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# Synergies between Horizon Europe and Structural Funds

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#EUinmyregion #HorizonEurope



#### Horizon Europe and Cohesion Policy: Working for Innovation



**European Research Council** 

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

**Research Infrastructures** 

#### Pillar 2

Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness

- Health
- Culture, Creativity and Inclusive 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 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** 



#### KEY CONDITIONS FOR SUCCESSFUL SYNERGIES

## At political level: a shared vision (</)

- 6 political priorities of the new Commission
- Green Deal, Digital Europe, new Industrial Strategy...

## At programming level: Strategic Alignment &

co-creation (+++)

- Horizon Europe strategic planning and biannual workprogramme
- ERDF/ESF+ programmes /S3

At operational level: consistent provisions in the frameworks (++)

- Horizon Europe (art. / AnnexIV)
- Common Provision
   Regulation (ERDF/ESF+) ->
   CPR recital + art.
- State aid framework (Global Block Exemption-> ART 25

#### Joint support initiatives

- Seal of Excellence Community of Practice (regular meetings & IT platform)
- COMMISSION NOTICE GUIDANCE ON SYNERGIES (OJ C 421 of 4/11/2022)
- Upcoming joint network research & cohesion community Access2Excellence/RIMA

### **OBJECTIVES OF new provisions and the guidance**

1. SIMPLIFICATION -> easy implementation, less red-tape and administration

2. NEW OPPORTUNITIES -> diversification but fully respecting the specific objectives of each programme

3. LEGAL CERTAINTY -> clarity of rules and concrete steps



## Synergies: Wide range of opportunities

#### **UPSTREAM SYNERGIES**

Capacity building
Trainings/ R&I skills
Incubators

**HORIZON** 

Collaborative Projects

**Missions** 

**DOWNSTREAM SYNERGIES** 

Demonstrators
Horizon results platform
Matchmaking tool (Interreg 'pilot')

#### **PARALLEL SYNERGIES**

Complementary but independent actions



## Key types of Synergies: novelties and their expected positive impact



#### **Seal of Excellence**

Pipeline of excellent R&I projects identified for funding

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



#### **Support to Partnerships**

ERDF as MS contribution in Horizon Europe partnerships

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



#### **Transfer possibility**

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

## **SEAL: Novelties and implementation**



#### Seal of Excellence

Pipeline of excellent R&I projects identified for funding

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

- ✓ Projects may receive <u>directly</u>, <u>without a new qualitative</u> <u>evaluation</u>, ERDF or ESF+ funding under CPR rules (i.e. only check of specific eligibility criteria, contribution to programme objectives, smart specialisation priorities, financial feasibility ie: issues not covered by the Seal)
- The amendment to the General Block Exemption Regulation ('GBER' art 25a) allows such Seal-of-Excellence support to be exempted, under certain conditions, from the State aid notification + managing authorities may apply to these operations the categories, maximum amounts and methods of calculation of eligible costs established under Horizon Europe



## Partnerships: Novelties and implementation



#### **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 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&Iprogramme 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
- ✓ ERDF may be considered as Member State contribution to European Partnerships, provided that the relevant CPRprovisions and fund-specific regulations are complied with.
- Bodies implementing the partnership must be designated as ERDF intermediate bodies (CPR)
- ✓ MAs may decide to provide support directly to operations selected under the partnership (CPR)
- ✓ NB: !! specific administrative steps allow to comply with the requirement of avoiding DOUBLE declaration of costs - Check the 'synergy guidance' (cumulative funding)!



## TRANSFER: novelties and implementation



#### **Transfer possibility**

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

#### **Voluntary transfer of Cohesion Policy allocations:**

MS may request transfer of up to 5 % of their programme resources to Horizon Europe

- Transferred resources may only concern the future budgetary commitments and the relevant ERDF programme has to be amended, incl. its financing plan
- Investments have to be for the benefit of the transferring Member State/region
- Commission may object to a request for transfer if achievement of ERDF programme's objectives would be undermined
- Rules of the receiving EU Fund/instrument apply to the transferred amounts
- ✓ <u>Transfer-back</u>: 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.







# Towards an integrated dissemination & exploitation ecosystem

European Union, 2022, Image source: Plash concept, Stock Adobe.com

#### Dissemination and Exploitation tools R&I programmes and beyond

Identifying EU funded results and boosting them onto the path to the market deployment:

- Horizon Results Platform EU funded results register!
- Horizon Results Booster support for beneficiaries!
- EU mission portfolios multi-programme clustering of projects and results!
- H2020- Interreg Synergies Mapping Tool interoperation of EU programmes and matching on potential synergies!



### Next steps

- Implementation of synergies based on Notice / Guidlelines on synergies
   between Horizon Europe and ERDF programmes
- Acting upon recommendations from European Cout of Auditors audit report
- More cooperation between the communities: Upcoming ERA subgroup on Access to excellence (joint network of MS R&I & cohesion representatives)
- NCPs to be invited in Monitoring Committees
- Continue with Seal of Excellence Community of Practice + other synergies
- Acces of Managing authorities to information on Seals data
- Enhanced dialogue with Member States
- Links to Recovery and Resilience Plans





#### **USEFUL LINKS**

- Synergy guidance document: <a href="https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/synergies-between-horizon-europe-and-erdf-programmes-draft-commission-notice">https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/synergies-between-horizon-europe-and-erdf-programmes-draft-commission-notice</a> en
- European Innovation Agenda: <a href="https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/strategy/support-policy-making/shaping-euresearch-and-innovation-policy/new-european-innovation-agenda\_en#documents">https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/strategy/support-policy-making/shaping-euresearch-and-innovation-policy/new-european-innovation-agenda\_en#documents</a>
- DG RTD: <a href="https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/synergies-guidance-out-2022-jul-06">https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/synergies-guidance-out-2022-jul-06</a> en
- DG REGIO: <a href="https://ec.europa.eu/regional\_policy/en/information/publications/communications/2022/synergies-between-erdf-programmes-and-horizon-europe">https://ec.europa.eu/regional\_policy/en/information/publications/communications/2022/synergies-between-erdf-programmes-and-horizon-europe</a>

Horizon Results Platform - EU funded results register!

<u>Horizon Results Booster</u> – support for beneficiaries!

EU mission portfolios – multi-programme clustering of projects and results!

H2020- Interreg Synergies Mapping Tool – interoperation of EU programmes and matching on potential synergies!

## Thank you!