

Synergies between European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) & Research and Innovation Funding: The Stairway to Excellence

Date: 22 June 2016

Venue: European Commission Representation in Romania,
Strada Vasile Lascăr 31, 020492 București

Rationale

The development of Research and Innovation Strategies for Smart Specialisation (RIS3) requires that European regions and Member States identify a limited number of research areas and industrial activities with high innovation potential at the regional or national level. These strategies have to be implemented using European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF), which can also be combined with other types of funding. Supporting synergies between funding sources (also including COSME, ERASMUS+, and Creative Europe etc.) should deliver additional gains in terms of competitiveness in Horizon 2020 calls, innovation results that could contribute to closing the innovation gap in Europe and therefore promote economic growth, and overall have greater efficiency in the use of public funding.

The "Stairway to Excellence" 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 and promoting excellence in EU regions and Member States;
- Stimulating the early and effective implementation of national and regional Smart Specialisation Strategies.

Objectives

The principal objectives of the national event are:

- a better understanding of the Romanian 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 European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and other programmes for research and innovation.
- Sharing experiences in combining Structural Funds and Framework Programmes (FP) (including Horizon 2020) 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 Romania.

Who should attend?

- Planned Participants: 80 people
- Romanian National and Regional Managing Authorities and public stakeholders linked with the implementation of the RIS3 strategy.
- Romanian national contact points from the past Framework Programmes and Horizon 2020 and other EU-funded programmes and members of the Horizon 2020 programme committee.
- Key research and innovation stakeholders of Romania (Universities, research institutions, business and industry representatives, etc.)

Organisers

EUROPEAN COMMISSION, Directorate General Joint Research Centre (S3 Platform) & Directorate General Regional Policy (DG REGIO G1) & Ministry of National Education and Scientific Research & Executive Agency for Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation Funding

Agenda

08:30– 09:00	Registration and welcome coffee
WELCOME SPEECHES	
09:00 – 09:30	<p>Moderator: Carmen Marcus (European Commission, Representation Office Romania)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adrian Curaj (Minister of National Education and Scientific Research) Mihai Robert Dima (State Secretary, President of National Authority for Scientific Research and Innovation) Colin Wolfe (Head of Unit, European Commission, DG REGIO)
OPENING SESSION – Policy context	
9:30-10:45	<p>Moderator: Colin Wolfe (Head of Unit, European Commission, DG REGIO)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Synergies with R&I funds: Stairway to Excellence Andrea Conte (European Commission, DG JRC) Presentation of the Romanian expectations on the 2014-2020 multi annual financial period Gabriela Bica (ANCSI, Directorate General IB Research) Opportunities for synergies under the new ESIF Framework Beate Grajnert (European Commission, DG REGIO) Romanian profile in terms of FP participation and ESIF Mathieu Doussineau (European Commission, DG JRC) <p>Questions & Answers</p>
10:45-11:00	Coffee break
The Research and innovation context and the implementation of synergies	
11:00-13:30	<p>Moderator: Nida Kamil Özbolat (European Commission, DG JRC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Romanian innovation ecosystem Adrian Curaj (Minister of National Education and Scientific Research) Key cross-country elements on synergies Mariana Chioncel (S2E National Expert) Review on the participation of Romanian organisations in EU funding schemes with regard to regional development policies Viorel Vulturescu (ANCSI, Directorate International Relations) Key aspects for ESIF and H2020 synergies for Romania Laurentiu Teodorescu (European Commission, DG REGIO) <p>Questions & Answers - Introduction to table discussions</p> <p>Discussion topics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>How to build up capacities for the excellent research & increase H2020 participation (upstream activities)</i> <i>How to better exploit research results in order to create social/economic impacts? (downstream activities)</i> <i>What are the incentives, obstacles and opportunities for policy makers and innovation stakeholders to maximise societal impact of EU R&I funding instruments? (stakeholder involvement)</i>

13:30 -14:30	Lunch Break
Examples for Synergies in Practice	
14:30-16:30	<p>Moderator: Eskarne Arregui (European Commission, DG JRC)</p> <p>Reporting on the table discussions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Synergy example from a European Centre of Excellence Pieter de Jong (Wetsus, The Netherlands) • Synergies and research infrastructures in Romania Nicolae Mateescu (JASPERS, European Investment Bank) • Synergies and complementarities in the use of EU funding sources: the experience of ENEA Alessandro Del Nevo (ENEA EU Liaison Office in Brussels) • Synergies and complementarities in the use of EU funding sources: the experience of Cluj IT Cluster Paulina Mitrea (Cluj IT Cluster) • Building synergies and complementarities in the use of EU funding sources for 2014-2020 Corina Pascu (EU Technology Analyst) <p>Open debate</p>
16:30 – 16:45	<p>Conclusions and ways forward European Commission & National Authorities</p>