



# **EU13 CROSS COUNTRY ANALYSIS**

## **Key elements on synergies and RIS3**

**Based on Stairway to Excellence (S2E)  
Country Reports and Case Studies (JRC-IPTS)**

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# Some elements of the S3 philosophy

- More strategic and better informed;
- **Promote efficient & synergetic use of public and private resources;**
- Increase return on investments and improve societal impacts;
- Outward looking & linking;
- More forward looking & 'pro-acting';
- Broad stakeholder involvement;
- Better linking policy areas and governance-levels.

# **Synergies between EU funds for R&I**

'Supporting synergies between European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) and Horizon 2020 may deliver additional gains in terms of innovation results and help closing the innovation gap in Europe and promote economic growth.'

# Eco-innovation systems in EU13

## Some facts...

- **Less developed** regions;
- **Lower GERD** compared to EU15 average (except SI);  
GERD in BG, HR, CY, LV, MT, PL, RO, SK below 1/2 of EU15 average;
- Structural Funds (**SF**) represent **significant share** of the total public R&I investments BUT...
- Often **low absorption**, short term project thinking, R&D funding disconnected from economic context;
- **Modest participation** in FP7;
- **Less research intensive** national industry;
- **Low Quality of Governance**

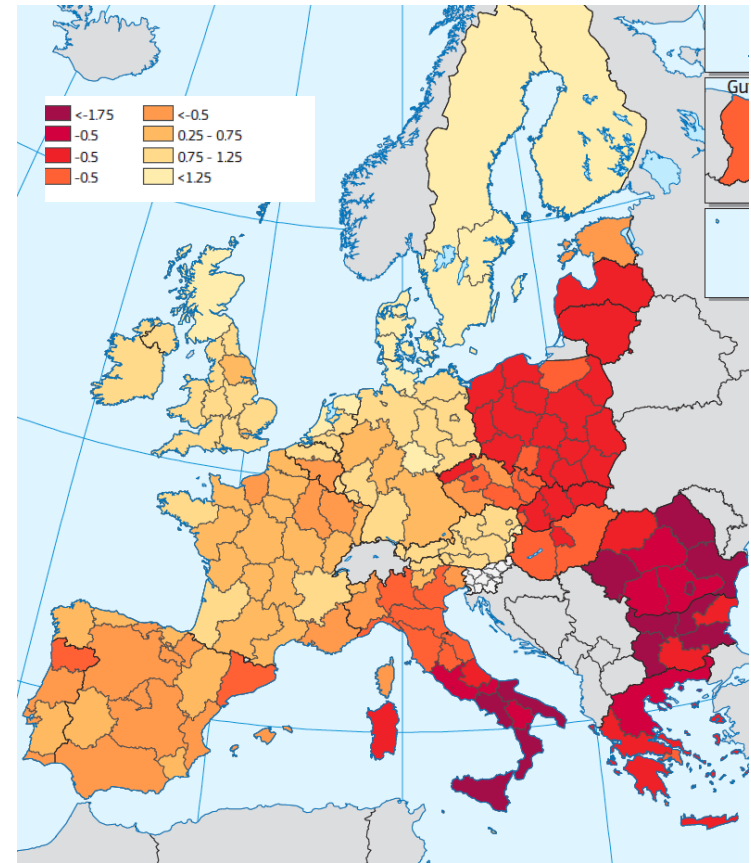
# Quality of governance: impact on Synergies and RIS3

6<sup>th</sup> Cohesion Report: *"Quality of governance is low in countries benefitting the most from Cohesion Policy"*

*"At levels of Cohesion expenditure per capita where investment may make a difference, the quality of government is a key factor determining the returns of public expenditure"*

Quality of Government, Institute at the University of Gothenburg (QGI, 2010)

"....the quality of government is a key factor determining the returns of public expenditure...'



European Quality of Government index, 2009

**Source:** Quality of Government Institute, 2010, p. 40

## QUALITY of GOVERNANCE (S2E conclusions)

- (-) **Lack of policy coordination across the knowledge triangle policies**; lack of policy dialogue, tension between levels of governance;
- (-) **Lack of strategic vision** for R&I, often influenced by lobbying;
- (-) **Instability of administrative structures** - constant staff fluctuation and institutional changes;
- (-) **System fragmentation, duplication, multiple funding agencies** without clear division of competences;
- (-) **Weak programme management**, monitoring, evaluation, foresight capacities;
- (-) Isolated institutional efforts to revise the regulation face difficulties due to rigid national regulations, habits, mentality.

# Factors that hinder or enhance the national participation in R&I calls funded by SF/ESIF

- (+) **High budgets and accessibility** compared to other sources; Financial incentives for researchers;
- (-) **QoG: Very high administrative burden** during the whole project cycle; does not differentiate between high-low budget projects;
- (-) **QoG: Frequent changes in the regulation, legislation,** even during the implementation of the project;
- (-) **QoG: Monitoring rather 'blind' to the scientific activity** output;
- (-) **QoG: Complex procurement procedures** aiming to prevent fraud often leading to opposite effects;
- (-) Business Enterprise Sector reluctant to invest in R&I.



# Push-Pull factors for participation in FP7/H2020

**(++) Evaluation perceived as fair, easier implementation, focus on scientific excellence;**

(+) International prestige and exposure;

(-) Limited experience in FP7;

(-) "Resistance from the 'EU15 club';

(-) **QoG:** Limited, highly heterogeneous or no NCP support;

(-) Weak links with European networks;

(-) H2020 salary regulations;

(-) Competition with national opportunities including SF;

(-) **QoG:** Insufficient qualified research project managers;

(-) **QoG:** Evaluation of the research performance at national level inconsistently used and without impact on financing, focus on quantity rather than the quality.

# National S2E Events

- **A better understanding of the national innovation ecosystem**
- **Raising awareness of the actions needed to enable synergies**
- **Sharing experiences in combining different EU funds**

Cyprus (September 2016)

Bulgaria (July 2016)

Romania (June 2016)

Hungary (May 2016)

Poland (April 2016)

Slovenia (April 2016)

Estonia (March 2016)

Czech Republic (March 2016)

Lithuania (October 2015)

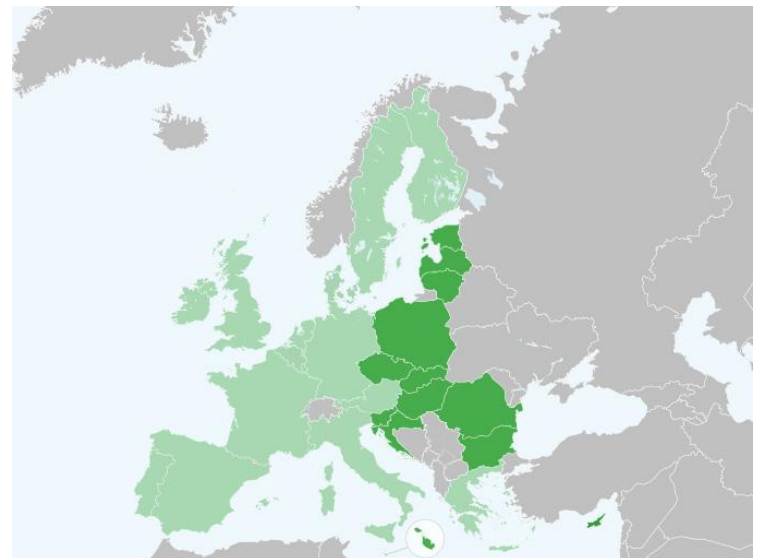
Malta (July 2015)

Slovakia (June 2015)

Latvia (April 2015)

Croatia (March 2015)

The events are open to national and regional MAs, NCPs, national authorities in charge of RIS3, selected experts and representatives from business and research organisations.





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Valsts izglītības attīstības aģentūra

## JOINT STATEMENT OF THE NATIONAL EVENT OF LATVIA "The Synergies with Research and Innovation Funds"

*organised by*

European Commission, Joint Research Centre (Stairway to Excellence Initiative)  
Latvian State Education Development Agency  
15 April 2015, Riga-Latvia

1. Consensus for Better Coordination & New Opportunities
2. Upstream activities
3. Downstream activities
4. The Way Forward

*Key Issue 2: The need for improved research collaboration with the Central and Western European countries (EU15).*

**Potential Actions:** e.g. enhancing the network & learning (and adapting) from good practices across Europe.

**Key Issue 5:** Low rate of participation in international research collaboration  
**Key Issue 6:** Long-term availability (sustainability) of ESIF

**Potential Actions:** e.g. establishment of incubation centres, enhanced autonomy for public universities, institute-dedicated budget, alignment of national funds and performance-based funding.



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# S2E Web

## S3 Targeted Support

[RIS3 in REMTh](#)

[Rural Innovation](#)

### Stairway to Excellence

[What is Stairway to](#)

[Excellence](#)

[National Events](#)

[Country & Region](#)

[Information](#)

[Synergies Examples](#)

[Instruments, Platforms &](#)

[Concepts](#)

[Relevant Initiatives](#)

[Reference Documents](#)

[FAQ on S2E](#)

## Latest News

### CALL FOR CONTRIBUTION

**S3 Targeted Support**

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTION to forthcoming S2E events

### Latest S2E activity

**S3 Targeted Support**

Latest publications available on-line

### UPCOMING S2E National Events

## Stairway to Excellence

### What is Stairway to Excellence

The 'Cohesion Policy and the synergies with the research and development funds: the STAIRWAY TO EXCELLENCE (S2E)' project was launched in 2014 within the Smart Specialisation Platform (S3P).

The **Stairway to Excellence (S2E)** project aims to support [EU13 regions and countries](#) in developing and exploiting the synergies between European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF), Horizon 2020 (H2020) and other EU funding programmes and:

- Assist them in closing the innovation gap, in order to promote excellence in all regions and EU countries;
- Stimulate the early and effective implementation of national and regional Smart Specialisation Strategies.

[Activities of S2E](#)

[Background for the Project](#)

### National Events

[National Events](#) are being organized in [EU13 Members States](#) to:

- Ease understanding of national and regional innovation ecosystems
- Raise awareness to enable synergies between EU funding programmes
- Share experiences in combining Structural Funds and Framework Programme to improve excellence
- Draw lessons for the future and identify follow-up actions to enhance potential synergies

### Country & Region Information

Quantitative and Qualitative information are produced for [EU13 regions and countries](#):

- [National and Regional Fact & Figures](#) aim to draw the European profile of a country/ region with statistical and financial information coming from the EU's 7th Framework Programme and Structural Funds dedicated to research and innovation.
- [S2E Country Reports](#) provide further analysis on selected policy issues that affect optimal use and the combination of key EU funds for R&I and offer country-tailored policy suggestions aiming to tackle the weaknesses identified in the analysis.



BG HR CY CZ EE HU LV LT MT PL RO SK SI

### S3 Targeted Support

S2E organizes National Events in all EU13 Member States

## Related Links

Smart Specialisation Platform (S3P) [HomePage](#), and specifically:

- S3 Platform Membership Registered Countries and Regions
- [Eye@RIS3](mailto:Eye@RIS3)
- [Eye@RIS3 Specialisation Mapping](#)
- [Guides related to aspects of the S3](#)

[DG REGIO HomePage](#)

## Contacts

Contact the [S2E email box](#)

Know the [S2E Team members](#)

More Specific contacts are available for the respective [registered Member States on S3P](#), for instance:

- [H2020 National Contact Points](#)
- [European Enterprise Network branches](#)

## Synergies examples

[Synergies examples](#) are provided in which SF/ ESIF and FP7/ H2020 funds have been combined in order to amplify the R&I investments and their impact, using different forms of innovation and competitiveness support, or carrying innovative ideas further along the innovation cycle or value chain to bring them to the market.

## Instruments, Platforms & Concepts

Fiches are being made available on a selection of [European instruments/ platforms/ concepts](#) that can be considered as facilitators especially for "downstream activities", to exploit and diffuse results from earlier programming period (FP7) and current one (H2020), and as key elements in monitoring the implementation of synergies in their various forms.

## Relevant Initiatives, Projects and Platforms

Beyond the Reference Documents (below) and Related Links (left), there are a number of [Relevant Initiatives, Projects and Platforms](#) for Cohesion Policy and the synergies with the research and development funds.

## Reference Documents

We gather [Reference Documents](#) relevant to Cohesion Policy and the synergies with the research and development funds, including guidance for Policy-Makers, Implementing Bodies and Beneficiaries of EU Funds and instruments issued by the European Commission or other bodies.

## FAQ

[Frequently Asked Questions](#) relate to practical application of the Guidance on synergies between ESIF, Horizon2020 and other research, innovation and competitiveness-related Union programmes.

A [list of acronyms](#) is also available.

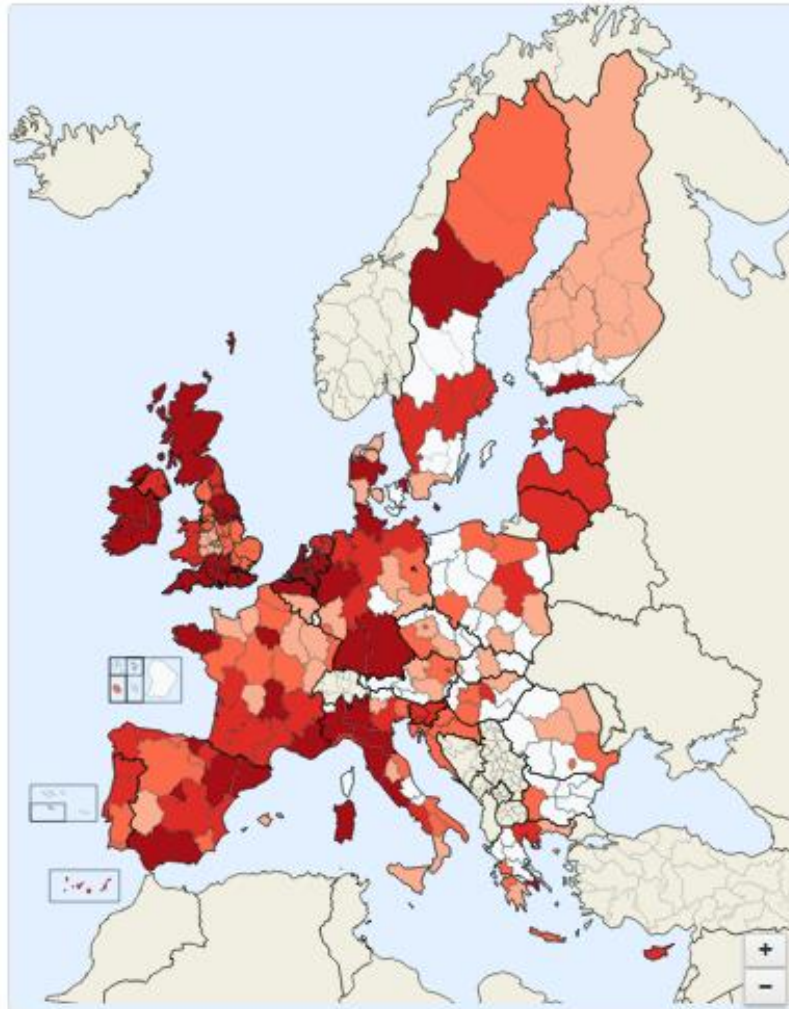
## Events

## Publications



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# R&I Regional Viewer



## Economic Data

Regional context indicators  
Last available data

GDP - Euro per capita ▼

## Structural Funds

Planned investments  
2014-2020

Total ESIF Research 8 ▼

## Horizon 2020

Allocated funding  
2014-March 2016

EU.3.2. - Food security ▼

Food Security, Sustainable Agriculture and  
Forestry, Marine, Maritime and Inland  
Water Research and the Bioeconomy

No data   < 0.3 M   0.3 M - 0.8 M   0.8 M - 2.4 M  
> 2.4 M