



Factors facilitating and hindering the implementation of synergies between ESIF and H2020 in Poland

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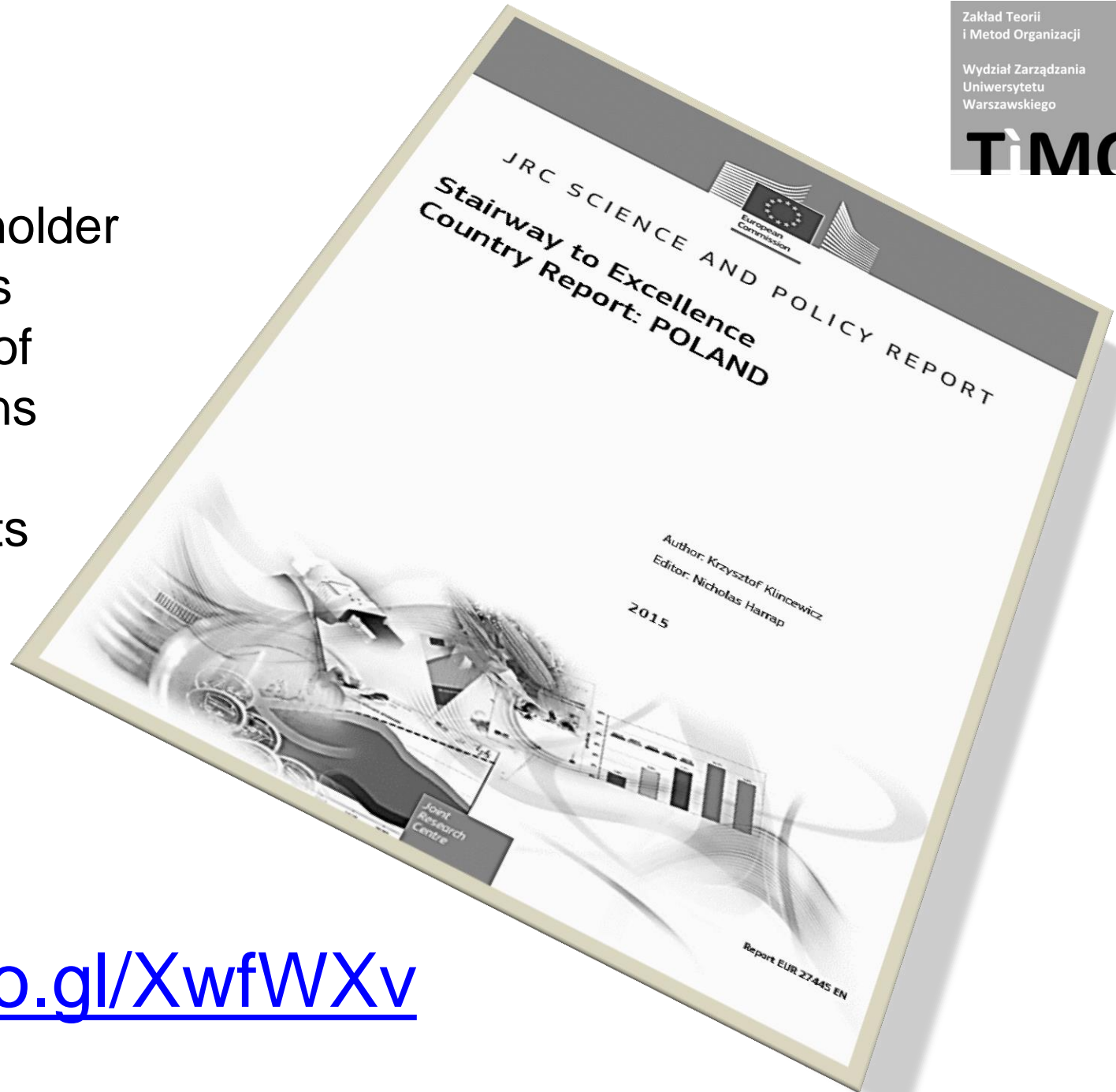
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- 24 stakeholder interviews
- Analysis of legislations and other documents



<http://goo.gl/XwfWXv>



Facilitating factors (1)

- High EU SF/ESIF absorption rates
- Modern research infrastructures
- Excellence in selected fields of research
- Government actively supporting international R&I initiatives



Facilitating factors (2)

- ESIF instruments oriented towards R&I commercialisation, with fast-track project selection and responsive agencies
- Similar eligibility criteria, evaluation processes and cost catalogues, with parts of applications written in English

Examples of synergies

- parallel funding (TEAM)
- cumulative funding (IDEAS FOR POLAND)
- alternative funding (IDEAS PLUS)
- simultaneous/cumulative funding
(International Research Agendas: MABs ↔
H2020 Teaming) (Virtual Research Institutes:
WIB ↔ H2020 Twinning)
- parallel funding (KIC's co-funding)
- sequential funding (different support measures
for different stages of innovation cycle)



Inhibiting factors (1)

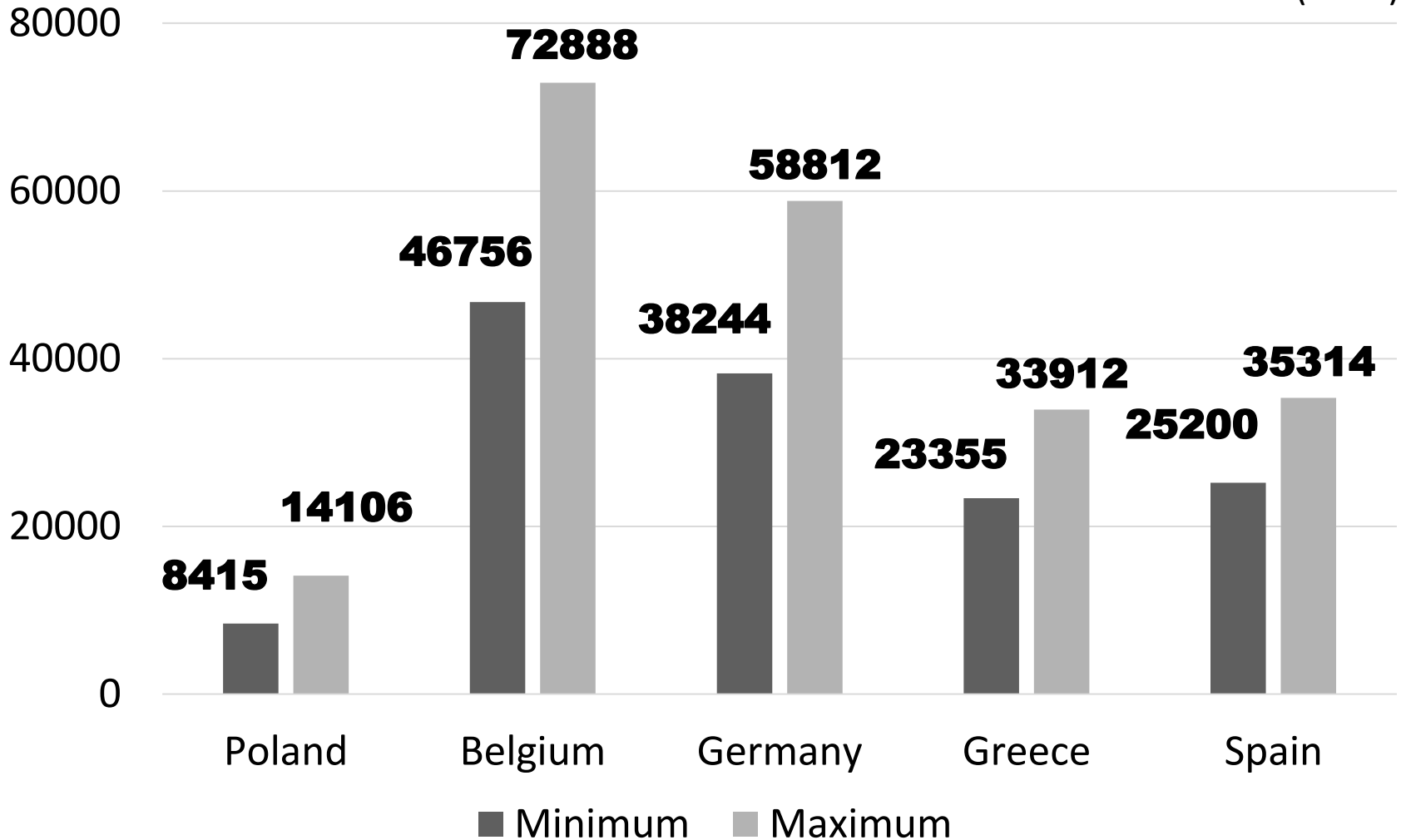
- Competition with other sources of funding (ESIF, state budget)
- Most Polish instruments targeting individual organisations not consortia
- Skills of R&D and administrative personnel: command of English, different project modalities
- Different logic of R&D consortia and international networking

Inhibiting factors (2)

- Lack of experiences with preparations of FP work programmes, EDP for ESIF different from H2020 programming
- Different legal frameworks (e.g. public aid) - fear of combining funding sources triggered by experiences of invasive project audits
- H2020 salary regulations: low base salaries + performance-based bonuses in Polish universities and research institutes

Disparity in salaries of researchers

Source: IDEA Consult (2013)



Disparities in salaries of researchers

- „The unspoken Eastern European underinvestment scandal [...] To believe the differences reflect living costs ignores the financial hardship of Eastern European researchers. EU project salary compensation offers no respite, rather it reinforces the tilted playing field and fuels the brain drain” (Galsworthy and McKee, 2013: 184)

Inhibiting factors (3)

- Administrative burdens – increased responsibilities and risks without recognition
- „Polish science system promotes quantity not quality”? „Not everyone capable of excellence”? „Limited innovativeness”?
- Legal challenges related to the use of research infrastructures, EU SF 2007-2013
- Companies concerned with H2020 IPR regulations (exploitation of background)

Further challenges

- Multidimensional problems – including lack of ESIF instruments supporting H2020 capacity building of SMEs, even though Poland included them in the initial design of the Operational Programme Smart Growth
- Need to rely on domestic instruments to stimulate synergies, e.g. „grants for grants” (PARP, MNiSW) – state budget not ESIF