Peer Learning for Innovation Agencies

Friuli Innovazione Case History
Peer Learning: a Friuli Innovazione Flagship

6 Projects awarded

✓ 4 Project implemented in the last 3 years
✓ 2 Project ongoing

• EISS
• TRANS-UP
• INPRO
• EUROSYN
• INNOPROCUR
• AIM
Peer Learning: a Friuli Innovazione Flagship
Peer Learning: a unique opportunity to expand your network
Peer Learning: deepening knowledge on several topics

- Intellectual Property Rights
- Public Procurement
- Additive Manufacturing
- Sinergy in EU funds
- Energy efficiency
- Start up schemes
EUROSYN

Improve innovation services for SMEs by enabling services between ESIF, H2020 and other funds
The history of the project

➢ Friuli Innovazione is APRE Help Desks in Friuli Venezia Giulia Region (APRE - Italian Agency for the Promotion of European Research)

➢ January 2016: Working Group with other regional Help Desks (coordinated by Friuli Innovazione and AREA Science Park) studying European best practices about synergies between ESIF and Horizon 2020 in order to support Regions and Public Administrations

➢ March 2016: submission of the EUROSYN project proposal to H2020 topic

➢ July 2016: Working Group final report (first version)

➢ August 2016: communication on positive EUROSYN evaluation by EC

➢ October 2016: EUROSYN starting
EUROSYN partners

GREECE

KEPA
BUSINESS & CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

ITALY

Friuli Innovazione
Research and Technology Transfer Centre

AUSTRALIA

FORSCHUNG Burgenland
RESEARCH & INNOVATION
EUROSYN main objective

The overall objective of the project is to peer-review public funds for R&D&I and support programmes for SMEs in order to improve their use by enabling synergies between ESIF, H2020 and other funds.

Intermediary organizations offering support services on funding opportunities to SMEs are relevant actors in this process because:

✓ they can help policy makers in the development and application of the synergies

✓ they can support SMEs in the correct use of public funds for R&D.
EUROSYN: FOR WHO?

EUROSYN project team

Local experts

Regional / National agencies
EUROSYN: What does it mean ECOSYSTEMS?

- MACRO-LEVEL
- MESO-LEVEL
- MICRO-LEVEL
Peer Review
EUROSYN: METHODOLOGIES

Pilot Action

Source: traktuell.at
EUROSYN: METHODOLOGIES

Cooperation between ERDF ROP and other OPs

Sinergies between ESIF and H2020 funds
The TALENTS Strategy experience

EUROPEAN BEST PRACTICES ON SYNERGIES

Friuli Innovazione

GUTE IDEE BURGENLAND - Italian Agency for the Promotion of European Research

Good / Best Practices

S3 – Synergies between structural funds (ESIF) and Horizon 2020
EUROSYN: METHODOLOGIES

Recommendation for policy makers
EUROSYN: MAPPING SERVICES FOR SME

Innovation Funnel

FUZZY FRONTEND OF INNOVATION
- Trends
- Foresight + Backcasting
- Long-term strategies
- Future problems

IDEATION

IDEA SELECTION

PROTOTYPING

MARKET ENTRY (preparation)

INNOVATION FUNNEL
Concept of building blocks

European / National / Regional level
Innovation Laggard / Innovation Follower / Innovation Leader
 EUROSYN: SERVICES FOR SME

- What kind of service?
- Who delivers it
- Required level of innovation at SME
- Benefit for SME
- Cost (direct / indirect)
- Efficiency
- Relation to other Building Blocks

Description of a Building Block
EUROSYN: SERVICES FOR SME

Portfolio for each support agency
Part 6: DOP – PILOT ACTION

How to do it
Conclusions/1

• Synergies among different R&I funds are a topic still to be completely defined and implemented

• Both public administrations and companies have not yet sufficient knowledge

• Intermediary/support organizations, innovation agencies, etc. have a crucial role, also in building a bridge on the two sides
Conclusions/2

• **SMEs** need organizations giving *information*
  • About the numerous funding opportunities
  • Possibility to use them in a synergic way

**support** in choosing the best/most adapt solution considering
• SME dimension/capacities/innovation level
• Project impact
• TRL of the project
• Project budget
• Partners needed/required
• ...
Conclusions/3

• Importance of a **regional/local ecosystem** supporting SMEs in the different project issues: technological competences, IPR, business model, technology foresight, etc.

• SMEs should be supported in the **whole innovation funnel** by using **specific tools**, such as innovation self assessment/audits

• Also **intermediary/support organizations** should be more informed/trained about synergies’ opportunities >>> DOP from EUROSYN
Conclusions/4

- The peer learning topic is:
  - a **very useful and effective measure** in order to improve/integrate services’ portfolio offered to SMEs (e.g. lump sum > low management issues)
  - An **opportunity to share experiences and analyse best practices** among intermediary organizations/innovation agencies coming from different European situations
  - A chance to collaborate with similar organizations on **very numerous and complementary topics** (bottom-up approach; e.g. eco-innovation services, IPR, start-up, ...)

Brokerage Event for Innovation Agencies
Brussels, January 23rd 2018
Conclusions/5

• **Synergies among different funds** are possible, have huge potential for R&I and economic impacts, but are **not often realized and applied in a effective way**.

• There are **various reasons**, both at local and European level.

• **Some suggestions** have been identified by the APRE working group and the EUROSYN project.
Conclusions/6
- **Coherence** of ESIF calls with Horizon 2020 topics
  - Align **timeline of call publication** and ESIF application form on Horizon models
  - Seeking coherence with **evaluation criteria** between H2020 and ESIF
  - Awarding a major score for those project already received a positive H2020 assessment not financed for lack of funding >> reduced administrative burdens
  - Saving a part of ESIF funds to be assigned to those project already submitted for Horizon 2020
  - Opening the possibility to grant with lump-sum in ERDF, e.g. with reference to complementary actions to SME instrument Phase 1.
- Opening the **access to H2020 databases** for Managing Authorities in order to facilitate synergies seeking for Regions, Innovation agencies, intermediaries organizations supporting beneficiaries in application procedures

- As for «SME Instrument» and other cal with one beneficiary (ERC, MSCA) it’s recommended to receive in shorter times a regional-based ranking list of **Seal of Excellence beneficiaries**

- Including in the application form an authorization for the availability of data to the competent region
Thank you for your attention!

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