



Supporting Research &
Innovation in the EU

Synergies between
Cohesion Policy and
Horizon Europe

#EUinmyregion #HorizonEurope



Presidenza del Consiglio dei Ministri
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Synergies between Horizon Europe and Structural Funds

Magda De Carli

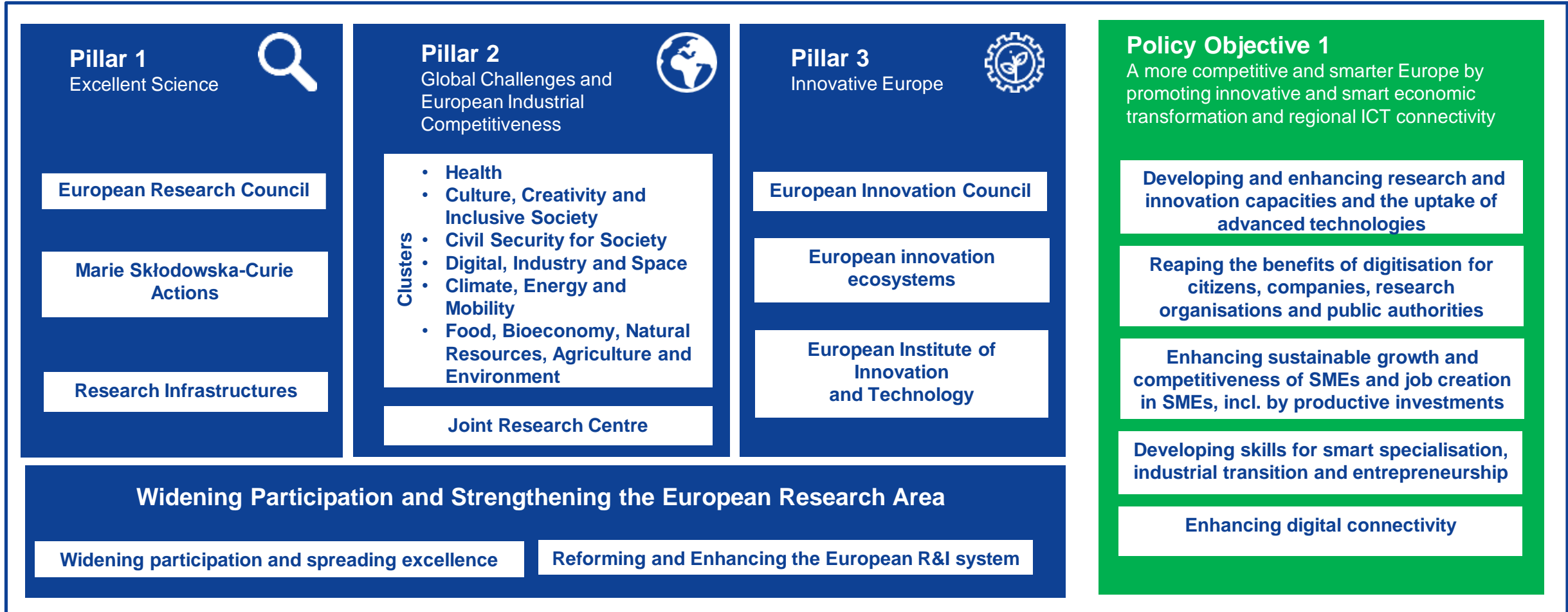
Head of Unit & Deputy director

European Commission - DG R&I

Dir. A. ERA & Innovation policy

A1. European Semester & Country intelligence

Horizon Europe and Cohesion Policy: Working for Innovation



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. / Annex IV)
- Common Provision Regulation (ERDF/ESF+) -> **CPR recital + art.**
- State aid framework (Global Block Exemption-> **ART 25**)

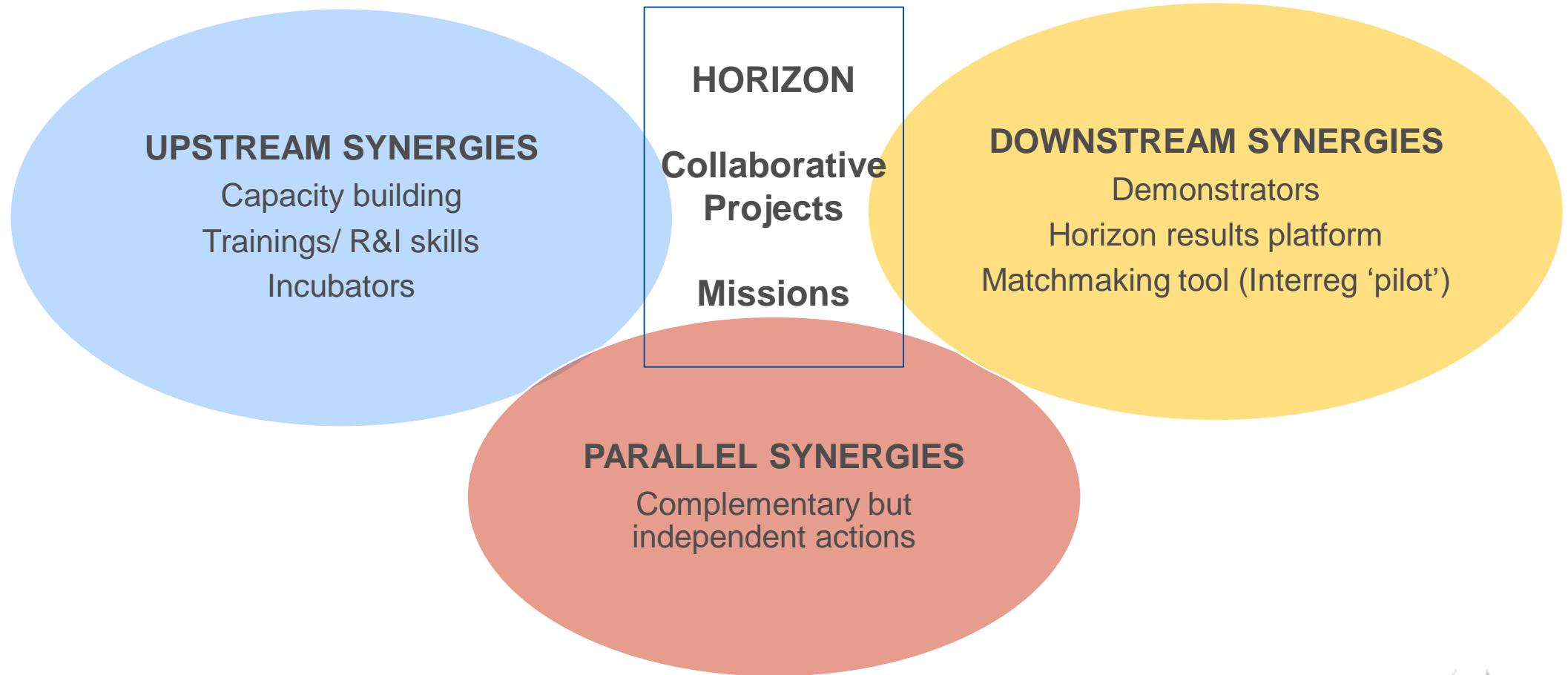
Joint support initiatives

- 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



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 directly, without a new qualitative evaluation, 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&I-programme 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 CPR-provisions 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
- ✓ **Transfer-back**: 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.



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 / Guidelines on synergies between Horizon Europe and ERDF programmes**
- Acting upon recommendations from **European Court 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**
- **Access of Managing authorities to information on Seals data**
- **Enhanced dialogue with Member States**
- **Links to Recovery and Resilience Plans**



USEFUL LINKS

- Synergy guidance document: https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/synergies-between-horizon-europe-and-erdf-programmes-draft-commission-notice_en
- European Innovation Agenda: https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/strategy/support-policy-making/shaping-eu-research-and-innovation-policy/new-european-innovation-agenda_en#documents
- DG RTD: https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/synergies-guidance-out-2022-jul-06_en
- DG REGIO: https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/information/publications/communications/2022/synergies-between-erdf-programmes-and-horizon-europe

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Thank you!