



COHESION POLICY POST 2013 AND HORIZON 2020

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Combining policies with complementary objectives

Common political framework

- Need to strengthen knowledge and innovation as drivers of growth and competitiveness
- Tackling major societal challenges in the EU 2020 framework
- Bridging the gap between science and the market, through successive stages

Horizon 2020

- Focussing on science driven and precompetitive R&D (first stages on the bridge)
- **Promoting excellence:** projects selected at EU level by competitive calls for proposals and through independent / merit based peer review
- **Territorial impact:** more beneficiaries in the more developed regions

Cohesion policy

- Focussing on applied R&D and innovative SMEs (latter stages on the bridge)
- **Improving regional R&I performance:** projects selected at national and/or regional level for capacity building and promoting innovation-friendly business environment for SMEs
- **Territorial impact:** policy focus on less developed regions





How Cohesion policy will support research & innovation?

New investment priorities

Important objective for ERDF, including for thematic concentration

- Investing in RTD-I infrastructure (capacity building),
- Technology transfer, clusters and social innovation (diffusion of R&I results),
- Several stages from research to the market eligible to support (e.g. KETs)

Complementary support from ESF for human capital development

Ex-ante-conditionality

- Existence, at national and/or regional level, of **research and innovation strategies for smart specialisation** (RIS3) for approving Partnership Contracts and Operational Programmes submitted by the Member States.
- RIS3 in line with the National Reform Programme and with features of well-performing national or regional research and innovation systems
- Peer review to assess RIS3 prepared by the national and regional authorities: REGIO & RTD work together, with the assistance of the RIS3-Platform





How Horizon 2020 will reinforce Cohesion policy?

Closing the research and innovation divide in Europe

- Supporting the development & monitoring of **smart specialisation strategies** through international evaluation by peers and best practice sharing
- Linking ... **innovative regions in less developed Member States** to international leading counterparts elsewhere in Europe: twinning of staff exchanges, expert advice and assistance and ... joint strategies for the establishment of centres of excellence that might be supported by Cohesion Policy funds in less developed regions.
- Building links with innovative clusters and **recognising excellence in less developed regions**, including through peer reviews and awarding labels of excellence to those institutions that meet international standards
- Establishing “ERA Chairs” **to attract outstanding academics to institutions** with a clear potential for research excellence
- Supporting **access to international networks for excellence researchers and innovators** who lack sufficient involvement in European and international networks.





Proposals enabling complementarities

New provisions under Cohesion policy

- Support to the same project possible from different EU funds but for different expenditures.
- under an ERDF programme, arrangements possible for interregional cooperation with beneficiaries located outside of the region: useful for enabling combined support from ERDF and Horizon 2020 to several partners in different countries.

Simplified costs options under both policies

- Similar eligibility rules proposed for simplifying the financial management : lump sums, flat rates and unit costs possible under both policies for funding direct and indirect costs without providing documents proving real expenses.
- Reduction of the administrative burden for the beneficiary managing the same project with a support coming from different funds as well as the beneficiary managing several projects supported separately by different funds.





Putting synergies into practice

ERDF upstream & downstream actions to Horizon 2020

- **Upstream:** preparation and empowerment of key regional R&I players for participating in Horizon 2020 projects should be developed through capacity building (stairway to excellence)
- **Downstream:** exploit and diffuse swiftly R&I results and partnering possibilities stemming from Horizon 2020 into the market

Strategic and operational coordination

EU level: strategic coordination based on Research and Innovation Strategies for Smart Specialisation (RIS³), through reinforced cooperation between DG RTD and DG REGIO

National/regional level: strategic & operational coordination based on RIS³ and on establishing and exchanging lists of projects for identifying and promoting synergies between complementary projects, through joint meetings between authorities and/or agencies involved in H2020 and Cohesion policy

Useful tools / RIS3-Platform website (methodology, good practice, examples):
RIS3 Guide; Practical guide to EU funding opportunities for research & innovation

