
FAQs – Synergies between Horizon 2020 and other funding mechanisms

Best Practices, models and examples of synergies between H2020 funds and ESIF

Q1: Best practices and models of synergies between H2020 funds and ESIF. If there are some case studies to share with the participants with a focus on Italy it will be very useful.

Q2: Practical examples of combination of funds between H2020 and ESIF.

Q3: Could you state some "best practices" for using synergies with H2020 funding and funding mechanisms?

A list of case studies has been published on the RIS3 Platform, under the project 'Stairway to Excellence', which aims to support EU13 regions and countries in developing and exploiting the synergies between European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF), Horizon 2020 and other EU funding programmes. The list includes case studies relevant for different types of synergies:

- sequential funding from different sources: upstream sequential combination and downstream sequential combination;
- Parallel funding (Parallel use of funds in separate projects): ESIF and Horizon 2020 funding are running in parallel and are mutually supportive that complement each other;
- Alternative funding (through ESIF): Reorientation of FP7/Horizon 2020 projects that were positively evaluated, shortlisted, but not funded given the limited budget, towards SF/ESIF.

For the list of case studies: <http://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/synergies-examples>

DG RTD is also preparing a brochure with examples of different types of synergies.

More information on: https://ec.europa.eu/research/regions/index.cfm?pg=synergies_cases

The Coordination and Support Action funded by Horizon 2020: "EU-GREAT: European guide and recommendations for the combined funding of large-scale RDI initiatives" will provide guidelines and initiate the development of RDI initiatives that combine different funding mechanisms.

For more info: <http://eu-great.com/>

Regarding Italy, one example of synergies could be the voucher system used by the Lombardy Region given to SMEs that were positively evaluated (but not funded) under Phase 1 of the Horizon 2020 SME Instrument. [Info here](#)

Approach on proposals

Q4: How to integrate synergies between H2020 proposals and other funding opportunities?

Q5: How do you properly address this issue in the proposal? Obviously you would write something about projects and results feeding into the proposal, but how do you convincingly show that you are going to achieve regional / national funding throughout and after a running project?

Q6: I would like to have a specific example where I could indicate synergies with other funds (e.g. structural funds) in a proposal but explaining well that we are not asking for a second funding to do the same.

Firstly, it is very important to keep in mind that synergies are not independent evaluation criteria for proposal funded by NMBP. Synergies should be seen as a way to increase impact of the project and also helps maximize the impact of public investments. Horizon 2020 encourages synergies with national and regional programmes in order to stimulate the use of new opportunities to bring together funding from different sources for industrial projects.

The existence of additional funding, from ESIF in a proposal demonstrates the business planning and thinking above and beyond the project, which will be considered within the evaluation of the “impact” criterion. The additional funding, which should be explained in the exploitation and business plan sections of the project proposal are by no means limited to ESIF. Other possibilities include private industry funding, bank funding, national funding programmes etc.

The Horizon 2020 project evaluation will, however, look at the project as an independent entity at its own merits. At the time of submission the proposer should already have a clear indication of the different funding possibilities, going beyond mere checking online that a specific programme etc. exists. The proposer should for example have made an initial contact

with the ESIF Managing Authority to verify that the project fits into the Smart Specialisation Strategy of the area in question.

The Eye@RIS3 is only an indicative tool to start looking for which region might have an appropriate priority in their Smart Specialisation Strategy (and might therefore present a possibility of additional funding). It does not cover all regions. It is not enough as a reference for “actively seeking synergies”.

Combining several sources of funding in a same project simultaneously is the most ambitious option. For most projects it would be more realistic to think in terms of subsequent projects, for example taking up the exploitation activities of a H2020 project with ESIF funding.

How does it work

Q7: Funding mechanisms and/or strategies for NMP projects requiring and/or developing pilot-lines or other expensive infrastructures.

Q8: Possibility to combine H2020 funding with other funding mechanism for large research infrastructures?

Q9: What is, if you want to use synergies between two instruments, but you failed to get funding for one of them?

Q10: How can one join the H2020 grant with the structural funds? Can one specific project be funded by both mechanisms?

Q11: Synergies with the structural funds (as European Regional Development Fund): how does it work? Which activities could be funded?

Q12: Possibilities of accumulation of funding mechanisms for the same project?

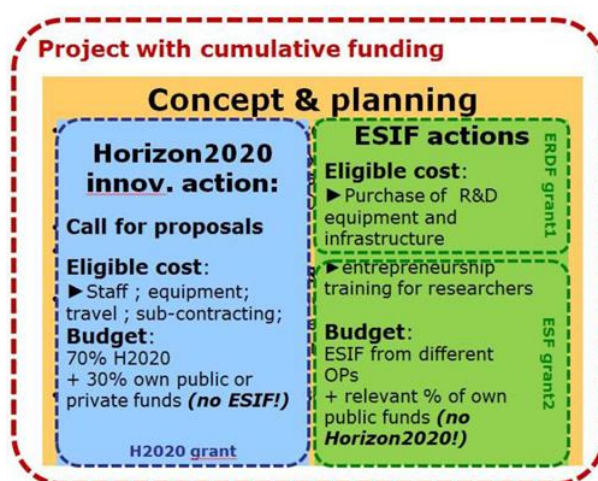
Q13: Please explain the limits of possible synergies to co-finance personnel costs of people whose salary is co-funded by other European funds.

Q14: Requirements for financing tasks of the Project with programs outside H2020, during the Project lifetime.

The main two funding mechanisms for research and innovation for NMP are Horizon 2020 and ESIF (European Structural and Investment Fund). Article 65(11) of the regulation laying down common provisions (CPR) for ESIF provides for a possibility of cumulating grants from different EU funding instruments (or from one or more ESI Fund through one or more programmes and

other Union instruments) for the same beneficiary or the same project, provided that the same expenditure/cost item does not receive support also from another EU fund (from the same Fund under different programmes, from another Fund or from other Union instruments).

In the context of synergies, projects can be understood as operations that can consist of different actions, contracts, or group of projects that are managed in a coherent manner. A project combining ESIF with Horizon 2020 funding will thus contain (several) separate grant agreements (e.g. one for Horizon 2020 and one per involved programme for the ESIF-funded components)^[1].



In case the project fails to get funding from one of the two instruments a case-by-case analysis should be done by the beneficiaries in order to assess if the project can continue with only form of support.

For research infrastructures, the guide on synergies^[2] published by the European Commission describes how ESIF funds could be used in this area. For more info: pg.87-89. Also during the Open Days for Regions-event organised in October 2015, two relevant examples were presented: Extreme Light Infrastructure ELI and European Spallation Source.

The cost/activity categories must be attributed clearly to Horizon 2020 or an ESIF-OP. For example, only personnel cost incurred in relation to the action funded by the grant are eligible, a cost/expenditure item is limited to the costs of the resources consumed for the action (for example the personnel costs for the hours actually worked on the action).

¹ http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docgener/guides/synergy/synergies_en.pdf

² http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docgener/guides/synergy/synergies_en.pdf

Q15: Synergies among the following:

- H2020
- the BalkanMed programme
- Structural Funds (the Operational Programmes funded under ERDF)"

The BalkanMed program is an INTEREG Program which is funded under the ERDF. The program has a strong thematic focus on territorial competitiveness and environment. The proposals could look into Horizon 2020 at topics that address environment issues and find possible complementarities.

Seal of excellence

Q16: The new "Seal of Excellence"" scheme will allow regions to recognize the quality label awarded to promising project proposals submitted under Horizon 2020 but how this scheme will be promoted through different funding sources like ESIF or other national programs?

In order to allow for exchanges of know-how, the European Commission has established a 'Community of Practice' exploring the best ways to implement funding schemes in support of high-quality projects with the 'Seal of Excellence' through ESIF or other sources. The 'Community of Practice' is reserved for national or regional authorities that have a funding power for research and innovation actions. It is also open to other Funding Agencies for Innovating SMEs (including private banks and investors).

Organisations interested in being part of the Europe-wide 'Community of Practice', may send an Expression of Interest by e-mail to: RTD-seal-of-excellence@ec.europa.eu

Q17: The same NMP rational apply to other LEIT such as Space and ICT?

Leadership in enabling and industrial technologies (LEIT) includes the parts of Horizon 2020 focusing on new opportunities for industrial leadership in Key Enabling Technologies (KETs), ICT and Space. The same rational applies to these areas.

Q18: Can synergies be set between Advanced Grants, SME Instrument funding and various or any specific type of call under the NMP work program?

Synergies mean joint or coordinated efforts to achieve greater impact and efficiency, not only combining ESIF and Horizon 2020 in the same project. So, synergies as explained in the

webinar can be done also through successive projects that build on each other. For example, the SME Instrument could be interesting for an SME who was part of a consortium in a NMBP proposal and who is looking for follow up funding.

Q19: Pragmatic information and a list of key points to share with different target groups:

- **Researchers – are they addressed on the synergies? Yes? No? why? if yes, what do they have to do to exploit them?**

- **Policy makers – are they addressed on the synergies? Yes? No? why? If yes, what do they have to do to exploit them?**

- **Regional intermediaries or actors (Chambers of commerce, SMEs associations, Industrial groupings)**

All categories of stakeholders are addressed by synergies in different ways, from design and programming level (policy level, national and regional authorities) to an implementation level (e.g. researchers, SMEs, RTOs etc).

Q20: It would be good to have the links for RIS3 related to water, energy and environment other than general links.

On the EYE@RIS3 tool can be searched with all or a selection of the categories (e. water, energy and environment) as well as free text within the descriptions. One can also search for individual regions and national priorities through searching for their name or through their NUTS ID.

In particular for energy, the Directorates-General for Regional and Urban Policy, Energy, and the Joint Research Centre (JRC) have set up the S3P-Energy platform. This platform is planned to become an enabling tool for regions to coordinate, rationalise and plan their respective energy strategies, develop a shared vision on knowledge-based energy policy development, and set up a strategic agenda of collaborative work.

More info: <http://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/s3p-energy>

Q21: Regarding InnovFin and the thematic finance, for the project in Energy: I would be pleased to received further info on this please.

The InnovFin Energy Demo Projects enables the EIB to finance innovative first-of-a-kind demonstration projects in the field of renewable energy and hydrogen/fuel cells. The EIB provides loans between EUR 7.5m and EUR 75m.

More info:

http://www.eib.org/attachments/documents/innovfin_energy_demo_projects_flysheet_en.pdf

Q22: I work in KIC InnoEnergy, which projects are financed by EIT, and we would like to know how can KIC fit in these synergies.

The guide on synergies^[3] developed by the European Commission has a chapter on EIT/KISs and ESIF on page 84-86. A scenario for using ESIF for complementing KIC added value activities is described in the guide.

Q23: In practice, synergies work at a higher level, with connection to regional and national authorities?

Yes. A first effort lies in making strategic choices and planning on the side of the regions and Member States, i.e. to foster excellence in the smart specialisation areas. On the Horizon 2020 side, it consists of implementing the programmes in a synergies-friendly manner in terms of raising awareness, providing information, engaging in communication campaigns, and connecting National Contact Points (NCP) as much as possible to national and regional ESIF policy makers and managing authorities.

Q24: How can we find more information for funding opportunities regarding developing business & research centers (including infrastructure and others)?

The main information for Horizon 2020 and COSME (Programme for the Competitiveness of Enterprises and SMEs) topics can be found on the [Participant Portal](#) under the section Funding opportunities.

The calls funded by the European Structural and Investment Fund (ESIF) should be found on the websites of the Managing Authorities of each country/region (these could include opportunities for developing businesses and research centres).

Q25: How the structural funds may be used by the regions in the Co-funded calls?

For example, in the case of the ERA-NETs Co-fund prospective participant organisations (e.g. regions) should note that the impact of this ERA-NET could be enhanced by using resources

³ http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docgener/guides/synergy/synergies_en.pdf

coming through the European Structural and Investment Funds (provided that the appropriate policy measures together with the corresponding national contribution for them have been foreseen in the relevant Operational Programme). In such a case, participants should understand that ESI Funds cannot replace partly or wholly the expected national contribution(s) for matching the expected Horizon 2020 grant.

However ESI Funds (together with national funds) can be used to organise additional call for proposals, that the one where the EC tops-up the funding.

Q26: How will be possible a joint collaboration between EIT KIC and ERA-NET Co-fund to support joint projects in a transnational call launched by the ERA-NET Co-fund?

The EIP's Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KIC's) might prove interesting for different ERA-NETs. This should be analysed on a case-by-case basis. The KIC's aim at a large agenda covering the entire innovation chain. The KIC's are covering specific research fields, e.g. Climate-KIC. The work conducted in ERA-NETs could feed into the work in the KIC's.

Q27: Overlap/synergies between FIWARE accelerators and other "industry" oriented funding schemes from EC such as SME Instrument of Fast Track to Innovation?

The three instruments don't overlap, but rather address different types of applications.