WG3.4 Synergies between H2020 and other European funded projects

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Topics: Existing synergies between Horizon 2020 and ESIF 2013-2020

Synergies between Horizon 2020, European Structural and Investment Funds and other funding sources (summary of WG2 survey results)

Expectations in the period 2021-2027
1. Existing synergies between Horizon 2020 and ESIF 2013-2020
• H2020 highly focused on R&I deployment and demonstration
• H2020 strongly aligned with EU international obligations
• H2020 oversubscription issue (low % of funded proposals) → importance of alternative funding synergies
• Synergies between publicly funded projects mean combining funding from different sources for the same project
• EC promoting synergies between H2020 and ESIF
”It is of utmost importance to ensure optimal synergies between the funds to face the ever increasing competitive pressure from global markets and maximise impact and efficiency of public funding.“
EC guidelines on synergies:

• NO substitution of national/regional or private co-funding to EU projects/programmes under direct Commission management by ESIF money (and vice versa);

• NO double financing: in no circumstances shall the same costs be financed twice by any budget;

• Synergies among programmes mean joint or coordinated efforts to achieve greater impact and efficiency, not only combining ESIF and Horizon 2020 money in the same project.

Source: Enabling synergies between European Structural and Investment Funds, Horizon 2020 and other research, innovation and competitiveness-related Union programmes

Guidance for policy-makers and implementing bodies, p. 2
Synergies can be achieved through:

• bringing together H2020 and ESIF money in the same project in view of achieving greater impact and efficiency;

• successive projects that build on each other or;

• parallel projects that complement each other.

• ESIF programmes could also be designed and implemented to take up high quality project proposals from H2020 or other centrally managed programmes, for which there is not enough budget available in the respective programmes.

Source: Enabling synergies between European Structural and Investment Funds, Horizon 2020 and other research, innovation and competitiveness-related Union programmes Guidance for policy-makers and implementing bodies, p. 3
The voice of research administrators building a network of administrative excellence

Source: Enabling synergies between European Structural and Investment Funds, Horizon 2020 and other research, innovation and competitiveness-related Union programmes

Guidance for policy-makers and implementing bodies, p. 4
Legal basis:
Common Strategic Framework (CSF): derogation of noncumulative principle

Source: Enabling synergies between European Structural and Investment Funds, Horizon 2020 and other research, innovation and competitiveness-related Union programmes Guidance for policy-makers and implementing bodies, p. 5
**Project ≠ grant agreement!**

**Concept & planning**
- Coherent project concept and with identified work packages (ideally geographically attributable) or cost/activity categories attributed clearly to Horizon 2020 or an ESIF-OP.
- Includes at least partners from 3 countries
- Content & purpose of the project corresponds to the Horizon 2020 call; the part for ESIF is related to the relevant RIS3 specialisations & OP priorities
- Available possible budgets identified (Horizon 2020 work programme: future calls for proposals), eligible costs & co-funding levels for Horizon 2020 and ESIF respectively taken into account.
- Scope for pooling resources for joint activities/work packages across borders identified.

**Project with cumulative funding**

- **Horizon 2020 innov. action:**
  - **Call for proposals**
  - **Eligible cost:**
    - Staff; equipment; travel; sub-contracting;
  - **Budget:**
    - 70% H2020
    - +30% own public or private funds (*no ESIF!*)

- **ESIF actions**
  - **Eligible cost:**
    - Purchase of R&D equipment and infrastructure
    - Entrepreneurship training for researchers
  - **Budget:**
    - ESIF from different OPs
    - + relevant % of own public funds (*no Horizon 2020!*)

Source: Enabling synergies between European Structural and Investment Funds, Horizon 2020 and other research, innovation and competitiveness-related Union programmes

*Guidance for policy-makers and implementing bodies*, p. 7
“In the context of synergies... projects are to be understood as operations that can consist of different actions, contracts, or groups of projects that are managed in a coherent manner.”

Source: Enabling synergies between European Structural and Investment Funds, Horizon 2020 and other research, innovation and competitiveness-related Union programmes Guidance for policy-makers and implementing bodies, p. 7
Existing synergies:

ESIF financing of H2020 projects evaluated above threshold (e.g. Seal of Excellence).

In existing synergy instruments cost categories are more narrow and subject to additional limitations if compared to relevant Horizon 2020 project types.
EC claims great scope for synergies with:

- **Seal of Excellence**
- **European Fund for Strategic Investments**
- **National programmes**
  - Alignment of national strategies and policies
  - European Research Council, Teaming for Excellence and Sustainable Development Goals
• H2020 and ESIF synergies to be strengthened further, particularly in R&I capacity building in lower performing regions
Combining Horizon 2020 & ESIF for ambitious industrial project

Define **scope of industrial project** (incl. beneficiaries), detailed activities, budget (private/public)

Look at eligibility of activities: localisation (e.g. region), type of cost items (e.g. equipment) in combination with beneficiaries and timeline

**Prepare financial plan for industrial project**: group activities in projects (=set of cost items for certain beneficiaries), identify costs and funding options for each (ESIF, H2020, national funds,...), contact Managing Authorities,...

**Prepare H2020 proposal** (project & consortium) => self-standing multi-national project

**Prepare ESIF proposal** (projects + beneficiaries) for each region/country involved taking into account Smart Specialisation Strategies

Submit H2020 and ESIF proposals including master plan for industrial project
2. Synergies between Horizon 2020, European Structural and Investment Funds and other funding sources (summary of WG2 survey results)
• Summary of WG 2 survey results is available [here](#).
• All information in this section is based on the findings of this survey.
• We wish to thank the authors and respondents for very insightful results.
Number of respondents by country
(52 respondents from 27 countries)
Number of respondents by type of organisation
Has your country established specific funding schemes to finance proposals evaluated above quality threshold level in H2020 but not selected for funding (for instance, proposals awarded with Seal of Excellence)?
Additional funding schemens for projects above threshold present in 10 out of 27 countries involved in the survey:

1. Latvia
2. Belgium*
3. Czech Republic
4. France
5. Hungary
6. Italy*
7. Norway
8. Poland*
9. Slovenia*
Are MSCA IF (SoE holders) projects refinanced by your national funding schemes and how?
Are ERC projects refinanced by your national funding schemes and how?

[Diagram showing the percentage of projects refinanced by national funds and not financed.]

WG3 Meeting, Tallin, Estonia
Are SME instrument (SoE holders) projects refinanced by your national funding schemes and how?
Are MSCA Researcher’s Night projects refinanced by your national funding schemes and how?

- 83% Not financed
- 17% Financed by national funds
Are WIDESPREAD ERA Chair projects refinanced by your national funding schemes and how?
WIDESPREAD TEAMING projects:

- Over 60% respondents are unaware whether WIDESPREAD TEAMING projects are refinanced by national funding schemes.
- 2 respondents claim that specific funding schemes exist in their country (Italy and Slovenia).
- 20% (10 respondents) claim decisions to award finance is taken politically and on an ad hoc basis (Latvia, Slovenia, Estonia, Hungary and Portugal).

Vaguely defined rules and uncertainty to secure required national financing.
• Competitive proposals such as MSCA IF, SME instrument and ERC seem to be more widely financed from other sources.

• Sources of financing for above (Number of countries)

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>ESIF</th>
<th>National budget</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MSCA IF</td>
<td>1 (Hungary)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ERC</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SME Instrument</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What are the additional steps the beneficiaries have to take to qualify for refinancing under ESIF or national funding schemes and implement the project if compared to relevant Horizon2020 project types?

### Additional administrative procedures

- **Other differences**
- **Have different financing structure (amounts and...**
- **Reset reporting periods**
- **Rearrange deliverables and milestones**
- **During project implementation provide...**
- **Translate the proposal into local language**
- **Fill-in different proposal submission forms**

![Bar chart showing differences in additional administrative procedures](chart)
Conclusions (1):

• Synergy instruments in many countries non-existent;

• The awareness of these instruments should be substantially raised since the general awareness is relatively low;

• The number of launched alternative funding instruments across Member States is rather mediocre;
Conclusions (2):

• Only a limited number of project types are subject to refinancing;

• If synergy instruments exist, they are characterized by narrowed down eligible cost categories and additional administrative burden.
Positive examples of countries that managed to simplify the procedure for alternative funding do exist.
Horizon Europe should focus:
• To encourage Member States to launch the instruments aimed at synergies between Horizon Europe and other funding sources;
• To raise the awareness of these instruments among National Managing Authorities as well as research management and administration professionals;
• To work with National Managing Authorities of Member States to optimize the design of the instruments and encourage sharing of best practices among countries.
Tips & tricks?
3. Synergies between Horizon 2020, European Structural and Investment Funds: Expectations in the period 2021-2027
WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED FROM HORIZON 2020?

As learned from the Horizon 2020 interim evaluation, in cases where EU programmes were not designed with a clear strategic overview on their complementary features from the start, it proved difficult to ensure full complementarity and coherence during their lifetime.

More effective synergies between programmes under the next EU Multinational Financial Framework (MFF) will make the EU’s overall investments more effective, efficient and able to provide better value for citizens. It will amplify the impact of EU-level investments in R&I for creating jobs, growth and competitiveness on the ground by establishing both stronger connections and clearer delineation between European, national and regional R&I funding. Ultimately, they should contribute in a complementary way to a common vision and shared objectives on tackling the major challenges facing Europe. This will make the EU better-equipped to face the ever-increasing competitive pressure from global markets.
At the programme design stage, creating synergies between Horizon Europe and other future EU programmes with an R&I element aims to:

- ensure **complementarity in designs and objectives** of the different programmes to ensure the most efficient use of limited public resources and a better understanding for beneficiaries;
- capture **the scope of the activities** supported through the different programmes;
- to **ensure full synergies and coherent approaches on the ground**; for instance through aligned strategic programming processes (e.g. on priority areas, partnerships), and common missions to guide funding priorities of different programmes;
- ensure the **development of complementary and combined funding** across programmes and facilitate the implementation of the Seal of Excellence.
What do stakeholders say?

The large majority of stakeholders state that increased synergies, coordination and strategic alignment with other EU programmes would help to maximise the impact of Horizon Europe.

Specific suggestions from stakeholder organisations include:

- To include education activities in relevant parts of the EU R&I programme and secure synergies with the next EU framework programme for education.

- To increase the impact of national and regional funding coming from ESIF allocated to R&I activities, to allocate a minimum specific percentage of the budget devoted to synergies with the R&I programme for each Member State.

- To step up efforts for the ‘Seals of Excellence’ enabling excellent-but-unfunded projects submitted to the R&I programme to be funded under other schemes (including private, national, other EU funds).

- To co-construct the future R&I and ESIF programmes by ensuring efficient support from the ESIF funds to excellent R&I projects in capacity-building (upstream) and uptake of results (downstream).

- Request for broader acceptance of usual cost-accounting.
Horizon Europe will be the sole EU programme supporting mainly trans-national R&I activities and networks - including through partnerships with Member States, businesses and foundations - based on the key criterion of excellence.

Other future EU programmes will provide support for R&I activities, including demonstration of solutions tailored to specific national/regional contexts/needs, as well as bilateral and interregional initiatives. In particular, the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) will support the building of R&I ecosystems in Member States (including infrastructures, human resources, clusters). Other programmes such as the Connecting Europe Facility, the Digital Europe Programme, the European Social Fund+ (ESF+) or LIFE (the EU’s funding instrument for the environment and climate action) make use of public procurement to deploy infrastructures, innovative technologies and solutions in specific areas. These can originate from Horizon Europe activities, but not only.
Overall, the wider dissemination of R&I results attained through Horizon Europe towards a broader audience (Member States, stakeholders, EU institutions) will be encouraged.

Through the **Seal of Excellence initiative** launched under **Horizon 2020**, proposals submitted to Horizon Europe that are evaluated as high-quality but are not funded will be eligible for support through other sources of funding, including the European Regional or ESF+ where relevant.

The further refinement of centralised IT tools and platforms will provide for a **more coherent implementation of projects**, thus increasing the chances to build synergies at project level. **Cross-reliance on audits** of other EU programmes could also be considered, depending on the similarity of the rules between programmes.
Support to R&I projects/activities, incl. closer-to-market activities, replication & diffusion of technologies & innovative solutions – Complementarities Framework Programme/ Other EU programmes

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<tr>
<td>Programme focussed on excellent R&amp;I from TRL 1-9 with continued strong focus on collaboration</td>
<td>Continue support R&amp;I activities tailored to specific national/regional contexts/needs, as well as bilateral and interregional initiatives (e.g. ERDF, LIFE)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support to individual entities and transnational collaborations (top down and bottom-up)</td>
<td>Build R&amp;I capacity in countries and regions (including regional and national research infrastructures): <strong>ERDF, InvestEU</strong> (infrastructure, human capital and SME windows); Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument, Erasmus-supported European Universities initiative, Strategic Partnerships, Knowledge Alliances and Mobility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mainly grants for TRL 1-8; repayable or convertible advances, equity and/or guarantee for loans (no grants) for TRL 5/6-9</td>
<td>High-quality but unfunded proposals under Horizon Europe (Seal of Excellence) should be supported through alternative funding sources, including <strong>ERDF or ESF+</strong> where relevant. In the case of the <strong>Seal of Excellence</strong> they should benefit from similar funding conditions elsewhere, including under <strong>national/regional</strong> funding schemes.</td>
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Support to R&I projects/activities, incl. closer-to-market activities, replication & diffusion of technologies & innovative solutions – Complementarities Framework Programme/ Other EU programmes

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<td>Support technological &amp; non-technical innovations (citizen science, user-led innovation, social innovation, business model innovation, public sector innovation etc.)</td>
<td>Pool resources for coordinated parallel actions that complement Horizon Europe (including ERDF or ESF for the support of European Partnerships) and for R&amp;I in specific areas (i.e. with Emissions Trading Scheme Innovation Fund)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continuation of Coordination and Support Actions</td>
<td>Align funding provisions/financial regulations between programmes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incentives for institutional changes towards Responsible Research and Innovation and gender equality</td>
<td>Provide advice on finding alternative funding sources through COSME</td>
</tr>
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<td>Continued streamlined support to European Partnerships: co-programming, co-funding (incl. through procurement), institutional funding open to all types of public, private stakeholders (incl. foundations)</td>
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<td>Market uptake considered as of FP proposal development, enabling applicants to co-create/experiment their research and solutions with users from the outset, including within the EIT Knowledge and Innovation Community (KIC) co-location centres</td>
<td>Support user-driven activities tailored to specific national/regional contexts (e.g. living labs, test beds under the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESI) funds, Digital Europe Programme) Support demonstration and innovation activities tailored to specific national/regional contexts including trans-regional activities (incl. LIFE, ESI funds)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supporting innovation actions and the demonstration of solutions of a first-of-a-kind nature in Europe with potential for replication</td>
<td>Take up FP results and support further development, dissemination and deployment for the benefit of economy and society (project pipelines) (all EU programmes when relevant)</td>
</tr>
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<td>Establishing pipelines of innovative solutions from R&amp;I projects (incl. from European Research Council Proof of concept) targeted to public and private investors, including European Innovation Council (EIC) Accelerator scheme and other EU programmes</td>
<td>Replicate and deploy tested technologies and innovative solutions to improve the environment, energy consumption or the health of citizen or in digital technologies at local and regional level incl. trans-regional through the common agricultural policy (CAP), LIFE programme, ERDF or ESF (e.g. for acquiring technologies, skills development) while preserving competition within the internal market</td>
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<td>Support to roll out and replication of innovative solutions with cross-border &amp; transnational dimension</td>
<td>Support the take-up of innovative solutions by individuals and final users, industry and public administration (e.g. for energy consumption, health, environment) through ESI funds, LIFE, CAP</td>
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*WG3 Meeting, Vilnius, Lithuania*
### Support to R&I projects/activities, incl. closer-to-market activities, replication & diffusion of technologies & innovative solutions – Complementarities Framework Programme/ Other EU programmes

#### Horizon Europe

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<td>Support to pre-commercial procurement and public procurement of innovation as a stand-alone tool maintained</td>
<td>Build enabling framework conditions for the transition processes (e.g. energy transition) such as interoperability, standards, innovation-friendly regulations, but also enhanced skills and awareness of the wider population, the spreading of best practice in R&amp;I policy implementation, but also for the wider diffusion and uptake</td>
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<td>Support to scale-up of companies with breakthrough potential to create new markets with financial instruments under the European Innovation Council, in particular where the market does not provide viable financing</td>
<td>Support wider diffusion and uptake of (European) innovations (including through External Instrument)</td>
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<td>Improved monitoring and dissemination of R&amp;I results including through initiatives such as the dissemination and exploitation Boosters and the Innovation Radar</td>
<td>Deploy physical infrastructures allowing technological system transitions (e.g. for a transition to clean energy under Connecting Europe Facility (CEF); financial instruments under Invest EU, ERDF)</td>
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<td>Reinforce cooperation between Commission departments for developing further the public procurement for innovative solutions in key areas of European interest, in particular for energy, transport, environment, health &amp; ICT</td>
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### Support to entrepreneurship, start-ups, SME growth/scale up, clusters & innovation hubs

**Horizon Europe**

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<tr>
<td>Support the launch and scale-up of start-ups, innovative SMEs and mid-capital firms with breakthrough potential to create new markets with financial instruments through the European Innovation Council (Pathfinder, Accelerator schemes), preserving competition within the internal market and not crowding out private investments</td>
<td>Ensure full complementarity with financial instruments implemented through <a href="#">InvestEU</a> windows to support scale-up of companies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dedicated R&amp;I thematic window and SME Window (i.e. including innovative SMEs) under InvestEU that are closely linked to the objectives of Horizon Europe</td>
<td>Support the growth and internationalisation of mainstream individual companies (e.g. through <a href="#">COSME</a>; <a href="#">ERDF</a> and Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument) in a competitive environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blended finance for innovators that is distinct from indirect financial instruments under InvestEU, but in synergy with funds and intermediaries supported by InvestEU</td>
<td>Support to business skills development (ESF+)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support to companies (incl. mentoring and coaching) provided within the EIT KICs, including investments via EIC’s Accelerator</td>
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Support to entrepreneurship, start-ups, SME growth/scale up, clusters & innovation hubs

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<tr>
<td>Joint programmes and other actions to enhance innovation ecosystems</td>
<td>Support the construction and equipment of structures for SME support (clusters, incubators, etc., notably under ERDF)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reinforcement of EIT KICs’ co-location centres (innovation hubs) for experimentation and testing with end-users</td>
<td>Support to regional/national innovation ecosystem development incl. provision of advice and support services to companies (incl. through COSME, the Enterprise Europe Network, ESI funds).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support to development of standards for innovative products/services in FP projects</td>
<td>Shape R&amp;I supportive standards in the international standardisation arena (incl. through COSME)</td>
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Support to research infrastructures, human capital development, networking & policy-making

### Horizon Europe

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<th>Research infrastructure:</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Consolidate</strong> the landscape of European research infrastructures e.g. European Strategy Forum for Research Infrastructures: support early-phase development of pan-European research infrastructures, the European Open Science Cloud and European Data infrastructures and enable delivery of High Performance Computing/data services</td>
<td>Support the national/regional contributions to the construction of pan-European research infrastructures i.e. with ERDF and InvestEU Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Open, integrate and interconnect</strong> national research infrastructures</td>
<td>Exploit the potential of the Connecting Europe Facility and Digital Europe Programme instruments for the large-scale coordinated <strong>procurement/deployment</strong> of digital infrastructures and infrastructures for digital technologies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support partnerships with industry for the supply of high-tech components while ensuring a level playing field between competitors</td>
<td>Use Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument for developing capacity in third countries to participate in <strong>global research infrastructures</strong> of EU interest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reinforce European research infrastructure <strong>policy</strong> and international <strong>cooperation</strong></td>
<td>Provide <strong>appropriate and continued financial support</strong> for long-lasting initiatives beyond FP funding lifetime</td>
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</table>
Support to research infrastructures, human capital development, networking & policy-making

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<tr>
<td>Supporting <strong>individual researchers</strong> (incl. ERC, MSCA) and R&amp;I networks for the exchange of knowledge, incl. mobility &amp; career development</td>
<td>Support to <strong>skills development</strong> (technical, digital and transversal) to support the use of innovative solutions, while increasing employability and career prospects, but also entrepreneurial skills through the future COSME (Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs) and ESF+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continue supporting <strong>mobility &amp; career development</strong> of researchers in the European Research Area (e.g. Human Resources Strategy for researchers, EURAXESS, RESAVER Pension Fund, etc.)</td>
<td>Build/reinforce <strong>human R&amp;I</strong> capacity in countries &amp; regions (including through regional &amp; national research infrastructures &amp; fellowships): European Social Fund (incl. basic digital skills), InvestEU (research infrastructure, human capital &amp; SME windows); Erasmus (targeting particular sectors to provide a pipeline of talented pre-gra duates that can embark on a research career, European Universities initiative, Strategic Partnerships individual mobility for studies and for traineeships); Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continue supporting access to <strong>research infrastructures</strong> for researchers, innovators &amp; SMEs on a transparent and non-discriminatory basis</td>
<td>Develop skills and capacities towards gender equality and Responsible Research and Innovation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continue supporting <strong>responsible research</strong> and innovation and gender equality &amp; gender dimension in R&amp;I</td>
<td>Foster links and synergies between relevant policy actions linking education/research/innovation</td>
</tr>
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Support to research infrastructures, human capital development, networking & policy-making

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<td><strong>Human capital development:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Networking and policy-making:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continue supporting the development of entrepreneurial skills in universities (EIT-KICs) and reinforce the role of the EIT KICs for future skills identification in areas related to global challenges</td>
<td>Ensure strong <em>coordination</em> between programmes, especially in the area of research infrastructures, innovation hubs, large demonstrators etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase FP role in <strong>modernisation of universities in the European Research Area</strong>, i.e. through embedding Open Science practices as well as entrepreneurship focus (e.g. skills, recognition and rewarding mechanisms, etc.)</td>
<td>Continue support R&amp;I networking activities tailored to specific <em>national/regional</em> contexts and <em>inter-regional</em> cooperation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continue <strong>mentoring &amp; coaching</strong> companies to enhance innovation &amp; entrepreneurial skills (EIC, EIT/KICs)</td>
<td>Build R&amp;I policy capacity in countries and regions e.g. by developing networks for policy evidence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Launch new Recognition prizes (Women Innovators, Capital of Innovation, EIT awards) and EIC Prizes</td>
<td>Support through CAP and ERDF to upgrade <strong>national and regional ecosystems</strong> and make them more innovation-conducive (incl. through Smart Specialisation Strategies)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Networking and policy-making:**

| Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument actions to help improve **framework conditions** for innovation and cooperation in R&I
| Continuation of **coordination and support actions** incl. Sharing Excellence actions (Teaming, Twinning, ERA-Chairs), Policy Support Facility to help EU Member States reform their R&I policies and Innovation Deals to identify barriers to innovation at sectoral Level |
Support to research infrastructures, human capital development, networking & policy-making

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Networking and policy-making:</th>
<th>What will the other EU programmes typically cover?</th>
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<tr>
<td>Rationalised support to <strong>European Partnerships</strong>: co-programming, co-funding, institutional funding open to all types of stakeholders</td>
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<td>Improved <strong>monitoring and dissemination of R&amp;I results</strong> towards policy</td>
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<td><strong>EIC Forum</strong> of national agencies implementing national innovation policies</td>
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</table>

**Concrete examples of how synergies with European Regional Development Fund could look like in practice**

- **Horizon Europe** projects can be implemented using the equipment and research infrastructures previously funded from the **ERDF**.
- SMEs which have received a Seal of Excellence can apply for alternative funding under conditions to be further defined under relevant rules and regulations, including as regards compatibility with state aid. This will allow for reducing administrative burden and costs for both the SMEs and funding bodies.
Concrete examples of how synergies with **ESF+** could look like in practice

- **MSCA-funded researchers** can use **ERDF-financed equipment and infrastructures** for training and the **ESF+** can financially support innovative training activities as well as other capacity-building measures (e.g. networking activities, mobility allowance).
- Researchers who received the **MSCA Seal of Excellence** under Horizon 2020 or Horizon Europe can be supported through alternative sources of funding at regional or national level, including through **use of ESF+**. This allows countries/institutions to identify and employ excellent researchers, while removing/reducing the need to carry out a new evaluation of the proposals.

Concrete example of how synergies with **CAP programmes** could look like in practice

The **implementation phase** will ensure greater uptake of Framework Programme results in **CAP programmes**, e.g. by:

- Reinforcing the role of **Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation systems** (AKIS) in Member States and improve the connections between national AKIS at various levels (regional, national, EU levels). The role of advisory services and their access to research outcomes will be given particular attention.
- Increasing the **impact of CAP instruments** to foster **demonstration, investments or new business models in farming and rural areas**. Examples provided under CAP instruments could address innovations in digitisation, precision farming and the bioeconomy.
Concrete example of how synergies with InvestEU could look like in practice

A radically innovative SME that shows potential for scaling up and is supported under the Accelerator scheme of Horizon Europe’s European Innovation Council will benefit from a mix of finance and other types of support in order to deliver on a particular innovation. This implies that the latter, being ready for the market and for investment, can be eligible to the different schemes under the SME window of InvestEU. This will allow the company to find additional finance – where appropriate and necessary – to support further development and scale-up. In this way, the Accelerator will reduce the risks of innovation project driven by the SME so that it becomes an attractive investment target for financial intermediaries implementing SME products under InvestEU.

Concrete example of how synergies with Connecting Europe Facility could look like in practice

Research and innovation on low-emission vehicles will be supported by Horizon Europe, while re-charging infrastructure/alternative re-fuelling stations will be deployed under CEF.
REAPING MORE BENEFITS THANKS TO MORE COLLABORATION WITH OTHER EU PROGRAMMES

**Horizon Europe** and the Euratom Research and Training Programme will promote effective and operational synergies with other future EU programmes and policies to promote faster dissemination at national and regional level and uptake of research and innovation results, including:

- EU Cohesion Policy, which plays an important part of in EU funding for Research & Innovation through an increased focus on innovation and Smart Specialisation strategies. The “Seal of Excellence” allows projects successfully evaluated under Horizon Europe to be funded at regional level under the European Structural and Investment Funds.

- The new European Defence Fund (€13 billion, €4.1 billion of which will be devoted to defence research) which will boost Europe’s ability to protect and defend its citizens. It will offer EU funded grants for collaborative projects which address emerging and future defence and security threats and bridge technological gaps.

- ITER, the international fusion energy project (€6.1 billion), a first-of-a-kind, long-term project to build and operate a reactor to test the feasibility of fusion as an energy source.

- Digital Europe Programme (€9.2 billion) will boost frontline investments in high-performance computing and data, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity and advanced digital skills.

- Connecting Europe Facility Digital (€3 billion) will support the Digital Single Market by offering basic capabilities that can be reused in any European project to facilitate the delivery of digital public services across borders and sectors.
Synergies with other Union programmes

Horizon Europe

Other Union Programmes, including:
- Common Agricultural Policy
- LIFE
- Erasmus
- Innovation Fund
- Connecting Europe Facility
- Internal Security Fund
- ESF+
- Digital Europe
- Space Programme
- ERDF
- External Instrument
- Maritime & Fisheries Fund
- InvestEU

Enhanced synergies

Compatibility
Harmonisation of funding rules; flexible co-funding schemes; pooling resources at EU level

Coherence and complementarity
Alignment of strategic priorities in support of a common vision
Sources:

- A NEW HORIZON FOR EUROPE Impact Assessment of the 9th EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation
- Commission proposal for THE NEXT EU RESEARCH & INNOVATION PROGRAMME (2021 – 2027)
  http://ec.europa.eu/horizon-europe
- Regulation 1303/2013 laying down common provisions of the ERDF, ESF, Cohesion Fund, EAFRD and EMFF; Regulation 1299/2013 on specific provisions for the support from the ERDF; Regulation 1300/2013 on the Cohesion Fund; Regulation 1304/2013 on the ESF and Regulation 1302/2013 on a European grouping of territorial cooperation (EGTC)
Thank you!

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