



National Event of Croatia

The Synergies with Research and Innovation Funds: Stairway to Excellence

Date: 26th March 2015

Venue: Zagreb (Hotel Sheraton, Kneza Borne 2, 10 000 Zagreb)

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 Conference

The principal objectives of this national event are:

- A better understanding of the Croatian 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 people
- Croatian National and Regional Managing Authorities.
- Croatian National Contact Points from the past Framework Programmes and Horizon 2020 and other EU-funded programmes.
- Croatian 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) and Ministry of Economy of Croatia.

Agenda

09:00 – 09:30	Registration
OPENING SESSION – POLICY CONTEXT	
09:30 – 10:15	<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 Croatian national and regional authorities from the current funding programmes.</i> <p><u>Moderator:</u> Katja Reppel (DG REGIO)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Synergies with R&I Funds: Stairway to Excellence – Andrea Conte (DG JRC) • Opportunities for Synergies under the new ESIF Framework – Tereza Krausova (DG REGIO) • Croatian activity for the implementation of the new EU funding programmes - Marija Rajaković (Ministry of Economy of Croatia) • Questions & Answers
10:15 – 10:45	Coffee break
CROATIAN RESEARCH AND INNOVATION CONTEXT	
10:45 – 12:30	<p>Session 2: Reviews on Existing Croatian 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 Croatia in relation to the FP participation and national/regional R&I structure. It will also provide a brief mapping of the innovation ecosystem in Croatia.</i></p> <p><u>Moderator:</u> Andrea Conte (DG JRC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Croatia's profile in terms of FP participation and ESIFs – Susana Elena (DG JRC) • The Croatian R&I System and the opportunities arising from synergies – Domagoj Račić (Knowledge Network) • The Croatian R&I Ecosystem and the contribution of public policy - Goran Basarac (Ministry of Economy of Croatia) • The Croatian R&I context and the contribution of RTOs - Tome Antičić (Rudjer Boskovic Institute) • Questions & Answers – Open debate
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch Break

CASE STUDIES & STAKEHOLDERS INVOLVEMENT	
13:30 – 16:00	<p>Session 3: Synergies in Practice</p> <p><i>This participatory session will start with inputs from different European experiences in regions and projects. 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><u>Moderator: Nida Kamil Ozbolat (DG JRC)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insights from MIRRIS Project - Anita Tregner-Mlinaric (META Group) • Science parks as innovation drivers - Marcello Guaiana (AREA Science Park) • The innovation ecosystem in the Basque Country - Rikardo Bueno (Tecnalia) • Innovative Cities Programme in Finland- Reijo Munther (Ministry of Employment and Economy of Finland) <p>Table discussion topics</p> <p><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"> • Upstream activities and how to build capacity • Downstream activities and how to better exploit research results • 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
16:00 – 16:30	Coffee break
CONCLUSIONS & WAYS FORWARD	
16:30 – 17:30	<p>Session 4: Conclusions and ways forward</p> <p><i>This final session will present the reflections on the issues raised and discussed during the national event.</i></p> <p><u>Moderator: Tereza Krausova (DG REGIO)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 - Marija Rajaković (Ministry of Economy of Croatia) • A Territorial Look: The Committee of the Regions as a Facilitator - Petri Mirala (Committee of the Regions) • Concluding remarks – Katja Reppel (DG REGIO) & Andrea Conte (DG JRC) • Questions & Answers