



## **COHESION POLICY AND THE SYNERGIES WITH THE RESEARCH AND INNOVATION FUNDS: THE STAIRWAY TO EXCELLENCE**

### **Launching conference**

Date: 2-3 October 2014  
Location: Prague (Czech Republic)  
Venue: Hotel Corinthia

#### ***Rationale***

Building excellence in a given area of research and innovation often takes years if not decades of sustained efforts. The development of good national/regional research and innovation strategies for smart specialisation (RIS3) leads regions from targeted Member States to identify a limited number of research areas and industrial activities with high innovation potential – to be reinforced and developed using European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) and thus becoming more excellent and competitive in Horizon2020 calls. Supporting synergies between the two funding sources will deliver additional gains in terms of innovation results, close the innovation gap in Europe and promote economic growth.

The "Stairway to Excellence" European Pilot 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, promoting excellence in all regions and EU MS;
- Stimulating the early and effective implementation of national and regional Smart Specialisation Strategies

#### ***Objectives of the Conference***

The principal objectives of this conference are:

- To launch the project and explain its rationale, objectives and roadmap.
- To raise awareness of the actions needed to enable synergies between different EU funding programmes for research and innovation.
- To share experiences in combining Structural Funds and Framework Programme to improve excellence in R&I systems.
- Draw lessons for the future.

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

- National and regional managing authorities both from MS and regions very successful in the past Framework Programmes and from the MS targeted by the project.
- National contact points both from MS and regions very successful in the past Framework Programmes and from the MS targeted by the project.
- National and regional authorities in charge of Smart specialisation strategies from the MS targeted by the project.
- Members of the Horizon 2020 programme committee.

**Organisers:** EUROPEAN COMMISSION, Directorate-General Joint Research Centre (S3 Platform) and DG REGIO

**Day 1: Thursday, 2 October 2014,  
Bellevue Hall Room**

13:00 – 14:00

**Registration and welcome coffee**

14:00 - 15:00

**Session I. Opening Session**

Moderator: **Xabier Goenaga**, Head of Knowledge for Growth Unit, Institute for Prospective and Technological Studies, DG JRC, European Commission.

- **Daniel Braun**, Deputy Minister for Regional Development, Czech Republic.
- **Charlina Vitcheva**, Director Smart and Sustainable Growth and Southern Europe, DG REGIO, European Commission.
- **Lambert Van Nistelrooij**, Member of European Parliament, Committee on Regional Development.
- **John Bensted-Smith**, Director Institute for Prospective and Technological Studies, DG JRC, European Commission.

15:00 – 15:30

Coffee Break

15:30 - 17:30

**Session II: Key Elements for Building Successful Synergies: Good practice examples**

Moderator: **Andrea Conte**, S2E Project Leader, Knowledge for Growth, Institute for Prospective and Technological Studies, DG JRC, European Commission.

- Guide on synergies between European Structural and Investment Funds, Horizon2020 - **Katja Reppel**, Deputy Head of Unit, DG REGIO.
- Architecture of R+i programs for the impulse of regional competitiveness – **Juan Tomás Hernani**, Secretary General for Innovation and Industry, European Spallation Source, Sweden.
- Building Successful Synergies – Lessons Learned by the Alsace Europe Network R&I – **Katharina Robohm**, Bureau Alsace Europe, France.
- Successful Design of Parallel Horizon 2020-ESIF Project Funding – **Martin Palkovic**, Managing Director, IT4Innovations national supercomputing center, Czech Republic.
- The Scottish approach to building synergies between H2020 and ESIF into Programme Design – **Shane Rankin**, Head of European Structural Funds Division, Scottish Government, and **Ian McCoull**, Director Innovation Support, Scottish Enterprise, UK.

*Questions and answers*

19:00 – 22:00

Networking Dinner – Hotel Corinthia

**Day 2: Friday, 3 October 2014**  
**Bellevue Hall Room**

09:00 -11:00

**Session III. New Challenges and Opportunities from EU R&I Funding Instruments: Good practice examples**

Moderator: **Marek Przeor**, Competence Centre Smart and Sustainable Growth, DG REGIO, European Commission.

- Spreading of Excellence and Widening Participation Initiatives – **Ciaran Dearle**, Policy Officer, DG RTD, European Commission.
- Valorising cross-border cooperation in R&I projects - **Javier García**, Director of Industrial Leadership, EU Programmes Division of CDTI, Spain.
- Combining Structural Funds and Framework Programmes to improve excellence in R&I: the case of the Cyprus Institute - **Nicolas Jarraud**, Scientific Coordinator of the Cyprus Institute, Cyprus.
- Interlink of funding: never ending adventure - **Jiří Kolman**, Scientific Secretary, Global Change Research Centre, Academy of Sciences, Czech Republic.
- Participating to the ERA. The challenge for new Member States: Preliminary results from MIRRIS - **Anita Tregner-Mlinaric**, Manager of MIRRIS Project in META Group, Belgium.

*Questions and answers*

11:00 - 11:30

Coffee break

11:30 - 13:00

**Session IV. Coffee table discussion - Stairway to Excellence in practice**

Coffee table discussion will take place in different rooms ( 60 Minutes)

<b>Table 1.</b>	<b>Table 2</b>	<b>Table 3.</b>	<b>Table 4.</b>	<b>Table 5.</b>	<b>Table 6.</b>
Funding Horizon 2020 shortlisted proposals with ESIF: selection of operations and administrative burden, evaluation criteria.	Consecutive funding of projects – uptake of FP/Horizon 2020 results onto the market	Consecutive funding of projects – capacity building and awareness raising to enhance participation into Horizon 2020 – human capital	Consecutive funding of projects – capacity building - funding R&I infrastructures with ESIF.	Smart specialisation strategies: the role of NCPs and managing authorities in the fostering of synergies	Networking and the cross-border dimension of synergies
Moderated by <b>Sven Schade</b> , DG ENTR, EC	Moderated by <b>Ciaran Dearle</b> , DG RTD , EC	Moderated by <b>Katerina Stancova</b> DG JRC, EC	Moderated by <b>Tereza Krausova</b> , DG REGIO, EC	Moderated by <b>Moritz Haller</b> , DG JRC, EC	Moderated by <b>Susana Elena</b> , DG JRC, EC

Presentation of main outcomes from each Table in Bellevue Hall Room (30 minutes)

13:00 - 13:30

**Session V. Conclusions and next steps**

Moderator: **Xabier Goenaga**, Head of Unit, Knowledge for Growth, Institute for Prospective and Technological Studies, DG JRC, European Commission

- **Katja Reppel**, Deputy Head of Unit, DG REGIO, European Commission.
- **Christian Saublens**, Executive Manager, EURADA.
- **Ladislav Šimko**, Director of Cross-cutting Priorities Department, Government Office, Slovakia.