

EN
ANNEX

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Budget line: 13 03 77 13

1.2. Basic Act: Not applicable

1.3. Policy context

The two EU funding sources (The European Structural and Investment Funds and Horizon 2020), when operating individually, provide significant support for research, development and innovation. Supporting synergies in their use may deliver additional gains in terms of innovation results, close the innovation gap in Europe and promote economic growth. Enhancing a better combination of research, development and innovation strategies is an important component of the Directorate General's work programme as a contribution to the Union's regional policy.

1.4. General objectives of the Pilot Project

The Pilot Project is centred on the provision of support to enhance the value of two key EU funding sources for research, development and innovation (the European Structural and Investment Funds and Horizon 2020) by actively promoting their combination.

2. ACTIONS/ TYPE OF FINANCIAL INTERVENTION

In 2015 the new actions of the Pilot Project implementation will be entrusted to the Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European Commission through the signature of an Administrative Agreement.

2.1. Capacity Building:

Capacity building serves the purposes of preparing Research and Innovation (R&I) actors to use European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) resources to become more competitive in Horizon 2020 calls (i.e. sequential funding) and amplify innovation impact of these two funding sources (i.e. simultaneous and/or parallel use). Some proposed actions to be implemented by JRC in 2015 will be as follows:

- Organise national events gathering national and regional authorities in charge of ESIF programmes and National Contact Points in charge of providing guidance and assistance on all participation aspects of Horizon 2020 projects to facilitate the communication of these two worlds and to address obstacles and implementation issues;
- Develop and maintain web-based facilities to provide dissemination of information to interested actors and keep them informed about the development of the work under the Stairway to Excellence (S2E) Initiative.;
- Disseminate the guide for policy-makers and implementing bodies on synergies between ESIF and Horizon 2020 and complement it with a digest of

good practice examples based on the experience emanating from the peer reviews and related events;

- Contribute to the forthcoming update of the COM practical guide to EU Funding opportunities for R&I (more addressed to beneficiaries);
- Organise as of 2015 an annual meeting/conference on the synergies between Horizon 2020 and ESIF in collaboration with the European Parliament, the Committee of the Regions, and other Commission Services, in particular DG Research and Innovation, to raise awareness of major stakeholders on (1) the progress in exploiting the synergies between Horizon 2020 and ESIF and (2) discuss practical bottlenecks emerging when R&I actors will start implementing the available tools for synergies between funds.

2.2. Exploitation and diffusion of results from earlier Framework Programmes (FP) and Horizon 2020 to MS/regions who joined in 2004, 2007 and 2013:

The action aims at launching "Downstream actions" to provide the means to exploit and diffuse R&I results, stemming from Horizon 2020 and preceding programmes, into the market with particular attention on creating an innovation-friendly environment for business and industry, including SMEs and in line with the priorities identified for the territories in the relevant smart specialisation strategy. It is proposed that 2015 is used to develop and test some methodologies to do it effectively.

Some proposed actions in 2015 will be as follows:

- Based on the S3 Platform analysis of Research and Innovation Strategies for Smart Specialisation (RIS3) thematic areas and following the national/regional cases identified in Work Package 2, set up a limited number of pilot platforms/initiatives for policy-makers, research and business actors to explore practical aspects of how synergies can be implemented in the context of transnational cooperation as part of their RIS3 implementation. These platforms should take into account existing networking and cooperation platforms (e.g. European Innovation Partnerships, Knowledge and innovation communities, Knowledge Alliances, Cluster projects, Joint technology initiatives, European technology platforms) and aim to provide a schema demonstrating the tools/instruments possibly useful to access downstream synergy actions. In these activities, input from relevant Commission Services would be sought (in particular DG Research and Innovation).
- Analyse the situation as regards the take-up of public sector research results (including stemming from FP) by the private sector.
- Analyse the "close to market" type of innovation policy instruments used in the EU.
- Organising exploratory sessions to present both analysis and discuss ways of exploiting previously-generated knowledge and better link into value chains.

3. TOTAL ADDITIONAL BUDGET: EUR 300 000

The budget will be implemented through service contracts out of which up to EUR 75 000 will be reserved for experts contracts. This will be engaged mostly through individual expert contracts. Their main purpose will be to review / profiling Regions and Member States who

joined in 2004, 2007 and 2013 in their capacity to use/attract ESIF and FP innovation-related investments, assess their research and innovation policies to complement and support the work of JRC-Institute for Prospective Technological Studies.

This will include the preparation of briefing materials, participation in and animation of workshops and other specific stakeholder liaison activities, and associated reporting.

Experts with relevant expertise in other relevant regional contexts would be engaged to support the work, through workshop participation and supporting analysis.

4. INDICATIVE CALENDAR FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTION

The procedures described in the work programme will be launched in the first semester 2015.