Horizon 2020 and possible synergies with Structural Funds through Smart Specialisation Strategies

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The Policy Context and its dimensions

Raising scientific and technological excellence in all parts of the Union is a pre-requisite for the success of the Europe 2020 Strategy:

- Important for innovation
- Necessary for the Union to advance and gain new ground in knowledge to acquire or maintain technological leadership and for facing the big societal challenges of the present and of tomorrow
Figure 2: EU Member States’ Innovation Performance

Note: Average performance is measured using a composite indicator building on data for 24 indicators going from a lowest possible performance of 0 to a maximum possible performance of 1. Average performance in 2011 reflects performance in 2009/2010 due to a lag in data availability.
EU Financial Contribution for FP7 Participants (M€)
Number of FP7 Participations

(number of participants)
Clustering of research collaboration – EU 27: 2005-2009

Source: ‘Bibliometric analysis for FP7 Interim evaluation’, Nov 2010, Thompson Reuters
Raising excellence through synergies of Union policies

- Several Union policies have the potential of contributing strongly to the excellence objective (research and innovation, enterprise and industry, education and training, etc.)
- Among them two stand clearly out because of their nature, structure, instruments and massive effect:
  - **Research and Innovation and Cohesion policy**
  - **Creating synergies between them becomes essential**
Synergies between Horizon 2020 and future Cohesion policy (2014-2020)

- A mature concept, already in place since the ’90s (e.g. STRIDE etc.)
- Two different policy frameworks, with entirely different delivery modes, however pointing to common objectives:
  - Raising and spreading scientific excellence and innovation in all Member States and regions
  - Strengthening competitiveness and innovation
- However, huge needs for improvements and a more systemic integration
- ERAC produced 2 reports on the matter (in 2010 and 2011)
- Synergies Expert Group report by DG Research and Innovation completed and published in June 2011
ERAC Report on ERA related instruments
(ERAC 1208/11, 26/5/11)

- Create better synergies between the CSF for Research and Innovation and the CSF for Cohesion Policy.
- There should be a maximum degree of possible “interfaces” between the future CSF for Research and Innovation and the CSF for Cohesion Policy e.g. through common cost definitions, complemented with appropriate ‘bridging’-activities including giving credit/visibility to projects with high ranking in the CSF.
- The activities of the Regions of Knowledge and the Research Potential are needed but in-depth analyses are needed and a clearer division of tasks has to be done between the CSF for Research and Innovation and the CSF for Cohesion Policy.
- A dedicated ‘RTDI instrument’, taking into account the national/regional responsibility, in the CSF for Cohesion Policy combined with priority reflecting the Europe2020 Strategy, would facilitate synergies between the two CSFs.
- It is important to follow-up of the recommendations of ERAC’s Synergy group.
ERAC Group on Synergies (ERAC Opinion on recommendations and possible options to achieve more synergies between the Knowledge Triangle and Cohesion policies at various governance levels, ERAC 1204/10, 21/6/10)

- Need for stronger integration and more synergies within the Knowledge Triangle both at EU, National and Regional level. All relevant stakeholders at these levels should be mobilised to create a common vision that will lead to holistic policy strategies and, interoperable support programmes.

- Better policy coordination within the relevant Commission departments and among the different Council formations - but also cross-departmental cooperation within individual countries and regions, which is a sine qua non condition for successful innovation policy!
Synergies Expert Group: outcome in a nutshell

- As far as Less Developed Regions are concerned, build a Staircase to Excellence by using all available means for funding research and innovation enabling schemes (from research infrastructure to venture capital and financial support to start-ups and university spin-offs) through Smart Specialisation (Regional Innovation Strategies for Smart Specialisation).
- Improve mutual information, communication and cooperation between all relevant stakeholders and funding schemes inside R&D&I and Cohesion policy.
- Regarding the future of the Regions of Knowledge (RoK) and Research Potential (REGPOT) schemes the SEG suggested streamlining these under Cohesion policy.
SEG Report proposals: (continued)

- Understand better how the two policies engage with regions in different stages of development (*Staircase to Excellence*). Better exploit links between the “knowledge triangle” and the “Triple Helix” concepts at regional level.

- Improve interoperability between both policies, alignment with Europe 2020 and the *National Reform Programmes* (NRPs).
### Horizon 2020 and Cohesion Policy: Differences and Complementary Objectives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Horizon 2020</th>
<th>Cohesion Policy</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Based largely on individual R&amp;D and innovation Projects of a pre-competitive nature aiming at advancing knowledge and fostering innovation for growth and jobs, including but not exclusively frontier research (also co-funding national and regional programmes)</td>
<td>Based on multiannual Programmes aiming to reduce regional disparities, including through close to the market competitive R&amp;D and innovation efforts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Awarded directly to final beneficiaries (firms, public and private R&amp;D centres and Universities, including national and regional governments in certain cases – Art. 185, ERA-NET etc.)</td>
<td>Awarded through shared management exclusively to national and regional public intermediaries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Through transnational competitive calls addressed to international groupings through peer review based on excellence criteria</td>
<td>For its most part based on non-competitive attribution addressed to regional players based on strategic planning negotiation (however calls possible at national or regional level)</td>
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**Synergies and Complementarities**

**Horizon 2020** will focus on tackling major societal challenges, maximising the competitiveness impact of research and innovation (Industrial leadership) and raising and spreading levels of excellence in the research base.

**Future Cohesion policy** will focus on galvanising smart specialisation that will act as a capacity building instrument, based on learning mechanisms and the creation of critical skills in regions and Member States.
What is Horizon 2020

- Commission proposal for a 80 billion euro research and innovation funding programme (2014-20)
- Part of proposals for next EU budget, complementing Structural Funds, education, etc.
- A core part of Europe 2020, Innovation Union & European Research Area:
  - Responding to the economic crisis to invest in future jobs and growth
  - Addressing peoples’ concerns about their livelihoods, safety and environment.
  - Strengthening the EU’s global position in research, innovation and technology

What’s new

- A single programme bringing together three separate programmes/initiatives:
  - The 7th research Framework Programme (FP7), innovation aspects of Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP), EU contribution to the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)
  - More innovation, from research to retail, all forms of innovation
  - Focus on societal challenges facing EU society, e.g. health, clean energy and transport
  - Simplified access, for all
Three priorities for Horizon 2020:

1. Excellent science
2. Industrial leadership
3. Societal challenges
Priority 1 Excellent science

Why:

- World class science is the foundation of tomorrow’s technologies, jobs and wellbeing
- Europe needs to develop, attract and retain research talent
- Researchers need access to the best infrastructures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>European Research Council</th>
<th>13 268</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Frontier research by the best individual teams</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Future and Emerging Technologies</td>
<td>3 100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Collaborative research to open new fields of innovation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marie Curie actions*</td>
<td>5 752</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opportunities for training and career development</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research infrastructures (including e-infrastructure)</td>
<td>2 478</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ensuring access to world-class facilities</td>
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</tbody>
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Priority 2  Industrial leadership

Why:

- Europe needs more innovative SMEs to create growth and jobs
- Strategic investments in key technologies (e.g. advanced manufacturing, micro-electronics) underpin innovation across existing and emerging sectors
- Europe needs to attract more private investment in research and innovation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Leadership in enabling and industrial technologies (ICT, nanotechnologies, materials, biotechnology, manufacturing, space)</th>
<th>13 781</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Access to risk finance</td>
<td>3 538</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leveraging private finance and venture capital for research and Innovation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Innovation in SMEs</td>
<td>619</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fostering all forms of innovation in all types of SMEs</td>
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</table>
Priority 3  Societal challenges

Why:

- EU policy objectives (climate, environment, energy, transport etc) cannot be achieved without innovation
- Breakthrough solutions come from multi-disciplinary collaborations, including social sciences & humanities
- Promising solutions need to be tested, demonstrated and scaled up

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Budget</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Health, demographic change and wellbeing</td>
<td>8 033</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food security, sustainable agriculture, marine and maritime research &amp; the bioeconomy</td>
<td>4 152</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secure, clean and efficient energy*</td>
<td>5 782</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smart, green and integrated transport</td>
<td>6 802</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Climate action, resource efficiency and raw materials</td>
<td>3 160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inclusive, innovative and secure societies</td>
<td>3 819</td>
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*Additional €1 050m for nuclear safety and security from the Euratom Treaty activities (2014-18). Does not include ITER.
Horizon 2020 and partnering

Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs):
- Through Joint Technology Initiatives or other formal structures (§ 187)
- Via contractual arrangements, which provide inputs for work programmes
- Only when criteria met, e.g. clear commitments from private partners

Public-Public Partnerships (P2Ps):
- Through “ERA-Nets” for topping up individual calls/ actions (replacing current ERA-Net, ERA-Net Plus, Inco-Net, Inno-net)
- Through participation in joint programs between Member States (§ 185)
- Supporting agendas of Joint Programming Initiatives when in line with Horizon 2020
- Only when criteria met, e.g. financial commitments of participating countries

European Innovation Partnerships
- Not funding instruments, intended only for coordination with broader policies and programmes
Horizon 2020 has also:

- A completely new approach towards supporting research and innovation in SMEs (based on the concept of the US SBIR scheme)
- A new approach to access to risk finance especially for high-growth innovative SMEs
- A major simplification effort in terms of administration and financial management
Widening participation by unlocking R&I potential

- **Principle of excellence**: continue to allocate funding on the basis of competitive calls, selecting only the best projects.

- **Clear division of labour** between cohesion policy and Horizon 2020.
  - **Cohesion policy**: support for regions in building up their research and innovation capacity.
  - **Horizon 2020**: widen participation, better coordination between the two Union funding programmes, support policy learning reforms

- **Measures in Horizon 2020** to ensure that excellence prevails wherever it exists, including: twinning, ERA chairs, support for access to international networks, development of smart specialisation strategies.
Societal Challenge on Inclusive, innovative and secure societies / Part 6.1.4. Closing the research and innovation divide in Europe (III)

- **Facilitating access to cross-border science networks** for excellent researchers and innovators who lack sufficient involvement in European and international networks. This will include support provided through COST and National Contact Points.

- **Helping Member States to develop Research and Innovation Policies including smart specialisation strategies.** A **policy support facility** will be developed and policy learning at national and regional level will be facilitated through international evaluation by peers and best practice sharing.
Significant regional disparities across Europe in research and innovation performance need to be addressed. Measures will aim at unlocking excellence and innovation and will be distinct, complementary and synergistic with policies and actions of the Cohesion policy Funds. They include:

- **TWINNING and TEAMING**: Linking emerging institutions, centres of excellence and innovative regions in less developed Member States to international leading counterparts elsewhere in Europe:
  - measures include teaming of excellent research institutions and innovative regions, staff exchanges, expert advice and assistance and the development of joint strategies for the establishment of centres of excellence that may be supported by the 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, will be considered.
Establishing 'ERA Chairs' to attract outstanding academics to institutions with a clear potential for research excellence, in order to help these institutions fully unlock this potential and hereby create a level playing field for research and innovation in the European Research Area.

- This will include institutional support for creating a competitive research environment and the framework conditions necessary for attracting, retaining and developing top research talent within these institutions.
What future for “Regions of Knowledge” and “Research Potential” types of action?

- **Provisions are made to integrate the objectives of these actions** under European Territorial Cooperation actions (former INTERREG) (recital 7 in draft ETC Regulation)

- **Support to Cluster Cooperation and to Twinning research institutions** also present in the mainstream ERDF
How Horizon 2020 will interface with Cohesion policy

- ERAC (former CREST) and SEG recommendations were actively taken on board to the maximum when designing HORIZON 2020.

HORIZON 2020 will interface with Cohesion policy:

- By providing policy support and advice to national and regional authorities for better design of research and innovation strategies for smart specialisation.

- By using networks like COST to spread excellence among scientists all over Europe (including through training and networking).

- Through a host of measures on “Closing the Innovation Divide” in Europe.

- By improving information and communication between respective stakeholders and players (SF Managing Authorities; Research and Innovation agencies and FP participants) and by improving the use of existing information and intermediation networks (like the EEN, EBN etc.).

- By providing expertise through its Thematic Directorates to national and regional policy makers for designing their Structural Funds funded interventions with regard to research and innovation.

- Our Practical Guide (online now !) in its second edition is an important tool in this respect.
Synergies between Horizon 2020 and future Cohesion Policy

- **Synergies by design**: new draft regulations for Cohesion policy give strong priority to investments in Research and Innovation; Horizon 2020 promotes broad access through major simplification, new financial engineering instruments, new opportunities for SMEs and a host of measures to close the innovation divide.

- **Synergies in practice**: capacity building in future Cohesion policy will provide a staircase to excellence to all European regions; from particular investments for research infrastructures and support to innovation, through support to applied research, pilot production lines and support to Key Enabling Technologies through Smart Specialisation, Cohesion policy will work in tandem with research and innovation policy (Horizon 2020).
Delivery: working on the Rules

Facilitating linkages and concerted efforts

- **A common programming period of seven (7) years** makes easier synchronisation of funding and provides for better planning with a strong potential for real synergies
- **Distinct objectives but the same strategic goals** of serving the Europe 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth
- **Harmonisation of cost eligibility rules between Horizon 2020 and CP** (Lump sums, flat rates and unit costs possible under both for funding direct and indirect costs without providing documents proving real expenses, harmonisation of VAT rules)
- **Possibility to combine CP and Horizon 2020 funding** (and from other Union instruments) in same project for different expenditure items, which opens the way to combined funding of individual Horizon 2020 projects (Art. 55(8) of proposed Gen.Reg.)
Delivery: working on the Rules (II)

- **Possibility to invest in other EU regions from a mainstream OP**, i.e. up to 10% of an OP budget (for EAFRD 3%) if the measure is for the benefit of the OP territory / important for cross-border research infrastructures (incl. ESFRI Roadmap) or cluster or value chain networking investments (Art. 60(2))

- **The development of research and innovation strategies (RIS3) for smart specialisation** is a conditionality for the approval of the R&I elements of the Partnership Contracts and the Operational Programmes. They are the key instrument to maximise also the synergies with Horizon 2020.

- **Enhanced territorial cooperation CP budget share** (3.1% of total ERDF of which almost 6% for inter-regional cooperation) allows to build trans-national linkages between regional innovation actors, building on legacy FP7 Regions of Knowledge and Research Potential measures or CIP cluster cooperation or networking of procurers or innovation agencies, and allowing to include less advanced regions in a targeted manner.
Current programming period 2007-2013

- Cohesion policy contributes to unlocking growth potential by promoting research and innovation in all regions
- 2007-2013 - € 86 billion for research and innovation, over 25% of total Cohesion policy budget:
  - Focus on capacity-building but also on infrastructure in Less Developed Regions
  - The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) is a very important funding source for Less Developed Regions with regard to research and innovation

October 2011 figures show that about 50 % of € 86 billion have been already committed to projects on broader Research and Innovation schemes
Cohesion policy 2014-2020 and Europe 2020

Commission adopted its proposals for new Cohesion policy on 6 October 2011:

- Along with rural development and maritime and fisheries policies, Cohesion policy will focus on Europe 2020 objectives for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth
- List of thematic objectives developed around the Europe 2020 headline targets and flagship initiatives
- Thematic concentration for maximising impact: minimum shares for research and innovation through the European Regional Development Fund
- In March 2012 the Commission adopted a Staff Working Document on “Elements for a Common Strategic Framework for Cohesion”. In November 2011, the Horizon 2020 proposal was adopted by the Commission following the adoption of a “Common Strategic Framework for Research and Innovation” that led to the Horizon 2020 proposal. Linkages and coordination mechanisms between the 2 frameworks have now been specifically defined.
Cohesion policy: 11 Thematic Objectives to Deliver Europe 2020

- **Strengthening research, technological development and innovation**
- Enhancing access to, and use and quality of, information and communication technologies
- Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises, the agricultural sector (for the EAFRD) and the fisheries and aquaculture sector (for the EMFF)
- Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors
- Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management
- Protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency
- Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures
- Promoting employment and supporting labour mobility
- Promoting social inclusion and combating poverty
- Investing in education, skills and lifelong learning
- Enhancing institutional capacity and an efficient public administration
Research and Innovation Investment proposed priorities for the ERDF

**Strengthening research, technological development and innovation:**

- Enhancing research and innovation infrastructure (R&I) and capacities to develop R&I excellence and promoting centres of competence, in particular those of European interest (ESFRI)

- Promoting business R&I investment, product and service development, technology transfer, social innovation and public service application, demand simulation, networking, clusters and open innovation through smart specialisation

- Supporting technological and applied research, pilot lines, early product validation actions, advanced manufacturing capabilities and first production in Key Enabling Technologies and diffusion of general purpose technologies
### ERDF thematic concentration 2014-2020

**Allocation from the total ERDF resources, at national level**

1) **In more developed regions (MDR) and transition regions (TR)**
   - At least 80% for priorities (1) R&I, (3) SMEs and (4) Energy (at least 20%)

2) **In less developed regions (LDR)**
   - At least 50% for priorities (1) R&I, (3) SMEs and (4) Energy (at least 6%)

3) **Derogation for regions with GDP<75% EU-25 (2007-2013 period)**
   - At least 60% for priorities (1) R&I, (3) SMEs and (4) Energy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2014-2020</th>
<th>Total (€)</th>
<th>ERDF(% maxi)</th>
<th>ERDF(€ maxi)</th>
<th>(1)+(3)(+ %)</th>
<th>(1)+(3)(+ €)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LDR</td>
<td>162.6</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>122.0</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>53.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TR</td>
<td>38.9</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>23.3</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>14.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MDR</td>
<td>53.1</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>25.5</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>15.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sub-Total</td>
<td>254.6</td>
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<td>170.8</td>
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<td>83.0</td>
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**Total Cohesion Policy** = € 376 Billion, including ETC (€11.7B), Cohesion Fund (€68.7B), OMR-extra (€1B), Connecting EU Facility (€40B) and ESF (€84B, mini)
Performance: ex ante conditionality (for Research and Innovation investments: Smart Specialisation Strategy (S3))

- MS and regions to fulfil conditions closely linked to the thematic objectives of the policy
- If not fulfilled, definition of precise actions and deadlines
- Possibility for the Commission to suspend all or part of interim payments at the moment of the adoption of programmes
- If conditions not fulfilled within deadlines, suspension of payments
What is Smart Specialisation?

http://ec.europa.eu/research/era/publication_en.cfm

- ‘Knowledge for Growth’ expert group (DG RTD) launched concept in the framework of ERA;
- Problem: fragmentation/imitation/duplication of public R&D investments;
- Stresses role for all regions in the knowledge economy, if they can identify comparative advantages in specific R &I domains/clusters (not just winning sectors);
- Challenges: Smart specialisation has to embrace the concept of open innovation, not only investment in (basic) research.

“Most advanced regions invest in the invention of general purpose technologies, others invest in the co-invention of applications of the generic technology in one or several important domains of the regional economy”

Dominique FORAY 2010
Innovation Strategies for Smart Specialisation: RIS³

An agenda for economic transformation:

- **(Tough) Choices:** select few priorities on the basis of international specialisation and integration on international value chains
- **Competitive (Constructed) Advantage:** mobilise talent by matching RTD + i and business needs & capacities
- **Critical Mass:** provide arenas for related variety/cross-sectoral links which drive specialised technological diversification
- **Collaborative Leadership:** efficient innovation systems as a collective endeavour based on public-private partnership (quadruple helix)
Steps to RIS3

Step 1: Analysis of regional potential for innovation-driven differentiation

Step 2: RIS 3 design and governance – ensuring participation & ownership

Step 3: Elaboration of an overall vision for the future of the region

Step 4: Selection of priorities for RIS3 + definition of objectives

Step 5: Definition of coherent policy mix, roadmaps and action plan

Step 6: Integration of monitoring and evaluation mechanisms
Example: Bremerhaven (DE)

- Economy based on shipbuilding & commercial fishing in strong downturn end of 1990’s

- Selection of ‘offshore wind energy’ as new development: clear & integrated industrial strategy and clustering of competencies

- Strong existing synergies between ‘shipyard’ & ‘offshore wind’ sectors

- Now Bremerhaven = major hub of offshore wind in DE, 4 major manufactures, already 1,000 jobs created
The platform is established at the Joint Research Centre (IPTS) in Seville and covers a three-year period.

It acts as a facilitator in bringing together the relevant policy support activities in research, regional, enterprise, innovation, information society, education and sustainable policies.

Informs and communicates on related funding opportunities under the relevant EU funding programmes.

Includes the facilities to provide direct feedback and information to regions, Member States and its intermediate bodies.

Provides methodological support, expert advice, training, information on good practice, etc.

Mirror Group of International experts:

http://bit.ly/zL7Qgw
How HORIZON 2020 could contribute to Smart Specialisation Strategies

- By promoting research priorities that hold a strong innovation potential
- By supporting all forms of innovation including social innovation
- By promoting SMEs and their efforts on market access, commercialisation of research results and IPR management
- By opening up new paths to risk finance (debt and equity platforms)
- By supporting Open Access to research results, scientific publications and data
Next steps in planning for Member States / regions / research and innovation stakeholders

**Preparing for Cohesion policy:**
- Perform a serious analysis of national, regional and local characteristics
- Position the Member State / Region in its particular international context and see what this implies for its future priorities (consider re-positioning)
- Lay out a strategy for smart specialisation, in a bottom-up process involving all relevant stakeholders
- Prioritise, evaluate, and choose
- Consider possible governance adjustments if needed
- Formulate a clear plan with limited and specific priorities, where an evaluation process has to be built-in, with relevant indicators

**Preparing for Horizon 2020:**
- Identify areas / themes / topics that are suitable for entering a competition process / if possible linked with local / national smart specialisation strategies
- Identify areas where complementary actions linked to research and innovation projects (funded possibly by Horizon 2020) could be supported by the Structural Funds embedded in Operational Programmes (national or regional)/ see Key Actions of the CSF on Cohesion
Our Practical Guide to EU Funding is online and now in its second edition!

Introduction

At the Community level, the Union possesses three key funding instruments to support research and innovation:

- the Research Framework Programme funding research and;
- the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme funding innovation and;
- the Structural Funds and Cohesion Fund funding the Cohesion policy.

This Practical Guide was conceived in order to help potential beneficiaries of our programmes find their way through these funding instruments and identify the most appropriate funding scheme for them. It:

- provides a concise description of the three funding sources;
- explains how they can be combined and;
- provides policy makers with advice on setting up mechanisms at the national and regional levels to foster co-ordinated access to them.
Thank you!