



# **The Croatian R&I System and the Opportunities arising from Synergies**

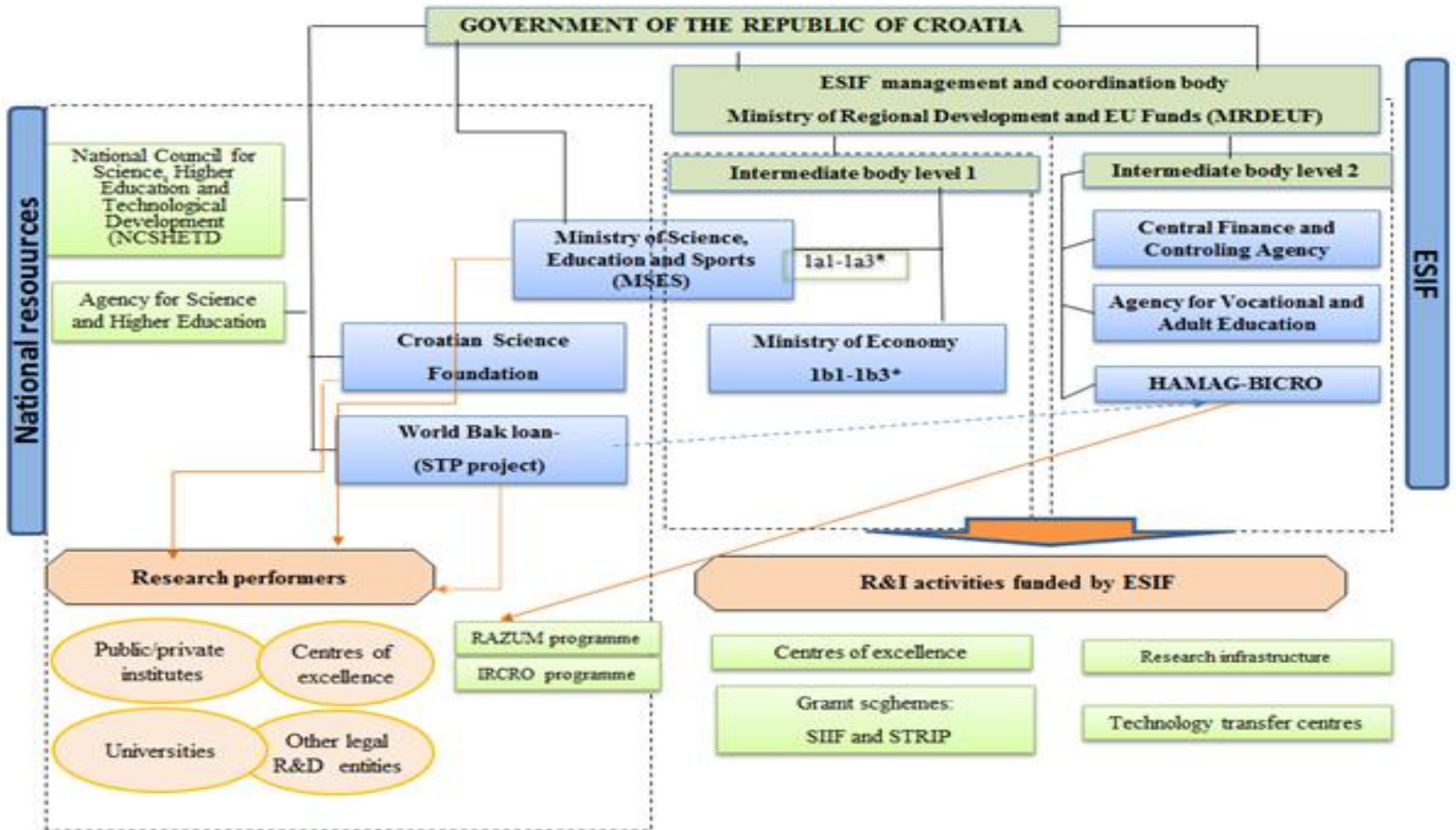
**Domagoj Račić  
Jadranka Švarc**

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# ORGANOGRAM



\*Priority axis 1: Strengthening the economy by applying research and innovation

# Push – pull factors for R&I performers to participate in FP7/H2020

## **Motivating factors:**

- Scarce budget resources**- orientation to foreign funds;
- Re-accreditation** process of research institutions - a group of criteria requires participation in FP/H2020;
- Career progress** - election to research posts (now performed by institutions, not by MSES as in the past) requires stronger engagement in H2020 and projects in general within many PROs and HEIs;

## **Demotivating factors:**

- Low acceptance rate of project proposals within FP/H2020 in relation to invested efforts;
- Overload of researchers with other activities;
- Lack of international connections, networking and integration needed for engagement in the H2020;
- Lag in scientific excellence and technological achievements of researchers;
- Inertia of the scientific community.

## Push – pull factors for R&I performers to participate in FP7/H2020

- ❑ Lack of skills and capacities of research institutions for managing and coordination of EU projects;
- ❑ Effect of the “late entry” - delay in gaining experience and acquiring of project management skills and building the national management structures in comparison to other member states resulting in:
  - ❑ Regional and institutional concentration of FP participants in more developed regions and in research stronger and larger institution;
  - ❑ Small number of projects coordinated by Croatian participants;
  - ❑ Success of the Croatian participants depends on the success of their project coordinators (networking, connections...!)
- ❑ Will only **few PROs and HEIs accumulate** skills and resources?
- ❑ What about the **R&I performers from the business sector**?
  
- ❑ **FP7 in Croatia:** FP7 financial contribution **above EU13 average**, but there is a bias towards **Capacities**

# Synergies: From ERDF to H2020

- ❑ Most of R&D infrastructure projects aim towards **synergies through sequential funding**
  - ❑ HEIs and PROs develop some **competences** through national and IPA IIIC and FP7 projects
  - ❑ Then they aim to upgrade **infrastructure** and attract **new staff** through IPA / ERDF funding
  - ❑ R&I projects funded through H2020 are expected to be used for **operational expenditures** and **equipment replacement**
- ❑ Some key issues:
  - ❑ **Reform** of existing institutions vs. **creation** of new ones
  - ❑ **How big is 'the leap'** – are **bridging projects** required?
  - ❑ Will enough H2020 projects be obtained **in time**?
  - ❑ State aid & the 'Holy Grail' of **collaborative research**
  - ❑ Risks of **decentralised governance** involving **multiple stakeholders**

# Synergies: From ERDF to H2020

- ❑ Larger infrastructure projects
  - ❑ **Biosciences Technology Commercialisation and Incubation Centre - BIOCentre** (HAMAG-BICRO, University of Zagreb, City of Zagreb)
  - ❑ **Development of Research Infrastructure at the University of Rijeka Campus**
  - ❑ **Children's Centre for Translational Medicine** (Children's Hospital Srebrnjak)
  - ❑ **Technology Park Varaždin** (City of Varaždin, University of Zagreb/FOI, University North)
  - ❑ **O-ZIP** – Open Scientific Infrastructural Platforms for Innovative Applications in the Economy and Society (Ruđer Bošković Institute)
- ❑ Limited experience with grant schemes
  - ❑ **Science Innovation Investment Fund (IPA IIIC)**
  - ❑ **Strengthening capacities for research, development and innovation (OPRC 2007-2013)**

# Enhancing the synergies

- ❑ **Policy coordination** vs. defining interest spheres
- ❑ Interrelationships between national, ESIF and H2020 funding– **facilitation** (as opposed to crowding out) **of more complex R&I projects**
- ❑ Learning on the basis of **successful examples (e.g. IRB, FER, BISTEC)**
- ❑ **Raising awareness of policy makers and beneficiaries** about the potential of combining different projects and funds (H2020 and ESIF)
- ❑ **Efficiency** of project development, selection and implementation
- ❑ Support to **H2020 project preparation** and partner search
  - ❑ co-financing of preparation costs of positively evaluated FP7 projects (2008-9)
  - ❑ assistance to beneficiaries of ESIF
- ❑ A broad range of **SMEs** which are now **“under the radar” of ROs** should be involved in ESIF projects as partners
  - ❑ point of entry towards H2020
- ❑ **3P** for newcomers into H2020: **partners, project portfolio, patience**

# Enhancing the synergies

- ❑ Agglomeration of the **critical mass of R&I resources** on both academic and business sides (clusters of competitiveness)
- ❑ Taking advantage of **downstream funding (H2020 + TT/PoC from ESIF)**
- ❑ **Internationalisation** of R&I activities – overcoming (in the long run)
  - ❑ the weaknesses of business R&I in Croatia and
  - ❑ the 'local bias' and
  - ❑ the 'equipment bias' of ESIF





**Thank you!**

Domagoj Račić  
[domagoj.racic@mrezaznanja.hr](mailto:domagoj.racic@mrezaznanja.hr)