



Synergies between Horizon 2020 and the European Structural and Investment Funds.

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A graphic for Horizon 2020 featuring a globe in the center, with the word "HORIZON" to its left and "2020" to its right, all in white capital letters. The background is a blue gradient with light rays emanating from the globe.

HORIZON 2020

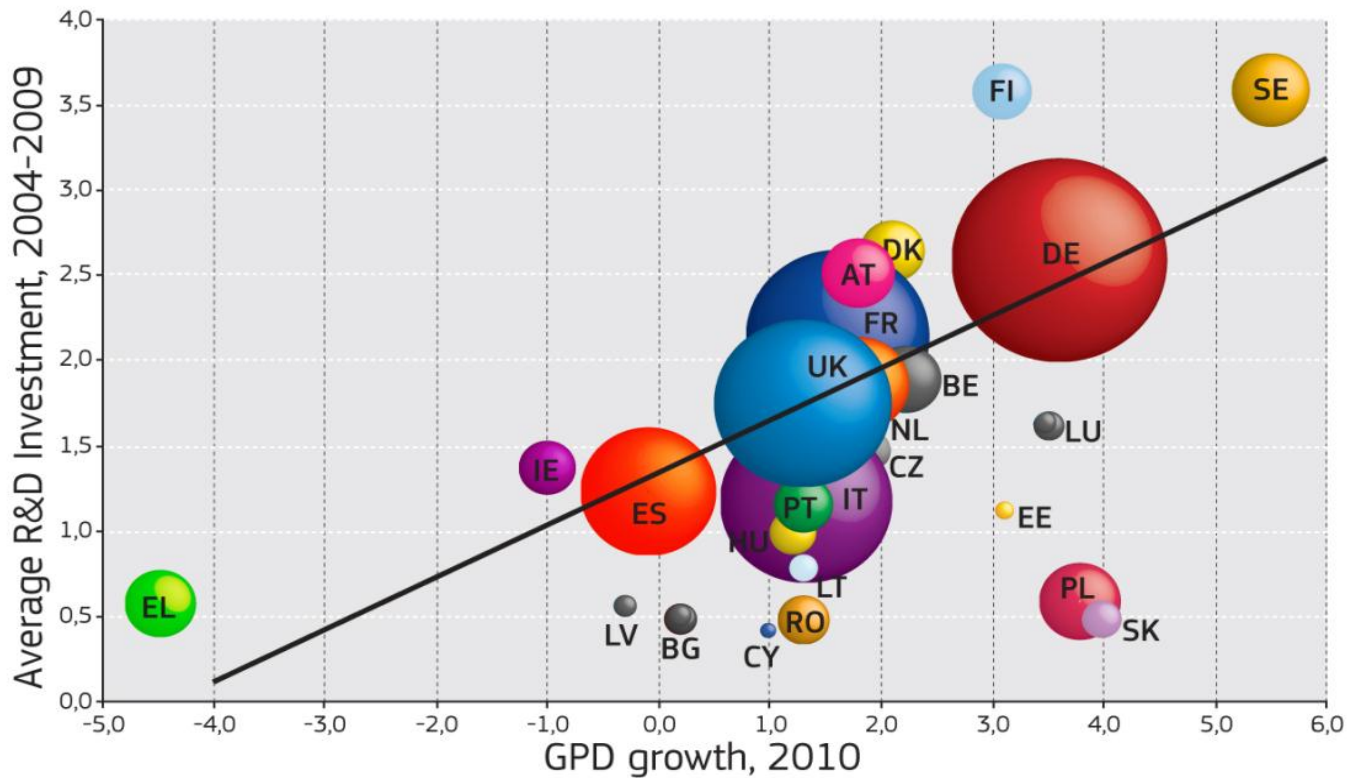
Structure

- ❖ **Why synergies between H2020 and ESIF?**
- ❖ **What are the conditions and basic rules to be respected?**
- ❖ **Examples of combined funding**
- ❖ **What to do to make synergies possible?**
- ❖ **Some latest development in WP2014/15**



Why synergies between H2020 and ESIF?

❖ Investment in R&D pays off





❖ **ESIF & H2020 are part of the same long term strategy for jobs and growth**

- **EU2020 R&I TARGET: 3% of the EU's GDP invested in R&D by 2020**
- **"INNOVATION UNION" Flagship initiative (2011)- the Commitments:**
 - > **Future EU research and innovation programmes** will focus on Europe 2020 objectives and particularly the Innovation Union (**Commitment 6**)
 - > **Post 2013 Structural Fund programmes will** focus on innovation and smart specialisation (**Commitment 24/25**)
 - > **The research and innovation dimensions should be integrated** in EU funding programmes, including the FP, the CIP and the **Cohesion Funds**.
They also need to **be better coordinated in design and implementation** so as to **maximise impact**, user-friendliness and EU (**IU Introduction**)

❖ ESIF & H2020 are part of the same budget envelope:

Total EU budget 2014 – 2020: 960 billion EU

1. Smart & inclusive growth (€451bn)



2. Sustainable growth, natural resources (€373bn)

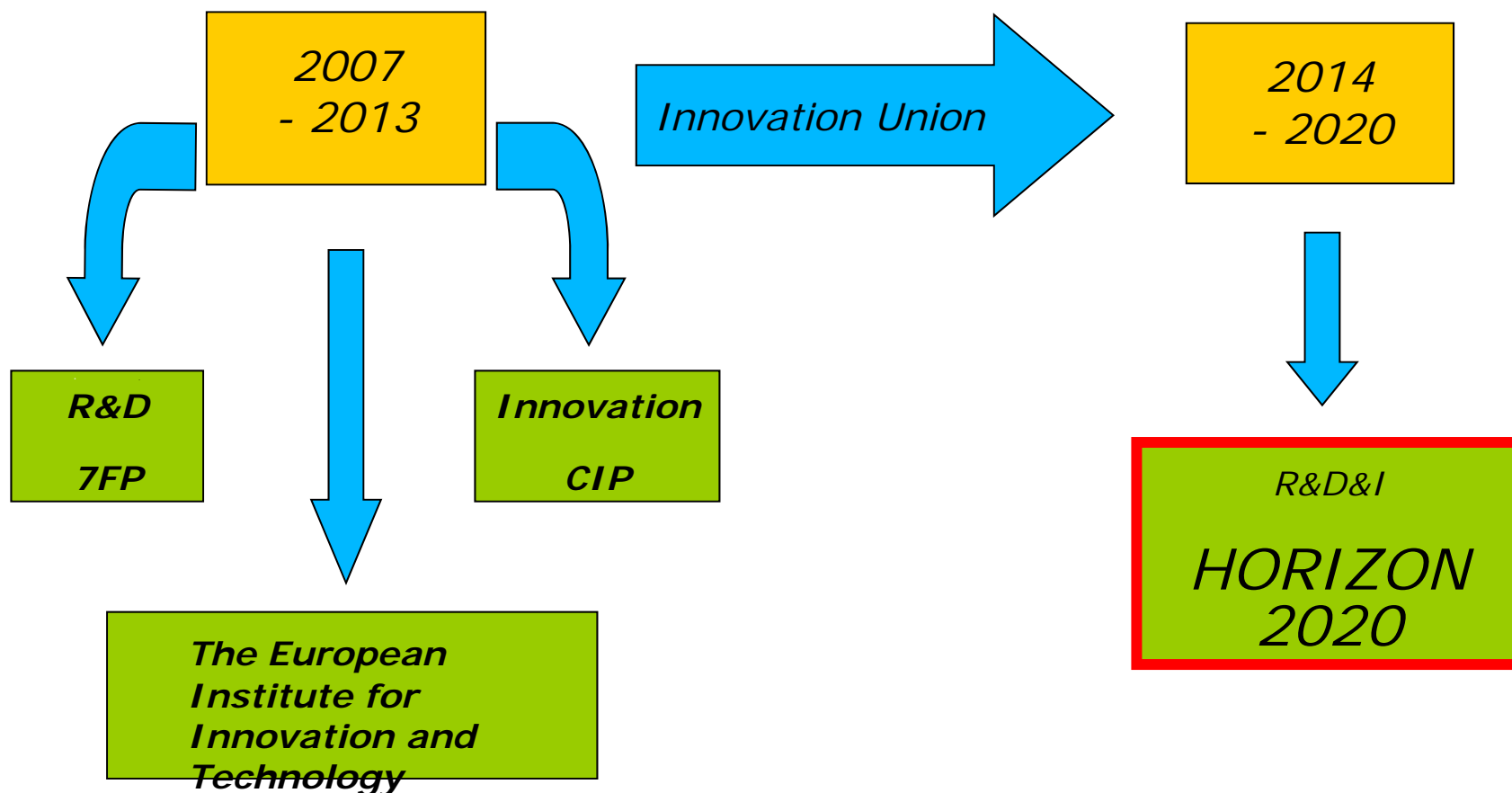
3. Security and citizenship (€16bn)

4. Global Europe (€58bn)

5. Administration (€61.6bn)

HORIZON 2020 – KEY FEATURES

Towards a single programme for R&D&I





What is Horizon 2020?

- **~80billion euro research and innovation funding programme (2014-2020)**
- **A core part of Europe 2020, Innovation Union & European Research Area:**
 - **Responding to the economic crisis** to invest in future jobs and growth
 - **Addressing people's concerns** about their livelihoods, safety and environment
 - **Strengthening the EU's global position** in research, innovation and technology

** current prices*

What's new?

- **A single programme** bringing together three separate programmes/initiatives*
- **Coupling research to innovation** – from research to retail, all forms of innovation
- **Focus on societal challenges** facing EU society, e.g. health, clean energy and transport
- **Simplified access**, for all companies, universities, institutes in all EU countries and beyond.

*The 7th Research Framework Programme (FP7), innovation aspects of Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP), EU contribution to the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)

Three priorities:

- > *Excellent science (€24.5 billion – current prices)*
- > *Industrial leadership (€17.9 billion)*
- > *Societal challenges (€31.7 billion)*

Other parts – outside the three pillars

- Responsible research and innovation, including gender
- International cooperation
- ***"Spreading excellence and widening participation"***
- *"Science with and for society"*

are addressed as separate parts outside the three main pillars

Eligible actions

1. R&I projects

- Collaborative R&I projects (tassi del 70% o 100%)
- SME instrument
- ERC grants
- Marie-Curie fellowships
- Fast track to innovation - pilot*

2. Coordination & support actions

3. Programme Co-fund

- Marie-Curie co-fund
- ERA-NET
- Pre-commercial procurement/procurement of innovation

4. Prizes (recognition, inducement)

5. Risk finance (debt, equity)



Cohesion Policy (2014 – 2020) KEY FEATURES FOR SYNERGIES



351b€ focussing on Europe 2020 objectives for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth :

11 Thematic Objectives

Europe 2020

smart

sustainable

inclusive

- 1. Research and innovation**
- 2. Information and Communication Technologies**
- 3. Competitiveness of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SME)**
- 4. Shift to a low-carbon economy**
5. Climate change adaptation and risk management and prevention
6. Environmental protection and resource efficiency
7. Sustainable transport and disposal of congestion on major network infrastructure
8. Employment and support for labour mobility
9. Social inclusion and poverty reduction
10. Education, skills and lifelong learning
11. Increased institutional capacity and effectiveness of public administration



❖ New key principles:

- 1. Thematic concentration** to maximise the impact of investments
 - > more developed regions have to spend a minimum of 60-80% ERDF to the first four objectives (including the R&I objective – T01) and less developed regions at least 50%
- 2. Ex-Ante conditionalities** to ensure effective implementation
 - > Smart Specialisation – a strategic approach to economic development through targeted support to R&I - is the *Ex-ante Conditionality* for the use of the ERDF for R&D&I investments

Smart specialisation as ex ante conditionality for R&I investment priorities

ERDF Investment priorities:

- 1. Research and innovation**
- 2. ICT use** (*ICT based innovation & "digital growth"*)

ICT access and quality
(broadband)

- 3. Competitiveness of SMEs**

Ex ante conditionalities:

Smart specialisation strategies

Digital growth strategy can be independent, but for sake of coherence it is **recommended to integrate it in RIS3**

Recommended:
Include in the RIS3 envisaged support to SME innovation



Cohesion Policy (2014-2020)

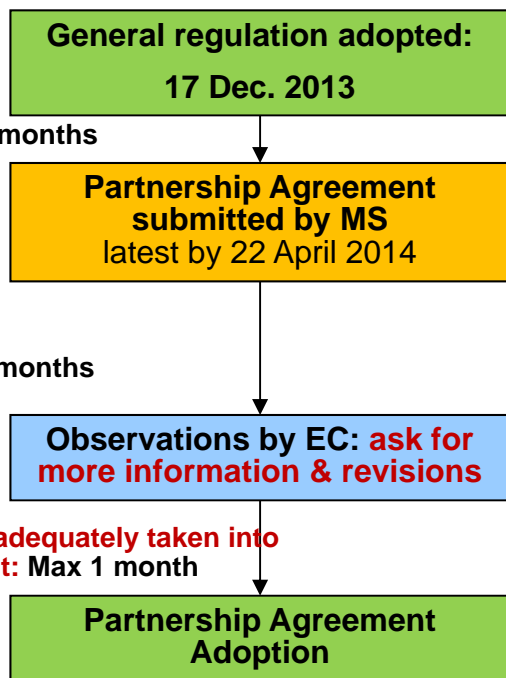
- **Overall, it is estimated that between €80-100 billion will be invested in innovation-drivers and take-up, notably research and innovation projects, SME competitiveness, digital growth and energy efficiency / renewable energies.**

In addition:

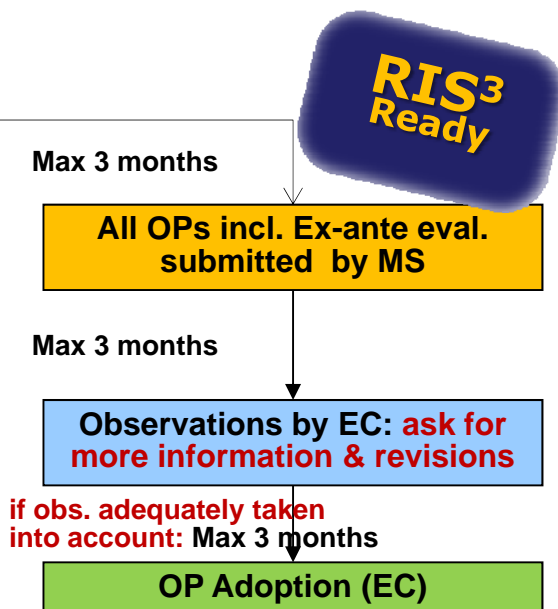
- **Capacity building for innovation and growth** through the promotion of **innovation friendly business environment**
- **Common Strategic Framework:** first time annexed to the regulation – clear reference to synergies to H2020
- **Possibility to spend part of funds (up to 15%) in other regions** if specific advantage (*Art 96(3)d CPR*)
- Possible Alignment to H2020 cost models (**Art 67(5)b, 68(1)c CPR & H2020 rules for participation**)

Cohesion policy: Timeline

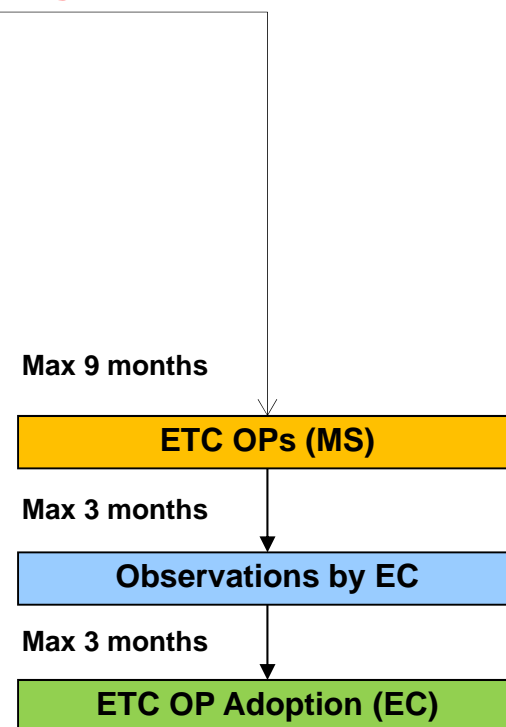
Partnership Agreement



Country / region specific Operational programmes



European Territorial Cooperation ("INTERREG") programmes





What are the conditions and basic rules to be respected?

(ref SWD + Annex 1)





❖ **SYNERGIES FOR BETTER IMPACT:**

Maximizing the quality and the impact of the investments in research and innovation leading to increased competitiveness, growth and jobs through:

**- a strategic approach -> smart specialisation
R&I objective in PA/OPs**

and

**- combination of funding -> amplifying
or carrying forward projects
with a leverage effect**





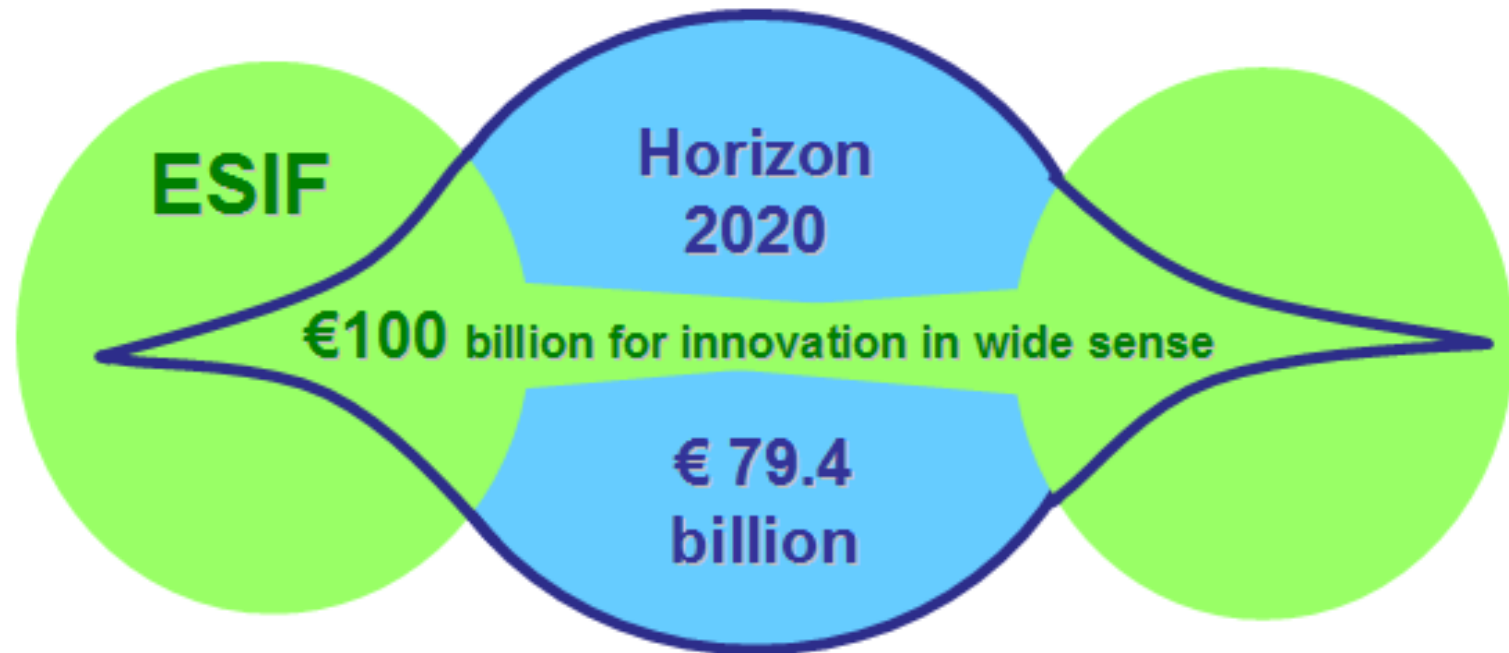
❖ Understand specific objectives & features

EU R&D Policy – Horizon 2020	EU Cohesion Policy
Differences	
<p>> Excellence based / Non-territorial approach</p>	<p>> Socio economic development/ Place-based approach</p>
<p>> Direct management - mostly awarded directly to final beneficiaries</p>	<p>> Awarded through shared management to national and regional public intermediaries</p>
<p>> Mostly competitive calls addressed mainly to international groupings through peer-review based on excellence criteria</p>	<p>> Mostly non-competitive attribution addressed to regional players (single beneficiaries) based on strategic planning negotiation</p>
<p>> Bi-annual work programmes</p>	<p>> 7-years OPs</p>
Complementarities	
<p>> Horizon 2020 focuses on tackling major societal challenges, maximising the competitiveness impact of research and innovation and raising and spreading levels of excellence in the research base (widening) + single beneficiary (SME) + simplification</p>	<p>> Cohesion policy will maximise the competitiveness impact of research and innovation acting as a capacity building instrument via smart specialisation, based on learning mechanisms and critical skills in regions and Member States + interregional possibilities.</p>

Smart specialisation

❖ Understand "positioning" in R&I cycle

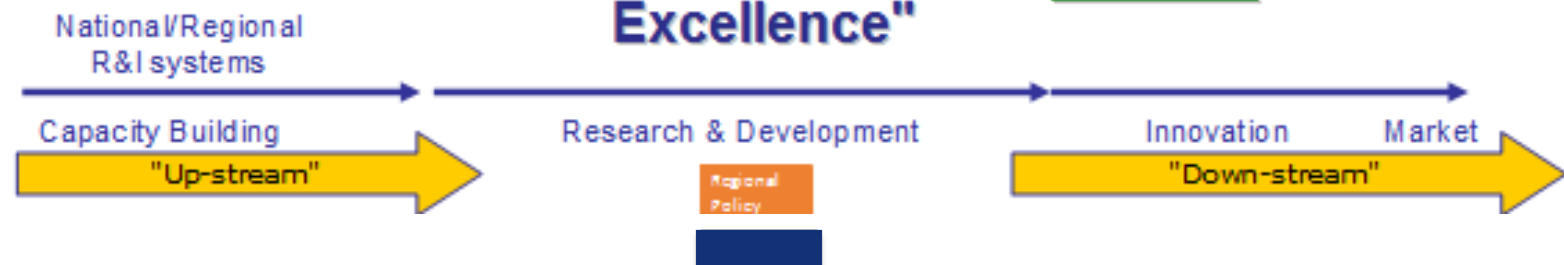
Overall concept for complementarity: Emphasis of programmes



"Stairway to Excellence"

"Research Excellence"

Hopefully also excellence, but
"Innovation Excellence"





❖ Find the suitable funding combination

- > **Cumulative:** H2020 and ESIF together in one PROJECT
- > **Consecutive** (“sequential”) where one project is based on the result of another:
 - a) ESIF enables H2020 participation (**upstream**)
 - b) ESIF supports the take-up of H2020 results (**downstream**);
- > **Parallel**, in two different projects that are complementary but have different goals and activities;
- > **“Alternative”** Funding: Proposal positively evaluated e.g. in the SME Instruments but not funded for lack of budget → ESIF could finance if in line with RIS3 and other national conditions.



❖ Respect the key budgetary principles

Combining H2020 and ESIF money in the same project is allowed by derogation from the non-cumulative principle of Art. 129 Fin. Regulation (Art 65(11) CPR & 37 H2020 RfP

BUT

NO double funding: two Union grants (e.g. Horizon 2020 and ESIF) *may not* cover the same cost item

NO substituting of co-funding principle

Example: in a 70% funded H2020 Innovation Action, the 30% *must not* come from ESIF but entirely from the partner in question.

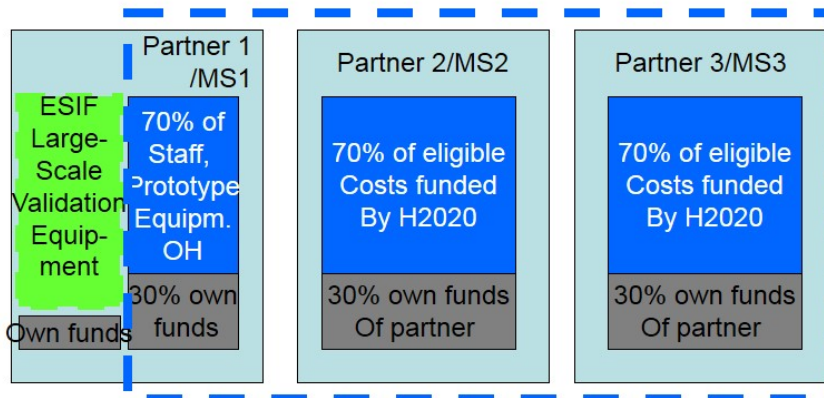
Project ≠ grant agreement!

Examples of combined funding

(ref annex 2 of the Guide)

→ Support to mainstream R&I actions: cumulative

Simultaneous/cumulative funding
H2020 Innovation Action 70% funded:



Important:

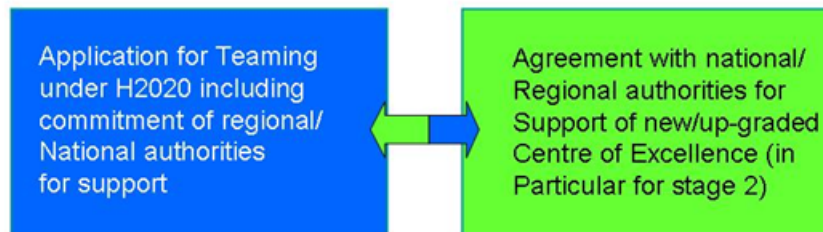
→ H2020 must be a stand alone proposal to have a chance for funding


→ Timeline is important!

- H2020 GA (Grant Agreement) that includes all partners (simplified version with 3 partners from 3 MS=minimum number required)
- ESIF grant contract for partner 1: may be up to 85% in MS of EU13

→ Teaming: cumulative or sequential

Combined Funding for Teaming:

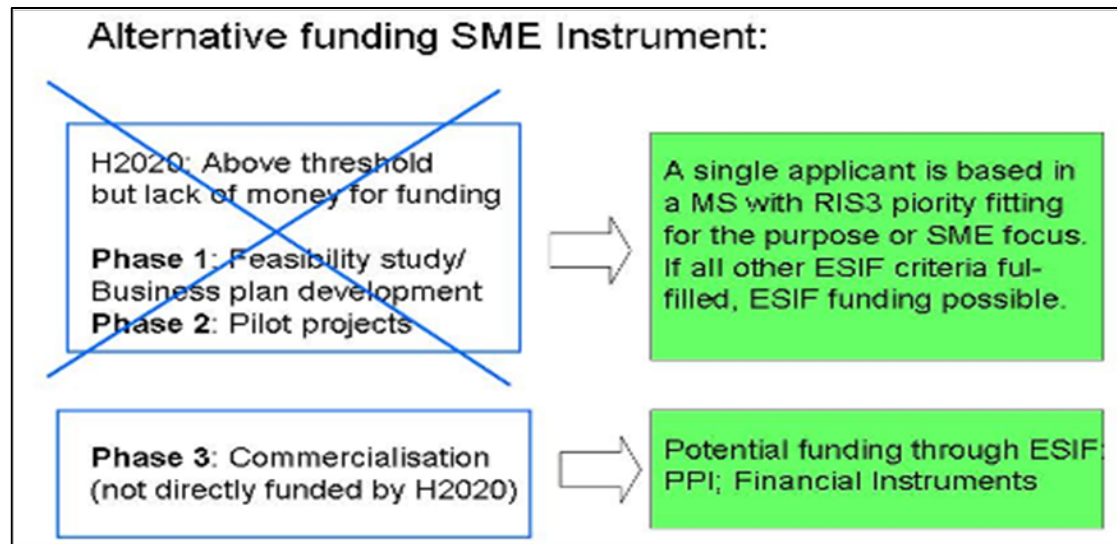


H2020 teaming expects alignment of proposed Teaming with RIS3 and commitment of national/regional authorities' co-funding (e.g. .ESIF) already at stage 1. 

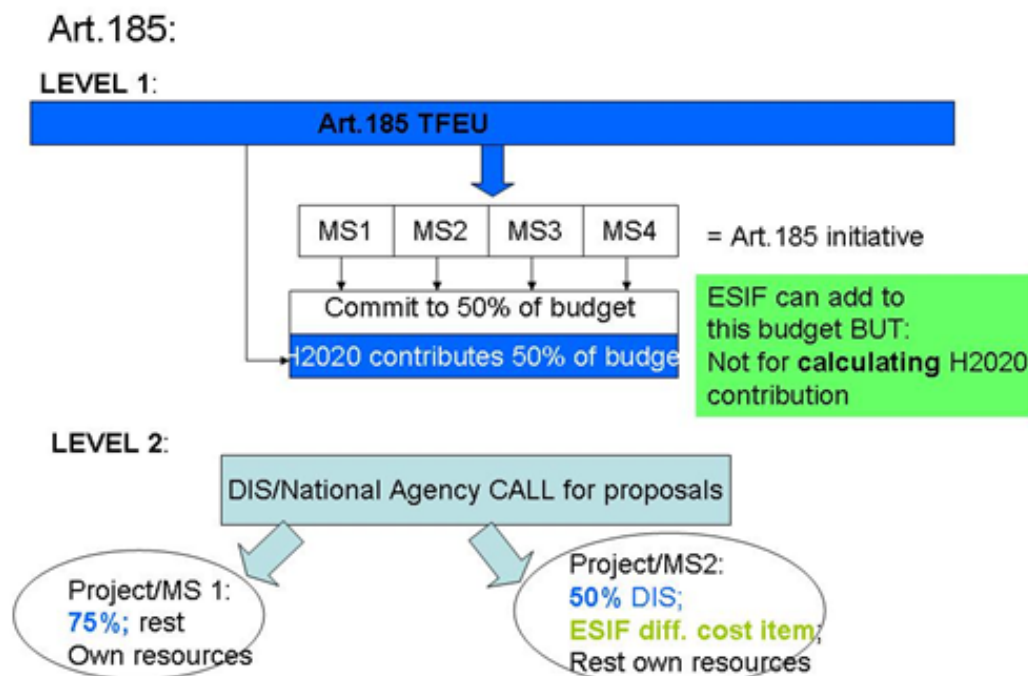
ESIF can be used for costs not Eligible under Teaming, e.g. Improvement of infrastructure, Large equipment etc.

→SME instrument: alternative/ sequential funding

Scenario:



→ Art. 185 Public-Public Partnerships (P2P): cumulative funding



NOTA BENE:
MS (not regions!)

EP and Council decision!

←Level 1: ESIF can be added but NOT instead of the national contribution!

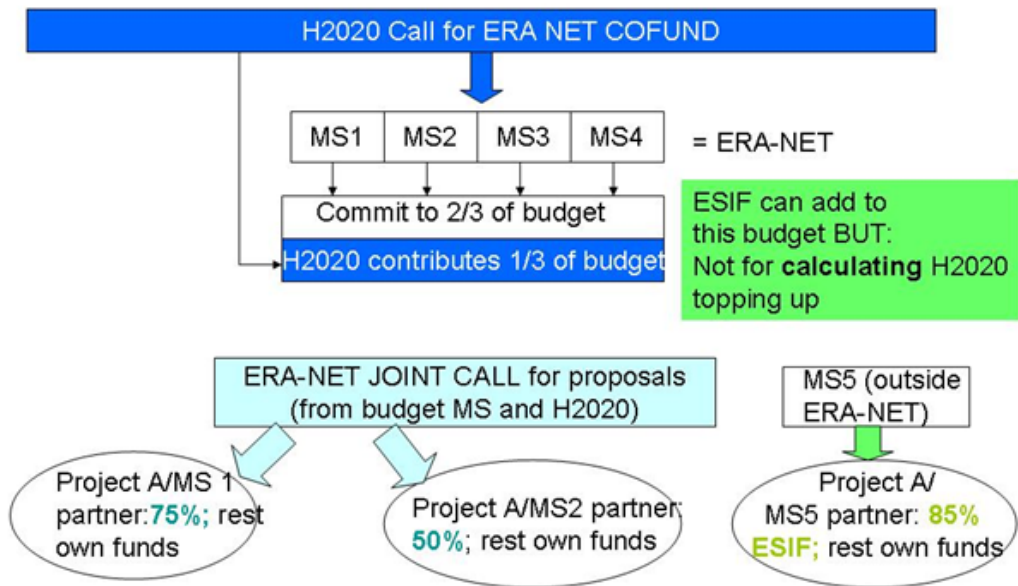
←Level2: ESIF can be used for other cost items!

Examples: BONUS (Baltic Sea), AAL2, EMPIR, EURSTARS2



→ ERA-NET: parallel funding

ERA-NET Cofund:



← **Level 1:** ESIF for costs outside H2020 topped-up Joint Call

← **Level 2:** ESIF use Cumulatively **not** possible; for partner from MS outside ERA-NET possible!

What to do to make synergies possible ?



❖ DOs...

Think strategically: Synergies are more than just funding opportunities...look at strategic aims (RIS3/OP)

Improve the understanding of the objectives and management principles of both sides: H2020 and ESIF

Exploit the possibilities provided by the legal basis

Training for RTD, CNECT, ENTR, REGIO, EMPL, AGRI, etc staff, external evaluators, auditors on synergies with ESIF

Use NCPs, EENs, COESIF, MA meetings, etc. to ensure information flow during implementation and strengthen the collaboration

Synergies tracking systems could be installed



❖ DON'Ts

Not look for synergies for the sake of synergies

NO diversion of funding from the purpose of the respective instrument/operational programme (e.g. smart specialisation strategy)

NO simple "run for the money": Maximising the acquisition of additional funding from H2020 for a MS / region is no good objective, as this lacks durable impact.

Do not expect automatism for positive assessment of cumulation efforts across Horizon 2020 (**excellence is the key principle**).

Do not expect "positive discrimination" for ESIF mobilisation compared to other additional actions to a Horizon 2020 project.



❖ Latest development in H2020 WPs to enable synergies?

WP 2014/15 summer revision:

- **WP ENV/NMPB / ENERGY/ICT calls** encourage projects during their duration to search for complementary or follow up funding, including ESIF; Seek contact with authorities concerned by relevant s3 for them to take an interest in follow-up.
Indication of pre-identified partners possible

Ongoing:

- Follow-up/assessment of **NMP 2014 calls + NMP 2015 calls + case studies in preparation**
- Synergies-Guide + new guide for beneficiaries on funding opportunities

Links and documents

- **Guide for authorities on synergies between ESIF and Horizon2020 and other EU programmes:**
http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/activity/research/index_en.cfm
- **Financial instruments in ESIF programmes 2014-2020** - short reference guide for Managing Authorities
http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/thefunds/fin_inst/pdf/fi_esif_2014_2020.pdf
- **Regulations for the European Structural and Investment Funds:**
http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/information/legislation/index_en.cfm
- *ERDF, ETC & Cohesion Fund Managing Authorities* (http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/indexes/in_your_country_en.cfm)
 - Research and innovation support under ESIF (http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/activity/research/index_en.cfm)
 - **ESF, Youth initiatives & PSCI:** <http://ec.europa.eu/esf/main.jsp?catId=45&langId=en>
 - **EAFRD:** http://enrd.ec.europa.eu/general-info/whos-who/implementing-authorities/managing-authorities/en/managing-authorities_en.cfm
 - **EMFF:** http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/reform/emff/index_en.htm
- **Horizon 2020 regulations & rules for participation**, PPP & P2Ps:
http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/funding/reference_docs.html
- **Smart specialisation Factsheet:**
http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docgener/informat/2014/smart_specialisation_en.pdf
- **S3Plattform** (incl. Eye@RIS3 database of specialisation intentions): <http://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu>
- **For end beneficiaries in 2007-13 period: Practical guide to EU funding opportunities for research and innovation:** http://cordis.europa.eu/eu-funding-guide/checklist_en.html



Thank you for your attention!

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DG Research & Innovation

HORIZON 2020

The Horizon 2020 logo, where the word "HORIZON" is written in large, white, sans-serif capital letters. A globe of the Earth is positioned in the center of the letter "O", appearing to sit on a dark, reflective surface. The background is a vibrant blue with light rays emanating from behind the globe, creating a sense of depth and focus.