

## Synergies between European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) & Research and Innovation Funding: The Stairway to Excellence

**Date:** 24 May 2016 - **Venue:** National Research, Development and Innovation Office (NRDI/ NKFIH)  
Kéthly Anna tér 1 - Budapest 1077 - Hungary

### **Rationale**

The development of Research and Innovation Strategies for Smart Specialisation (RIS3) requires that European regions and Member States identify a limited number of research areas and industrial activities with high innovation potential at the regional or national level. These strategies have to be implemented using European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF), which can also be combined with other types of funding. Supporting synergies between funding sources (also including COSME, ERASMUS+, and Creative Europe etc.) should deliver additional gains in terms of competitiveness in Horizon 2020 calls, innovation results that could contribute to closing the innovation gap in Europe and therefore promote economic growth, and overall have greater efficiency in the use of public funding.

The "Stairway to Excellence" project is centred on:

- The provision of assistance to Member States (MS) who joined the European Union since 2004 with the aim of closing the innovation gap and promoting excellence in EU regions and Member States;
- Stimulating the early and effective implementation of national and regional Smart Specialisation Strategies.

### **Objectives of the Conference**

The principal objectives of this national event are:

- A better understanding of the Hungarian national (and regional) innovation ecosystem(s) with a special emphasis on the identification of obstacles, barriers and potentials to innovation.
- Raising awareness of the actions needed to enable synergies between European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and other programmes for research and innovation.
- Sharing experiences in combining Structural Funds and Framework Programmes (FP) (including Horizon 2020) to improve excellence in R&I systems.
- Drawing lessons for the future and identifying follow-up actions to enhance the potential synergies between different EU funds in Hungary.

### **Who should attend?**

- *Planned Participants: 70*
- Hungarian national and regional managing authorities (of ERDF, ESF, EARDF Operational Programmes) involved in the implementation of the Smart specialisation strategy.
- Hungarian national contact points from the past Framework Programmes and Horizon 2020 and other EU-funded programmes.
- Hungarian national and regional authorities in charge of smart specialisation strategies.
- Members of the Horizon 2020 programme committee.
- Selected national and international experts on EU funding programmes and regional policy.
- Selected representatives from businesses.
- Selected representatives from universities, research centres and other organizations with experience and/or interest in EU-funded programmes.

**Organisers:** European Commission, Directorates-General Joint Research Centre (DG JRC-S3 Platform) & Regional and Urban Policy (DG REGIO-G1), and the National Research, Development and Innovation Office (NRDI) of Hungary.

## Agenda

08h45– 09:15	Registration and welcome coffee
<b>WELCOME SPEECHES</b>	
09:15 – 09:30	Dr József Pálincás (President, NRDl Office) Tamás Karsai (Deputy State Secretary, Ministry for National Economy) Colin Wolfe (Head of Unit, European Commission, DG REGIO)
<b>OPENING SESSION – Policy context</b>	
9:30-11:00	<p><b>Moderator:</b> Miklós Győr (NRDI)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Synergies with R&amp;I funds: Stairway to Excellence</b> Andrea Conte (Project Leader, European Commission, DG JRC)</li> <li>• <b>Smart Specialisation Strategy of Hungary</b> Zoltán Peredy (NRDI Office)</li> <li>• <b>Factors facilitating and hindering the implementation of synergies</b> Tibor Dory (Széchenyi István University)</li> <li>• <b>Widening Participation – The Seal of Excellence instrument</b> Annamaria Zonno (European Commission, DG RTD)</li> <li>• <b>Opportunities for Synergies under the New ESIF Framework</b> Beate Grajnert (European Commission, DG REGIO)</li> </ul> <p><b>Questions &amp; Answers</b></p>
11:00-11:15	Coffee break
<b>The Research and innovation context and the implementation of synergies</b>	
11:15-13:30	<p><b>Moderator:</b> Eleni Konsta (European Commission, DG JRC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Hungarian profile in terms of FP participation and ESIF</b> Nida Kamil Özbolat (European Commission, DG JRC)</li> <li>• <b>Opportunities for Synergies: the Use of H2020 and Structural Funds in Hungary</b> László Szilágyi (Ministry for National Economy)</li> <li>• <b>Cooperation between stakeholders of the knowledge triangle – a regional context</b> Alexandra Olajos-Szabo (European Commission, DG REGIO)</li> <li>• <b>The CEITEC Case: Translating Infrastructure into Capacity Development</b> Markus Dettenhofer (Executive Director, Central European Institute of Technology - CEITEC)</li> </ul> <p><b>Questions &amp; Answers - Introduction to the table discussions</b></p> <p><b>Discussion topics</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Upstream activity - How to build up capacities for the excellent research &amp; increase H2020 participation</i></li> <li>• <i>Downstream activity - National calls (including calls financed by Structural Funds and NRDl Fund) targeting Research Institutions and universities - How to better exploit research results?</i></li> <li>• <i>Downstream activity - National calls (including calls financed by Structural Funds and NRDl Fund) targeting Business - Knowing each other's view: experiences of calls from the applicants' and funding agency's point of view; expectations vs. realisation; way forward</i></li> </ul>

13:30 -14:30	Lunch Break
<b>Examples for Synergies in Practice</b>	
14:30-16:30	<p><i>This session will consist of an open debate in the plenary on the results of the previous discussion tables and animated by speakers coming from different background and professional experience...</i></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Gérard Carat (European Commission, DG JRC)</p> <p><b>Reporting on the parallel discussions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) and Climate Knowledge and Innovation Community (KIC): Regional Innovation Scheme</b> Mathea Fammels (EIT) &amp; Julia Panny (Climate KIC)</li> <li>• <b>Synergies and large infrastructures</b> Louis-Philippe CARRIER (JASPERS -European Investment Bank)</li> <li>• <b>Extreme Light Infrastructure</b> Lóránt Lehrner (ELI)</li> <li>• <b>Combining EU funding for a Slovak SME</b> Luboš Slovak - GA DRILLING</li> </ul> <p><b>Questions &amp; Answers</b></p>
16:30 – 16:45	<p><b>Conclusions and ways forward</b> European Commission</p>