



Creating synergies between Horizon 2020 and European Structural Funds



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Basic approach to Horizon2020 – ESIF synergies

Specificities and Complementarities

Horizon Europe	Cohesion Policy (ERDF)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Focus on <u>European research and innovation excellence</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Focus on regional relevance and economic transformation, based on smart specialisation strategies
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Focus on <u>frontier research</u>, generation and exploitation of <u>new knowledge</u> and <u>disruptive, market-creating</u> innovations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Broad innovation concept</u>; focus on <u>diffusion and exploitation of existing knowledge & technology</u> to places that need it
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Quality-based competition for funds, incl. beyond EU	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Focus of support on where it is most needed inside the EU
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Predominantly trans-national projects and consortia	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Predominantly "mono-beneficiaries" or actors in the same country/region (exception: Interreg)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Focus on R&I <u>activities</u> and "<u>R&I community</u>" in view of contributing to other policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Focus on R&I <u>capacities</u> and innovation ecosystem development, as one part of a <u>comprehensive policy</u> with sustainable & inclusive growth and a broad partnership
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Centralised Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Shared Management

See:

- A renewed European Agenda for Research and Innovation - Europe's chance to shape its future (COM(2018) 306)
- Explanatory memoranda of proposals for HEU and CPR/ERDF

Synergies in the design phase

- ERDF strategic planning process: Partnership Agreements (PA) and programmes to take into account relevant **2019 country specific recommendations** when selecting policy objectives (Art. 8(a) and 17(3)(a)(iii) Common Provisions Regulation (CPR)*)
- **Partnership Agreements** to set out arrangements for using CPR Funds in an effective and efficient manner and **complementarities between the shared managed Funds and other Union instruments** (Art. 8 CPR*).
- **Smart Specialisation Strategies** are **key to synergies with Horizon Europe** and other EU smart growth related instruments. "**Entrepreneurial Discovery Process**" should bring together the industry and research "communities" (and other relevant stakeholders).
- **Horizon Europe** should seek synergies with other Union programmes, from their design and strategic planning, to project selection, management, communication, dissemination and exploitation of results, to monitoring, auditing and governance (Recital 15 Horizon Europe Regulation).
- **Horizon Committee** shall be regularly informed on synergies (Annex III & Art. 12(6) Horizon Europe Decision)

Synergies through sequential funding

Key issue: Link and/or align strategies (S3 & HE governance, European Partnerships, contract level links ...) and connect actors from regional development and research "communities".

Example for "up-stream" synergies:

- **ERDF** support for improving and developing **R&I eco-systems**, incl. infrastructures, administrative capacities, interaction between innovation actors, **smart specialisation processes** and governance
 - ▶ **Prepares for HE participation**
- **Horizon** support to develop **business plans for centers of excellence** ("sharing excellence"), "industrial pilot test-beds" or feasibility of research infrastructures
 - ▶ **Facilitates application for ERDF funding** for the infrastructure

Example for "down-stream" synergies:

- **Horizon (2020&Europe) results** to be analysed in view of funding their further development, testing, etc. (e.g. "Innovation Radar", H2020 "dashboard", Corda)
 - ▶ **ERDF can carry further Horizon/FP results** towards marketable products, integration in value-chains, take-up in less innovative regions and countries, etc.

Parallel funding: ESIF and Horizon 2020 (FP) funding are supporting separate projects, which are running in parallel and are mutually supportive or complement each other.

Synergies through cumulative funding

- **Cumulative funding** from different Union instruments **in the same operation**, as long as double financing is avoided (Art. 23 HE Regulation, Art. 57(9) CPR):
 - ✓ Rules of each contributing Union programme apply to its respective contribution
 - ✓ Cumulative financing shall not exceed the total eligible costs
 - ✓ Support from different Union programmes may be calculated on a pro-rata basis
 - ✓ Document setting out for the beneficiary the conditions for support
- Cumulation possibility proposed for **14 EU Funds/programmes**: Horizon Europe, Digital Europe, Single Market Programme, LIFE, Creative Europe, Space Programme, CEF2, Euratom, Erasmus+, Customs, Justice Programme, AMF, ISF and BMVI

NB: Cumulation on pro rata basis with Horizon2020 is already possible under current H2020 Rules for Participation (Art.37) and CPR: see "[Omnibus Regulation](#)" (Regulation EU 201871046).

Synergies through alternative funding: Seal of Excellence

- ✓ **Seal of Excellence (SoE)**: high-quality label awarded to projects submitted to Horizon 2020 which were deemed to deserve funding but did not receive it due to budget limits. It recognises the value of the proposal and supports the search for alternative funding. Currently awarded to **SME instrument, MSCA, Teaming, (ERC PoC in preparation)**
- ✓ SoE projects (or those selected under programme co-fund) may receive directly, without a new qualitative evaluation, ERDF or ESF+ funding under CPR rules (Art. 67(3) and (5) CPR). Cost eligibility rules for the ERDF programme can be aligned to the HE eligibility cost rules (Art. 57(1) CPR). Co-financing rate of the instrument providing the Seal of Excellence "shall" be used (Art. 67(5) CPR)
- ✓ 2021-2027: ERDF Managing Authorities may receive Seals issued not only under Horizon Europe, but 12 other Union programmes
- ✓ **Community of Practice**: Exchange of know-how on the best ways to implement the "Seal" through ESIF. Members: National/regional funding authorities and other funding agencies for innovative SMEs (incl. private banks and investors).
- ✓ For joining: **RTD-SEAL-OF-EXCELLENCE@ec.europa.eu**

★ SEAL OF
EXCELLENCE

Horizon 2020 evaluation

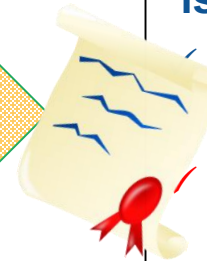
Funding threshold due to H2020
budget availability

Funded

Meriting
funding

Quality threshold:

Rejected: not ready
for funding



The SEAL OF EXCELLENCE

certificate declaring that the proposals
is of high quality and meriting funding

Target population: excellent projects
not funded by H2020

Accompanying letter explaining how
to search for alternative funding
sources

+ NO AUTOMATISM

+ NO SAME FUNDING INTENSITY

+ FEEDBACK

Clear benefits for countries/ regions:

- ✓ make the most of a unique, high quality
evaluation process
- ✓ better use of resources
- ✓ potential high local impact

Pilot using the SME Instrument

- ✓ Single company
- ✓ Small scale R&I actions
- ✓ Close to market

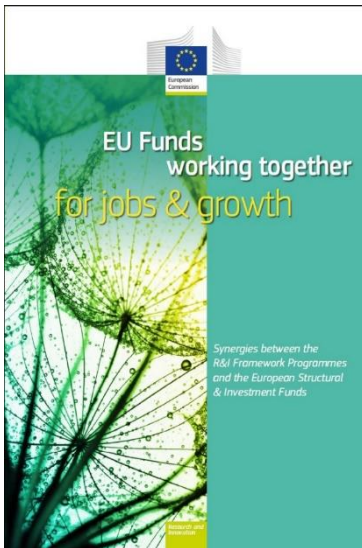
Seal Scheme (SME, MSCA, Teaming)	Number of 'Seal' Schemes	Countries
30 SME Instrument Seal schemes	16 PHASE 1 schemes in 14 countries	CY (1), IT (1), ES (2), HU (1), SI (1), SE (1), CZ (2), NO (1), PL (1), UK (1), SK (1), BE (1) and soon EL (1) and LT(1) National: 12 Regional: 4
	14 PHASE 2 schemes in 10 countries	IT(4), ES (2), FR (1), SI (1), PL (1), CY (1), BE (1), LV(1) and soon HR(1), EL (1) National: 5 Regional: 8
10 Marie Sklodowska-Curie	MSCA schemes in 8 countries	CY(1), CZ (1), SE (1), SI (1), IT (3), LT(1), BE Flanders (1), BG (1) National: 6 Regional: 1 Institutional: 3
1 Teaming	Teaming Scheme in 1 country	SK (1) National: 1
1 European Research Council*	1 scheme in 1 country	CY (1) National: 1
TOTAL	42 Schemes in 18 countries	CY (4)*, CZ (3), IT (8), ES (4), FR (1), HU (1), SI (3), SE (2), NO (1), PL (2), UK (1), HR(1), LV (1), EL (2), SK (2), LT (2), BE (3), BG (1) *CY has a programme with 2 modules and it funds (Ph1&2, MSCA and ERC starting and consolidator grants) 25 National schemes in 13 countries: CY (4), CZ (2), ES (1), HU (1), SI (3), SE (2), NO (1), PL (2), UK (1), HR (1) and soon EL (2) and SK (2), LT (2), BG (1) 13 regional schemes in 4 countries: IT (6), ES (3), FR (1), CZ (1) 3 Institutional IT (3)

Synergies through voluntary transfers

- **Proposed: voluntary transfer of Cohesion Policy allocations:** MS may request transfer of up to 5 % of their programme resources to any other EU Fund or instrument under shared, direct or indirect management (Art. 21 CPR)
 - ✓ Transferred resources may only concern the future budgetary commitments
 - ✓ The relevant ERDF programme has to be amended, incl. its financing plan
 - ✓ Investments have to be for the benefit of the transferring Member State
 - ✓ Commission may object to a request for transfer if achievement of ERDF programme's objectives would be undermined
 - ✓ Rules of the receiving EU Fund/instrument apply to the transferred budget
 - ✓ Financing plan of OP has to specify transfer (Art. 17(3) f (i) CPR) for future calendar years
- **Mirroring provision in Horizon Europe Regulation (Art 9)**
- **10 proposed EU programmes allow to receive such transfers:** Horizon Europe, Digital Europe, Single Market Programme, InvestEU, Creative Europe, Erasmus+, Space Programme, Rights & Values Programme, Reform Support Programme, Connecting Europe Facility²

Practical Examples

- *EU Funds working together for jobs and growth Examples of synergies between the Framework Programmes for Research and Innovation (Horizon 2020) and the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF): <http://ec.europa.eu/research/pdf/publications/ki-01-16-339-en-n.pdf>*



- *Horizon Policy Support Facility: Mutual Learning Exercise on National Practices in Widening Participation and Strengthening Synergies: <https://rio.jrc.ec.europa.eu/en/policy-support-facility/mle-national-practices-widening-participation-and-strengthening-synergies>. contains examples of Interreg-Horizon2020 synergies at operation level*

Thank you!

