

# The NCP role in supporting the synergies among EU and structural funds

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## APRE and the NCP system

- Reflections and events about synergies starting from H2020, with several contacts with DG REGIO along the past (almost) 10 years.
- APRE could even improve his role as **informative cornerstone** between direct and indirect funding in R&I between European Commission, National and Regional authorities, stakeholders and R&I Italian community
- NCP and Minimum standard guidelines: **signposting and cooperation**  
*Signpost to national/regional funding services and programmes, European Partnerships and programme level collaboration among research funders*

## Guide: synergies between Structural Fund and other European funding programmes

*Updated in July 2022 under GIURI -  
Informal Group of Italian Research &  
Innovation EU Liaison Offices in  
Brussels, working group on  
Synergies lead by Tour4EU, Meta  
Group and APRE.*

Link to the guide: [https://apre.it/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Vademecum\\_Sinergie\\_-Luglio-rev\\_11.07.22.pdf](https://apre.it/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Vademecum_Sinergie_-Luglio-rev_11.07.22.pdf)



## EXAMPLES of synergies: SOE

### ☞ Sinergie attraverso finanziamenti alternativi: Seal of Excellence (SoE)

- MSCA
- ERC – Proof of Concept
- EIC accelerator
- EIC transition

### ☞ Examples Horizon Europe:

- Sinergia cumulativa pianificata per la programmazione 2021-2027-  
Programma Horizon Europe Marie Skłodowska-Curie Action
  - Provincia Autonoma di Bolzano
  - Università degli Studi di Siena

# Sinergie attraverso finanziamenti sequenziali – Sequential funding

## ↗ Up-stream example

- H2020: POR MARCHE FESR 2014-2020 - Azione 2.2.2 "Voucher per favorire la partecipazione ai Programmi Comunitari a Gestione Diretta della Commissione europea«

## ↗ Down-stream examples (H2020)

- Regione Toscana: le sinergie sequenziali generate dall'infrastruttura della ricerca europea SoBigData++ dell'hub della Regione Toscana
- Università di Pisa: le sinergie sequenziali promosse **nel settore dell'agricoltura** attraverso i fondi regionali di cooperazione territoriale (H2020 e Interreg)
- Regione Liguria: Aziende Regionali Territoriali per l'Edilizia-ARTE. Efficientamento energetico di edifici di Edilizia Residenziale Pubblica

# Sinergie attraverso finanziamenti sequenziali – Sequential funding

## Down-stream examples (HE)

- Comune di Bologna: Salus Space e la strategia multifondo - UIA (Urban Innovative Action), linked woth other programmes
  - Programma Horizon 2020 – Progetto FoodE, che ha l'obiettivo di attivare, connettere e sostenere le iniziative sul cibo che vengono dal basso e che mettono al centro la **sostenibilità dei sistemi alimentari locali**. A Salus Space si realizzerà uno dei progetti pilota di FoodE (332.000 euro).
  - Fondi REACT EU A valere sui fondi React EU (sia per la parte di FESR che di FSE), attraverso un finanziamento di 4.500.000 euro, si procederà con una serie di progetti legati **all'agricoltura urbana e al sostegno alla biodiversità, alla sostenibilità ambientale, all'accessibilità** (sia fisica che digitale)
- Firenze Smart City: progetto H2020-REPLICATE - REnissance of Places with Innovative Citizenship And TEchnology

## Sinergie attraverso finanziamenti cumulativi – Cumulative Funding

### H2020

- Regione Toscana: sinergie cumulative nelle azioni ERANet COFUND
  - Manunet III, Photonic Sensing, “ERA PerMed - Personalised Medicine
- Regione Puglia: sinergia cumulativa nelle azioni ERAnet COFUND
  - Manunet

### Horizon Europe

- Regione Puglia: progetto APULIAN TRIP (APULIAN Training couRse In Nanotechnology exPloitation) è stato candidato dalla Regione Puglia nell'ambito della call MSCA-COFUND-2017 – Doctoral programmes
- Università degli Studi di Firenze: uso di fondi propri destinati ad incentivare la partecipazione dei ricercatori e professori dell'Ateneo al pilastro II di HE, come coordinatori di progetto, in modo da rendere l'Ateneo più competitivo a livello nazionale ed internazionale(nel 2022, contributo pari a 350.000)

## Sinergie nei partenariati di Horizon Europe

### HE

- Ministero della Salute: Partnership THCS sulla trasformazione dei sistemi sanitari - Sinergia cumulativa
- Provincia Autonoma di Bolzano: Sinergia nell'ambito del Partenariato europeo co-finanziato BiodivERsA

## Activities under NCP project networks

**BRIDGE2HE:** workshops and trainings for sharing experiences, knowledge and best practices on synergies (March 2021, October 2022)



**Synergies between Horizon Europe and the new cohesion policy programmes: a practical approach**

ONLINE TRAINING for NCPs

20th of October 2022, 10:00 – 13:00 AM (CET)

Training short description

This 180-minutes webinar aims to provide information to the National Contact Points (NCPs) for the Horizon Europe programme on the synergies and complementarities between the Framework programme for research and innovation 2021-27 and the new generation of

11:30 Synergies implementation at national and regional level: experiences and perspectives

**Experiences from National and Regional Institutions**

Michele Mazzola, *Directorate-General for Internationalisation and Communication, MUR Italian Ministry of University and Research*

Natalia Załużna, *Polish Ministry for Funds and Regional Policy*

Maarja Adojaan, *Head of Department of International Research Cooperation, Estonian Research Council*

Laura Savini, *Senior Innovation Manager, Finlombarda SpA*

Stavros Mantzanakis, *Lead Technical Expert, One Stop Liaison Office, Region of Central Macedonia*

**Experiences from beneficiaries**

Donata Franzl, *Head of Research and Grants Management Division and Liaison Office, University of Siena*

Marian Bubak, *Scientific Affairs Director, Sano – Centre for Computational Personalised Medicine - International Research Foundation*

# FINLOMBARDIA H2020

## Past synergy with Horizon 2020



The implementation of **synergies with Horizon 2020** had been an objective underlying the entire R&I regional policy regardless the funding source

### Smart Specialisation Strategy



## EIC Accelerator synergies: some comments

### Horizon 2020

- **Lombardia** received a very **high number of SoEs** for SMES Instrument phase 2 and EIC Accelerator in Horizon 2020 largely exceeding any regional funding capacity over 200 SoEs for a funding request of approximately 300.000.000 €
- Difficulties to implement a regional scheme because of the size /numbers of regional granted SoEs and state aids rules

### Horizon Europe

- Synergies with HE and EIC Accelerator are included in the **Lombardia Regional Operational Programme 2021-2027**
- New **GBER**
- **Reverse situation** as compared to H2020 : so far only 1 Accelerator SoE granted
- **No critical mass**

# UNISI and Excellence in Research

To promote synergy, UNISI used its own funds in 2021 to recruit young, promising researchers, allowing them to pursue their research ideas in a stimulating, collaborative working environment.

**SOE@UNISI, 2° EDITION 2022** welcomes applications from promising researchers who were awarded the "Seal of Excellence - MSC Actions" in the MSCA-PF-2021 call.

The University of Siena has allocated 360,000 Euros as part of its 2022 Research Support Plan to projects that received an excellent evaluation (>85) but were not funded.

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### Seal of Excellence

- Unisi's Seal of Excellence Initiative on Euraxess Portal
- ▶ Seal of Excellence (Italian version)

Since 2015, the European Commission has been promoting the Seal of Excellence (SoE), a quality label awarded to projects that were judged worthy of funding but received none due to budget constraints. The SoE was launched by commissioners Moedas and Cremu on 12 October 2015 in the framework of the mandate received from President Juncker to maximise synergies between Horizon 2020 and Structural Funds.

To promote synergy, the University of Siena shall use its own funds to recruit young, promising researchers, allowing them to pursue their research ideas in a stimulating, collaborative working environment.



**SOE @UNISI 2022**

The MSCA Seal of Excellence @ UNISI initiative welcomes applications from promising researchers who were awarded the "Seal of Excellence - MSC Actions" (i.e. a score higher than 85/100) in the Marie Skłodowska-Curie - Postdoctoral Fellowships actions.

The University of Siena has allocated 380,000 Euros as part of the 2022 Research Support Plan to projects that in the HORIZON-MSCA-2021-PF-01 have received an excellent evaluation but were not funded.

The € 380,000 fund shall be assigned to four different profiles, one for each academic area:

## WHICH ROLE for the NCP? State of the art

- ☒ The synergies among EU programmes and cohesion policies **topic is complex** and needs a mix of knowledge and information from EU and national/regional authorities
- ☒ The **NCP system is not aligned, ready and well prepared** about synergies between Horizon Europe and other funding programme at EU, national and regional level
- ☒ The NCPs **do not receive updates about SoE or other programmes with a synergic approach managed by EC**
- ☒ No specific task dedicated to Synergies in the **NCP network projects**
- ☒ NCP Minimum standard guidelines: **Signposting and Cooperation**
  - Signpost to national/regional funding services and programmes, European Partnerships and programme level collaboration among research funders

## WHICH ROLE for the NCP? View for the future

### ■ Information and awareness raising:

- Towards applicants about potential synergies and opportunities
- Towards national/regional authorities for sharing best practices and approaches
- Towards national/regional authorities for identifying project results with a strong deployment potential at local/regional level (sequential downstream) → events organised on BBI, SC2 H2020 projects in 2020 and 2021 at Italian level

### ■ What is needed?

- More structured and direct flow of information about SOE, and other complementary opportunities and success case (results platform)

### ■ The support of the NCP toward the R&I community in mapping (and sharing) the initiatives at national and regional level

Thank you for your attention!

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