



SYNERGIES BETWEEN ESIF AND H2020

A theoretical framework

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	HORIZON 2020	ESIF
Territorial coverage	Non-territorial. Geographical specificities are not taken into account. The projects are transnational, i.e. involve international consortia.	Locally-based. Projects and actions are addressed to specific regions and economic needs.
Geographical level of management	Directly managed by the European Commission or executive agencies and awarded directly to final beneficiaries.	Shared managed with national and regional public authorities (implementing bodies), which define the implementation details and allocate the funding to final beneficiaries.
Type of funded activities/actions	Individual research and innovation projects tackling the whole circle of innovation selected based on impact and excellence criteria related to strategic approaches at EU level (e.g. European Innovation Partnership).	Largely focused on improving the research and innovation capacities and eco-system with the objective of regional growth and place-based economic transformation towards higher added value and more knowledge-intensive activities.
Beneficiaries	Competitive calls for proposal addressed to multi-country consortia (to individuals within Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions and to SMEs within the SME instrument).	Policy-related prioritization based on cohesion considerations and smart specialization priorities to individual firms/bodies and consortia within the region. Calls and aid schemes based on selection are also applied.
State Aids	Not counted for EU State Aid purposes.	Counted for EU State Aid purposes.



REGULATORY SCOPE FOR SYNERGIES

- R 1303/2013 (ESIF): art. 15.1, 65.11, 67.5b, 68.1c, 96.3, 96.6a
- R 1290/2013 (H2020): art. 37
- Non-cumulative principle (art. 65.11 R 1303/2013 and art. 37 R 1290/2013)
- Synergies are not intended as substitutions of co-funding
- Staff working document DG Regional and Urban Policies (2014)
"Enabling synergies between ESIF, Horizon 2020 and other research, innovation and competitiveness-related Union programmes. Guidance for policy-makers and implementing bodies"

TYOLOGY OF SYNERGIES

- **Simultaneous/cumulative use of funds** (*combining ESIF and H2020 funds in the same project*)
- **Parallel use of funds in separate projects** (*ESIF and Horizon 2020 funding run in parallel and are mutually supportive*)
- **Upstream sequential combination of funds** (*ESIF investment potentially enables H2020 successful proposal submissions*)
- **Downstream sequential combination** (*H2020 or FP project results are used or further developed through subsequent ESIF investments*)
- **Alternative funding through ESIF** (*H2020 projects that have been positively evaluated reoriented towards ESIF*)



CONDITIONS ENABLING SYNERGIES

- Inclusion of synergies in the elaboration of smart specialisation and ESIF **strategies**
- Design of **operative measures** to enable synergies
- **Awareness raising** and involvement of national and regional implementing bodies, stakeholders and potential beneficiaries



WHERE ARE WE WITH SYNERGIES?

- No official monitoring/report on ESIF/H2020 synergies
- Staff document issued in 2014 by the European Commission
- Survey carried out in the framework of BESTPRAC by Dace Kārkle, Ewelina Wronka and Jaco de Graaf