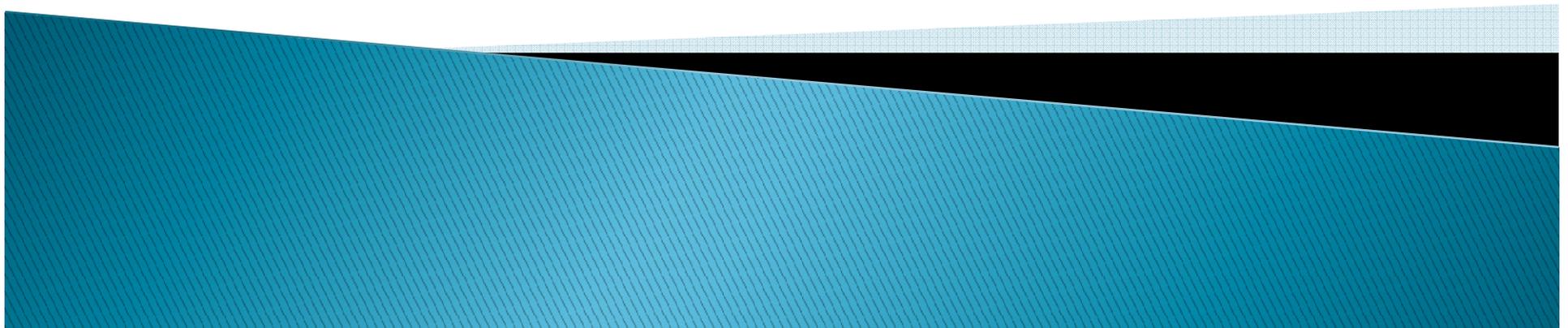


Evaluation of ERA NET Cofund actions under Horizon 2020

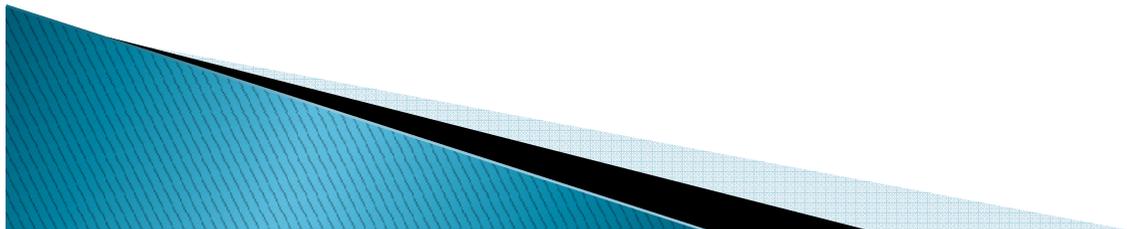
Presentation of the results

Niels Götke, Chair of the expert group
and Effie Amanatidou, Rapporteur



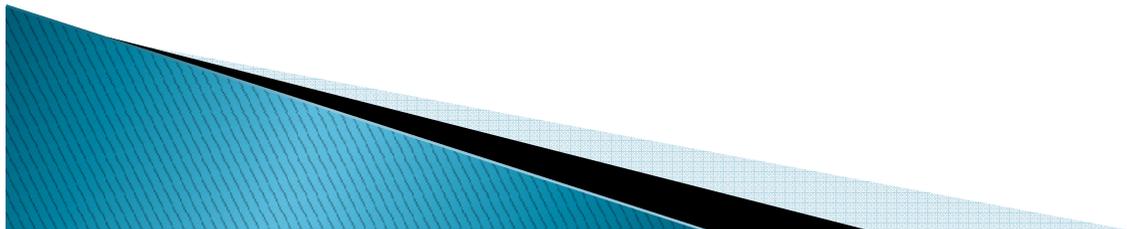
Outline

- Purpose and scope of the evaluation
- Methodology and basic figures for ERA-NET Cofund
- Efficiency of ERA-NET Cofund
- Relevance and coherence
- Effectiveness of ERA-NET Cofund
- EU Added value of ERA-NET Cofund
- Recommendations



Purpose and scope of the evaluation

- The assessment covers the 27 ERA-NET Cofund Actions approved for funding under the 2014 /2015 WP of Horizon 2020.
- The evaluation will contribute to:
 - Improving the implementation of ERA-NET Cofund actions
 - adapting the instrument to the needs and policy objectives
- Evaluation criteria: efficiency, relevance and coherence, effectiveness, EU added value.
- The results will feed into the Horizon 2020 interim evaluation and will use for the preparation of the next FP.

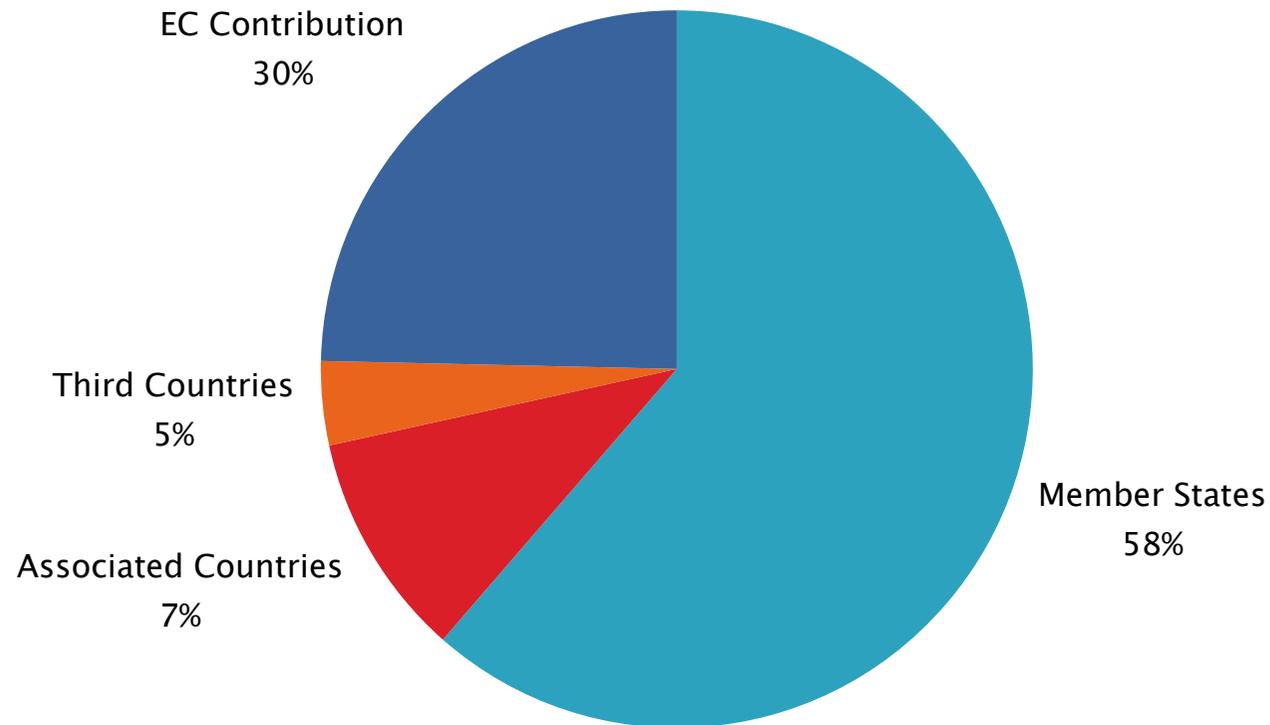


Methodology

Stakeholder type	75 interviews	50.3 % response rate	
	Interviews	On line survey	Workshop
ERA-NET Cofund Coordinators	X	X	X
ERA-NET Cofund Participants	X	X	X
National Representatives	X	X	
JPI Chairs	X		
EC high-level officials	X		
EC project officers	X		X
ERA-NET Cofund evaluators	X		
Supported by desk research, analysis of existing and new data			

ERA-NET Cofund in figures

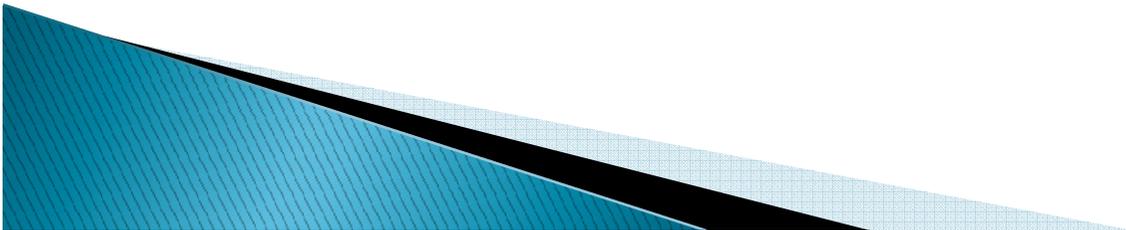
ERA-NET Cofund budget by country type
(only co-funded calls)



▶ Total investment 728.5 M€

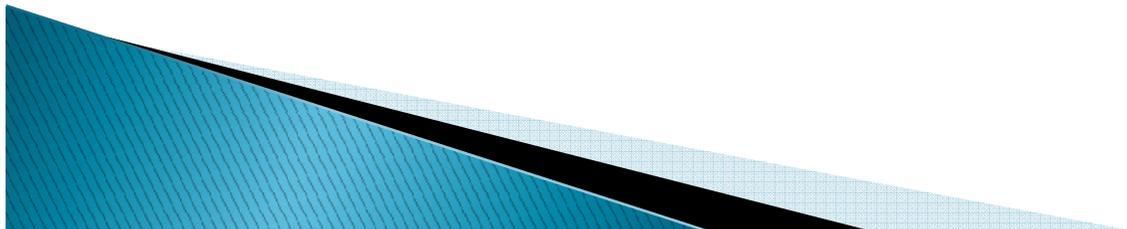
▶ Leverage effect: 2.31 € additional for each € spent by EC

Main findings



Efficiency (1 / 2)

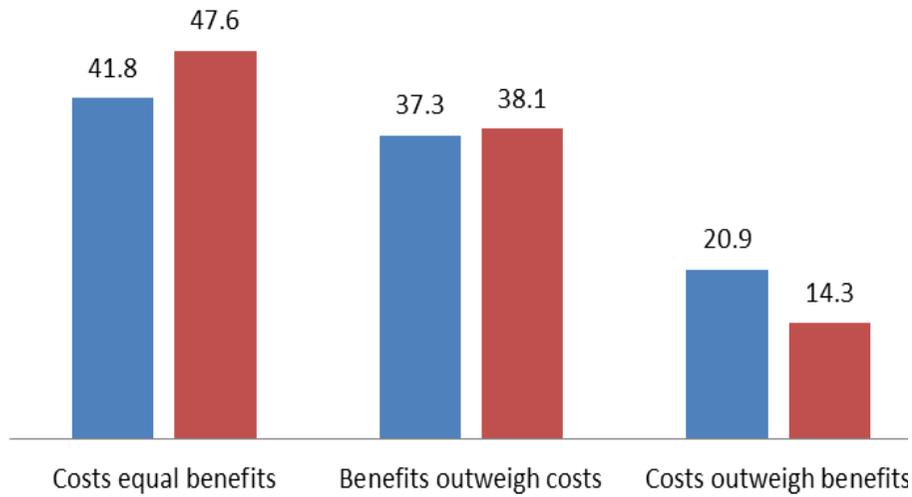
- The instrument has been simplified and allows a lot of flexibility.
- However there are several issues that cause difficulties in the management of the instrument such as:
 - lack of clear understanding of the financial aspects of the instrument
 - ineligibility of the management costs
 - discrepancies in the way some European Commission project officers manage the Cofund actions
- Another recurring issue is the optimization of the use of Commission and MS budgets in the implementation of the joint calls.



Efficiency (2/2)

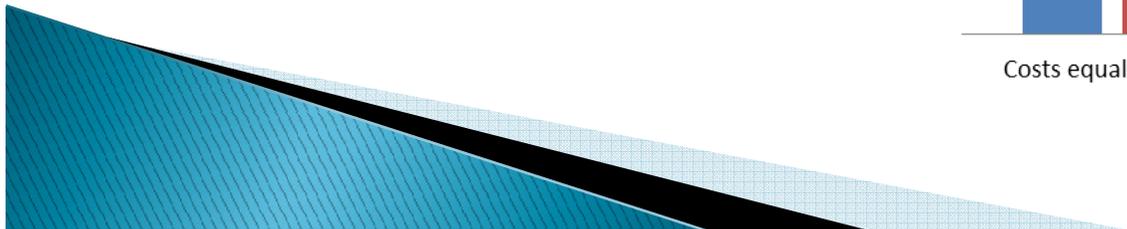
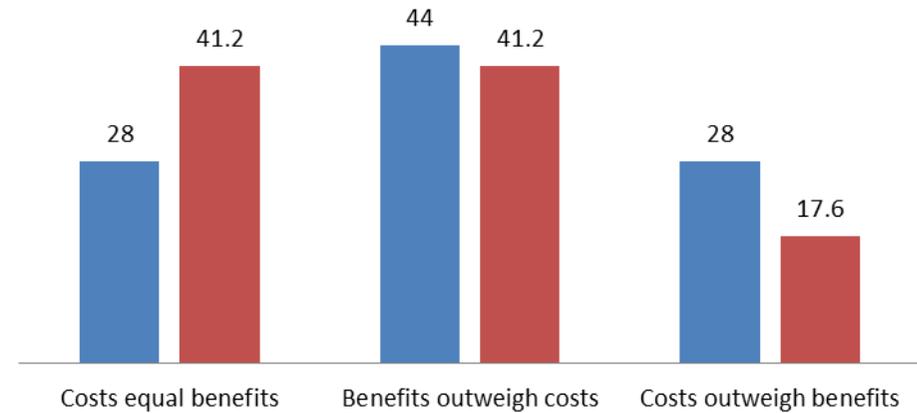
Cost Benefit ratio: EU13 & EU15

■ EU 15 Countries ■ EU 13 Countries



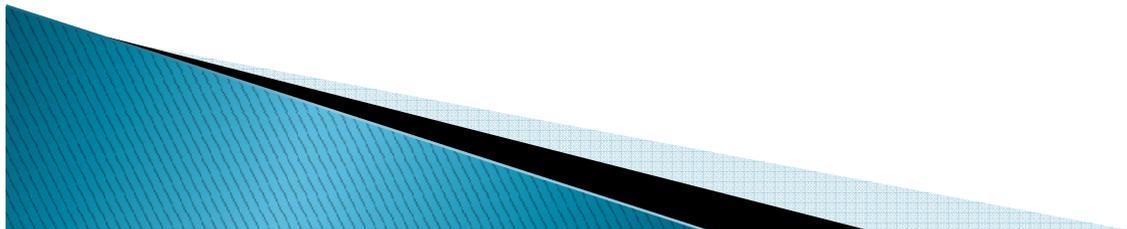
Cost Benefit ratio: Partners & Coordinators

■ Coordinators ■ Partners



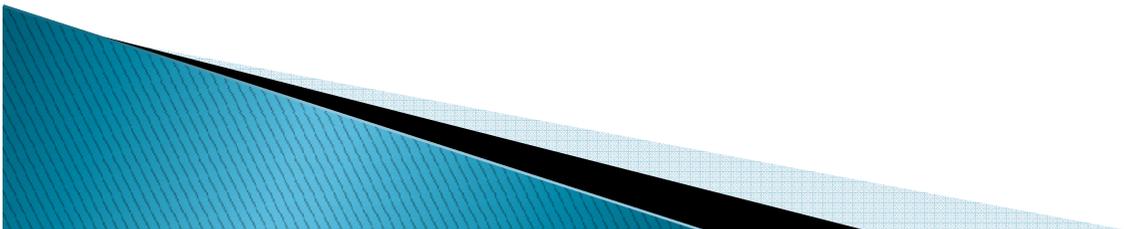
Relevance and coherence (1 / 4)

- From the Commission's perspective, ERA-NETs are used to mobilise additional resources to achieve EU objectives (implementation of joint calls that lead to the funding of transnational research projects).
- Member States recognise that certain challenges can better be dealt through joint trans-national efforts that give access to additional funding and complementary research capacities.
- Besides the minimum obligation to launch and implement a co-funded joint call, ERA-NET Cofund actions also engage in a variety of additional activities .

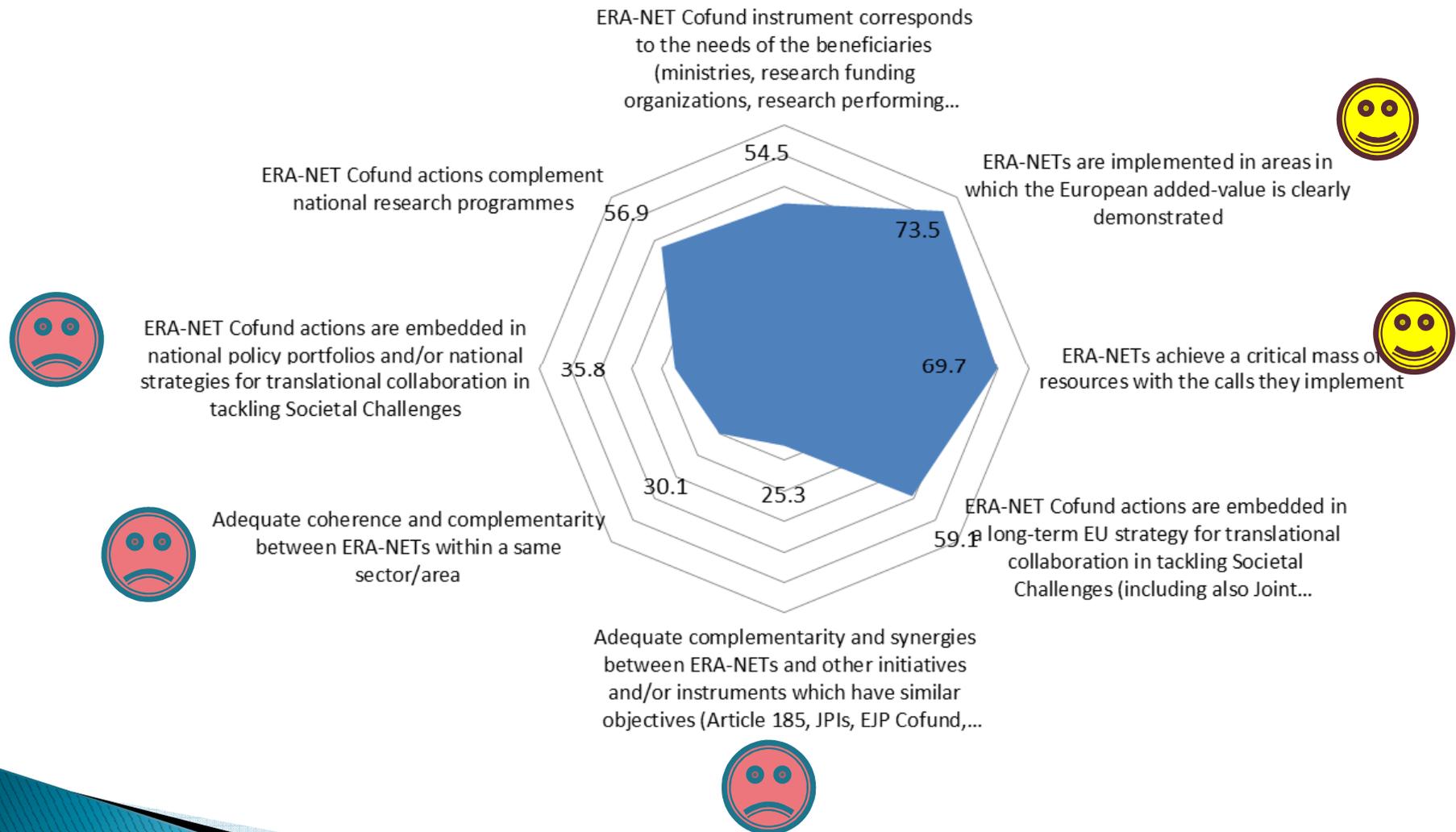


Relevance and coherence (2 / 4)

- Still efforts needed to improve coordination and synergies among various networks in the same area.
- ERA-NET Cofund Actions are not deeply embedded in national policy portfolios and/or national strategies .
- Incompatible rules of participation and funding at national level may create problems.

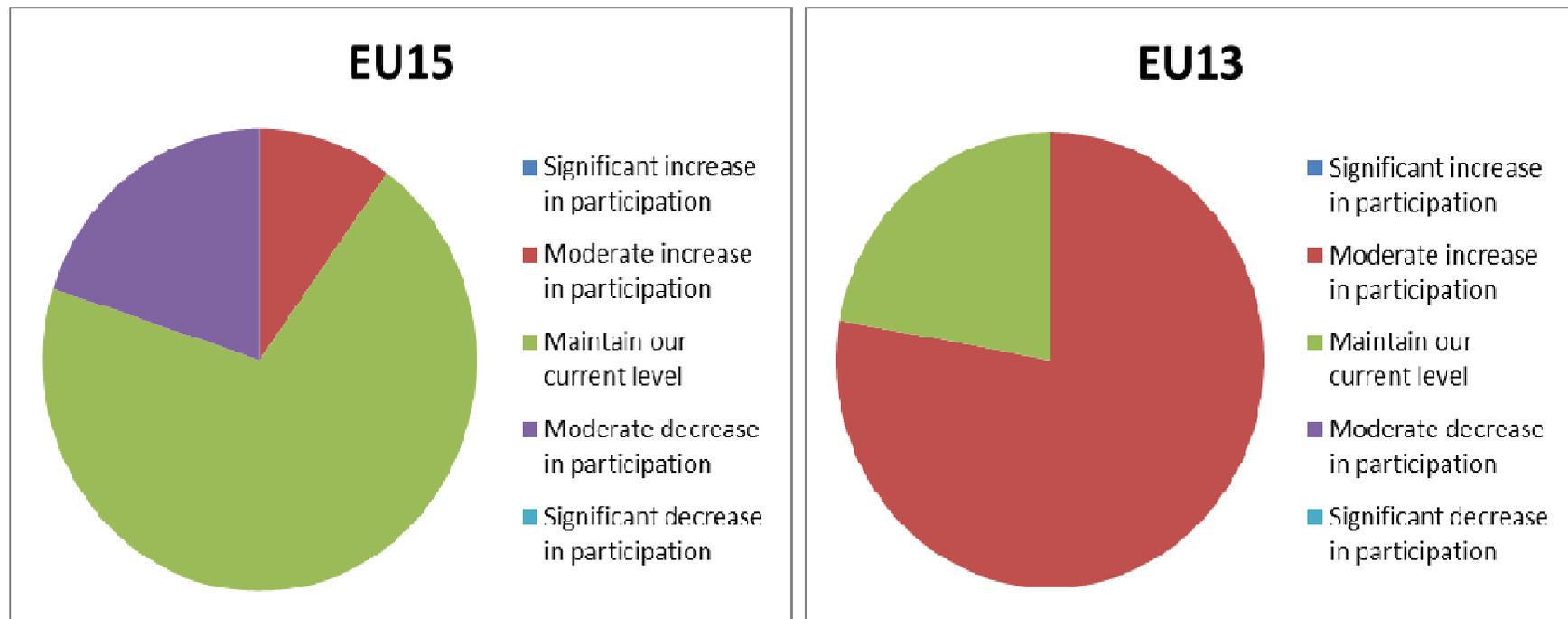


Relevance and coherence (3/4)



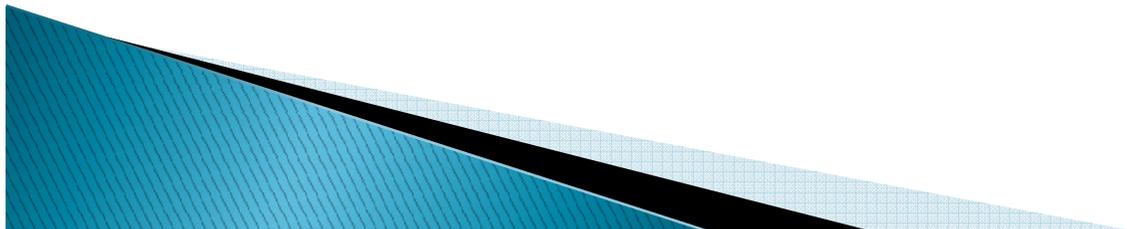
Relevance and coherence (4/4)

Intentions of countries with regards to participation in ERA-NET Cofund in the future as expressed by the national government representatives



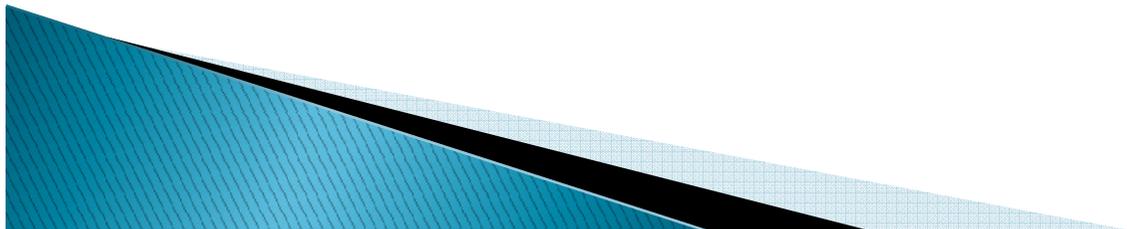
Effectiveness

- ERA-NET Cofund has been able to mobilize national resources to tackle EU challenges.
- Coordination of existing programmes is achieved (although not to the level of aligning national strategies /programmes).
- The instrument has facilitated widening participation to lower performing countries, although there are several areas of improvement.
- ERA-NET Cofund actions are also gradually strengthening the international dimension with an increasing number of participating third countries since FP7.



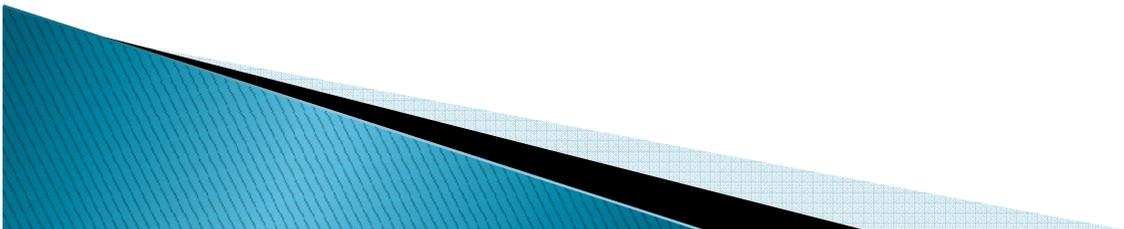
EU added value (1 / 2)

- The added value of ERA-NET Cofund primarily lies in strengthening trans-national collaboration. ERA-NETs contribute to achieving a critical mass of resources with the calls they implement.
- Its contribution to the alignment of national policies is rather limited.
- ERA-NET Cofund contributes to developing cooperation with international partners and third countries.

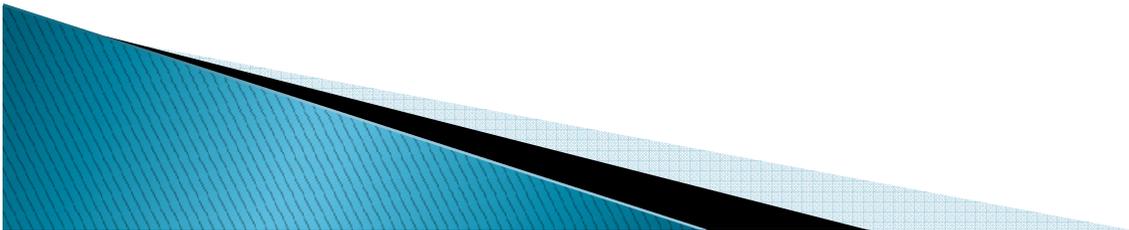


EU added value (2/2)

- Overall, the merging of activities in the two previous versions (ERA-NET and ERA-NET Plus) in the current ERA-NET Cofund instrument received positively by the ERA-NET Cofund community.
- While the new version seems to be doing at least as well as its predecessor in relation to launching and implementing calls, some think that the FP7 ERA-NET version was more efficient
- Yet, ERANET COFUND is seen by all stakeholders as a crucial element for building ERA, in fact, the ERA NET instrument has paved the conditions for producing solid ties of mutual trust among the countries



Main recommendations



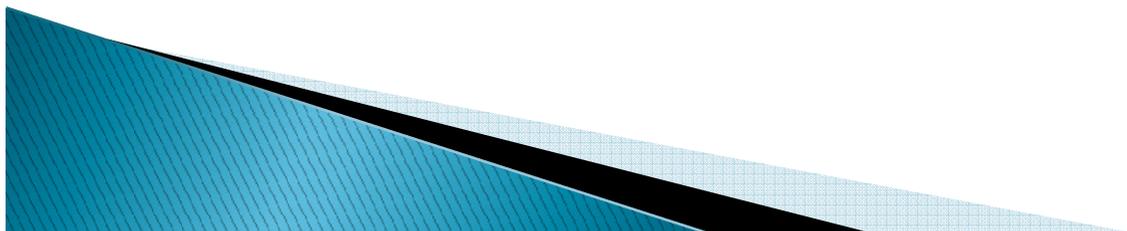
Main recommendations (1 / 2)

1. More focus on the strategic potential for ERA-NET Cofund actions in the process of designing the H2020 WPs and at national level

- COM to develop and implement long-term strategies for ERA-NET Cofund
- ERA-NET Cofund actions subject to fulfilment of clear criteria and conditions including strong financial upfront commitments from participating States.
- MS need to integrate the ERA-NET Cofund instrument in their national strategy portfolios, with a strong and longer-term financial and political commitment to public-public partnerships.

2. Change the design of the instrument to better reflect the level of ambition in the collaboration and commitment of the participants

- The flexibility of the definition at the level of the General Annexes and the drafting of topics should be used to better reflect the level of ambition.



Main recommendations (2 / 2)

3. Improve efficiency of implementation by stepping-up the learning curve with sharing knowledge, experience and good practices

- Guidance on the preparation and implementation of the ERA-NET Cofund actions should be further improved, notably within the ERA LEARN 2020 context. The visibility of ERA-LEARN 2020 and of the important services it provides needs to be improved.

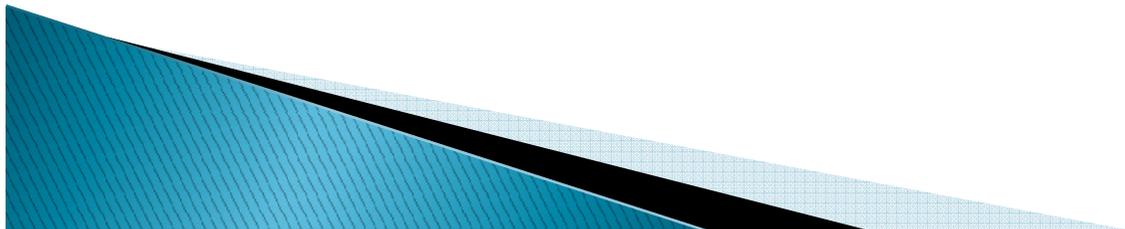
4. Efficient management of the Union and national contributions

- Complete absorption of Union contribution is a major concern. Any funded actions to include at least 25% reserve to reduce the risk of underspending

5. Better exploit ERA-NET Cofund actions for the widening strategy

- Participating States and the Commission should promote a proactive approach engaging low-performing countries at a very early stage of designing ERA-NET Cofund Actions

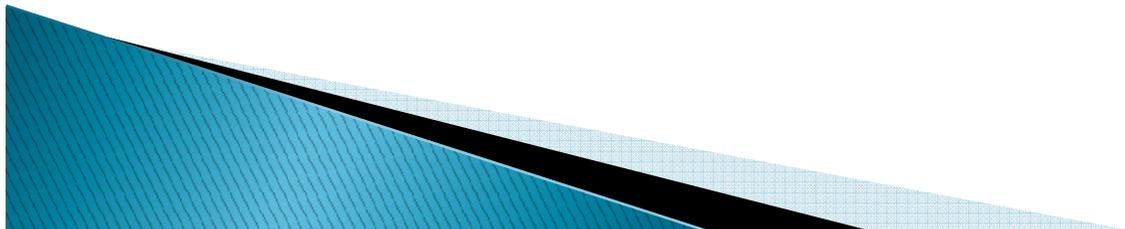
6. Improve knowledge and valorise impacts of ERA-NET Cofund Actions and funded projects



Long-term recommendation (FP9)

Future Framework Programme needs to continue supporting programme level collaboration. Support to P2Ps should be an adaptable scheme:

- a “softer” approach in areas where objectives can be achieved by mainly providing longer-term financial support to management and coordination via coordination and support actions (CSA);
- a strong “cofounding” approach for mature networks with strong long-term financial commitment from PS and high relevance for FP objectives. In these cases the future instrument should allow full flexibility concerning the range of activities (including multiple cofunded calls), the variety of stakeholders involved (research funders as well as governmental research performing organisations) and the level of Union contribution in order to ensure the achievement of a critical mass of resources and actors.
 - **Consider to further simplify the toolbox by designing one comprehensive Cofund instrument**
 - **re-consider eligibility of costs of financial instruments in the context of Cofund actions and revise the Financial Regulation**



Thank you for your attention!

Any questions?

