

## National Event of POLAND

### Synergies between Research and Innovation Funding: Stairway to Excellence

**Date:** 27 April - 2016

**Venue:** Institute of Fundamental Technological Research, Polish Academy of Sciences,  
Ochota Campus, ul. Pawinskiego 5B; 02-106 Warsaw, POLAND

#### **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) and their regions that joined the European Union since 2004 with the aim of closing the innovation gap, and promoting excellence in all EU regions and Member States;
- Stimulating the early and effective implementation of national and regional Smart Specialisation Strategies.

#### **Objectives of the Event**

The principal objectives of this national event are:

- A better understanding of the EU, 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 Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) and other programmes for research and innovation.
- Sharing experiences in combining Structural Funds and Horizon 2020 to improve excellence in R&I systems in Poland.
- Drawing lessons for the future and identifying follow-up actions to enhance the potential synergies between different EU funds in Poland.

#### **Who should attend?**

- *Planned Participants: 120*
- Polish national and regional managing authorities (of ERDF, ESF, EARDF Operational Programmes) involved in the implementation of the Smart specialisation strategy.
- Experts of Polish National Contact Point for Research Programmes of the EU and Regional Contact Points.
- Polish national and regional authorities in charge of smart specialisation strategies.
- Members of the Horizon 2020 programme committees
- 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 - S3 Platform & Regional and Urban Policy – REGIO G1) and Polish National Contact Point for Research Programmes of the EU.

## Agenda

27<sup>th</sup> April 2016

09:00 – 09:15 **Registration & welcome coffee**

### OPENING SESSION AND WELCOME SPEECHES

09:15 – 09:30

- **Małgorzata Szczepańska**, Director, Department of Innovation, Ministry of Economic Development
- **Mateusz Gaczyński**, Deputy Director, Department of Innovation and Development, Ministry of Science and Higher Education
- **Colin Wolfe**, Head of Competence Centre Smart and Sustainable Growth, European Commission, DG REGIO

### POLICY CONTEXT

09:30 – 11:00 *Moderator: Katarzyna Walczyk-Matuszyk, Deputy Director, NCP in Poland*

- **Synergies with Research & Innovation Funds: Stairway to Excellence**  
Andrea Conte, European Commission, DG JRC
- **Smart Specialisation National and Regional Landscape**  
Małgorzata Szczepańska, Director, Department of Innovation, Ministry of Economic Development
- **Polish Efforts to Increase Country Involvement in H2020**  
Mateusz Gaczyński, Deputy Director, Department of Innovation and Development, Ministry of Science and Higher Education
- **Polish Profile in terms of FP Participation and ESIF**  
Nicholas Harrap, European Commission, DG JRC
- **Factors Facilitating and Hindering the Implementation of Synergies in Poland**  
Krzysztof Klineciewicz, Country expert for the S2E initiative
- **Questions & Answers**

11:00 – 11:15 **Coffee break**

### SYNERGIES IN PRACTICE

11:15 – 13:30 *Moderator: Nida Kamil Özbołat, European Commission, DG JRC*

- **An approach to stimulate participation in Framework Programs and International Cooperation Programmes**  
Javier García Serrano, Head of the Department of Industrial Leadership, Centre for the Development of Industrial Technology (CDTI)
- **Teaming - Synergies with Structural Funds in Poland**  
Michał Pietras, Director of the Programme Division, Foundation for Polish Science
- **Synergies in practice: ERRIN network and Smart Specialisation**  
Pieter de Jong, EU Liaison Officer for Wetsus
- **Synergies in practice: perspective of SME from ICT sector**  
Krzysztof Samp, Executive Board Member, ITTI
- **Clarification questions**

**Table discussion topics**

- *How to build up capacities for the excellent research? (Upstream activities)*
- *How to better exploit research results? (Downstream activities)*
- *What are the incentives, obstacles and opportunities for policy makers and innovation stakeholders to maximise societal impact of EU R&I funding instruments? (stakeholder involvement)*

**13:30 –14:30 Lunch Break**

**EU RDI LANDSCAPE FOR SYNERGIES**

14:30 – 16:00 *Moderator:* **Colin Wolfe, Head of Competence Centre Smart and Sustainable Growth, European Commission, DG REGIO**

*Reporting on the morning parallel table discussions*

- **Poland in Horizon 2020 – Midterm Reflections**  
Zygmunt Krasiński, Director of the Polish National Contact Point for Research Programmes of the EU
- **The experience of Climate KIC for tackling societal challenges**  
Cezary Lejkowski, Climate KIC representative
- **Opportunities for Synergies Under the New ESIF Framework**  
Beate Grajnert, European Commission, DG REGIO
- **Seal of Excellence: Policy Instruments to Widening Participation and Ensuring Synergies (with ESIF)**  
Ralitsa Atanasova, European Commission, DG RTD
- **Question and discussion**

**16:00 – 16:15 Coffee break**

**CASES OF SYNERGIES: THE REGIONAL DIMENSION**

16:15 – 17:30 *Moderator:* **Mathieu Doussineau, European Commission, DG JRC**

- **General overview on synergies issue in regional operational programmes**  
Marta Leśniak, Deputy Director, Department of Regional Operational Programmes, Ministry of Economic Development
- **Synergies between R&D and innovation in Lower Silesia**  
Edward Chlebus, Dean of Mechanical Faculty, Wrocław University of Technology
- **Synergies in Practice: The view of Pomorskie region**  
Karolina Lipińska, Head of Section, Department of Economic Development, the Office of the Marshal of the Pomorskie Voivodeship
- **Question and discussion**

**CONCLUSIONS AND WAY FORWARD**

17:30 –17:45 Colin Wolfe (DG REGIO) and Andrea Conte (DG JRC)