



Synergies between H2020 and ESIF and CEF

SYNERGIES WITH ESIF

SEAL OF EXCELLENCE:

Every year, thousands of organisations in Europe apply to Horizon 2020 Programme investing precious resources and time. The European Commission runs one of the most complete evaluation systems in the world, using international independent experts. The evaluation screens against three defined criteria (excellence, impact and quality & efficiency of implementation) and identifies those proposals not mature enough to receive funding (below quality threshold) and those that are considered as meriting funding (above threshold). Only some of the above threshold proposals receive funding depending on the available Horizon 2020 budget.

The Seal of Excellence certificate will be awarded **to the applicants of above threshold not funded proposals**: a holder of the certificate can then approach alternative funding sources (regional, national, private or public) and present the certificate as a label of a high-quality project proposal. Thanks to the Seal, high quality proposals **from innovative Small and Medium Enterprises** will have additional chances to be funded. The precious time and effort SMEs invested in the proposal and idea development will thus not be wasted.

The Seal of Excellence offers at the same time a unique opportunity **for regions and Member States** (and any other interested actor) to fully exploit the high-quality Horizon 2020 evaluation process: to easily identify and possibly support high-impact proposals coming from promising innovative companies, with an ambition to grow and compete internationally.

WHAT THE SMES SHOULD EXPECT?

While the Commission certifies with the seal the quality of the proposals according to Horizon 2020 criteria, it may not always be the case that, at local level, the SME will find funding schemes ready to provide the required support and, where they have been established, funding will not be automatic simply based on the recognition of the seal.

Further information on funding opportunities can be obtained at the local/national level either directly with the *Managing Authorities* or through *Europe Enterprise Network* and *National Contact Point network*.

SYNERGY BETWEEN H2020 AND ESIF

Strengthening synergies between Horizon 2020 and the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) is about **building meaningful interactions** between investment strategies and interventions as a way to have significant impacts on the economy, combining **place-based innovation investments** in smart specialisation priorities with **world-class research and innovation initiatives**, thus ensuring a higher impact of the funds.

The synergy development is now expected to gain strength as both Horizon 2020 and the Common Provisions Regulation of the ESIF include for the first time a legal mandate to maximise synergies not only among these two instruments, but also with other programmes, such as COSME, Erasmus+ and the Connecting Europe Facility.

COMBINING HORIZON 2020 AND ESIF FOR AMBITIOUS INDUSTRIAL PROJECT

Define **scope of industrial project** (incl. Beneficiaries), detailed activities, and budget (private/public).

Look at eligibility of activities: localisation, type of cost items in combination with beneficiaries and timeline

Prepare financial plan for industrial project: group activities in projects, identify costs and funding options for each (H2020, ESIF, regional), contact Management Authorities,

Prepare **H2020 proposal** (project and consortium) – self-standing multi national projec

Prepare **ESIF proposal** (project and beneficiaries) for each region/country involved taking into account Smart Specialization Strategy

Submit H2020 and ESIF proposal including master plan for industrial project



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HOW CAN SUPPORT FROM HORIZON 2020 AND ESIF BE COMBINED IN A SYNERGETIC MANNER?

Synergies can take many forms, as the modes of planning and delivery vary between the Framework Programme/Horizon 2020 and the ESIF. The Guide on Synergies provided taxonomy of five synergy-type actions at the project implementation level:

- **Synergy-type 1:** Providing funding from alternative sources for positively evaluated Framework Programme/Horizon 2020 proposals but not funded due to insufficient Call budgets
- **Synergy-type 2:** Funding actions that build research and innovation capacities of actors aimed at participating in the Framework Programme/Horizon 2020 or other internationally competitive research and innovation programmes (sequential - upstream)
- **Synergy-type 3:** Funding actions that capitalise on already implemented Framework Programme/Horizon 2020 research and innovation actions aimed at market up-take (sequential - downstream)
- **Synergy-type 4:** Combining funding from the Framework Programme/Horizon 2020 and the ESIF (and/or from other sources) for coordinated parallel actions that complement each other
- **Synergy-type 5:** Bringing together funding from Horizon 2020 and the ESIF in an integrated research and innovation project that could be a single action or a group of inter-dependent actions or operations

When combining funding from Horizon 2020 and ESIF for synergetic actions, the legal frameworks and the specific rules for the management, project selection and implementation of the respective programmes still apply. In particular, the basic rules apply:

- No double funding of the same cost item, i.e. no pooling of Horizon 2020 and ESIF funding in the same grant agreement
- No substitution of national, regional or private co-funding to Horizon 2020 / ESIF projects or programmes with funds from other instrument
- No diversion of funding from the purpose of the respective instrument or ESIF programme

SYNERGIES WITH CEF

The Innovation and Networks Executive Agency (INEA) is the successor of the Trans-European Transport Network Executive Agency (TEN-T EA), which was created by the European Commission in 2006 to manage the technical and financial implementation of its TEN-T programme.

INEA officially started its activities on 1 January 2014 in order to implement the following EU programmes:

- **Connecting Europe Facility (CEF)**
- **Parts of Horizon 2020 – Smart, green and integrated transport + Secure, clean and efficient energy**
- **Legacy programmes: TEN-T and Marco Polo 2007-2013**

INEA's main objective is to increase the efficiency of the technical and financial management of the programmes it manages.

The Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) is a key EU funding instrument to promote growth, jobs and competitiveness through targeted infrastructure investment at European level. It supports the **development of high performing, sustainable and efficiently interconnected trans-European networks in the fields of transport, energy and digital services**. CEF investments fill the missing links in Europe's energy, transport and digital backbone.

In addition to grants, the CEF offers financial support to projects through innovative financial instruments such as guarantees and project bonds. These instruments create significant leverage in their use of EU budget and act as a catalyst to attract further funding from the private sector and other public sector actors.

The CEF is divided into three sectors:

- **CEF Energy**
- **CEF Telecom**
- **CEF Transport**

CEF TRANSPORT

The Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) for Transport is the funding instrument to realise European transport infrastructure policy. It aims at supporting investments in building new transport infrastructure in Europe or rehabilitating and upgrading the existing one.

CEF Transport focuses on cross-border projects and projects aiming at removing bottlenecks or bridging missing links in various sections of the Core Network and on the Comprehensive Network (link), as well as for horizontal priorities such as traffic management systems. CEF Transport also supports innovation in the transport system in order to improve the use of infrastructure, reduce the environmental impact of transport, enhance energy efficiency and increase safety.

The total budget for CEF Transport is €24.05 billion for the the period 2014-2020. INEA is responsible for implementing €22.4 of the CEF Transport budget in the forms of grants during the same period.