

# CZ PRES and Synergies in the Research and Innovation Funding in Europe



**MSMT**  
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION,  
YOUTH AND SPORTS

*Workshop on Synergies*  
*15<sup>th</sup> February 2023*

# 1. PRESIDENCY OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC IN THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

## ● **SECTORIAL PRIORITIES IN THE AREA OF RESEARCH AND INNOVATION**

- Synergies in the research and innovation funding in Europe
- European and global research infrastructure ecosystems
- New European innovation agenda and knowledge valorisation
- International R&I cooperation and FP9 association agreements
- Ending gender-based violence in academia

- **SYNERGIES** between national/regional and European R&I funding instruments, including the Horizon Europe EU Framework Programme for R&I, EU Cohesion Policy Funds, Recovery and Resilience Facility, and other EU programmes, such as Digital Europe, and financial instruments, such as InvestEU Fund, being a key ingredient to exploit the full potential of science and technology excellence and collaboration in the EU

## ● **POLICY DOCUMENTS AND FLAGSHIP EVENTS ON SYNERGIES**

- Conference on Synergies in the Research and Innovation Funding in Europe
- Informal Meeting of European Research Ministers
- Prague Declaration on Synergies in the R&I Funding in Europe
- Council Conclusions on Synergies



## 2. CONFERENCE ON SYNERGIES IN THE RESEARCH AND INNOVATION FUNDING IN EUROPE

### ● GENERAL INFORMATION

- Lunch-to-lunch flagship event of CZ PRES held from 7th to 8th July 2022 in Prague
- Over 250 participants attending physically with further hundreds through webstream
- Recordings and documents from the conference available at <https://synergies2022.eu/>

### ● PLENARY AND BREAK-OUT/PARALLEL SESSIONS

- Synergies as a top horizontal priority in the R&I policy-making in Europe
- Synergies in practice, and their good practice examples and bottlenecks
- Synergies in the research infrastructure funding and their utilisation
- Synergies in the implementation of European Partnerships and EU Missions
- Synergies of the R&I funding instruments with the EU Cohesion Policy Funds
- Synergies in the innovation policy funding



### 3. INFORMAL MEETING OF EUROPEAN RESEARCH MINISTERS

#### ● GENERAL INFORMATION

- Informal meeting of European Research Ministers from 21st to 22nd July 2022 in Prague
- EU Member States, EFTA Countries and the Commission invited and represented

#### ● POLITICAL DEBATE

- A briefing note with guiding questions for Ministers to learn their point of view on identified barriers and obstacles on synergies in the period 2014–2020, and measures taken to harvest the full potential of synergies in the period 2021–2027
- Exchange of views framed by the recent launch of the Prague Declaration on Synergies in the Research and Innovation Funding in Europe, and the public release of the Commission Notice – Synergies between Horizon Europe and ERDF programmes



## 4. COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS ON SYNERGIES

### ● POLICY FRAMEWORK

- Special Report by the European Court of Auditors (ECA) No 23/2022 “Synergies between Horizon 2020 and European Structural and Investment Funds – Not yet used to full potential”
- Presented by ECA at the session of the Research Working Group of the Council of the EU (RWG) on 12th December 2022 at the end of the CZ PRES mandate

### ● COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

- To be adopted within three months since the publication of the ECA’s special report
- First draft prepared already by CZ PRES and examined by RWG on 12th December 2022
- Final draft to be approved by COMPET during SE PRES in the first semester of 2023





## 5. PRAGUE DECLARATION ON SYNERGIES IN THE R&I FUNDING IN EUROPE (I)

### ● POLICY FRAMEWORK

- **Council Conclusions of 1st December 2020** welcome the new efforts for creating and exploiting synergies to maximise the impact of different sources of funding to ensure an effective twin transition and a quick recovery
- **Regulation (EU) 2021/695** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28th April 2021 elaborates on synergies, with the Annex IV. underlining specific directly managed EU programmes, where synergies shall be sought and put into practice
- **Regulation (EU) 2021/1060** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24th June 2021 emphasises the synergies and complementarities as instruments to optimise the added value from the EU and Member State investments
- **Commission Regulation (EU) 2021/1237 of 23rd July 2021** amends the General Block Exemption Regulation and brings simplification in funding of projects awarded the Seal of Excellence label and the projects under the Teaming and European Partnerships
- **Council Recommendation of 26th November 2021** highlights the importance of further strengthening synergies to increase access to excellence and R&I investments to foster the European Research Area
- **Commission Notice of 5th July 2022** on Synergies between Horizon Europe and ERDF programmes provides with guidelines on synergies for the current EU programming period 2021–2027

## 5. PRAGUE DECLARATION ON SYNERGIES IN THE R&I FUNDING IN EUROPE (II)

### ● WHY SYNERGIES?

- Directly managed EU programmes and those in the shared management have grown in number, thus posing new challenges in terms of harmonisation of their implementation, and strengthening their synergies
- Coherent investment planning through policy-making, aligning goals and implementation frameworks across a large variety of sectorial policies, including outside the R&I sectorial domain, helps achieve R&I policy objectives, and therefore also policy objectives of other sectorial policies through knowledge-based solutions provided by the R&I sector
- Synergies constitute an essential prerequisite for efficient public and private investments in R&I, capitalising on multiplier and leverage effects of developing joint R&I agendas and their implementation funding instruments through a common approach



## 5. PRAGUE DECLARATION ON SYNERGIES IN THE R&I FUNDING IN EUROPE (III)

### ● CROSS-CUTTING OBJECTIVES AT THE EU LEVEL

- Reinforce dialogue with relevant stakeholders to enhance capacity building for synergies and take up the working methods of the Seal of Excellence Community of Practice, as a good practice example
- Publish the guidelines for the application of synergies, including information on practical use of synergies, thus giving directions on how to best take advantage of synergies
- Advance internal coordination and cooperation in the Commission to align implementation of the directly managed EU programmes and to better orchestrate the timing of the calls to submit project proposals under different EU programmes

### ● CROSS-CUTTING OBJECTIVES AT THE MEMBER STATES LEVEL

- Enhance synergies between regional and national R&I funding instruments on one hand and the European ones on the other, including beyond the scope of the EU Cohesion Policy Funds
- Implement the Seal of Excellence scheme to finance the project proposals, which were assessed under a directly managed EU programme, received this quality label by duly complying with the quality requirements, but which could not be funded due to the budgetary constraints





## 5. PRAGUE DECLARATION ON SYNERGIES IN THE R&I FUNDING IN EUROPE (IV)

### ● SPECIFIC GOAL IN THE AREA OF RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURES

- Take advantage of various EU, national and regional funding instruments to finance in synergy research infrastructures throughout their entire life-cycle period, depending on their current life-cycle phase

### ● SPECIFIC GOAL IN THE AREA OF EUROPEAN PARTNERSHIPS AND EU MISSIONS

- Align national and regional efforts with incentives implemented through the European Partnerships and EU Missions to bring together the critical mass of resources that are necessary to address grand societal challenges

### ● SPECIFIC GOAL IN THE AREA OF INNOVATION

- Cooperate with third parties, who are motivated to provide additional resources or services to the EIC holders and the EIC Seal of Excellence holders, including helping the “Seal of Excellence” holders cover their investment component

### ● SPECIFIC GOAL IN THE AREA OF THE EU COHESION POLICY FUNDS

- Embrace synergies between the EU Cohesion Policy instruments and other EU, national and regional programmes throughout the phases of their design, creation and implementation, including the financial and administrative levels







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THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

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