



Stairway to Excellence (S2E)

Achieving better synergies between ESI Funds and other EU Funding Programmes

Andrea Conte, PhD

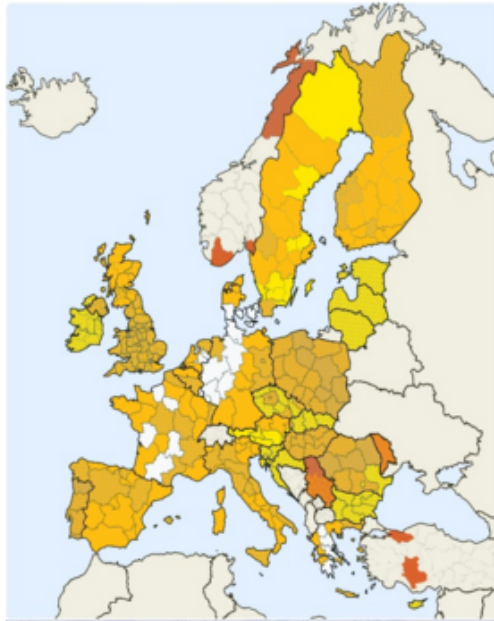
European Commission

DG Joint Research Centre

Bari, 10/07/2016

Smart Specialisation Platform

Since 2011 supporting Member States & Regions to design and implement their S3 by identifying a limited number of R&D and industrial activities with ***high innovation potential***.



- EU Countries registered in S3P: 18
- EU Regions registered in S3P: 167
- Non-EU Countries registered in S3P: 2
- Non-EU Regions registered in S3P: 7
- S3P Peer-reviewed Countries: 15
- S3P Peer-reviewed Regions: 60

Description	Capabilities	Target Markets	EU Priorities
Blue and green economy	1. Agriculture, forestry & fishing 2. Fishing & aquaculture	1. Agriculture, forestry & fishing 2. Fishing & aquaculture	1. Blue growth 2. Fisheries
Sustainable energy	1. Energy production & distribution 2. Power generation/renewable sources	1. Energy production & distribution 2. Energy distribution	1. Sustainable innovation 2. Sustainable energy & renewables
Tourism and heritage	1. Tourism, restaurants & recreation	1. Tourism, restaurants & recreation	1. Cultural & creative industries 2. Development of regional cultural & creative industries
Mechatronics	1. Manufacturing & industry 2. Machinery & equipment n.e.c.	1. Manufacturing & industry 2. Machinery & equipment n.e.c.	1. KETs 2. Advanced manufacturing systems
Advance manufacturing	1. Manufacturing & industry 2. Machinery & equipment n.e.c.	1. Manufacturing & industry 2. Machinery & equipment n.e.c.	1. KETs 2. Advanced manufacturing systems
New materials	1. Manufacturing & industry 2. Other manufacturing	1. Manufacturing & industry 2. Other manufacturing	1. KETs 2. Advanced materials
Life science and biotechnology	1. Manufacturing & industry 2. Biotechnology	1. Manufacturing & industry 2. Basic pharmaceutical products & pharmaceutical preparations	1. KETs 2. Industrial biotechnology
Bio medicine	1. Manufacturing & industry 2. Biotechnology	1. Human health & social work activities 2. Human health activities (medical services)	1. Public health & security 2. Public health & well-being
Aerospace	1. Manufacturing & industry 2. Motor vehicles & other transport equipments	1. Transporting & storage 2. Air transport & related services	1. Aeronautics & space
Agriculture and food production	1. Agriculture, forestry & fishing 2. Crop & animal production, hunting & related service activities	1. Manufacturing & industry 2. Food, beverage & tobacco products	
Cultural & creative industries	1. Creative, cultural arts & entertainment 2. Creative, arts & entertainment activities	1. Creative, cultural arts & entertainment 2. Creative, arts & entertainment activities	1. Cultural & creative industries 2. Development of regional cultural & creative industries

Main activities of the S3 Platform

**Synergies ESIF-H2020
"Stairway to excellence"**

**Targeted
Support to
regions**

Eye@RIS3

Interactive web tools

**Value chains and
alignment of
innovation roadmaps**



**RIS3
assessment
and support to
REGIO desks**

**Guidance and analysis:
RIS3 Guide;
Digital Agenda Toolbox;
S3 policy briefs**



**Trans-national focus
75 Peer Reviews**

**Peer eXchange & Learning
Thematic focus on actors,
process, common features
and priorities**

**Focused approach on
digital growth (CONNECT)
and energy (ENER)**



Eye@RIS3

- Research & Innovation Capabilities
- Business Areas & Target Market
- EU Priority

EU Priority

Aeronautics & space ▼

Select

Aeronautics & space

Blue growth

Cultural & creative industries

Digital Agenda

Nature & biodiversity

KETs

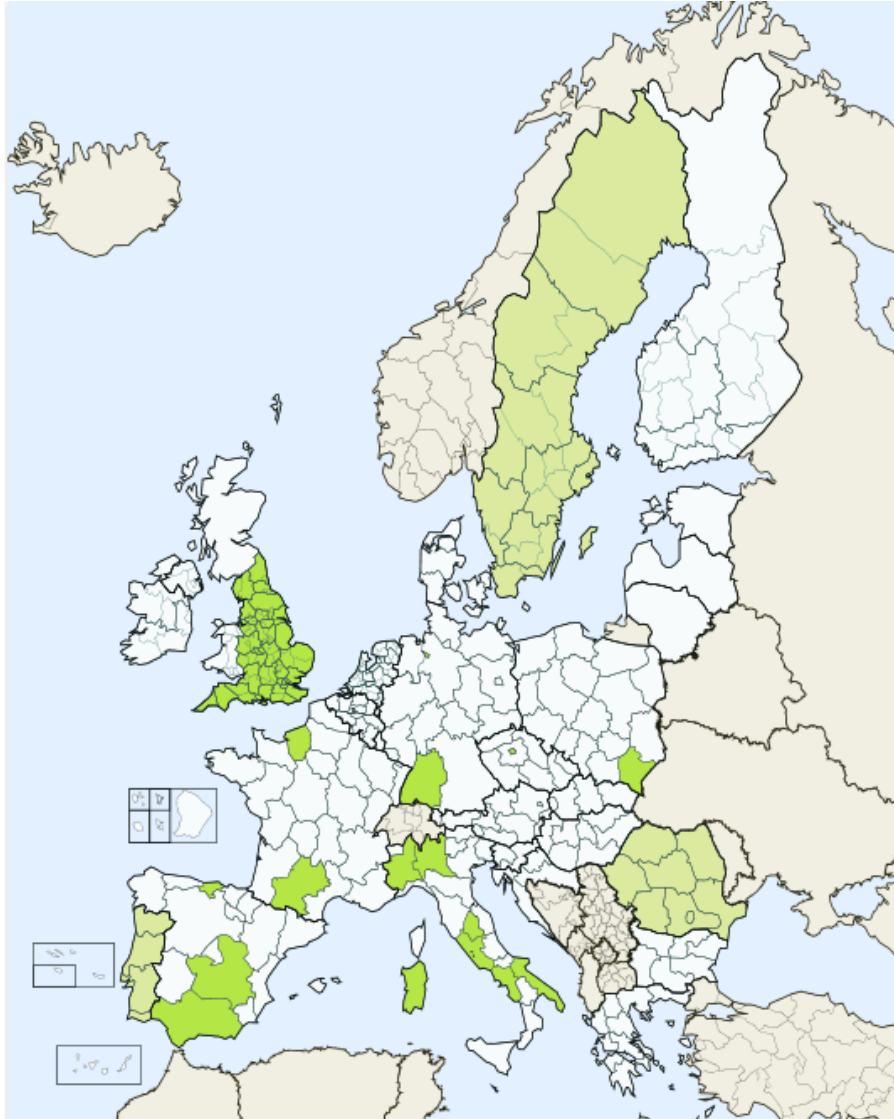
Public health & security

Service innovation

Social innovation

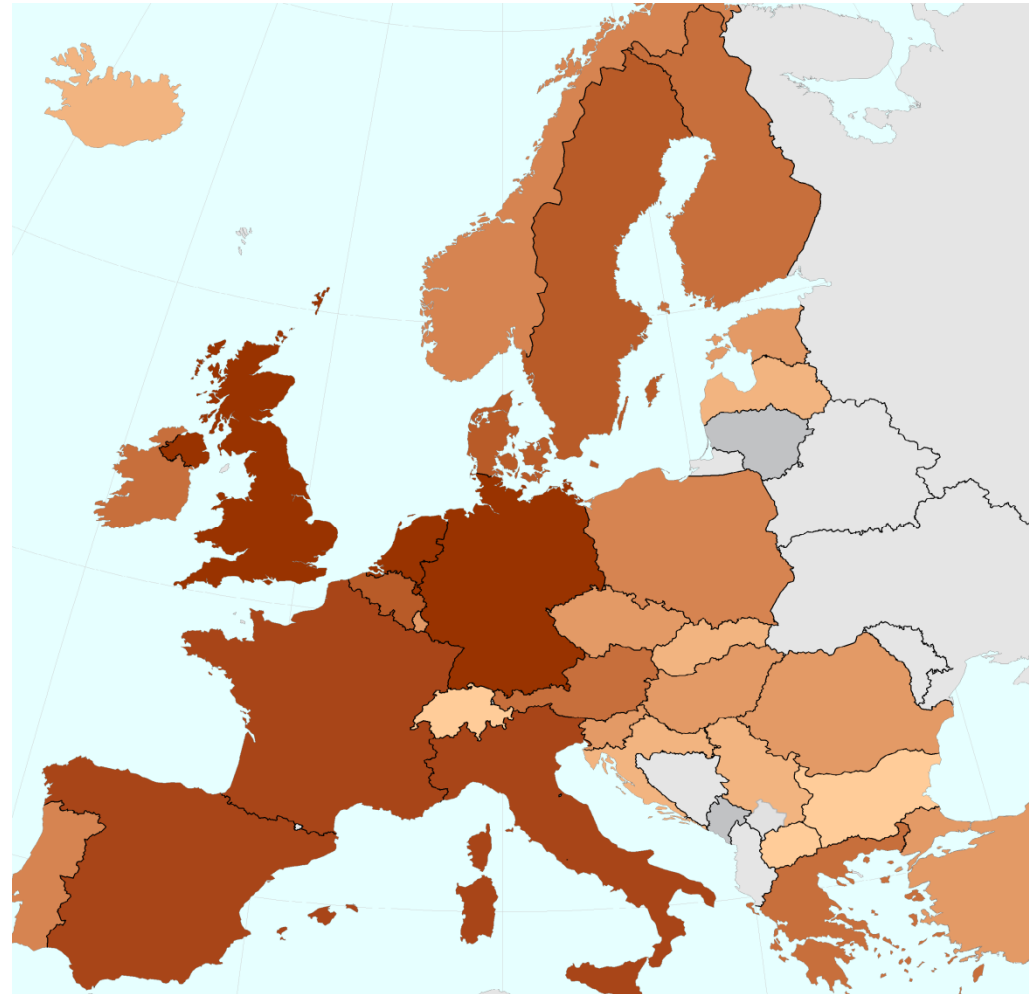
Sustainable innovation

Specific local policy priority



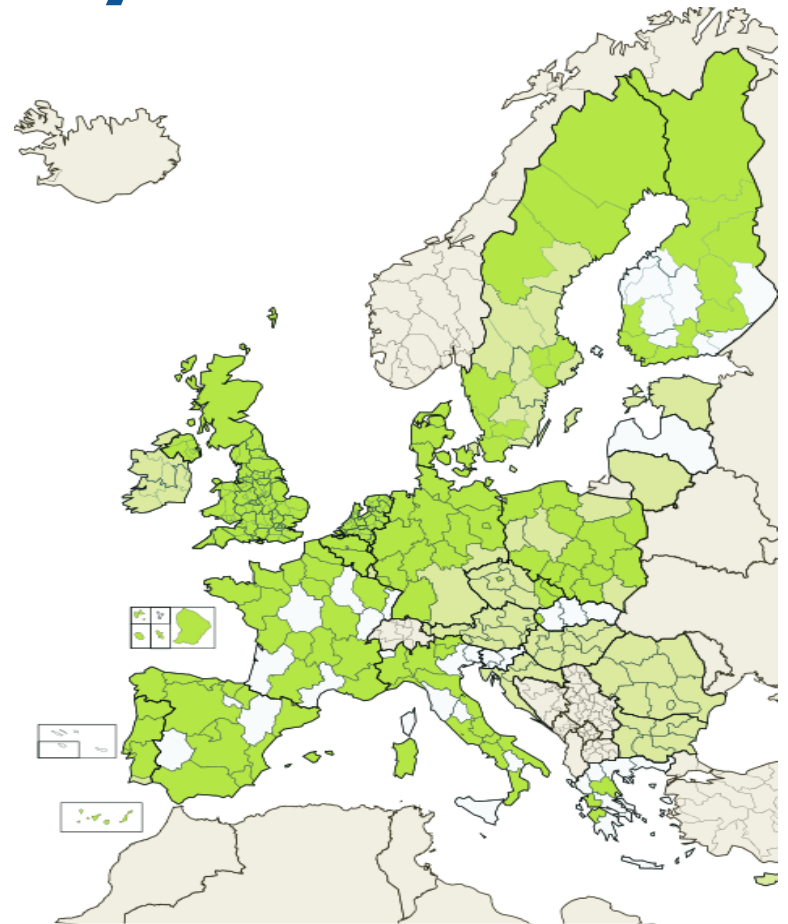
EC Contribution H2020 - Health

UK	United Kingdom
DE	Germany
NL	Netherlands
FR	France
ES	Spain
IT	Italy
BE	Belgium
SE	Sweden
DK	Denmark
IE	Ireland



Health priorities in Eye@RIS3

- *201 priorities in Health (out of 1350)*
- *Present in almost all MS*
- *Health care innovation (33)*
- *Medical technologies (31)*
- *eHealth and ICT & Health (27)*
- *Health related Industrial biotechnology (21)*
- *Pharmaceuticals (21)*
- *Health and tourism (14)*
- *Healthy and Active ageing (12)*



Other S3 Tools

1. Benchmarking Regional Structure
2. Revealed Competitors and regional competitiveness scoreboard
3. ESIF – viewer: planned Investments under ESIF

Countries All selected (28) ▾

Regions All selected (209) ▾

► Show advanced filters

- All OP Type
- Regional
- Multi-regional
- National
- Transnational

Thematic objectives None selected ▾

Categories of intervention None selected ▾

- Productive investment
- Energy infrastructure
- Environmental infrastructure
- Transport infrastructure
- Sustainable transport
- Information and communication technology (ICT) infrastructure
- Social, health and education infrastructure and related investment
- Research and development and innovation
- Business development
- Information and communication technology (ICT) – demand stimulation...
- Development of endogenous potential - Environment
- Development of endogenous potential - Other
- Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour m...
- Promoting social inclusion, combating poverty and any discrimination
- Investing in education, training and vocational training for skills and lifelo...
- Enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders a...

Stairway to excellence

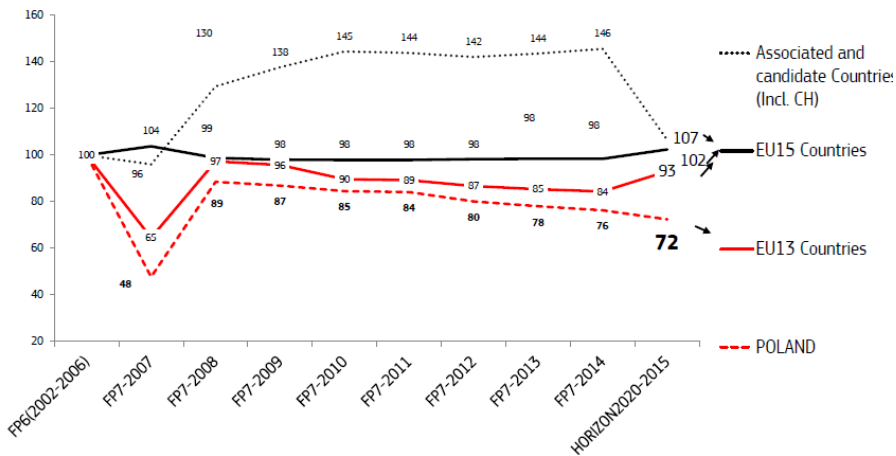
Cohesion Policy and the Synergies with the Research and Innovation Funds

POLAND Facts & Figures



S2E Facts and Figures

Evolution of the Share of EU FP contribution received

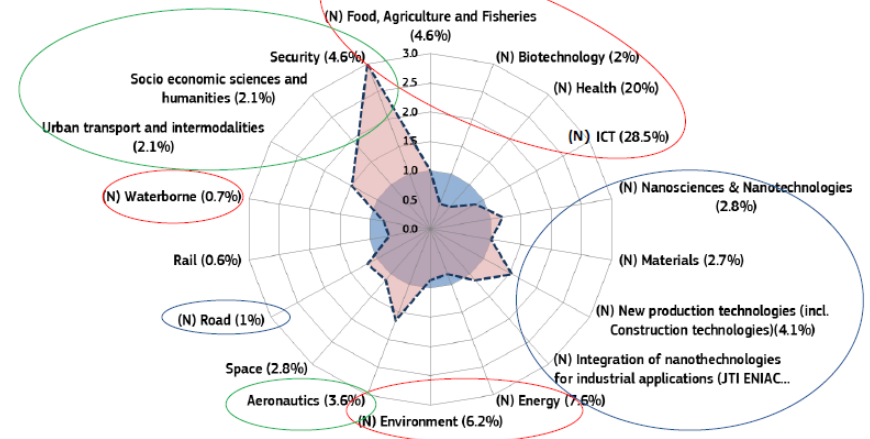


Poland – FP7 thematic profile

■ Framework programme 7 (% of FP7 budget dedicated to cooperation programme in the area)

Research organisations: 32.7% (26.9% in FP7)
Private commercial: 21.3% (24.7% in FP7)
Higher education: 42.1% (43.5% in FP7)

(N): National smart specialisation area chosen





Stairway to Excellence (S2E) Initiative

Economic Rationale

- Composition of R&I at the European Level (GBAORD) across public/private division and geographical composition
- New Role of ESIF in supporting broad intangibles investments
- Leverage effect of EC R&I funding by matching programmes characterised by:
 - ✓ (apparently) different objectives
 - ✓ different management of the programmes
 - ✓ different support to the entire innovation life cycle: core excellence support complemented by innovation generation capacity (*upstream activities*) and innovation absorption capacity (*downstream activities*)

Legal Novelties

- Synergies under the new MFF 2014-2020 (COM Guide on Synergies, spring 2014)



Objectives of S2E

Stairway to Excellence (S2E) Initiative:

- Pilot Project funded by the European Parliament
- Initiated in October 2014 (Launching Conference in Prague)

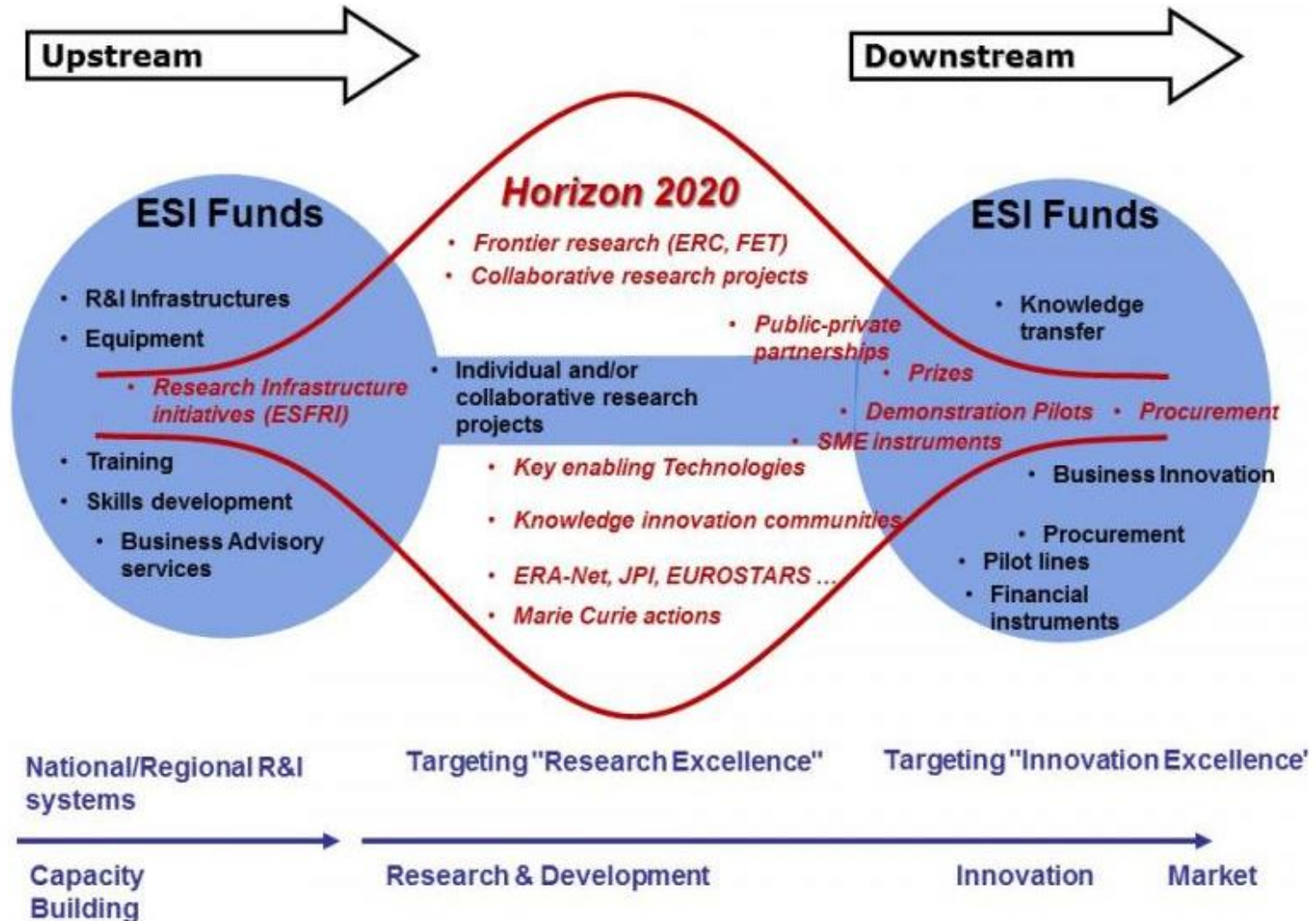
Objectives:

- The provision of assistance to Member States and Regions to enhance the value of these two EU funding sources for R&I by promoting their combination (2015/2016: focus on EU13).
- Stimulating the early and effective implementation of national and regional Smart Specialisation Strategies.

Stakeholders Involvement:

- COM services (JRC, REGIO, RTD, ENER, CNECT, GROW) and other European Institutions (EP, CoR, EIT)
- Stakeholders' Representatives (EARTO, EBN, ERRIN, KICs)
- Regions and Member States (S3P network, S2E National events)
- FP / H2020 Network (NCP, regional networks, innovation agencies)

S2E Rationale & Case Studies





Four potential cases of combined funding (2014 COM Guide on Synergies):

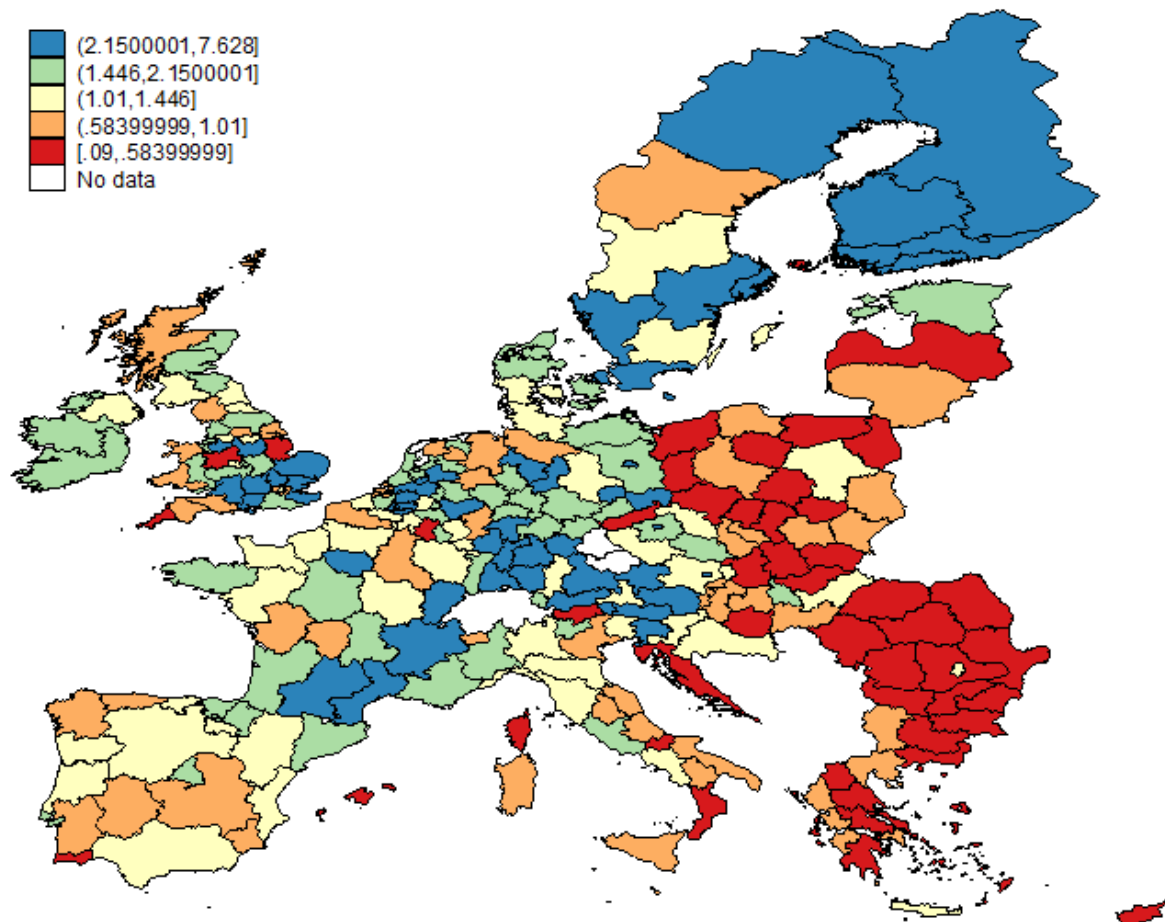
1. Joint or simultaneous funding: Different funding sources in the same project e.g. H2020 money and ESIF used together to fund different cost items within a single project. ESIF could also be used for some "complementary" funding (cost items eligible under ESIF but not under H2020).

2. Sequential funding: separate successive and legally/financially not linked projects with alternating H2020 or ESIF support. This is an easier way to combine funds with less risk of (involuntarily) creating double funding scenarios. Sequential funding can go in both directions: capacity building (e.g. raising readiness to participate in H2020) and/or innovation exploitation (e.g. exploitation of H2020 results, learning tools, cooperation models etc. developed in Erasmus+). Funding of one phase does not guarantee a funding of the subsequent phase.

3. Additional/parallel funding: ESIF money is not directly linked to a H2020 project, but a regional/national authority decides to fund a project to enhance the impact of a H2020 R+I project or Erasmus+ or COSME in its region (i.e. skills development or capacity building or for amplifying the impact of Joint Technology Initiatives).

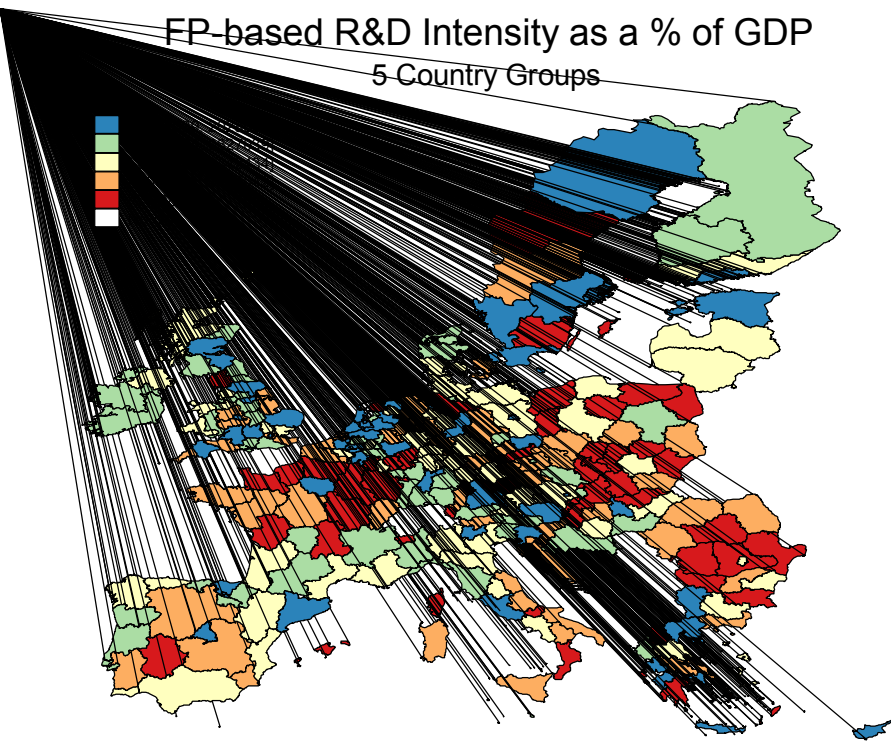
4. Alternative funding: ESIF money could be used for project proposals with a positive evaluation under H2020 or Erasmus+ that could not be funded due to a lack of H2020 funds under the call (i.e. SME instrument projects from a single country / projects submitted under the Fast Track to Innovation pilot scheme). These proposals could be **reoriented** towards ESIF requirements and submitted at national/regional level, if this type and topic of project fits into the OPs of the concerned territories.

Regional R&D Intensity as a % of GDP 5 Country Groups

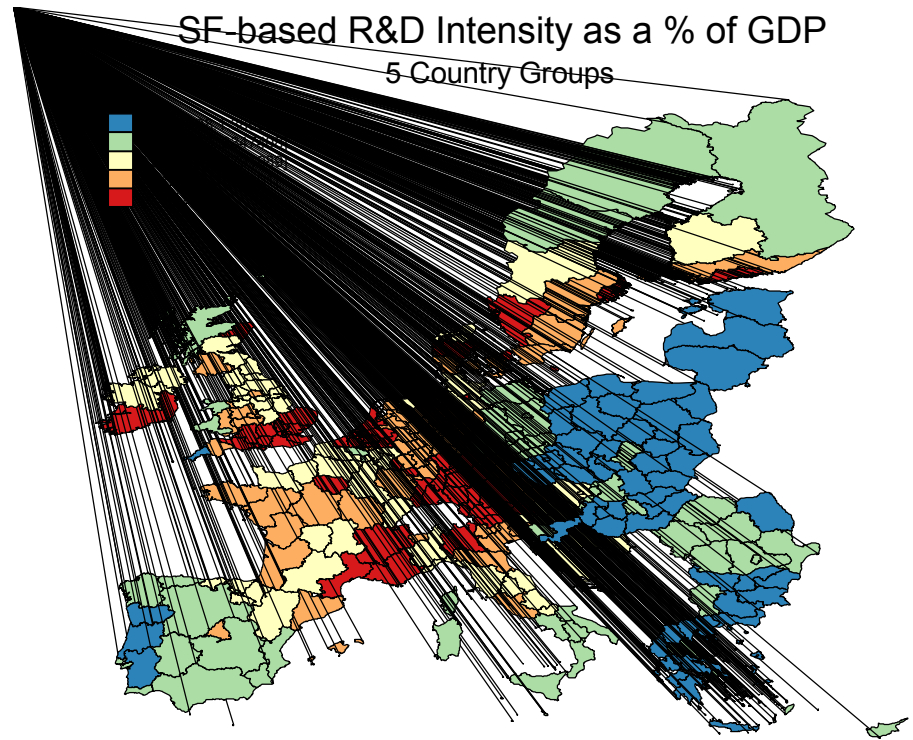


Source: JRC/IPTS

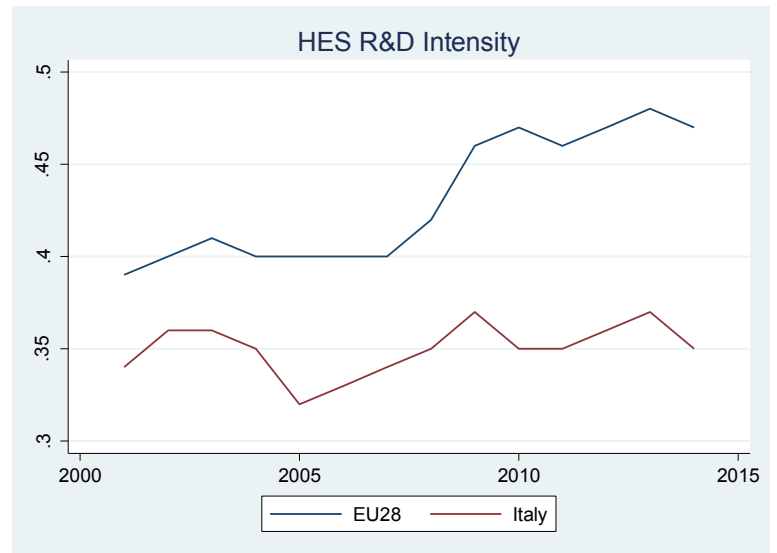
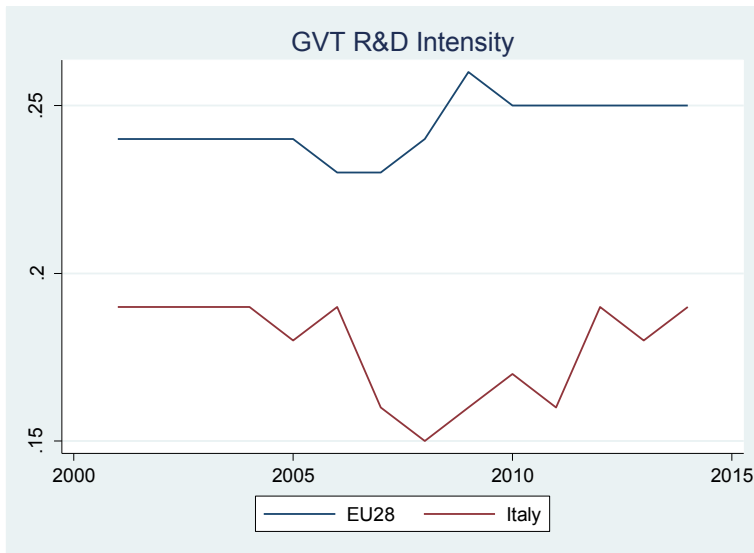
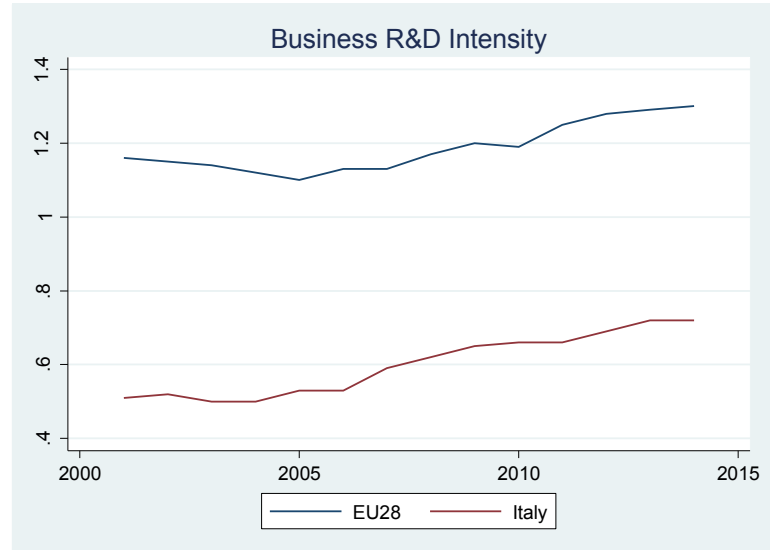
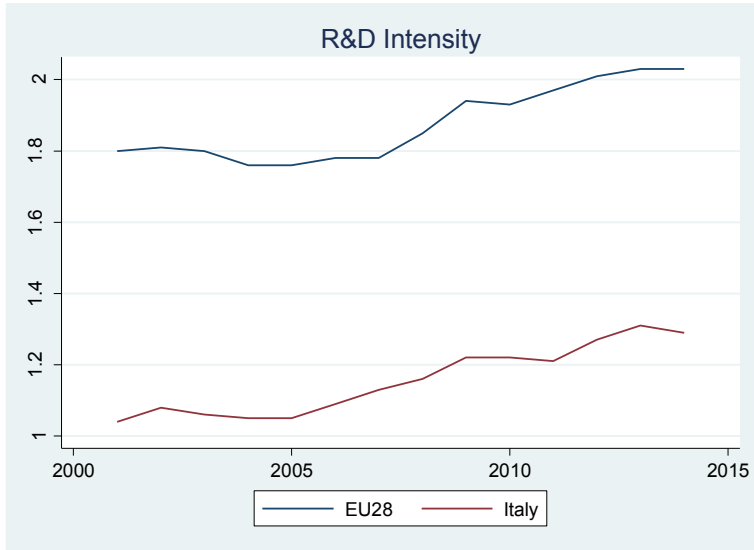
Funding Distribution of 7th FP and SFs



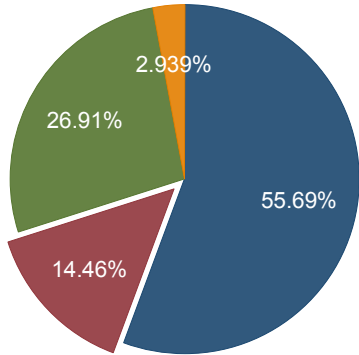
Source: JRC/IPTS



Source: JRC/IPTS

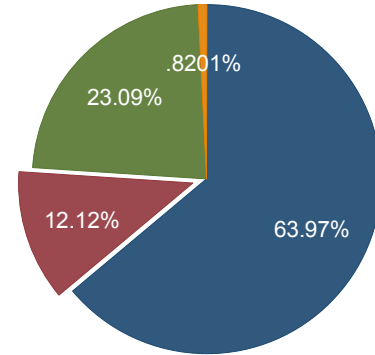


R&D Investment - Performance - Italy 2014



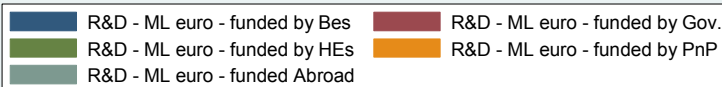
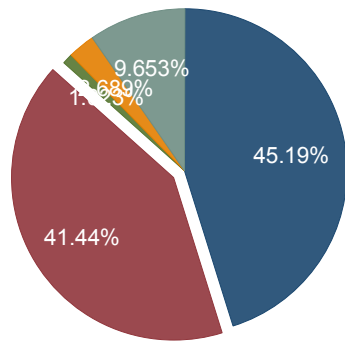
JRC Calculations based on ESTAT Data

R&D Investment - Performance - EU 2014



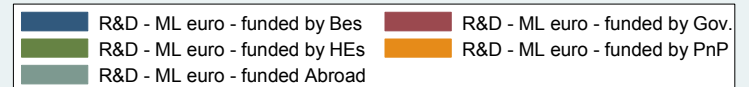
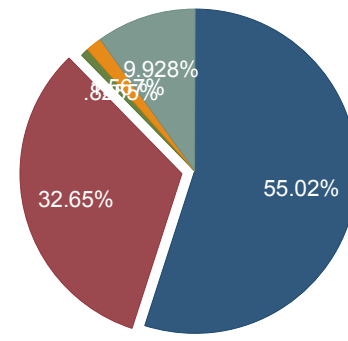
JRC Calculations based on ESTAT Data

R&D Investment - Funding - Italy 2014



JRC Calculations based on ESTAT Data

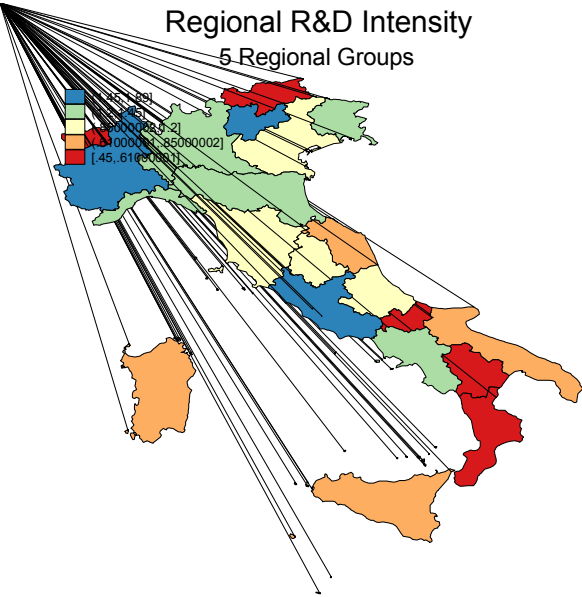
R&D Investment - Funding - EU28 2014



JRC Calculations based on ESTAT Data

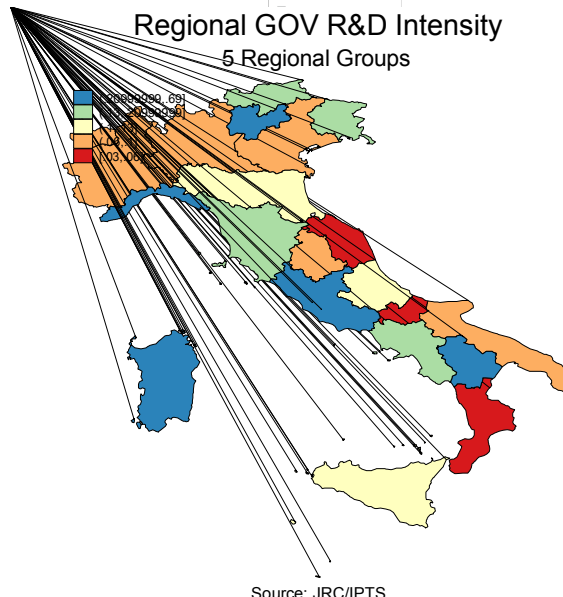


Regional R&D Intensity
5 Regional Groups



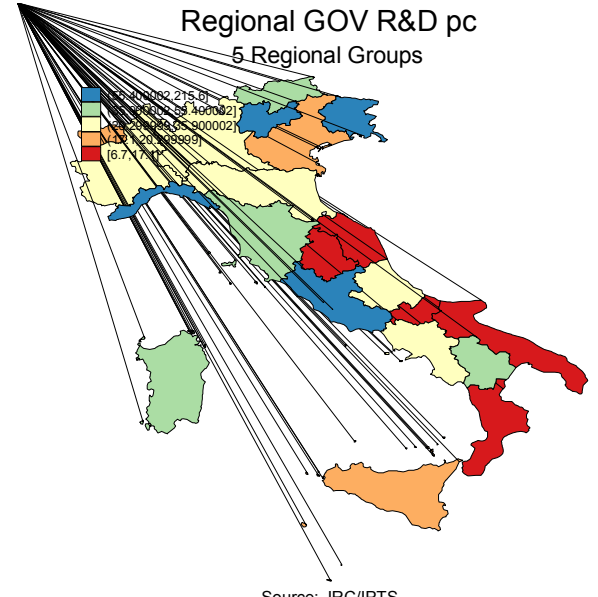
Source: JRC/IPTS

Regional GOV R&D Intensity
5 Regional Groups



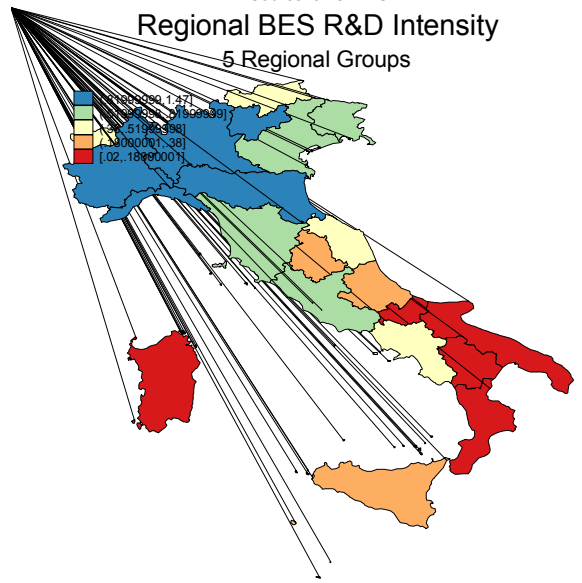
Source: JRC/IPTS

Regional GOV R&D pc
5 Regional Groups



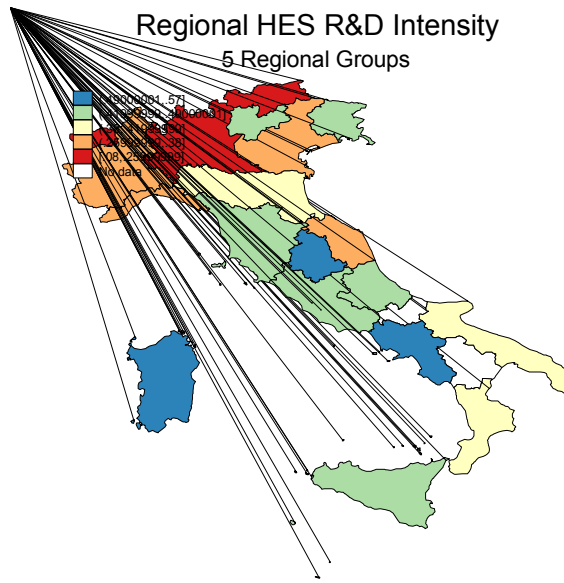
Source: JRC/IPTS

Regional BES R&D Intensity
5 Regional Groups



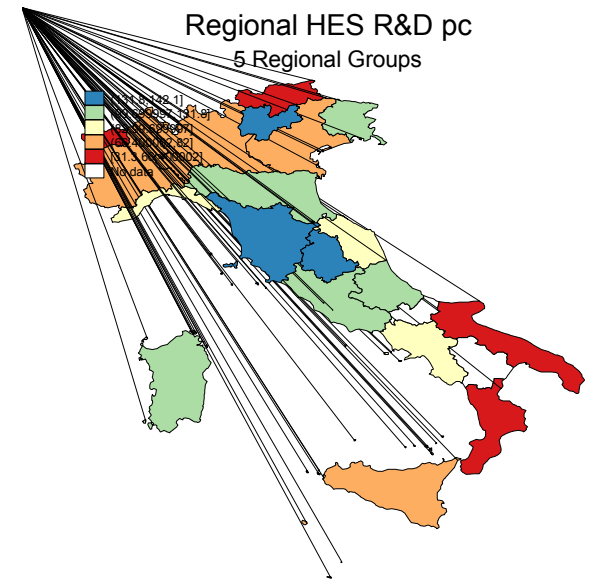
Source: JRC/IPTS

Regional HES R&D Intensity
5 Regional Groups



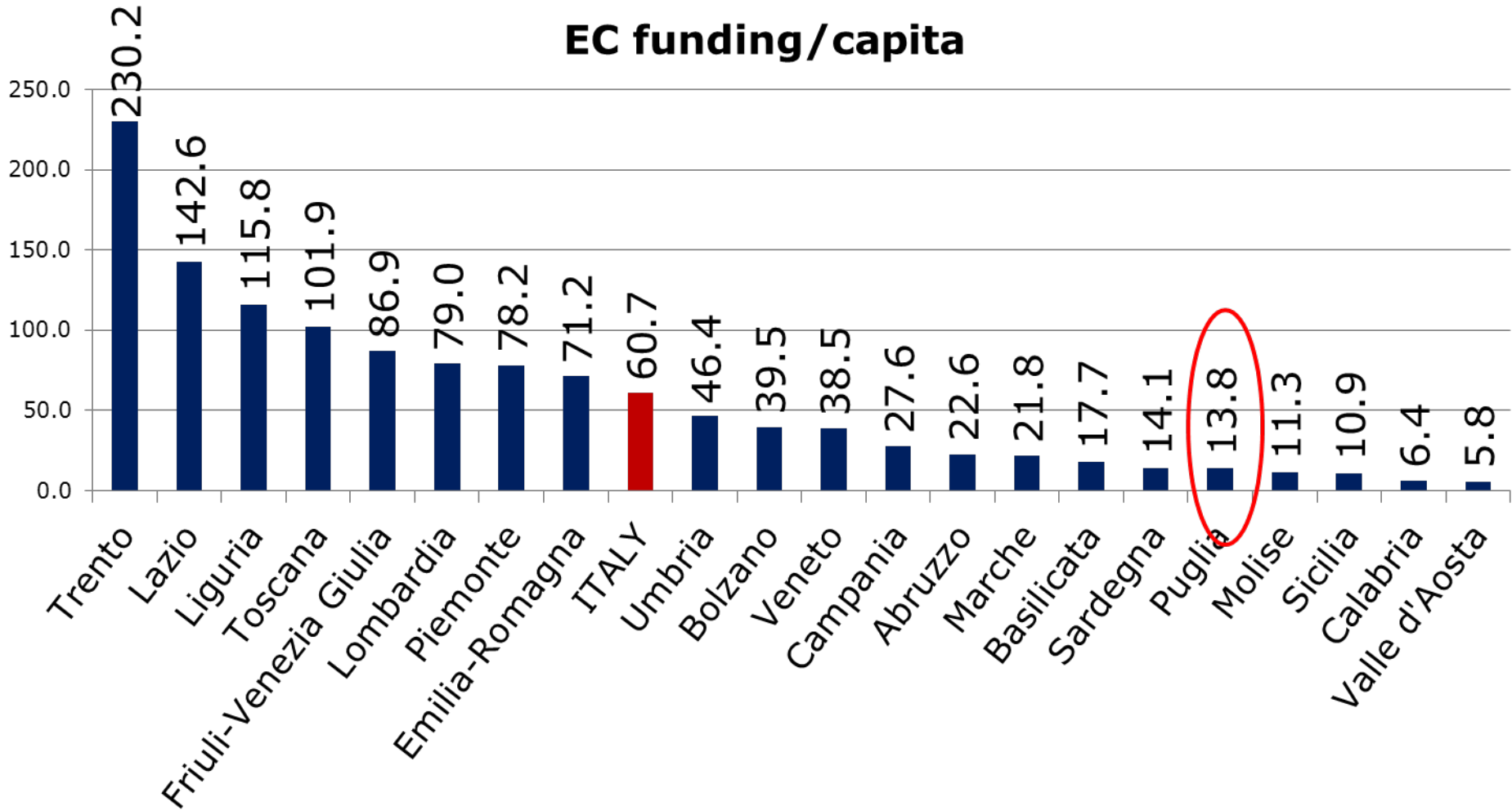
Source: JRC/IPTS

Regional HES R&D pc
5 Regional Groups



Source: JRC/IPTS

EC funding/capita



FP7 financial contribution per capita in EU13 (17.8€) and EU15 (95.2€)



Some Evidence

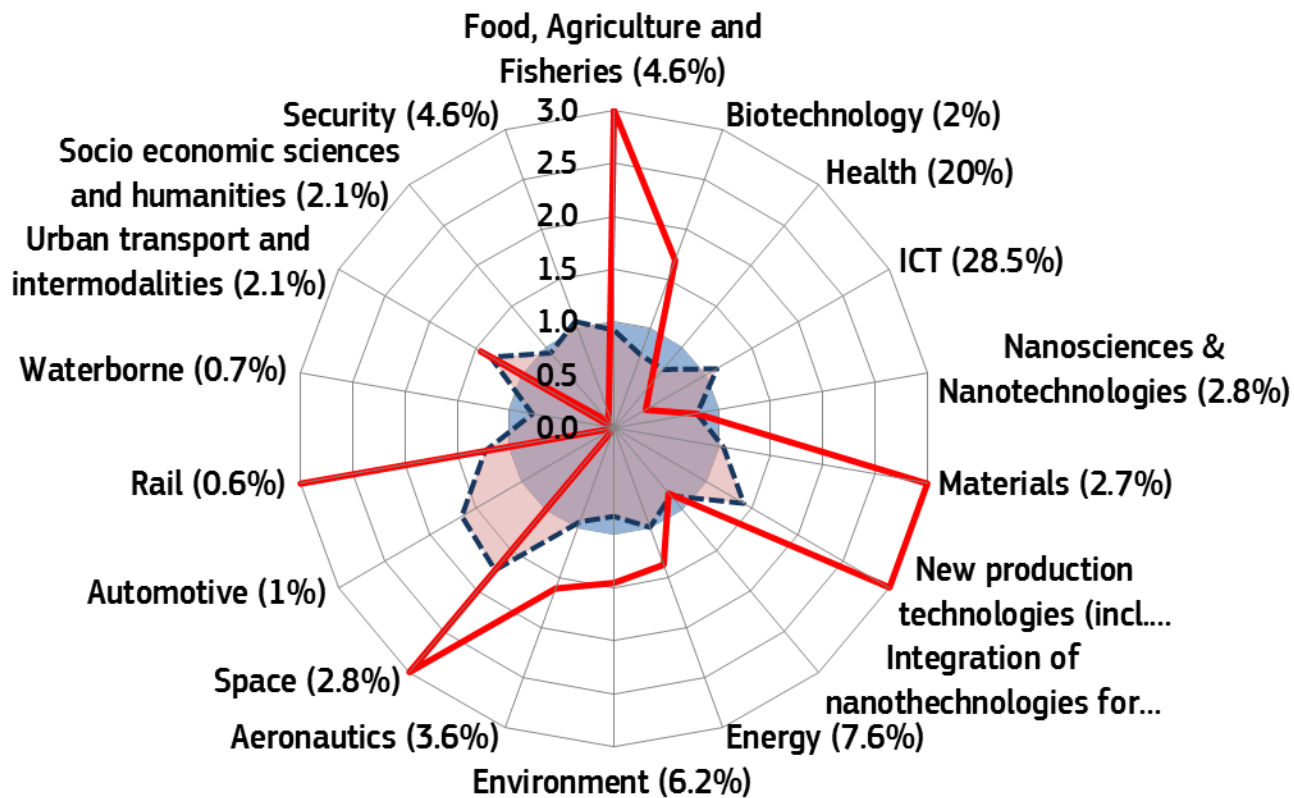
- *R&D per capita (2013): Puglia (0.82) Italy (1.31) EU28 (2.03)*
- *Puglia received 56 ML Euro for 207 participations in FP7 funded projects .*
- ***Share of Puglia (6.83% population) in Italian R&D:***
 - *Total R&D: 2.76 %*
 - *Government R&D: 3.03 %*
 - *HES R&D: 5.24 %*
 - *Business R&D: 1.37 %*
 - *FP Participation: 1.56 %*

		EC funding (ML EUR)	%	Number participations	Average EC funding/participation	Number coordinations
1	Lazio	775.9	21.60%	2456	315 940	395
2	Lombardia	758.3	21.11%	2310	328 287	353
3	Toscana	372.7	10.37%	1168	319 123	238
4	Piemonte	341.1	9.49%	1220	279 572	146
5	Emilia-Romagna	306.8	8.54%	1074	285 645	151
6	Veneto	186.6	5.19%	675	276 485	122
7	Liguria	182.5	5.08%	589	309 869	118
8	Campania	158.7	4.42%	522	303 940	97
9	Trento	119.4	3.32%	324	368 603	80
10	Friuli-Venezia Giulia	106.1	2.95%	370	286 771	68
11	Puglia	56.0	1.56%	207	270 497	30
12	Sicilia	54.5	1.52%	196	278 007	28
13	Umbria	40.9	1.14%	113	361 549	26
14	Marche	33.5	0.93%	162	206 798	19
15	Abruzzo	29.6	0.82%	107	276 425	18
16	Sardegna	23.2	0.64%	106	218 466	6
17	Bolzano/	19.7	0.55%	67	293 643	9
18	Calabria	12.6	0.35%	60	210 678	10
19	Basilicata	10.3	0.29%	43	238 964	8
20	Molise	3.6	0.10%	15	237 932	1
21	Valle d'Aosta	0.7	0.02%	5	146 780	
	ITALY	3 592.7	100.00%	11789	304 749	1923

■ Framework programme 7 (% of FP7 funding in the area)

■ ITALIA

■ Puglia



- Agri-Food
- Materials
- New processes
- Energy
- Environment
- Aeronautics
- Space
- Rail technology

	Puglia	Italy	FP7
Food, Agriculture and Fisheries	13.5%	4.3%	4.6%
Biotechnology	3.5%	1.5%	2.0%
Health	10.7%	14.5%	20.0%
ICT	9.9%	32.0%	28.5%
Nanosciences & Nanotechnologies	2.2%	2.2%	2.8%
Materials	7.3%	2.8%	2.7%
New production technologies (incl. Construction technologies)	12.8%	9.0%	8.0%
Energy	10.4%	7.5%	7.6%
Environment	9.1%	5.2%	6.2%
Aeronautics and Space	14.0%	8.4%	6.5%
Automotive	0.0%	1.7%	1.0%
Other transport technologies	5.8%	4.0%	3.3%
Socio economic sciences and humanities	0.2%	1.9%	2.1%
Security	0.7%	4.9%	4.6%
	100%	100%	100%



Main FP7 participants in Puglia

CONSIGLIO NAZIONALE DELLE RICERCHE	27
UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI DI BARI ALDO MORO	22
UNIVERSITA DEL SALENTO	13
CENTRO DI PROGETTAZIONE, DESIGN & TECNOLOGIE DEI MATERIALI	11
MER MEC SPA	11
CENTRO INTERNAZIONALE DI ALTI STUDI AGRONOMICI MEDITERRANEI - ISTITUTO AGRONOMICO MEDITERRANEO DI BARI	9
CENTRO EURO-MEDITERRANEO SUI CAMBIAMENTI CLIMATICI SCARL	9
UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI DI FOGGIA	8
REGIONE PUGLIA	7
PLANETEK ITALIA SRL	5



S2E Web

S3 Targeted Support

[RIS3 in REMTh](#)

[Rural Innovation](#)

Stairway to Excellence

[What is Stairway to](#)

[Excellence](#)

[National Events](#)

[Country & Region](#)

[Information](#)

[Synergies Examples](#)

[Instruments, Platforms &](#)

[Concepts](#)

[Relevant Initiatives](#)

[Reference Documents](#)

[FAQ on S2E](#)

Latest News

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTION

S3 Targeted Support

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTION to forthcoming S2E events

Latest S2E activity

S3 Targeted Support

Latest publications available on-line

UPCOMING S2E National Events

Stairway to Excellence

What is Stairway to Excellence

The 'Cohesion Policy and the synergies with the research and development funds: the STAIRWAY TO EXCELLENCE (S2E)' project was launched in 2014 within the Smart Specialisation Platform (S3P).

The **Stairway to Excellence (S2E)** project aims to support [EU13 regions and countries](#) in developing and exploiting the synergies between European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF), Horizon 2020 (H2020) and other EU funding programmes and:

- Assist them in closing the innovation gap, in order to promote excellence in all regions and EU countries;
- Stimulate the early and effective implementation of national and regional Smart Specialisation Strategies.

[Activities of S2E](#)

[Background for the Project](#)

National Events

[National Events](#) are being organized in [EU13 Members States](#) to:

- Ease understanding of national and regional innovation ecosystems
- Raise awareness to enable synergies between EU funding programmes
- Share experiences in combining Structural Funds and Framework Programme to improve excellence
- Draw lessons for the future and identify follow-up actions to enhance potential synergies

Country & Region Information

Quantitative and Qualitative information are produced for [EU13 regions and countries](#):

- [National and Regional Fact & Figures](#) aim to draw the European profile of a country/ region with statistical and financial information coming from the EU's 7th Framework Programme and Structural Funds dedicated to research and innovation.
- [S2E Country Reports](#) provide further analysis on selected policy issues that affect optimal use and the combination of key EU funds for R&I and offer country-tailored policy suggestions aiming to tackle the weaknesses identified in the analysis.



BG HR CY CZ EE HU LV LT MT PL RO SK SI



S3 Targeted Support

S2E organizes National Events in all EU13 Member States

Related Links

Smart Specialisation Platform (S3P) [HomePage](#), and specifically:

- S3 Platform Membership Registered Countries and Regions
- Eye@RIS3
- [Eye@RIS3 Specialisation Mapping](#)
- [Guides related to aspects of the S3](#)

[DG REGIO HomePage](#)

Contacts

Contact the [S2E email box](#)

Know the [S2E Team members](#)

More Specific contacts are available for the respective registered Member States on S3P, for instance:

- [H2020 National Contact Points](#)
- [European Enterprise Network branches](#)

Synergies examples

[Synergies examples](#) are provided in which SF/ ESIF and FP7/ H2020 funds have been combined in order to amplify the R&I investments and their impact, using different forms of innovation and competitiveness support, or carrying innovative ideas further along the innovation cycle or value chain to bring them to the market.

Instruments, Platforms & Concepts

Fiches are being made available on a selection of [European instruments/ platforms/ concepts](#) that can be considered as facilitators especially for "downstream activities", to exploit and diffuse results from earlier programming period (FP7) and current one (H2020), and as key elements in monitoring the implementation of synergies in their various forms.

Relevant Initiatives, Projects and Platforms

Beyond the Reference Documents (below) and Related Links (left), there are a number of [Relevant Initiatives, Projects and Platforms](#) for Cohesion Policy and the synergies with the research and development funds.

Reference Documents

We gather [Reference Documents](#) relevant to Cohesion Policy and the synergies with the research and development funds, including guidance for Policy-Makers, Implementing Bodies and Beneficiaries of EU Funds and instruments issued by the European Commission or other bodies.

FAQ

[Frequently Asked Questions](#) relate to practical application of the Guidance on synergies between ESIF, Horizon2020 and other research, innovation and competitiveness-related Union programmes.

A [list of acronyms](#) is also available.

Events

Publications

Case Studies

S&T Theme	Type of synergies	Country	Synergy Example	Abstract
Biotechnology	Parallel Funding	MT	Development of capacity at the University of Malta	This example considers the case of synergies achieved by the University of Malta through participation in two projects, one funded through ERDF funds and the other funded through the FP7 Capacities Programme....
Biotechnology; Health	Sequential Funding	HR	Ruđer Bošković Institute (RBI)	The case study outlines upstream sequential type of synergies developed at the Ruđer Bošković Institute in Zagreb, Croatia in the research area of biomedicine. The IPA project „Creation of research related ...
Biotechnology; Health; NMP	Sequential Funding	CZ	Central European Institute of Technology (CEITEC)	CEITEC is a research centre in the fields of life sciences, advanced materials and technologies having the aim to catalyse the existing research resources in South Moravia and establish itself through
Biotechnology; ICT	Sequential + Parallel Funding	PL	Molecular scissors for double stranded RNA - International Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology, Prof. Janusz Bujnicki's team	The resourceful combination of funding from national sources with Structural Funds (SF) and Framework Programme 7 (FP7) allowed the research team of Prof. Janusz Bujnicki to make breakthrough ...

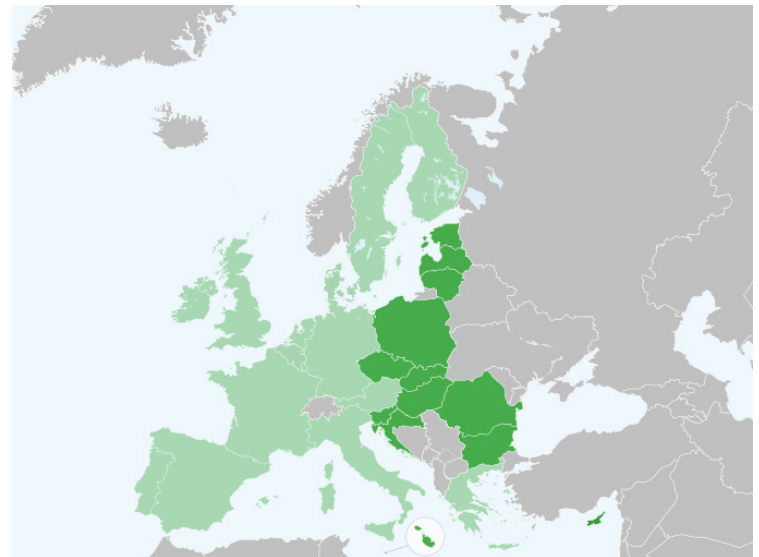
National S2E Events

- **A better understanding of the national innovation ecosystem**
- **Raising awareness of the actions needed to enable synergies**
- **Sharing experiences in combining different EU funds**

The events are open to national and regional MAs, NCPs, national authorities in charge of RIS3, selected experts and representatives from business and research organisations.

<u>Romania</u>	(June 2016)
<u>Hungary</u>	(May 2016)
<u>Poland</u>	(April 2016)
<u>Slovenia</u>	(April 2016)
<u>Estonia</u>	(March 2016)
<u>Czech Republic</u>	(March 2016)
<u>Lithuania</u>	(October 2015)
<u>Malta</u>	(July 2015)
<u>Slovakia</u>	(June 2015)
<u>Latvia</u>	(April 2015)
<u>Croatia</u>	(March 2015)

*Forthcoming
Events:
BG, CY*



Key Messages (1)

Main Issue:

- **Improving coordination / communication tools between main actors dealing with ESIF and S3 strategies**

Concrete Bottleneck:

- Lack of information circulation between stakeholders (silo effect)
- Need for open dialogue and mutual trust among different stakeholders
- Lack of collaborative governance and inefficient inter-institutional and transnational cooperation (e.g. fragmented research system)
- Lack of awareness about synergy (i.e. funding programmes) opportunities

Possible Actions:

- Better coordination of existing information channels & platforms
- More active roles for public bodies (e.g. promote EU programmes, establish specific offices etc.) together with more efficient incentive schemes
- Specific ministries (or agencies) to coordinate/lead collaboration
- Establishing a review / monitoring / evaluation system(s) (possibly more result-oriented than process-oriented)
- Learning/adapting from good practices



Key Messages (2)

Main Issue:

- **Active business involvement in the innovation ecosystem**

Concrete Bottleneck:

- Lack of incentives for SMEs to participate in international research collaboration
- National funds (easily accessible) vs European funds (complicated with high coordination cost)
- Potential risk of multiple market distortions & rent-seeking behaviour

Possible Actions:

- Strategic involvement of Business in the Entrepreneurial Discovery Process
- Stabilise administrative and legislative framework to encourage business
- Facilitate SME-based R&D projects with supports of PROs and universities
- Measures allowing the primary use of ESIF for close-to-market projects
- Better Incentives for business (and/or researchers who are in collaboration with business) and risk reduction strategies via better awareness campaigns and technical support when feasible



Key Messages (3)

Other Main Issues:

- Brain drain
- Lack of strategic approach and prioritisation.
- Administrative burden & complicated bureaucracy
- Strategic Support for both capacity building (i.e. "upstream activities" towards research infrastructure, human resources, networking etc.) and commercial exploitation of results (i.e. "downstream activities")
- Lack of support to universities & industry for bridging activities.
- *Lack of motivation (for PROs and SMEs) to participate in EU research programmes*
- *Lack of knowledge transfers among public and private bodies (at national level) and among EU MSs (at international level)*

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