



## **National Event of Latvia**

### **The Synergies with Research and Innovation Funds: Stairway to Excellence**

**Date:** 15<sup>th</sup> April 2015

**Venue:** Riga (Hotel Bergs, Bergs Bazaar, 83/85 Elizabetes Street)

#### ***Rationale***

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 funding sources (also including COSME, ERASMUS+, Creative Europe etc.) will deliver additional gains in terms of innovation results, close the innovation gap in Europe and promote economic growth.

The "Stairway to Excellence" European Commission 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 Event***

The principal objectives of this national event are:

- A better understanding of the Latvian 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 different EU funding programmes for research and innovation.
- Sharing experiences in combining Structural Funds and Framework Programme 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 the MS.

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

- Planned Participants: 70 people
- Latvian National and Regional Managing Authorities.
- Latvian National Contact Points from the past Framework Programmes and Horizon 2020 and other EU-funded programmes.
- Latvian 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, universities, research centres and any other organization with experience and/or interest in EU-funded programmes.

#### ***Organisers***

EUROPEAN COMMISSION, Directorate-General Joint Research Centre (S3 Platform) & Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Latvia-State Education Development Agency



## Agenda

09:00 – 09:30	<b>Registration</b>
<b>OPENING SESSION – POLICY CONTEXT</b>	
09:30 – 10:15  (45 minutes)	<p><b>Session 1: Welcome Address</b></p> <p><i>This plenary session includes welcoming and initial information on:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ DG REGIO activities and the Project S2E run by the JRC-IPTS.</li> <li>▪ Identification of synergies between different funding instruments and basic implementation tools.</li> <li>▪ Expectations of Latvian national and regional authorities from the current funding programmes.</li> </ul> <p><i>Moderator: Colin Wolfe (DG REGIO)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Synergies with R&amp;I Funds: Stairway to Excellence - Andrea Conte (DG JRC)</li> <li>• Latvian Priorities in Public R&amp;I Investments - Mārīte Seile, Minister, Ministry of Education and Science Republic of Latvia</li> <li>• Opportunities for Synergies Under the New ESIF Framework - Tereza Krausova (DG REGIO)</li> <li>• Questions &amp; Answers</li> </ul>
10:15 – 10:45	<b>Coffee break</b>
<b>LATVIAN RESEARCH AND INNOVATION CONTEXT</b>	
10:45 – 12:00  (75 minutes)	<p><b>Session 2: Reviews on Existing Latvian R&amp;I Cooperation and Barriers and Motivations of Prospect Collaborations</b></p> <p><i>This plenary section will highlight the existing national and regional profiles of Latvia in relation to the FP participation and national/regional R&amp;I structure. It will also provide a brief mapping of the innovation ecosystem in Latvia.</i></p> <p><i>Moderator: Andrea Conte (DG JRC)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Latvia's Profile in terms of FP Participation and ESIFs – Nida Kamil Özbolat (DG JRC)</li> <li>• The Latvian R&amp;I System and the Opportunities Arising from Synergies – Gundars Kuļikovskis (FIDEA SIA)</li> <li>• The Latvian R&amp;I Ecosystem and the Contribution of Public Policy – Agrita Kiopa (Ministry of Education and Science of Latvia)</li> <li>• The Latvian R&amp;I Context and the Contribution of RTOs – Vitālijs Skrīvelis (Association of Latvian Chemical and Pharmaceutical Industry)</li> <li>• Open Debate</li> </ul>
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch Break
<b>CASE STUDIES &amp; STAKEHOLDERS INVOLVEMENT</b>	
13:00 – 16:00  (180 minutes)	<p><b>Session 3: Synergies in Practice</b></p> <p><i>This participatory session will start with inputs from three invited European regions. It will be organised around 3-4 round table groups where participants will discuss concrete issues, identify possible solutions and the ways how these would work in practice. Each table will be moderated by one external expert and will be composed by a balanced number of participants in terms of expertise.</i></p>



	<p><i>Moderator: <b>Susana Elena</b> (DG JRC)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The Electrum Innovation System, from Research to Production – Nils Nordell</b> – (KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Sweden)</li> <li>• <b>Supporting Research Capacity through Bilateral Measures – Aleksandra Witczak Haugstad</b> (Research Council of Norway, Norway)</li> <li>• <b>Structural Funds: Bricks in the Wall – Indrek Reimand</b> (Ministry of Education and Research of Republic of Estonia, Estonia)</li> <li>• <b>R&amp;I synergies in Flanders, a University Perspective: Leveraging a Climate of Competition – Stijn Delauré</b> – (KU Leuven University, Belgium)</li> <li>• <b>The Foundation Kennispark Twente: an Accelerator for Innovation, Business Start-ups and Regional University-Industry-Public Authorities Collaboration – Hans Vossensteyn</b> – (Center for Higher Education Policy Studies, University Twente, the Netherlands)</li> </ul> <p><b>Table discussion topics</b>  <i>All tables will discuss all topics. Each table will be coordinate by an invited expert. Ad hoc questions for each theme will be distributed ahead of the meeting to all participants. Participants will be invited to rotate between tables at the end of each round of discussion</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upstream activities and how to build capacity (30 minutes discussion)</li> <li>• Downstream activities and how to better exploit research results (30 minutes discussion)</li> <li>• Knowing each other's view: incentives, obstacles and opportunities by policy makers and innovation stakeholders for maximising societal impact of EU R&amp;I funding instruments (30 minutes discussion)</li> </ul>
16:00 – 16:30	<b>Coffee break</b>
<b>CONCLUSION &amp; WAYS FORWARD</b>	
16:30 – 17:30  (60 minutes)	<p><b><i>Session 4: Conclusions and ways forward</i></b>  <i>This final session will present the reflections on the issues raised and discussed during the national event.</i></p> <p><i>Moderator: <b>Tereza Krausova</b> (DG REGIO)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>A way forward: Lessons learnt &amp; concluding remarks</b> – Building on the previous session the moderators of the round tables will present the main outcome of the discussion. (5 minutes presentation by table)</li> <li>• <b>Follow-up mechanisms and ways forward – Dita Traidās</b> (State Education Development Agency, Latvia)</li> <li>• <b>Concluding Remarks – Colin Wolfe</b> (DG REGIO)</li> <li>• <b>Harvesting the Results of Workshop – Andrea Conte</b> (DG JRC)</li> </ul>