



Synergies between ESIF & Research and Innovation Funding: The Stairway to Excellence

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Key aspects for ESIF and H2020 synergies for Romania

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1. Smart specialisation in Romania

National and regional policy-makers in charge of the development of smart specialisation strategies are recommended to:

- Use the entrepreneurial discovery process to identify synergies
- Evaluate as part of the smart specialisation process the needs of industry (with emphasis on SMEs) and public procurer
- Focus the preparatory work for synergies on the strategic aim of their RIS3 in terms of economic transformation and the fields that emerge as smart specialisation priorities

1. Smart specialisation in Romania

In the National Strategy for RD&I for 2014-2020, Romania has identified the national smart specialisation areas:

- **Bio-economy**, with 18 sub-domains in the areas of agro-food, bioenergy, biotechnologies and medicines science
- **IT&C, space and security** with 9 sub-domains
- **Energy, environment and climate change**, with 8 sub-domains, including smart cities
- **Eco-nano-technologies and advanced materials**, with 9 sub-domains in the areas of transport equipment, bio-resources equipment, decontamination technologies and materials

1. Smart specialisation in Romania

In parallel and independent of the national level, all development regions in Romania, **except Bucharest-Ifov**, have developed or are developing their own RIS3.

- North-East, West, South Muntenia, Centre and South-West Oltenia Regions are more advanced
- North-West Region is in the process of finalisation with the help of JRC
- South-East Region is also in the process of elaboration of RIS3

1. Smart specialisation in Romania

Identified best practices:

North East Region made use of the S3 Platform peer review and concluded in 2015 a bilateral agreement with the Alliance of Northern Netherlands Provinces.

- The agreement aims to jointly address societal challenges and bolster economic growth in both regions.
- Potential common priorities: agro food, waste, water, new materials and energy.
- Regional innovation incubators and living labs for driving the S3 implementation.
- A governance and coordination system is under construction.



2. Building up on past investments

ERDF Investments from the 2007-2013 programming period (Sectorial Operational programme "Increase of Economic Competitiveness")

1. Investments in the research infrastructure and increase of administrative capacity amounted for EUR 607.2 million (517.7 ERDF + 89.5 SB)
2. Investments in firms directly linked to research and innovation amounted for EUR 157.8 million (134.5 ERDF + 23.3 SB)
3. Assistance to RDI for SMEs (including access to R&TD services in research centres) amounting for EUR 21.6 million (18.4 ERDF + 3.2 SB)
4. R&TD activities in research centres – EUR 53.2 million (45.3 ERDF + 7.9 SB)
5. Extreme Light Infrastructure – Nuclear Physics project

2. Building up on past investments

➤ **THE INCREASING OF QUALITY AND COMPETITIVENESS OF THE INSTITUTE OF FOOD BIORESOURCES R&D ACTIVITY (2009-2012) – unique facilities opening the possibility for new research areas at national level**



3 pilot plants:

- Fruits and vegetables processing (*the only pilot in this field in Romania*)
- Meat processing
- Cereal and flours processing (*the only pilot producing gluten free and phenylketonuria*)



Inter-disciplinary research department



5 new laboratories:

- Colloidal biochemistry (*the only one in Romania*)
- Sensorial analysis (*new research field in Romania*)
- Nuclear magnetic
- Nutrition
- Chromatography



4 upgraded laboratories:

- Chemical
- Microbiology
- Molecular analysis (*reference laboratory for GMOs seeds products*)
- Food packaging (*the only accredited in Romania*)

2. Building up on past investments

➤ **THE INCREASING OF QUALITY AND COMPETITIVENESS OF THE INSTITUTE OF FOOD BIORESOURCES R&D ACTIVITY –**

➤ **Different research programmes accessed on the basis of the new infrastructure**

COST Actions Programme: Application of innovative fundamental food-structure property relationships to the design of foods for health, wellness and pleasure

Leonardo da Vinci project-Transfer of Innovation: Transfer of knowledge and training for European traditional food producers related to innovative quality control methodologies (coordinator).

EU Health Programme: European network to follow-up the reformulation of food identification and exchange of good practices for SMEs and consumers (head lead)

Erasmus+: Integration of new practices and methods for professional training in the field of herbs processing for food and food supplements (coordinator)

Horizon 2020 : Proposal: Integrated and innovative key actions for mycotoxin management in the food and feed chain

The National Plan II: Ex. OPTIMEAT and PROREDNAMEAT national projects in partnership with meat processing industry

12 POSDRU projects (2010-2015) - professional training demonstrations for qualifying people in fruits and vegetables, meat and cereal processing

3. What is available now

An increased ERDF allocation for RD&I, in comparison with 2007-2013 programming period.

2007-2013	2014-2020
EUR 716.18 million	EUR 973.4 million

The ERDF allocation for RD&I is split between two programmes: Competitiveness and Regional operational programmes.

Competitiveness OP	Regional OP
EUR 797.87 million	EUR 175.53 million

Regional Operational Programme will provide support for technological transfer in smart specialisation areas.

3. What is available now

By Commission Decision C(2014) of 19.12.2014, was approved the Competitiveness Operational Programme for 2014-2020

The programme contains a dedicated action (1.1.3) for synergies with Horizon 2020 and other international R&D programmes

The financial allocation is amounting for EUR 32.24 (out of which the ERDF contribution is EUR 28.88 million).

3. What is available now

Several types of interventions than can be supported by the programme in the framework of Action 1.1.3.

- Setting up links between emerging excellence centres and their first-level counterparts from other EU Member States in order to increase excellence – Teaming projects;
- Setting up 'ERA chairs' in order to attract famous university professors;
- Optimizing existing structures and, as appropriate, setting up new ones in order to facilitate the identification of priorities for the various national coordination instruments and structures (institutional development);
- Supporting research organisations and companies, in particular SMEs, in order to prepare and implement projects under Horizon 2020 and other international RDI programmes

4. Challenges ahead

- Romania has in place a smart specialisation strategy, but still lacks a functional entrepreneurial discovery process and a good monitoring mechanism. These actions are under implementation.
- A functional entrepreneurial discovery process can contribute to the identification of potential synergies (detect stakeholders, interest groups, new innovative entrepreneurs, etc.)
- There is a clear need for strengthening the governance of the sector, based on effective evaluation and monitoring culture and mechanisms.
- Overall, the strategic orientation mechanism proposed by the National RDI Strategy for 2014-2020 has to be operationalised

4. Challenges ahead

- *Things are moving in Romania, pushed by national and regional "champions of change".*
- *The Commission supports these developments and, with the financial support of the European Parliament the "Less Developed Regions" pilot project will be implemented in 2016 and 2017 in North East and North West regions.*
- *Considering these developments, there is a need for better coordination between the national and regional levels (embedding the RIS3 regional profiles), in order to build upon the strengths of the localised concentrations of entrepreneurial knowledge.*



For more information

InfoRegio:

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy

S3 platform:

<http://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/>