

Supporting the preparation of future European Partnerships

Session F: Creating synergies between different
funding sources at regional, national and European level

[~27 min]

- **We set the scene – why are we talking about this? What is the legal framework? Etc.**
- **Introduce ERA-LEARN work on synergies**
- **Spice up the debate with a few concrete examples of synergies from partnerships / countries**

[~60 min]

- **Discuss!**
- **Wrap up**

Why is it important?

- European Partnerships allow coordinating R&I effort with the Member States, private sector, foundations and other stakeholders in order to accelerate transitions towards common EU priorities (Green Deal...) and the SDGs.
- Developing synergies with relevant regional/national/EU programmes is important to accelerate the uptake of R&I results, and **increase impact of partnerships at national and regional level.**
- The EU is proposing to strengthen and **simplify synergies** in the new programming period between instruments in the EU budget toolbox, such as the Horizon Europe, Cohesion Policy, Common Agricultural Policy, Erasmus+ and LIFE. ← ***by providing more legal certainty (e.g. horizontal provisions etc.)***
- **Partnerships is a good “tool” to develop synergies:** allows programming of priorities and activities, “back-office”/ secretariat to provide support etc.

There are already many examples under Horizon 2020/ current MFF, summarised in e.g.:

- [MLE on National Practices in Widening Participation and Strengthening Synergies \(2017-2018\)](#)
- JRC report [Joint Undertakings: analysis of collaboration mechanisms with ESI Funds in an S3 context \(2019\)](#)
- JRC report [European Institute of Innovation and Technology \(EIT\) Knowledge and Innovation Communities \(KICs\): Collaboration in a RIS3 Context \(2019\)](#)

→ **Most common funding related synergies with H2020 are “upstream”** – ESIF investments that develops capabilities for participation in FP (infrastructure, skills...)

→ **Some examples also for “downstream”** – ESIF funding used to deploy FCH project (development of fuel cell buses in 9 cities or deployment of hydrogen refueling stations)

→ **Some examples of complementary activities** – e.g. Synergy label (BBI, Clean Aviation)

New enabling regulatory framework:

- Common Provisions Regulation (CPR)
- **Horizon Europe Regulation** (EC proposal and common understanding)
- Regulation amending the application of Art. 107 and 108 TFEU (notification on State Aid)

Horizon Europe proposal foresees 4 concrete possibilities for synergies (**provisions still under negotiations!**):

- **ESIF as national contribution (art.8)**
- Cumulative Funding (art. 23)
- Complementary Funding: Seal of Excellence (art.11)
- Transfer of funding (art. 9 HE – art. 21 CPR)

Improved strategic planning:

- Horizon Europe priorities (incl. candidate partnerships) are in the Orientations towards First Strategic Plan
- Allows assessing national / regional capabilities and thematic (S3) priorities vis-à-vis EU R&I initiatives
- ...and forecasting alignment and possibilities for parallel/alternative and complementary funding in the ERDF measures (and reflect in Partnership Agreements, OPs, Smart Specialisation Strategies, Selection Criteria)

European Partnerships - what's new in terms of synergies?

Council proposed wording: ["Financial contributions stemming from ESIF shall be allowed and considered as a national contribution."]. **A hypothetical example on the intention – for further discussion in Council:**

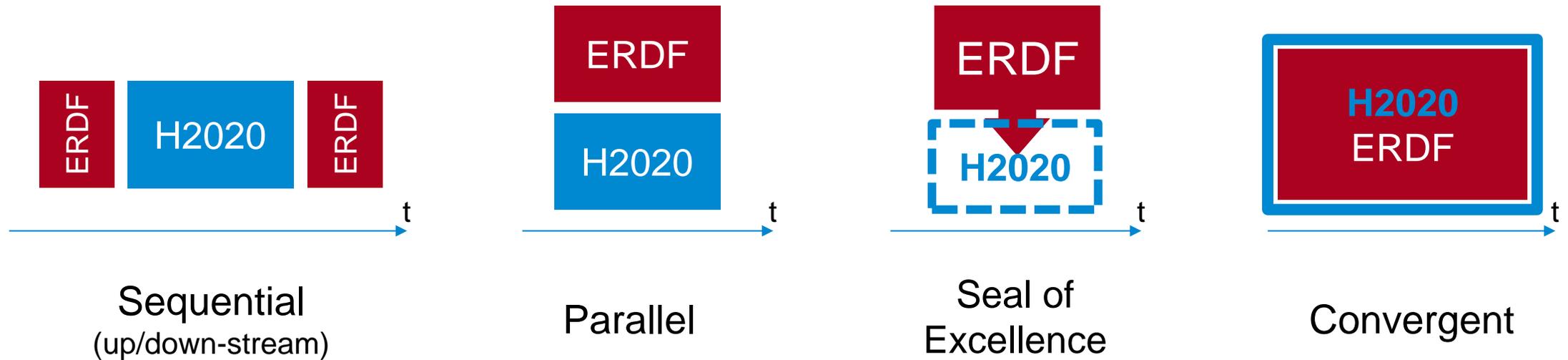
- A country participates in a call launched by a consortium of national funding bodies (NFB) in a co-funded or institutionalised European Partnership;
- It participates with a programme/priority that is co-financed by the ERDF (e.g. 50% national funds and 50% ERDF for this priority);
- A beneficiary applies successfully to the call as part of a transnational consortium and receives a grant agreement from the NFB (e.g. a contribution of 100 for a project with total eligible costs of 200, according to national rules applicable under this priority);
- The NFB reports the costs of providing financial support with a value of 100 to Horizon Europe, and received a funding of 30 from Horizon Europe;
- The remaining 70 would be payed out of the cohesion programme/priority;
- If a priority is co-financed at 50% from ERDF, the funding of the project could be finally composed of:
 - 30% Union funding from Horizon Europe
 - 35% national funding
 - 35% Union funding from ERDF

Important: participation at programme/priority level required (with predefined ratio of national and ERDF contributions)



ERA-LEARN work on synergies

- **Analysis of synergies** between ESIF and Horizon 2020 and selection of case studies
- **Monitor the development** and consolidation of the new Regulation on ESIF and the Rules for Participation in Horizon Europe
- **Draft a Policy brief** on the potential coordination between European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) and R&I Partnership in Horizon Europe:
 - Including sample of “**Tools for Synergies**”: this “living” document will be updated till the final approval of the 2021-2027 ESIF regulation and Horizon Europe Regulation.
- **Tools for Synergies’ co-design**
 - Co-design process for the finalisation of Tools for Synergies with the practical contribution of Managing Authorities, Funding Organisation Bodies and Experts in identifying legal and administrative constraints and pragmatic solutions for further development of tools.



Barriers

Regulatory barriers: lack of synchronization between ESIF and EU Direct funding;

Organizational barriers: administrative and managerial fragmentation, inability to forecast;

Attitudinal barriers: silo approach, language barriers, lack of practical support and tailored guidance.

Best Practices

ERDF converging in ERANET

The cases of **M.ERA-NET** and **MANUNET**

- ERDF is not eligible for Top-up calculation: it's a matter of MAs choices to renounce to EU contribution
- ROP's didn't foreseen any specific measure for funding ERANET projects
- Some Regions found a solution by including in ROPs' Selection Criteria a note allowing direct fundability of projects evaluated under the H2020 selection criteria.
- Final disclosure of ERDF to ERANET (just for additional joint calls and/or without calculating top up) and SoE projects.

The Estonian Case

“Mobilitas Pluss Programme”

For ERA NET: the programme support final beneficiaries in the ERA-NET projects, which are not funded by the European Commission (only ERA-NETs with no additional EC co-fund are supported).

For ERC Grant: reimbursement of research costs related to an ERC grant and the costs of the preparation of a new ERC grant application, including travel to R&D institutions in foreign countries where there are successful holders of ERC grants. Main condition: researcher employed by a partner competing for ERC grant gains the **mark of A or B** during evaluation (whilst not actually being funded).

For EIT: the programme reimburses the costs of those partners who have ongoing Horizon 2020 EIT projects. Reimbursement is provided only for those costs not reimbursed in any other manner, i.e. **travel and staff costs**.

For ERA Chair: **research costs** are reimbursed, since no funds have been allocated for them under the Horizon 2020 project.

Cross Regional

H2020 SCREEN CSA

Aims at developing an **EU reference framework** for establishing operational synergies between H2020 and ESIF related to circular economy.

Tackling the problem of **ESIF budgets underspent** due to some Regions' lower absorption capacity

Funding **non-selected H2020 proposals** with contributions from the respective **ESIF budgets' residues**.

Based on **Art. 70 CPR** which allows operations implemented outside the programme area, but within the EU, **up to 15% of the priority axis' allocated funds**.

Instrument: **Memorandum of Understanding** requiring to joining Regions to establish a **specific measure** under their structural funds dealing with “international circular economy projects”.

Synergy Label

CS3 JU's Sinergy label: ensures the correspondence of the ERDF's work package to RIS3. The quality label leaves to applicants the responsibilities and burdens to check and find alternative funding at regional level.

BBI JU's Synergy label: it is linked to the JU commitment in establishing **Memorandum of Understanding** with Managing Authorities and support “labelled” proposal in searching for alternative funding.

Developing Synergies: Tools for synergies

Tools

Tools for Synergies: practical instruments for MAs

- «**Top-down**» - Synergies at Programme Level
- «**Synergy Label**» - Synergies at Project Level
- «**Bottom-Up**» - Synergies at Project Level

This possibility could apply to Co-fund and Institutionalized European Partnership when a Managing Authority participates in a call launched by a consortium of National/Regional Funding Bodies. The Managing Authority participate to the EP on the basis of specific programme/priorities which is already co-financed by ERDF under national/regional OPs

ESIF as national contribution (art.8)

Managing Authorities willing to establish synergies for transnational proposals competing in EPs' calls should carefully plan, along with their participation to EPs as partner/beneficiary, a parallel measure in NOP/ROP for funding through ESI funds transnational projects "synergy labelled" in successive and alternatives calls.

Complementary Funding: Seal of Excellence (art.11)

To implement this tool is necessary to build partnership and networks on the specific RIS3 priorities, which constitute the common denominator for enabling ESI Funds In this case we can talk about Simultaneous and Parallel synergies.

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CASE 1: JPI URBAN EUROPE

Mari Solerød (Chair of JPI URBAN EUROPE Governing Board)

The Research Council of Norway built on JPI Urban Europe's SRIA when making their first call for integrated, interdisciplinary projects

- *Uncovered national barriers and bottlenecks in the funding system*
- *Had massive response from the R&I community*
- *To-way influence between national and European R&I funding*

On a European level: possible synergies with structural funds

- *Not all countries are able to take use of structural funds*
- *Individual solutions needed for e.g. Widening countries*

A stronger coordination on national level, to enhance impact and uptake of results

Across sectors and involving all stakeholder groups

Linking towards investment programs,

Find ways to bring research results and innovations to larger scale implementation

Contribute to European strategies

For example in implementing the climate neutral urban mission and the Urban Agenda for the EU

Make use of EU instruments in the *Driving Urban Transitions* partnership

Would help to overcome the difficulties created by national conditions, for example the funding of cities

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CASE 2: BBI

Paloma Mallorquín
BBI JU Project Officer
 @pmallorquin

- Will ensure the uptake of **excellent proposals** that could not be financed in spite of their excellent marks due to lack of sufficiently available budget
- Will contribute to enhance **synergies** between BBI JU and Member States and regions in the field of Bio-Based Industries
- Will ensure the take up of the **Synergy Label: ESIF – EIB (EFSI and InnovFin) – EBRD – Member States and regions**

Applies to:

- Innovation Actions (DEMOs and FLAGSHIPS):
 - ✓ localization of investments
 - ✓ close to market: socio-economic and environmental impact
- Proposals included in the reserve list of H2020-BBI-JTI-2018 Call (18 proposals): 13 DEMOs 5 FLAGSHIPS



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN

BIO-BASED INDUSTRIES JOINT UNDERTAKING

and

EUROPEAN BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT

In respect of

Cooperation for promoting investments in the Bioeconomy

SIGNED 24 September 2019

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CASE 3: JPI More Years, Better Lives

Denice Moi Thuk Shung (The Netherlands Organisation for Health
Research and Development)

Joint call participation

- Diverse composition JPI MYBL General Assembly
- Mapping national environment
- Identify & Align national funding sources

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CASE 4: MOBILITAS +

Example of synergies with ERDF under H2020:

- ESTONIA (Maarja Adojaan, Estonian Research Council)

DIRECT SYNERGY: SUPPORTING PARTICIPATION IN H2020

SUPPORT TO ERA NET PROJECTS

- 150 000 € per project
- ERA NET calls which are not co-funded by the EC
- 20 projects

SUPPORT TO EIT KIC PARTNERS

- 50 000 € per year for up to 4 years
- networking, travel, personnel costs
- 4 participations

SUPPORT TO ERA CHAIR PROJECTS

- up to 200 000 € of research costs
- lab equipment, consumables
- 6 projects

SUPPORT TO ERC APPLICANTS

- 80 000 € grant per year, up to 1,5 years
- trainings and study visits
- 11 grants
- 150 researchers;

SCIENTIFIC ADVISERS IN MINISTRIES

- co-funded by RITA programme
- coordination of national R&D and ERA activities
- 12 Ministries

INDIRECT SYNERGY: SUPPORTING CAPACITY BUILDING

RITA – National programme for Addressing Socio-Economic Challenges through R&D

- Increasing the role of the Government in setting strategic priorities in R&D, (both in national and EU/global context)

Thank you.

<https://www.etag.ee/en/cooperation/horizon-2020/eu-partnerships/> Strategic framework for Estonia's participation in the R&D partnerships of the EU

<https://www.etag.ee/en/funding/partnership-funding/> ERA Chair, ERA-Net, EIT support schemes under Mobilitas Plus programme

<https://www.etag.ee/en/funding/programmes/rita/> RITA – National programme for Addressing Socio-Economic Challenges through R&D (including positions of scientific advisers in Ministries)

- **All future partnerships should develop synergies with relevant programmes and priorities at national level as well as at European level. What is the current status?**
- **Exchange of experiences from the current programming period to identify good practices that can be transferred to future R&I Partnerships in Horizon Europe.**
- **What are the relevant emerging regional/national/EU programmes and related opportunities for synchronisation with the candidate R&I partnerships?**
- **What is needed to make synergies happen with European Partnerships?**

Thank you.