



## KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Slovenian research performing and research funding organisations along with other institutions have enjoyed the concept of partnerships since FP6's ERA-NETs in. For a small country joining the EU in the fifth wave and which is less known to the European research community, it primarily meant enabled participation, strengthened transnational collaboration and an increased possibility to network. To some extent this led to an increased quality of research activities and of management of research projects, reflected in the improved quality of research projects at the national level. Due to a cumbersome research funding system, the support scheme for addressing grand societal challenges has never been effective and therefore inclusion in the JPIs has always been inadequate.

**42** H2020 public partnerships (\*)

Or **42.42%** of total (99 partnerships)

**42** H2020 public partnerships (\*) participations

Or **1.95%** of total

**0** H2020 public partnerships (\*) coordinations

Or **0%** 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.

**€13.9 million**

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

Or **0.64%** of total

**€1519**

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 INTENTIONS FOR THE FUTURE

The main strategic document, the Resolution on Research and Innovation Strategy of Slovenia (2011-2020), does not prescribe or prioritise specific research fields. Therefore, the decision for various partnership collaborations has mostly been bottom-up, coming from a strong research base. With this approach several different research thematic fields have been supported. This can also be seen from Table 1, where, overall all thematic fields are addressed. The existence of a critical mass in a research field is not a precondition for support. Smaller research groups are equally supported, which has led to high success in the ERC grantees. With the newly adopted *Scientific Research and Innovation Activities Act* (November 2021), research fields are turned towards addressing grand societal challenges: climate change, energy, natural resources, health and aging.

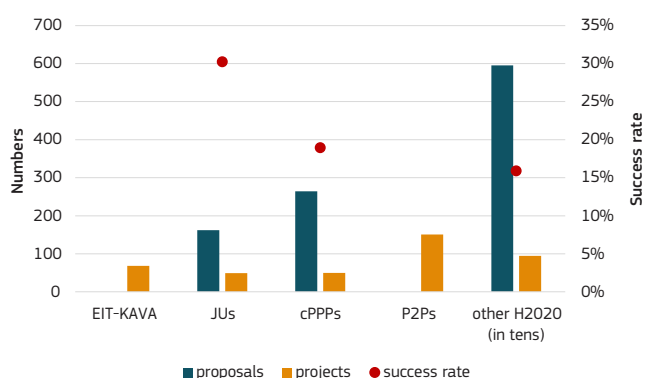


**TABLE 1: Distribution of funding under the different H2020 instruments (P2Ps, JUs, cPPPs and other H2020 projects, i.e. CSAs, RIAs, IAs, etc.) across thematic priorities**

THEMATIC PRIORITIES	P2Ps PROJECTS	JUs PROJECTS	cPPPs PROJECTS	OTHER H2020 PROJECTS
Nanotechnologies, Advanced Materials, Advanced Manufacturing and Processing, Biotechnology	21.24 %	0.89 %	0.80 %	14.17 %
Climate action, environment, resource efficiency and raw materials	15.84 %	0.00 %	0.00 %	10.20 %
Europe in a changing world - inclusive, innovative and reflective Societies	3.18 %		21.92 %	7.60 %
Food security, sustainable agriculture and forestry, marine and maritime and inland water research	15.70 %	30.99 %		7.14 %
Future and Emerging Technologies	3.71 %		0.00 %	2.55 %
Health, demographic change and wellbeing	27.21 %	6.43 %		8.49 %
Information and Communication Technologies		20.28 %	71.18 %	14.77 %
Secure, clean and efficient energy	10.92 %	10.81 %	6.10 %	23.13 %
Smart, green and integrated transport	2.20 %	30.61 %		11.94 %
	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)

Due to the huge decrease of expenditure on research and development from 2014 onwards, Slovenian research performing organisations and other institutions have shifted their way of working and securing funding for R&I projects towards the framework programme. Precisely because of this, a large increase in the number of project proposals can be seen for Horizon 2020.



### ADDITIONAL INVESTMENTS TRIGGERED

Participation in additional joint calls seems to be a successful mechanism for increasing R&I project funding while supporting the priority thematic areas. These have also contributed to the development of internationalisation activities and policies, including at a bilateral level outside the EU. Additional activities, such as the participation in the development of thematic SRIAs, have been an excellent opportunity for including the Slovenian R&I priorities in the EU's research agenda.

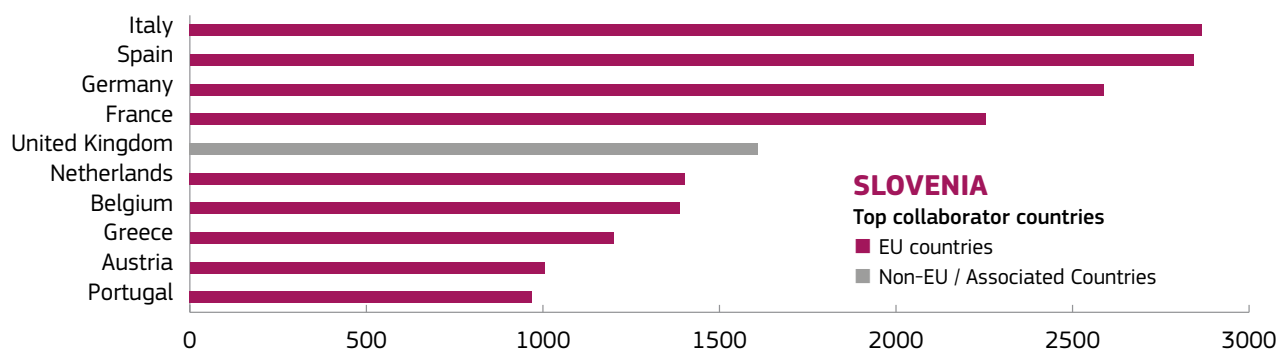
### COMPLEMENTARY AND CUMULATIVE FUNDING

Slovenia is funding its participation in the partnerships mostly from the state budget, except in the case of Eurostars, where the funding is made available through ERDF funds.

LIFE funding was used in some projects as a springboard to Horizon 2020.

Although possible, RRF will not be used for the European R&I partnerships.

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



Source: eCorda; Showing the top-10 collaborator countries



## SUCCESS STORIES

- ✦ Slovenia is a relatively small country with a limited national budget for R&D. Since there are no specific research programmes that address societal challenges, it is difficult to secure advance commitment for partnership calls. On top of that, the lack of sufficient funding and human resources at the ministry continues to be a major barrier to more engaged participation in partnerships.
- ✦ A significant achievement in responding to the great interest of Slovenia's research base in participating in partnerships was the development of a procedure to formalise the decision making process for participation. A group was created involving the Director General of the Science Directorate, the Strategic Programme Committee delegate for Horizon 2020/HEU, relevant other Horizon 2020/HEU programme committee delegates, and the representative from the Research Funding Agency. Decisions are made based on several scoring criteria.
- ✦ Due to the involvement in the partnership landscape, the newly adopted Scientific Research and Innovation Activities Act prescribes that the financing of scientific research and innovation activities shall also be carried out by other ministries in accordance with their competencies.
- ✦ JPIs influenced national policy making with their SRIAs – the effect is noticeable in the strategic aspects of relevant national strategies related to the SRIAs of JPI JPND (dementia control strategy) and JPI Climate (strategic framework for adaptation to climate change).
- ✦ Under the EuroHPC partnership, Slovenia is hosting the Vega supercomputer, which became operational in 2021.
- ✦ Transnational joint calls for the ERA-NET scheme were a successful mechanism for developing great research and innovation collaborations and producing impactful R&I projects on the one hand, and on the other, increasing R&I project funding that increased international cooperation.
- ✦ Partnerships also helped to raise awareness among sectoral ministries on the role of R&I and the opportunities for collaboration.