

# Webinar: Synergies with Cohesion Policy Funds

## 10 May 2023

### Summary Q&A Session

*On 10 May 2023, the European Commission and ERA-LEARN organised a webinar to provide support for the implementation synergies with Cohesion Policy Funds.*

*This document is a summary of the Q&A session.*

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### *Experience sharing*

**Q: Is a guidance document underway for synergies between Horizon Europe & directly managed EU programmes (e.g. DEP; EU4Health) similar to the one on ERDF-Horizon Europe synergies?**

*There is no dedicated guidance document, but EC recently created an interservice group in the Commission on synergies with a focus on synergies between directly managed programmes.*

**Q: Is RIMA accessible only at a member state level or even at a regional one?**

*The R&I Cohesion Managing Authorities Network is a new ERA subgroup 'Access to excellence' consisting in a joint network of Member States research & cohesion representatives. The group is composed by Member states level representatives.*

**Q. Is any country actually implementing now synergies with European Partnerships? are there any best practices to share? Is there any best practice in using ERDF for the EP as part of the national contribution?**

*A: Yes, as an example we can mention the Italian Ministry of Research and Universities that enabled the use of ERDF in nearly 13 European Partnerships (including Water4All) for a total budget of 200M Euro. In the same country the Italian Ministry of Economic Development enabled the use of RRF (nearly 200M euro) in 6 different partnerships. The possibility has been facilitated by the fact that the two ministries are Managing authorities as well. As soon as the solution will be analyzed and decodified in the different implementation steps it will be shared.*

**Q: Participation in the co-funded partnership: have observing partners already participated in Water4all Joint Transnational Calls? Have you experienced any blocking situation in the ranking list due to the fact that those partners cannot receive any EC top-up?**

**A:** *Yes, those partners cannot receive co-funding. The risk of blocking the ranking list may occur and it's key to foresee these risks and to "control" the national funding commitment (and the amount per project) prior to the launch of the call. In these cases, it is beneficial to hold bilateral meetings with these partners so that they try to find flexibility to increase the amount or adjust the amount per project. There were some situations in the past during the implementation of the Water JPI calls but the Call Secretariat and the Call Steering Committee managed to resolve them so that the call success was not compromised.*

**Q. FOR ETAG, do you have also experience in the Seal of Excellence for above threshold proposals of Pillar II or JU or leveraging of ERDF on deployment of Horizon project results?**

**A:** *Unfortunately we do not have and we are not planning to have SoE for the Pillar II and JU.*

**Q FOR ETAG: Are the scientific advisors at ministries and government office representatives of the Estonian Research Council?**

**A:** *No, they are the belonging to the ministry/government office (they are not working for the research council). We only supported their salary for some time (~2 years) and afterwards the ministry should take their salary to their budget. Some ministries have hired already 2-3 scientific advisers.*

**Q: FOR ETAG: Could give the link to this RITA - sectorial programm.**

**A:** *Link: <https://etag.ee/en/funding/programmes/rita/>*

**Q FOR ETAG: How do you make sure the use of ERDF as explained is aligned with Estonian S3 priorities? Given that Cohesion Policy ultimate objective is not excellence in research, but rather promoting "growth and jobs", this is critical to promote synergies.**

**A:** *Yes indeed, we have a lot of national level discussion over it. The supported activities/topics have to be well justified and aligned with S3 priorities (we have been discussing also how to keep track on it and what the indicators could be). The overall understanding is that via investing in R&I we will also create more jobs.*

**Q: FOR PROMIS: do regional funds from Tuscany and Aress Puglia include funds from Cohesion Policy?**

**A:** *No, the regional funds from Tuscany do not include funds from Cohesion Policy but from regional resources and Aress Puglia funds come from ordinary funds (budget surpluses)*

**Q: How to increase the number of participants (regional stakeholders) in the EU programs?"**

**A:** For example, Estonian Research Council has set in its strategy a specific target to increase the participation of different participants in Horizon Europe programme. ETAG implements this target via different activities of our different departments (e.g., ETAG organises different events for different stakeholders and try to include in addition to researchers and SMEs also municipalities and NGOs etc.). In Italy, the Ministry of Universities and Research periodically organizes info days in collaboration with APRE (European Research Promotion Agency) in order to involve and communicate with different stakeholders and clusters.

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### *Further information*

**European Partnerships website:** [https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe/european-partnerships-horizon-europe\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe/european-partnerships-horizon-europe_en)

**ERA-LEARN Support for Partnerships:** <https://www.era-learn.eu/support-for-partnerships>

**Events:** <https://www.era-learn.eu/news-events/events>

**Newsletter:** <https://www.era-learn.eu/newsletter>