

Synergies Open 3: Key Points for Discussion

i. Implementation of the recommendations of ECA on synergies, of the related conclusions by the Council, and of the Prague Declaration

- main steps planned by the Commission to implement the recommendations outlined in the special report by ECA on synergies (discussion on tangible measures and their timing);
- extending of the community of practice to other synergy instruments (a possibility to create a platform devoted to facilitation of communication for the whole field of synergies, not just Seal of Excellence)
- implementation of steps included in Prague Declaration (discussion on tangible measures and their timing).

ii. Planning synergies as a part of the preparation of national and Commission's programmes for R&D support

- involving the member states, national provider and NCP in the preparation of centrally managed instruments in the next programming period (especially 10th framework programme), including involvement in the early preparation phase in order to improve the awareness and preparedness for implementation of synergies on national level (e.g. the simplified cost options need to be implemented into national legislation in order to be used in practice);
- coordination among centrally managed programmes and cohesion funds already at the stage of the OP preparation, i.e. before the initiation of the formal negotiation phase (only such early stage communication will ensure suitable programme design and sufficient allocation of funds for synergies on national level).

iii. Development of existing instruments enabling the implementation of synergies, esp. Seal of Excellence

- extension of Seal of Excellence to other instruments, programmes and activities (e.g. ERA Chair);
- improving the transparency of the legal framework for implementation of synergies: e.g. clarification of the terminology in the guide on synergies between HE and ERDF (Teaming labelled both as complementary and combined which may prove confusing), interpretation of art. 25a GBER and its full potential use (so far there seem to prevail concerns its use);

iv. Setting up mechanisms for communication, cooperation and information sharing

- steps planned by the Commission to improve cooperation and information and data sharing among the stakeholders (i.e. communication between the EC DGs, national providers and the EC DGs and among the nation providers themselves, communication with the NCPs, communication with applicants) – the field of synergies is very complex and an improvement of the information flow would be extremely welcome;

v. Supporting the internal preparedness of the member states

- to support and motivate the member states to check the preparedness of the national legislation (and to adapt it if necessary) to enable the use of (innovative) instruments used in the centrally managed programmes (e.g. lump sum).

More information about the event¹

¹ <https://www.horizontevropa.cz/en/you-might-interested/legal-financial-aspects/financial-administrative-aspects/general-information/calendar/yiifcalendarevent/607/synergies-open-3>