



National Event of Lithuania

The Synergies with Research and Innovation Funds: Stairway to Excellence

Date: October 30

Venue: Lithuanian Academy of Sciences - Gedimino 3, LT-01103 Vilnius

Rationale

The development of 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 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 Lithuanian 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: 70-80 people
- Lithuanian National and Regional Managing Authorities.
- Lithuanian National Contact Points from the past Framework Programmes and Horizon 2020 and other EU-funded programmes.
- Lithuanian 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 Lithuania, Research and Higher Education Monitoring and Analysis Centre (MOSTA)

Agenda

09:00 – 09:30	Registration & coffee
OPENING SESSION – POLICY CONTEXT	
09:30 – 10:30 (60 minutes)	<p>Session 1: Welcome Address</p> <p><i>This plenary session includes welcoming and initial information on:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>DG REGIO activities and the Project S2E run by the JRC-IPTS.</i> ▪ <i>Identification of synergies between different funding instruments and basic implementation tools.</i> ▪ <i>Expectations of Lithuanian national and regional authorities from the current funding programmes.</i> <p><u>Moderator:</u> Ieva CERNIUTE (DG REGIO)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Synergies with R&I Funds: Stairway to Excellence – Andrea Conte (DG JRC) • Lithuanian Activities in Implementation of New EU Funding Programmes – Svetlana Kauzoniene (Vice-minister - Ministry of Science and Education) • Opportunities for Synergies Under the New ESIF Framework – Katja Reppel (DG REGIO) • Questions & Answers
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee break
LITHUANIAN RESEARCH AND INNOVATION CONTEXT	
11:00 – 12:30 (90 minutes)	<p>Session 2: Reviews on Existing Lithuanian R&I Cooperation and Barriers and Motivations of Prospect Collaborations</p> <p><i>This plenary section will highlight the existing national and regional profiles of Lithuania in relation to the FP participation and national/regional R&I structure. It will also provide a brief mapping of the innovation ecosystem in Lithuania.</i></p> <p><u>Moderator:</u> Nida Kamil Ozbolat (DG JRC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lithuania's Profile in terms of FP Participation and ESIFs – Nicholas Harrap (DG JRC) • The Lithuanian R&I Ecosystem – Jurgita Petrauskienė (Director, MOSTA) • Review on the Participation of Lithuanian Organisations in EU Funding – Anzelma Uselienė (International programmes, MITA) • Strengths and bottlenecks in the Lithuanian R&I framework, Agne Paliokaite – Visionary Analytics • Open Debate
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch Break
CASE STUDIES & STAKEHOLDERS INVOLVEMENT	
13:30 – 16:30 (180 minutes)	<p>Session 3: Synergies in Practice</p> <p><i>This participatory session will start with inputs from invited European regions. After the introductory part, parallel round table discussions will be organised.</i></p> <p><u>Moderator:</u> Gérard Carat (DG JRC)</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case Study 1 – Experience on financing pre-commercial procurement– Marco Di Ciano - InnovaPuglia (IT) • Case Study 2 – Moving towards effective RIS3 implementation: An illustrative case study- Stelian Brad, Cluj IT cluster (RO) • Case Study 3 – Experience on R&I financial support in the form of prizes - Günther Szogs, <i>LEONARDO</i> – <i>European Corporate Learning Award</i> • Case Study 4 –EIT Regional Innovation Scheme and funding synergies opportunities – Mathea Fammels, <i>EIT</i> • Case Study 5 –"Seal of Excellence" scheme and "Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation"- Grzegorz Ambroziewicz (DG Research & Innovation)
CONCLUSION & WAYS FORWARD	
<p>16:30 – 17:30 (60 minutes)</p>	<p>Session 4: Conclusions and ways forward <i>This final session will present the reflections on the issues raised and discussed during the national event.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A way forward: Lessons learnt & concluding remarks – Building on the previous session, the rapporteurs of the round tables will present the main outcome of the discussion. (5 minutes presentation by table) • Concluding remarks, follow-up mechanisms and ways forward <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Jurgita Petrauskienė (Director, MOSTA) ▪ Andrea Conte (DG JRC)