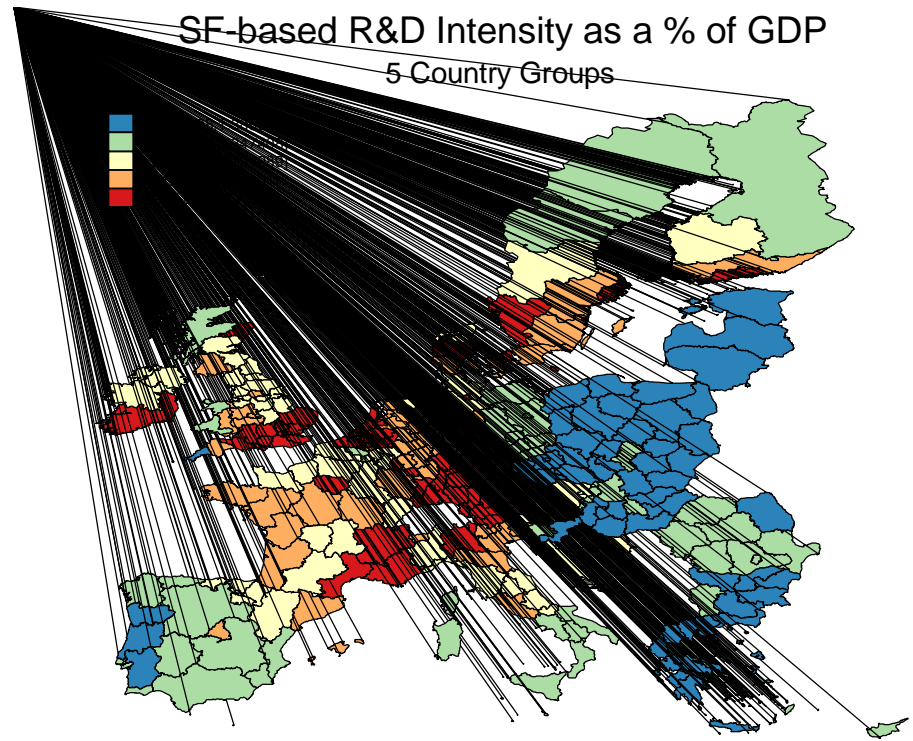




## Funding Distribution of 7<sup>th</sup> FP and SFs



Source: JRC/IPTS



Source: JRC/IPTS

# Stairway to Excellence

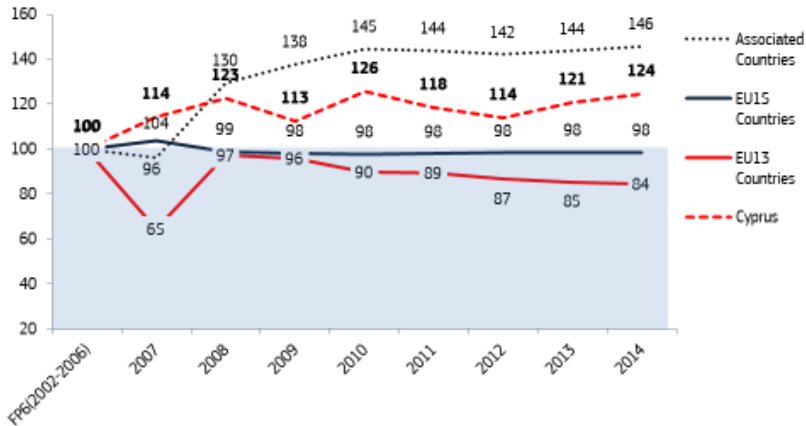
## Cohesion Policy and the Synergies with the Research and Innovation Funds

### Cyprus (CY)

#### Facts & Figures

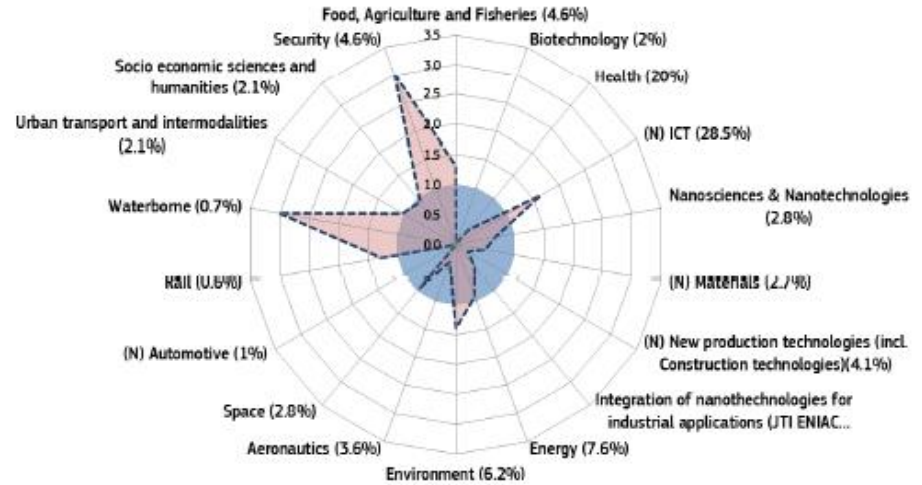


Figure 1: Evolution of the Share of EU FP contribution received between 2006 and 2014 (EU FP6 budget share taken as base 100)



# S2E Facts and Figures

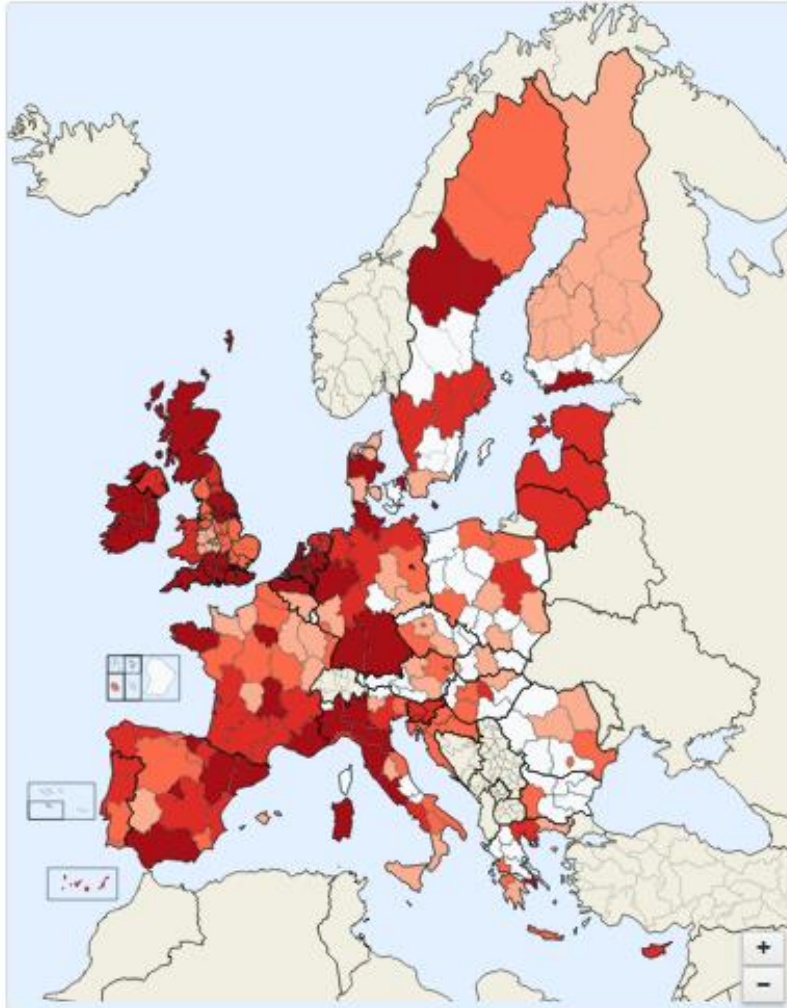
■ Framework programme 7 (% of FP7 budget dedicated to cooperation programme in the area) (N): National smart specialisation area chosen  
 □ CYPRUS





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# R&I Regional Viewer



## Economic Data

Regional context indicators  
Last available data

GDP - Euro per capita ▼

## Structural Funds

Planned investments  
2014-2020

Total ESIF Research & ▼

## Horizon 2020

Allocated funding  
2014-March 2016

EU.3.2. - Food security ▼

Food Security, Sustainable Agriculture and Forestry, Marine, Maritime and Inland Water Research and the Bioeconomy



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# S2E Web

## S3 Targeted Support

[RIS3 in REMTh](#)

[Rural Innovation](#)

**Stairway to Excellence**

[What is Stairway to](#)

[Excellence](#)

[National Events](#)

[Country & Region](#)

[Information](#)

[Synergies Examples](#)

[Instruments, Platforms &](#)

[Concepts](#)

[Relevant Initiatives](#)

[Reference Documents](#)

[FAQ on S2E](#)

## Latest News

### **CALL FOR CONTRIBUTION**

**S3 Targeted Support**

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTION to  
forthcoming S2E events

### **Latest S2E activity**

**S3 Targeted Support**

Latest publications available on-line

### **UPCOMING S2E National Events**

## Stairway to Excellence

### What is Stairway to Excellence

The 'Cohesion Policy and the synergies with the research and development funds: the STAIRWAY TO EXCELLENCE (S2E)' project was launched in 2014 within the Smart Specialisation Platform (S3P).

The **Stairway to Excellence (S2E)** project aims to support [EU13 regions and countries](#) in developing and exploiting the synergies between European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF), Horizon 2020 (H2020) and other EU funding programmes and:

- Assist them in closing the innovation gap, in order to promote excellence in all regions and EU countries;
- Stimulate the early and effective implementation of national and regional Smart Specialisation Strategies.

[Activities of S2E](#)

[Background for the Project](#)

### National Events

[National Events](#) are being organized in [EU13 Members States](#) to:

- Ease understanding of national and regional innovation ecosystems
- Raise awareness to enable synergies between EU funding programmes
- Share experiences in combining Structural Funds and Framework Programme to improve excellence
- Draw lessons for the future and identify follow-up actions to enhance potential synergies

### Country & Region Information

Quantitative and Qualitative information are produced for [EU13 regions and countries](#):

- [National and Regional Fact & Figures](#) aim to draw the European profile of a country/ region with statistical and financial information coming from the EU's 7th Framework Programme and Structural Funds dedicated to research and innovation.
- [S2E Country Reports](#) provide further analysis on selected policy issues that affect optimal use and the combination of key EU funds for R&I and offer country-tailored policy suggestions aiming to tackle the weaknesses identified in the analysis.



BG HR CY CZ EE HU LV LT MT PL RO SK SI



### S3 Targeted Support

S2E organizes National Events in all EU13 Member States

## Related Links

Smart Specialisation Platform (S3P) [HomePage](#), and specifically:

- [S3 Platform Membership Registered Countries and Regions](#)
- [Eye@RIS3](mailto:Eye@RIS3)
- [Eye@RIS3 Specialisation Mapping](#)
- [Guides related to aspects of the S3](#)

[DG REGIO HomePage](#)

## Contacts

[Contact the S2E email box](#)

[Know the S2E Team members](#)

More Specific contacts are available for the respective [registered Member States on S3P](#), for instance:

- [H2020 National Contact Points](#)
- [European Enterprise Network branches](#)

## Synergies examples

[Synergies examples](#) are provided in which SF/ ESIF and FP7/ H2020 funds have been combined in order to amplify the R&I investments and their impact, using different forms of innovation and competitiveness support, or carrying innovative ideas further along the innovation cycle or value chain to bring them to the market.

## Instruments, Platforms & Concepts

Fiches are being made available on a selection of [European instruments/ platforms/ concepts](#) that can be considered as facilitators especially for "downstream activities", to exploit and diffuse results from earlier programming period (FP7) and current one (H2020), and as key elements in monitoring the implementation of synergies in their various forms.

## Relevant Initiatives, Projects and Platforms

Beyond the Reference Documents (below) and Related Links (left), there are a number of [Relevant Initiatives, Projects and Platforms](#) for Cohesion Policy and the synergies with the research and development funds.

## Reference Documents

We gather [Reference Documents](#) relevant to Cohesion Policy and the synergies with the research and development funds, including guidance for Policy-Makers, Implementing Bodies and Beneficiaries of EU Funds and instruments issued by the European Commission or other bodies.

## FAQ

[Frequently Asked Questions](#) relate to practical application of the Guidance on synergies between ESIF, Horizon2020 and other research, innovation and competitiveness-related Union programmes.

A [list of acronyms](#) is also available.

## Events

## Publications



Valsts izglītības attīstības aģentūra

## JOINT STATEMENT OF THE NATIONAL EVENT OF LATVIA "The Synergies with Research and Innovation Funds"

*organised by*

European Commission, Joint Research Centre (Stairway to Excellence Initiative)  
Latvian State Education Development Agency  
15 April 2015, Riga-Latvia

1. Consensus for Better Coordination & New Opportunities
2. Upstream activities
3. Downstream activities
4. The Way Forward

*Key Issue 2: The need for improved research collaboration with the Central and Western European countries (EU15).*

**Potential Actions:** e.g. enhancing the network & learning (and adapting) from good practices across Europe.

**Key Issue 5:** Low rate of participation in international research collaboration  
**Key Issue 6:** Long-term availability (sustainability) of ESIF

**Potential Actions:** e.g. establishment of incubation centres, enhanced autonomy for public universities, institute-dedicated budget, alignment of national funds and performance-based funding.

# Key Messages (1)

## **Main Issue:**

- **Improving coordination / communication tools between main actors dealing with ESIF and S3 strategies**

## **Concrete Bottleneck:**

- Lack of information circulation between stakeholders (silo effect)
- Need for open dialogue and mutual trust among different stakeholders
- Lack of collaborative governance and inefficient inter-institutional and transnational cooperation (e.g. fragmented research system)
- Lack of awareness about synergy (i.e. funding programmes) opportunities

## **Possible Actions:**

- Better coordination of existing information channels & platforms
- More active roles for public bodies (e.g. promote EU programmes, establish specific offices etc.) together with more efficient incentive schemes
- Specific ministries (or agencies) to coordinate/lead collaboration
- Establishing a review / monitoring / evaluation system(s) (possibly more result-oriented than process-oriented)
- Learning/adapting from good practices



# Key Messages (2)

## Main Issue:

- **Active business involvement in the innovation ecosystem**

## Concrete Bottleneck:

- Lack of incentives for SMEs to participate in international research collaboration
- National funds (easily accessible) vs European funds (complicated with high coordination cost)
- Potential risk of multiple market distortions & rent-seeking behaviour

## Possible Actions:

- Strategic involvement of Business in the Entrepreneurial Discovery Process
- Stabilise administrative and legislative framework to encourage business
- Facilitate SME-based R&D projects with supports of PROs and universities
- Measures allowing the primary use of ESIF for close-to-market projects
- Better Incentives for business (and/or researchers who are in collaboration with business) and risk reduction strategies via better awareness campaigns and technical support when feasible

## Key Messages (3)

### Other Main Issues:

- Brain drain
- Lack of strategic approach and prioritisation.
- Administrative burden & complicated bureaucracy
- Strategic Support for both capacity building (i.e. "upstream activities" towards research infrastructure, human resources, networking etc.) and commercial exploitation of results (i.e. "downstream activities")
- Lack of support to universities & industry for bridging activities.
- *Lack of motivation (for PROs and SMEs) to participate in EU research programmes*
- *Lack of knowledge transfers among public and private bodies at national level and among EU MSs*

# Thank you!



<http://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu>

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