



Synergies between Horizon Europe and Cohesion Funds-post 2020

Magda De Carli

European Commission, DG Research&Innovation,

Head of Unit – ERA and Country intelligence

Comprehensive approach to synergies

Why seek synergies across Union's programs ?

- Maximise scientific, economic and societal impact
- Leverage R&I investments in Europe from all sources

What does it require?

- at POLITICAL level → shared Vision & common priorities
- at STRATEGIC / PROGRAMMING level → awareness, alignment of strategic priorities and co-creation of funding actions
- at OPERATIONAL / IMPLEMENTATION level → specific and consistent legal provisions in the different Regulatory frameworks

Where do we stand?

At political level: a shared vision (✓)

- 6 political priorities of the new Commission
- Green Deal, Digital Europe, new Industrial Strategy...

At programming level: strategic alignment & co-creation (+++)

- Horizon Europe strategic planning and WP 2021-2022
- ERDF/ESF+ programmes

At operational level: consistent provisions in the frameworks (++)

- Horizon Europe/Annex IV
- Common Provision Regulation (ERDF/ESF+)
- State aid framework (Global Block Exemption Regulation)

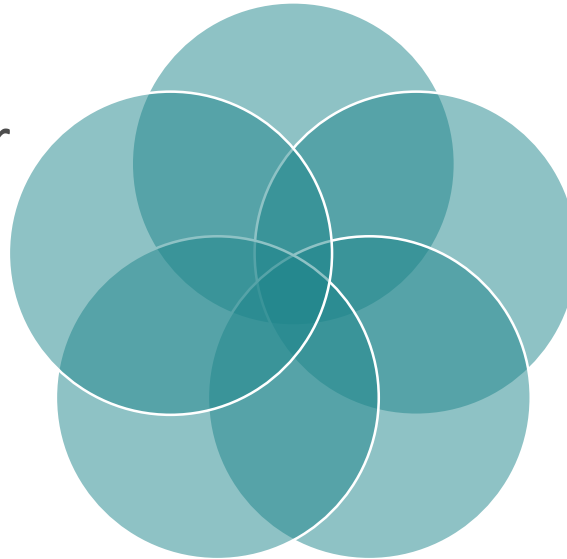
Different types of synergies

Transfer of resources

Shift of funds from one Union Programme to another

Cumulative funding

Use of several Union Programmes to fund the same action



Alternative funding

Seal of Excellence

Integrated funding

Co-funded actions & contribution to relevant European Partnerships

What's new?

Alternative

- Use of HE eligible costs/funding rate
- Exemption from state aid notification
- No new technical evaluation
- Seal of Excellence
- EIC business acceleration services

Combined

- Use of cohesion funds as MS contribution in Partnerships
- Favorable state aid rules for co-funded projects in partnerships

Transfers

- Shift from shared management funds to HE
- Transfer-back of unused funds to originating programs

Cumulative

Use of several Union programs to fund the same action

Alternative Funding (*Seal of Excellence*)

Horizon Europe proposals with Seal of Excellence may get support from ERDF, ESF+, or EAFRD (European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development)

Beneficiaries: Mainly for mono-beneficiaries support, e.g. EIC Accelerator, MSCA, ERC Proof of Concept (multi-beneficiaries support not excluded but difficult to implement).

Funding rules: Seal of Excellence proposals funded according to CPR rules with some exceptions where Horizon Europe rules apply (categories, maximum amounts and methods of calculation of eligible costs)

State aid rules: Pending revision of General Block Exemption Regulation ('GBER') Seal of Excellence support exempted, under conditions, from notification requirement

Co-fund actions: same simplifications above applies also to co-funded actions (GBER 25b)

Specific Article in Horizon Europe regulation on Seal of Excellence in the EIC Accelerator

A Seal of Excellence may be awarded subject to the following cumulative conditions:

- (a) the beneficiary is a start-up, an SME or a small mid-cap,
- (b) the proposal was eligible and has passed applicable thresholds for the first two award criteria referred to in paragraph 4,
 - [(a) excellence;
 - (b) impact;]
- (c) for those activities that would be eligible under an innovation action.

Changes to strengthen the Seal of Excellence (subject to approval of Work Programme)

- **New application and evaluation process for EIC Accelerator:**
 - **Higher quality SoEs** (all SoE applicants to have face to face interviews with juries)
 - **SoEs only awarded if applicant gives consent** to share data with other funding bodies
- **SoEs to receive access to EIC Business Accelerator Services**
 - **Coaching**
 - **Access** to investor pitching, Corporate days and other matchmaking
- **Enterprise Europe Network** to receive specific funding from EIC to support SoEs

Combined Funding (*partnerships and co-fund actions*)

Financial contributions from programmes co-financed by European Structural and Investment Funds may be considered as contribution of a Member State for participating in Horizon Europe partnerships, under certain conditions

Example 1: Co-funded Partnerships under Horizon Europe (where national funding bodies provide financial support to third parties, which are reimbursed by Commission)

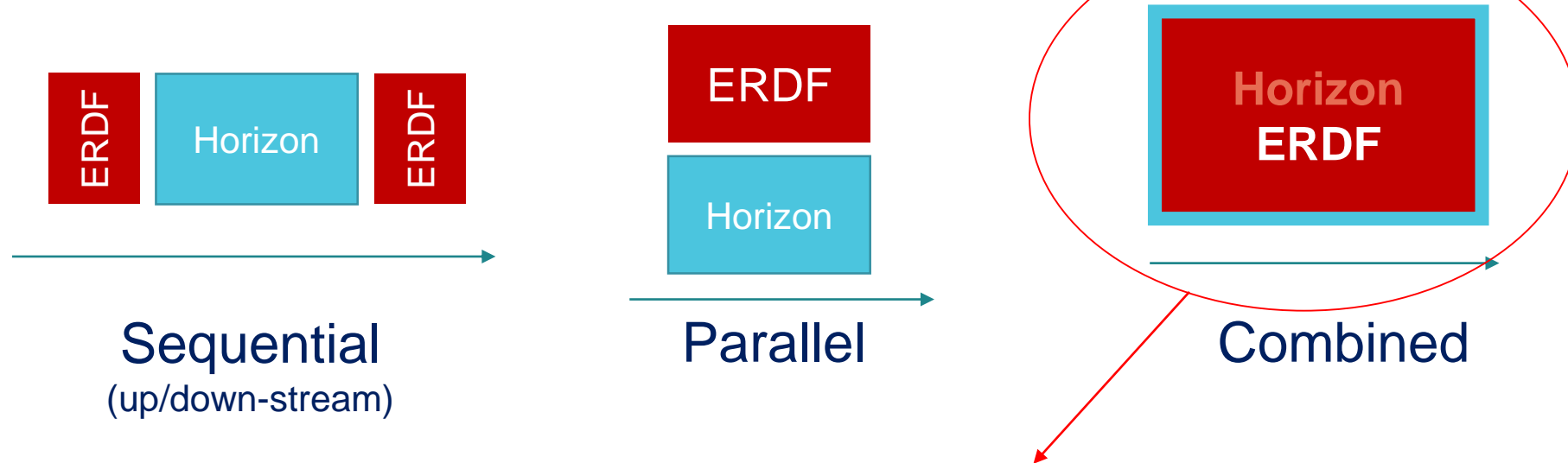
Example 2: Institutionalised European Partnership (Article 185/7)

Managing authorities still need to respect priority areas supported by the smart specialization strategy.

→ Important to analyze partnership proposals to identify relevance

→ Create “hooks” in the related MS programs

European Partnerships: What will change in Horizon Europe in terms of synergies?



Relevant provisions (numbering of art could change):

- CPR, Art. 106 and other applicable provisions of the CPR
- HE, Art. 11

Financial contributions from programmes co-financed by the ERDF, the ESF+, the EMFF and the EAFRD may be considered as a contribution of the participating Member State for the purpose of participating in Horizon Europe partnerships, provided that Article 106 (co-financing rates) and other applicable provisions of CPR and the fund-specific Regulations are complied with.

Transfer of resources

Possibility for MS to voluntarily transfer up to 5% of initial allocation of each Fund under shared management to any other instrument under direct or indirect management for the benefit of the MS concerned

Transferred resources must be implemented in accordance with the rules of the Fund or the instrument to which the resources are transferred

Mirroring provision in HE: Resources allocated to Member States under shared management may, at their request, be transferred to the Horizon Europe Program and be used for the benefit of the MS/region.

Transfer-back: Where the Commission has not entered into a legal commitment under Horizon Europe by 31 August of n+1, the corresponding uncommitted resources may be transferred back to the respective programs co-funded by the European Structural and Investment Funds.

Cumulative funding

The same action may receive two separate contributions from two Union funds or programs, with due regard to the principle of co-financing laid down in the Financial Regulation (cumulative funding cannot exceed 100% of the eligible costs)

Rules of contributing programs apply to their respective share

Combination possible between two directly managed programs or between a directly managed program and a program under shared management

Two separate grant agreements will be signed for each respective part. The grant agreements will specify the link to the other grant agreement (“linked action”)

Synergies: Potential benefits for EU regions and their key stakeholders (including SMEs)



Seal of Excellence

Pipeline of excellent R&I projects
identified for funding

Leverage of Horizon Europe
mechanisms and visibility +
economic impact at regional level



Support to Partnerships

ERDF as MS contribution in
Horizon Europe partnerships

major incentive for participation of
regional actors + alignment
towards common EU priorities



Transfer possibility

relieves regional ERDF Managing
Authorities from setting up a full
administrative system for
evaluating and following projects
+ learning effect for firms entering
Horizon Europe



Thank you!