



KEY HIGHLIGHTS

The cumulated involvement of all Belgian federated entities illustrates the importance attributed to partnerships. They hold a solid position that the partnerships are beneficial.

Each Belgian entity applies its own strategy for its participation and the repartition of the funding. This leads to a relatively high number of participations. This strong engagement will be maintained.

The low number of coordinations might reflect the decentralised nature of the Belgian R&I system where smaller administrations cannot afford to spend much time on coordinating many partnerships. In addition, certain complexities and administrative rigidities within the partnerships may explain this as well.

86 H2020
public
partnerships (*)

Or
86.87%
of total
(99 partnerships)

175
H2020 public
partnerships (*)
participations

Or
8.12%
of total

3 H2020
public
partnerships (*)
coordinations

Or
3.03%
of total

Source: ERA-LEARN database (cut-off date June 2021), H2020 period (2014-2020) excluding EIT-KICs, EuroHPC and ECSEL

(*) Horizon 2020 public-public partnerships include ERA-NET Cofund, EJPs, Art 185 initiatives and JPIs. Partnership participations: number of partnerships a specific country takes part as participant – for certain countries more than one national organisation may take part. Thus the participations may be more than the number of partnerships a country is part of. Total partnership participations: number of partners from a specific country participating with any role (i.e. coordinator, participant, observer, other) in partnerships. Partnership coordinations: number of partnerships a specific country coordinates.

€88.06 million

in actual national contributions in public partnerships
during H2020 (2014-2020)

Or **4.05%** of total

€1 561

per researcher FTE (average between 2014-2019 based
on EUROSTAT data)

Source: ERA-LEARN database (cut-off date June 2021), H2020 period (2014-2020)

Actual national contributions is the funding given by each country to cover the participation of national science and technology groups in the funded projects of the joint transnational calls launched by the public partnerships. Actual contributions for each researcher are the total actual contributions by a country divided by the number of researchers in the country estimated in full-time equivalents (FTE) average between 2014-2019 based on EUROSTAT data.

KEY AREAS ADDRESSED

The difference in RFOs (funding of fundamental/basic vs. applied research) is reflected in their policies: the former support as many topics as possible via P2Ps while the latter tend to focus on fewer topics (more technology oriented) with a higher budget. The most important topics are: health and life sciences, digital technologies, agile production methods, circular materials, sustainable energy, agri-food, biotech, clean tech, water and blue economy, management of the environment and urban planning.



TABLE 1: Distribution of funding under the different H2020 instruments (P2Ps, JUs, cPPPs and other H2020 projects, i.e. CSAs, RIAs, IAs, etc.) across thematic priorities

THEMATIC PRIORITIES	P2Ps PROJECTS	JUs PROJECTS	cPPPs PROJECTS	OTHER H2020 PROJECTS
Nanotechnologies, Advanced Materials, Advanced Manufacturing and Processing, Biotechnology	10.05 %	1.64 %	2.56 %	10.30 %
Climate action, environment, resource efficiency and raw materials	19.87 %	0.04 %	5.68 %	8.02 %
Europe in a changing world - inclusive, innovative and reflective Societies	5.60 %		6.98 %	8.59 %
Food security, sustainable agriculture and forestry, marine and maritime and inland water research	15.31 %	18.03 %		8.10 %
Future and Emerging Technologies	4.14 %		1.19 %	4.88 %
Health, demographic change and wellbeing	32.05 %	22.89 %		17.33 %
Information and Communication Technologies		34.22 %	78.78 %	14.73 %
Secure, clean and efficient energy	4.21 %	2.96 %	4.83 %	13.95 %
Smart, green and integrated transport	8.76 %	20.23 %		14.10 %
	100,00 %	100,00 %	100,00 %	100,00 %

Source: ERA-LEARN database (cut-off date June 2021) based on actual national contributions for P2Ps; eCORDA based on net EU contribution; values are calculated as the share of investments of the specific instrument in the specific theme in the total investments under the specific instrument

FIGURE 1: Eligible proposals, projects and success rates

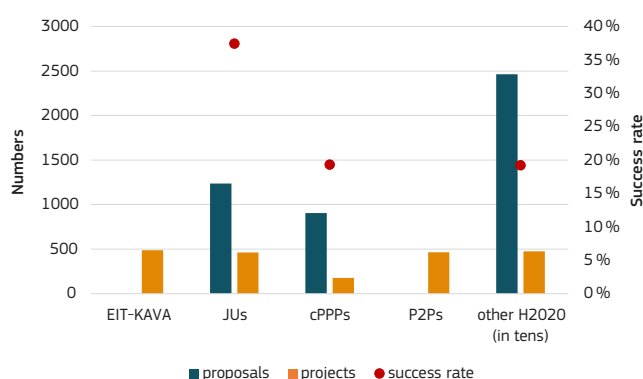
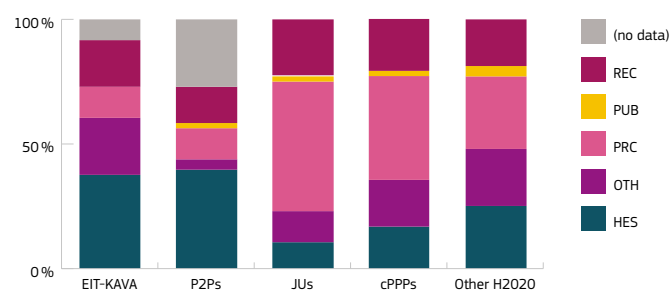


FIGURE 2: Types of project beneficiaries (%)



Source: ERA-LEARN database for P2Ps (cut-off date June 2021); eCORDA for EIT-KAVA, JUs, cPPPs, other H2020 projects (RIAs, CSAs, etc.)

No proposal data for P2Ps, EIT-KICs (Figure 1). EIT-KAVA: KIC Added Value Activities; HES: higher education; OTH: other; PRC: private for-profit companies; PUB: public bodies; REC: research organisations (Figure 2)

ADDITIONAL INVESTMENTS/ACTIVITIES TRIGGERED

Some reduced forms of Seal of Excellence funding are available for ERC Seals of Excellence and for SME instrument Seals of Excellence.

FP6/FP7 ERA-NETs IRAsme and CorNet still continue to use regional funding only.

Networking and collaborations in some thematic areas have been developed successfully.



COMPLEMENTARY AND CUMULATIVE FUNDING

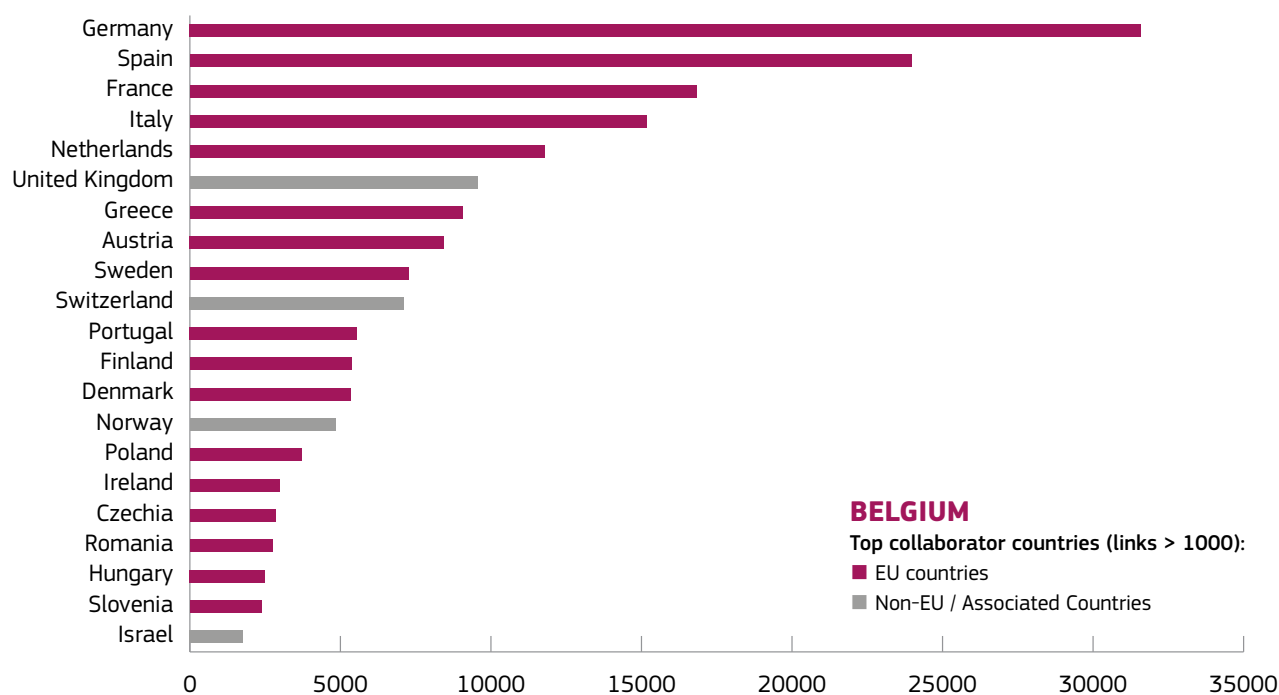
In Wallonia, participation in partnerships is closely linked to the Smart Specialisation Strategy. The Wallonia Brussels Federation has a strategy in place to participate in all co-funded partnerships where basic research can be performed.

In the Brussels Capital Region, R&I investment follows the Regional Innovation Plan priorities and S3.

ESIF funds in the Brussels Capital Region and in the Walloon Region are used to co-finance projects in the areas of S3. The level of ERDF investment varies considerably across the regions (very small amounts in Brussels; larger amounts in Wallonia).

In Flanders, ESIF funds are not used for participating in partnerships. RRF money is used to support R&I activities but not directly linked to European Partnerships.

FIGURE 3: Top collaborators of Belgian researchers under Horizon 2020 projects (including JUs, cPPPs, P2Ps and other H2020 projects)



Source: eCorda; Showing countries with links >1 000



SUCCESS STORIES

- ✦ Regional programmes in Belgium complement EU funding in the areas of AI and digital technologies.
- ✦ Fundamental and basic research happens in a bottom-up way, leading to broad participation across all scientific fields.
- ✦ SRIAs of BiodivERsA influenced the national strategy. Also, the national cancer plan benefitted from EU network research agendas.
- ✦ S3 allows better preparation and alignment with PRI (regional innovation plan and policies); this is a clear structuring effect.
- ✦ The elaboration of new partnerships encourages stakeholders to work together and co-create the programmes, and in some Belgian region(s), align the funding instruments, identify and act on target groups.
- ✦ The requirement to collaborate contributes to the structuring of the R&I ecosystem in the Brussels region involving actors and funding instruments in a more holistic approach towards R&I.