



Synergies between Horizon Europe and the European Regional and Development Fund programmes

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Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic

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European Commission
DG Research and Innovation
A1. European Semester & Country Intelligence

Horizon Europe and Cohesion Policy: Working for Innovation

Pillar 1 Excellent Science

European Research Council

Marie Skłodowska-Curie
Actions

Research Infrastructures

Pillar 2 Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness

- Clusters
- Health
 - Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society
 - Civil Security for Society
 - Digital, Industry and Space
 - Climate, Energy and Mobility
 - Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment

Joint Research Centre

Pillar 3 Innovative Europe

European Innovation Council

European innovation
ecosystems

European Institute of Innovation
and Technology

Widening Participation and Strengthening the European Research Area

Widening participation and spreading excellence

Reforming and Enhancing the European R&I system

Policy Objective 1

A more competitive and smarter Europe by promoting innovative and smart economic transformation and regional ICT connectivity

Developing and enhancing research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies

Reaping the benefits of digitisation for citizens, companies, research organisations and public authorities

Enhancing sustainable growth and competitiveness of SMEs and job creation in SMEs, incl. by productive investments

Developing skills for smart specialisation, industrial transition and entrepreneurship

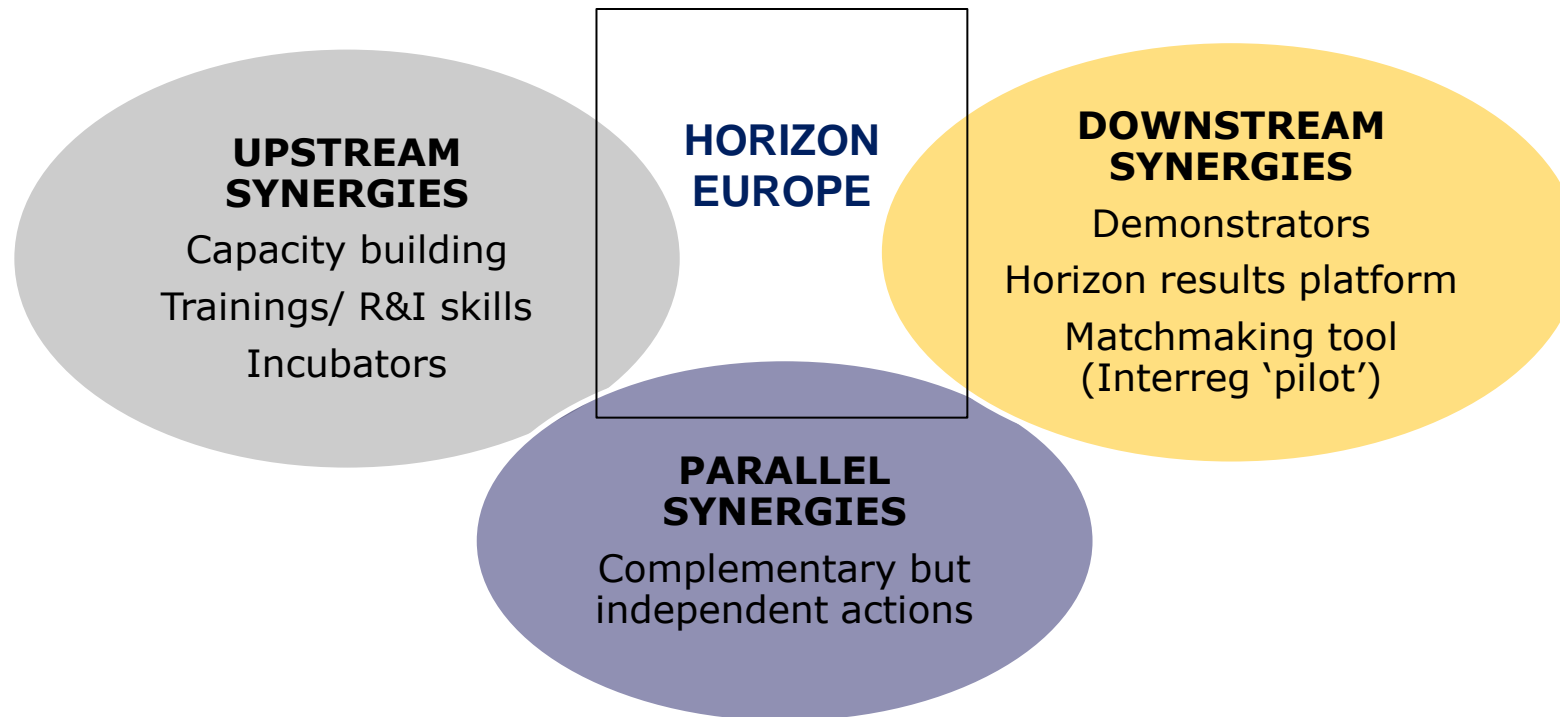
Enhancing digital connectivity



Synergies between Horizon Europe and Cohesion Policy programmes – Preconditions

- Alignment of strategies
 - ✓ Horizon Europe strategic planning and Work Programmes
 - ✓ ERDF/ESF+ programmes
- Alignment of legal provisions
 - ✓ Horizon Europe/Annex IV
 - ✓ Common Provision Regulation ('CPR')
 - ✓ EU State aid rules – the General Block Exemption Regulation ('GBER')
- **Joint support initiatives**
 - Seal of Excellence Community of Practice (regular meetings & IT platform)
 - 'DRAFT' COMMISSION NOTICE - GUIDANCE ON SYNERGIES (C(2022) 4747 final of 5/7/22)
 - Upcoming joint network research & cohesion community

Synergies: Wide range of opportunities



Synergies – support for ‘Seal-of-Excellence’



Seal of Excellence

Pipeline of excellent R&I projects identified for funding

Leverage of Horizon Europe mechanisms and visibility + economic impact at regional level

- ‘Seal of Excellence’ for ‘excellent’ Horizon Europe proposals – not funded due to insufficient budget. Possible alternative funding, e.g. from ERDF, ESF+ or EAFRD – up to the national/regional managing authority’s choice
- Projects may receive directly - **without a new qualitative evaluation** – ERDF/ESF+ funding under CPR rules (only check of specific eligibility criteria, contribution to programme objectives, smart specialisation priorities, scope of the fund – i.e. issues not guaranteed by the Seal)
- Managing Authorities may apply to these operations the **Horizon Europe categories, maximum amounts and methods of calculation of eligible costs**
- **‘Synergies-friendly’ State aid rules:** specific conditions facilitate the granting of aid for ‘Seal-of-Excellence’ projects of SMEs (→ Art. 25a and 25b amended General Block Exemption Regulation)

Synergies – transfer to Horizon Europe



Transfer possibility

Relieves ERDF Managing Authorities from setting up a full administrative system for evaluating and following projects + learning effect for firms entering Horizon Europe

- Member State may request a **voluntary** transfer of up to 5 % of their national allocation (e.g. ERDF) to Horizon Europe
- Transfer may only concern **future budgetary commitments**. ERDF programme has to be amended, incl. its financing plan
- Investments for the benefit of the transferring Member State/region.
- Commission may object to a transfer request if achievement of ERDF programme's objectives would be undermined
- **Rules of the receiving EU Fund/instrument apply** to the transferred amounts
- **Transfer-back:** Where the Commission has not entered into a legal commitment under Horizon Europe by 31 August of n+1, the corresponding uncommitted resources may be transferred back to the respective programmes covered by the CPR.

'Synergies' – in European Partnerships



Support to Partnerships

ERDF as MS contribution in
Horizon Europe partnerships

major incentive for
participation of regional
actors + alignment towards
common EU priorities

- ✓ 'European Partnership' – Union together with private and/or public partners jointly support the development and implementation of an R&I-programme:
 - ✓ 'Co-funded European Partnership': Union provides co-funding to an R&I-programme implemented by national entities
 - ✓ 'Institutionalised European Partnership' (Art. 185/187 TFEU): Union provides co-funding to a joint programme implemented by structures created for that purpose
- ✓ Financial contributions from programmes co-financed by the ERDF, the ESF+, the EMFAF and the EAFRD **may be considered to be a contribution of the participating Member State to European Partnerships**, provided that the relevant CPR-provisions and fund-specific regulations are complied with.
- ✓ NB: !! specific administrative steps allow to comply with the requirement of avoiding DOUBLE declaration of costs - Check the 'synergy guidance'!



Synergies – support for Horizon ‘Teaming’ actions

- ‘Teaming’ supports Centres of Excellence in certain eligible countries (‘Widening’) in partnership with an “advanced” partner from another Member State.
- Beneficiaries are mostly universities and research organisations, sometimes also regional authorities and SMEs
- ‘Synergies-friendly’ State aid rules: specific conditions facilitate the granting of aid to co-finance a Teaming action together with the EU, and investment aid for related infrastructure, e.g. research infrastructure
(→ Art. 25d amended General Block Exemption Regulation)



USEFUL LINKS

- Synergy guidance document: https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/synergies-between-horizon-europe-and-erdf-programmes-draft-commission-notice_en
- European Innovation Agenda: https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/strategy/support-policy-making/shaping-eu-research-and-innovation-policy/new-european-innovation-agenda_en#documents
- DG RTD: https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/synergies-guidance-out-2022-jul-06_en
- DG REGIO: https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/information/publications/communications/2022/synergies-between-erdf-programmes-and-horizon-europe

Thank you!