



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

Date: 25th of June 2015

Venue: Hotel NH Bratislava Gate One
Amrusova 7, Bratislava - Slovakia

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+, and 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 Conference

The principal objectives of this national event are:

- A better understanding of the Slovak 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: 60 to 70 people*
- Slovak National and Regional Managing Authorities.
- Slovak National Contact Points from the past Framework Programmes and Horizon 2020 and other EU-funded programmes.
- Slovak 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 any other organization with experience and/or interest in EU-funded programmes.

Organisers

EUROPEAN COMMISSION, Directorate-General Joint Research Centre (S3 Platform) and the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak republic (MoESRS SR)



Draft Agenda

09:00 – 09:30 Registration

OPENING SESSION – POLICY CONTEXT

09:30 – 10:15 **Session 1: Welcome Address**

Chair: Ludmila Majlathova (European Commission Representation in Slovakia)

- **Synergies with R&I Funds: Stairway to Excellence** - Andrea Conte (European Commission, DG JRC)
- **Slovak activity for the implementation of the new EU funding programmes** - Stanislav Sipko (Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic)
- **Opportunities for Synergies under the new ESIF Framework** - Tereza Krausova (European Commission, DG REGIO)

❖ **Questions & Answers**

10:15 – 10:45 Coffee break

SLOVAK CONTEXT

10:45 – 12:00 **Session 2: Reviews on Existing Slovak R&I Cooperation and Barriers and Motivations of Prospect Collaborations**

Moderator: Andrea Conte (European Commission, DG JRC)

- **Slovak profile in terms of FP participation and ESIF** - Mathieu Doussineau (European Commission, DG JRC)
- **The Slovak Research & Innovation Ecosystem** - Dr. Eva Majková (Vice-President of the Slovak Academy of Sciences), Mr. Ladislav Šimko (Director of cross-cutting priorities department, Government Office of the Slovak Republic)
- **How to Boost Automation and Robotics in Slovakia? Steps Towards Smart Specialization** – Miroslav Balog (Slovak Innovation and Energy Agency)
- **Combining EU funding for the Slovak company GA DRILLING** – Luboš Slovak (Chief project officer)

❖ **Questions & Answers**

12:00 – 13:00 Lunch Break

SYNERGIES IN PRACTICE & STAKEHOLDERS INVOLVEMENT

13:00 – 16:00

Session 3: Synergies in Practice

Moderator: Nida Kamil Ozbolat (European Commission, DG JRC)

- **SynWiN - Combining research funding and structural funds for win-win solutions** - Andreas Hebbelmann (Technische Universität Braunschweig)
- **The CEITEC Case: Translating Infrastructure into Capacity Development** - Markus Dettenhofer (Executive Director of CEITEC)
- **Experiences of EU Research and Innovation Funds from Sicily : pitfalls and exciting challenges** - Mario Sprovieri (Institute for Coastal Marine Environment CNR (Italy))
- **Synergies and Horizon 2020 instruments** - Olivier Brunet (European Commission, DG RTD)

Table discussion topics

- ❖ Upstream activities and how to build capacity (30 minutes discussion)
- ❖ Downstream activities and how to better exploit research results (30 minutes discussion)
- ❖ Knowing each other's view: incentives, obstacles and opportunities by policy makers and innovation stakeholders for maximising societal impact of EU R&I funding instruments (30 minutes discussion)

16:00 – 16:30

Coffee break

CONCLUSION & WAYS FORWARD

16:30 – 17:30

Session 4: Conclusions and ways forward

Moderator: Tereza Krausova (European Commission, DG REGIO)

- **A way forward: Lessons learnt & concluding remarks – Building on the previous session the moderators of the round tables will present the main outcome of the discussion** (5 minutes presentation by table)
- ❖ Follow-up mechanisms and ways forward – Andrea Uhrínová (Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic)
- ❖ Concluding Remarks – Tereza Krausova (European Commission, DG REGIO)
- ❖ Harvesting the Results of Workshop – Andrea Conte (European Commission, DG JRC)