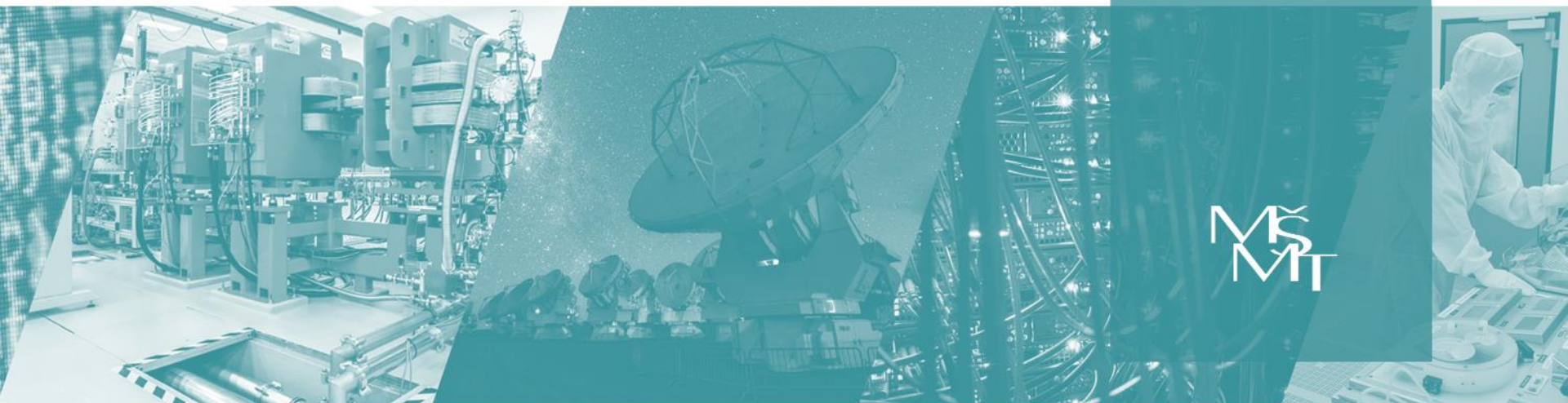




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Synergies in the Research and Innovation Funding in Europe



*Informal Meeting of European Research Ministers
22nd July 2022, Prague, Czech Republic*

1. WHAT ARE SYNERGIES?

● CAMBRIDGE DICTIONARY DEFINITION

- Complementarity: the state of working usefully together
- Synergy: the combined power of a group of things when they are working together that is greater than the total power achieved by each working separately

● CONDITIONS FOR SYNERGIES

- Synchronised timetable and planning
- Legislative framework, rules and calls
- Willingness of stakeholders

● TYPES OF SYNERGIC APPROACH

- One-file approach
 - Transfer of funds
 - Instrument transfer
- Two-file approach
(complementarity only)



2. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF SYNERGIES

● WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF SYNERGIES?

- Facilitate **alignment of policy-making** within the European Research Area
- Promote **coherence in R&I investments**, including public and private funds
- Leverage **benefits and impacts** of individual R&I policy funding instruments
- Increase the **R&I spending intensity** by mobilising finances outside R&I areas
- Increase efficiency by **avoiding duplication and fragmentation** of resources
- Help **achieve goals of the R&I policy** in line with other sectorial policy priorities
- Simplify **co-funding of the EU Framework Programme** projects where necessary
- Contribute to **bridge the research gap and close the innovation divide** in Europe

● WHERE SHOULD WE SEEK SYNERGIES?

- Between **national and regional R&I funding instruments**, on one hand, and the **EU directly managed programmes and those in the shared management**, on the other one, including amongst them
- The target group of synergies at the EU level are particularly the **Horizon Europe** Framework Programme for R&I, including specific implementation schemes (e.g., European Partnerships and EU Missions, etc.), **Cohesion Policy** Funds, **Recovery and Resilience Facility**, and **Digital Europe** or **InvestEU** Programmes



3. POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR IMPLEMENTING SYNERGIES

- **REGULATION (EU) 2021/695 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL OF 28 APRIL 2021**
 - Sets out specific directly managed EU programmes, where synergies shall be sought and put in practice throughout the entire process of their preparation and implementation
- **REGULATION (EU) 2021/1060 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL OF 24 JUNE 2021**
 - Stresses synergies and complementarities as an instrument to further optimise the added value from the EU and Member State investments
- **COMMISSION REGULATION (EU) 2021/1237 OF 23 JULY 2021**
 - Amends the General Block Exemption Regulation and simplifies funding of the projects awarded the Seal of Excellence label and projects under the Teaming and European Partnership instruments
- **COMMISSION NOTICE OF 5 JULY 2022 – SYNERGIES BETWEEN HORIZON EUROPE AND ERDF PROGRAMMES**
 - Provides guidelines to put synergies in practice in the EU programming period 2021–2027



4. POLITICAL AND EXPERT DEBATES ON SYNERGIES

● FLAGSHIP CONFERENCE ON SYNERGIES

- Initial event of CZ PRES held in Prague **from 7th to 8th July 2022** and participated by **≈ 250 attendees** and **≈ 1 000 webstream followers**
- Plenary sessions and parallel break-out sessions to **share experiences, exchange good practices and lessons learned**, and define bottlenecks preventing the full potential of synergies from being exploited
- Particular attention paid to implementation of synergies in the areas of **research infrastructures, European Partnerships, EU Missions, EU Cohesion Policy and innovation**

● INFORMAL MEETING OF EUROPEAN RESEARCH MINISTERS

- Political debate of the **EU and EFTA** countries' Research Ministers in the Prague Congress Centre on **22nd July 2022**, guided by questions below:
- *Based on the lessons learned over the period 2014–2020, what are the main **barriers and obstacles** preventing the full potential of synergies in the R&I funding from being exploited, both at the European level and in your country?*
- *Which **concrete measures** do you undertake at national level for the period 2021–2027 to harvest the full potential of synergies in the R&I funding, and which particular areas are you going to address?*



5. POLICY DOCUMENTS ON SYNERGIES

● PRAGUE DECLARATION

- Draft wording debated with the EU Member States through the **Research Working Group of the Council of the EU** in June and July 2022 to receive feedback and reach consensus
- **Call for action** to be taken by the European Commission, Member States and Associated Countries in the R&I policy-making and funding approach
- Invitation to **facilitate better synergies** in the sectorial areas of research infrastructures, European Partnerships, EU Missions, EU Cohesion Policy and innovation
- Invitation to issue an **endorsement letter by the EU Research Ministers** to politically support the Prague Declaration, to be circulated following the informal COMPET meeting in Prague on 22nd July 2022;
- Overall outcomes of this endorsement **initiative**, to be reported at the formal COMPET meeting in Brussels on 2nd December 2022

● COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

- To be adopted in reaction to the **report by the European Court of Auditors** (public release expected in October 2022) on efficiency of implementation of synergies in the past EU programming period 2014–2020



6. PRAGUE DECLARATION ON SYNERGIES (I)

● R&I POLICY-MAKING AND FUNDING

- **Reinforce dialogue** between the European Commission, Member States, Associated Countries, and R&I stakeholders through the Communities of Practice, to be inspired by the Seal of Excellence Community of Practice
- **Advance alignment** of policy-making, regulatory and funding frameworks, implementation instruments, as well as financial and administrative rules to introduce synergies-friendly environment
- **Promote the Seal of Excellence** funding approach to finance high-quality R&I project proposals assessed under a directly managed EU programme, which could not be funded only due to the budgetary constraints

● RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURES

- **Adapt funding instruments** to meet the needs of research infrastructures through all their life-cycle phases, including concept development, design, preparation, implementation, construction, operation, major upgrades, and decommissioning and termination
- **Expand missions** of research infrastructures beyond their primary science and technology goals through including wider policy objectives as drivers for setting their strategy orientations and integrating various R&I actors with sectorial policy-makers on the knowledge basis



6. PRAGUE DECLARATION ON SYNERGIES (II)

● EUROPEAN PARTNERSHIPS AND EU MISSIONS

- **Harmonise efforts** by European, national and regional stakeholders to address grand societal, ecological and economic challenges
- **Streamline the governance structures** of European Partnerships and EU Missions as much as possible to avoid duplication, and prevent fragmentation of efforts and resources

● EU COHESION POLICY FUNDS

- **Embrace synergies** between the EU Cohesion Policy instruments and EU, national and regional programmes in the programme design, creation and implementation phases, including at the financial and administrative levels
- **Ensure that Smart Specialisation Strategies** contribute to promoting a greater cohesion within the European Research Area

● INNOVATION

- **Strengthen initiatives** through closer dialogue with regional, national and international investors to help the EIC Seal of Excellence holders cover their investment component
- **Encourage cooperation** with third parties motivated to provide additional finances or services to the EIC beneficiaries and Seal of Excellence holders







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MINISTRY OF EDUCATION,
YOUTH AND SPORTS

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

MR VÁCLAV VELČOVSKÝ

DEPUTY MINISTER

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