

How to build Stairways to excellence in EU regions? European Parliament, 29 December 2011

Synergies between the 7th Framework Programme, the CIP and the Cohesion Policy Funds

Josef Sackl, 2004

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Overview

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Introduction: The Synergies Expert Group (SEG)

Synergies Framework Programme, CIP and Structural Funds

- **Frans van Vught, The Netherlands (Chair)**
- **Manfred Horvat, Austria (Rapporteur)**
- **Helena Acheson, Ireland**
- **Dan Andree, Sweden**
- **Anton Anton, Romania**
- **Guy Clause, Luxembourg**
- **Giovanni Colombo, Italy**
- **Erzebet Dobos, Hungary**
- **Michel Gaillard, France**
- **Jana Kolar, Slovenia**
- **Eleni Marianou, Greece**
- **Helena L. Nilsson, Sweden**
- **Peter Oakley, United Kingdom**
- **Tea Petrin, Slovenia**
- **Carlo Rizzuto, Italy**
- **Olle Sternberg, Sweden**

Final Report, 1st June 2011:

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/index.cfm?pg=reports>

Terms of Reference

To make recommendations:

- **for the development of ‘synergies in practice’ for the current programming period,**
- **concerning enhanced “synergies of policies and programmes” for R&D, innovation and cohesion for the next programming period, and**
- **in particular for the future of the two regional actions in FP7**
 - Regions of Knowledge (RoK) and
 - Research Potential (REGPOT)

Approach taken

- Following the **'innovation systems'** approach
- Cohesion Policy: **'Location-based dimension'** of innovation and the role of proximity for knowledge spillovers
- FP7: transnational cooperation and the role of **'local-global connectedness'**
- Orienting the different programmes towards the **common objectives of the European Union**

Synergies

- **The SEG defines ‘synergies’ as the alignment of and cooperation between policy frameworks, programmes and actions allowing more and better attainment of their objectives**
- **‘Synergies’ concern the effects produced by separate programmes that are indeed different but may produce coordinated effects by intensive interaction.**

Changed contexts: European policies

- **Current Programmes developed under Lisbon strategy (2000 and 2005)**
 - Previous contributions on ‘Synergies’ from ITRE, EURAB, ERAB, CREST, ERAC, REGI, ESFRI
- **New policy context for next programming period**
 - Europe 2020
 - Smart, sustainable and inclusive growth
 - Innovation Union and A digital Agenda for Europe
 - Key role of research and innovation
 - EU Budget Review
 - Common Strategic Frameworks
 - The EU Budget 2014-2020
 - HORIZON 2020 – Framework Programme for R&I
 - Cohesion Policy Funds (CPFs) – R&D, Innovation, Entrepreneurship

Main issues

- **Fragmentation of R&D and innovation policies at EU level**
- **At all levels, need for common strategies in accordance with Europe 2020**
- **Lack of coherent and interacting governance**
- **Weak complementarities and compatibilities as well as interoperability of policies and programmes**
- **Lack of instruments for pooling of European and national funds**
- **Poor communication, coordination and cooperation**

Next programming period (i)

Basic assumption on future synergies

Two Common Strategic Frameworks

that are different but will produce coordinated effects by intensive interaction while aiming jointly to contribute to the objectives of Europe 2020 and the Innovation Union:

- HORIZON 2020 and Cohesion Policy Funds
(EU Budget: € 80 bn + € 60 bn)**

Next programming period (ii)

HORIZON 2020 & CPF: Clear objectives and profiles

- **HORIZON 2020** (*EU Budget: € 80 bn*)
 - Will work at **EU level**
 - oriented towards promoting **excellence**
 - addressing **grand societal challenges**, and supporting **competitiveness**,
 - based on competitive project selection procedures applying **international peer review**
- **Cohesion Policy Funds** (CPF) related to R&D, innovation and entrepreneurship (*EU Budget: € 60 bn*)
 - working at **regional level** with geographical allocations
 - focus on ‘**capacity building**’ – ‘**Staircases to excellence**’
 - **national and regional relevance** will play a role

Next programming period (iii)

Principles

- **Excellence** as a general principle
- **Interoperability** and improved **communication**
- Making a reality of the **knowledge triangle** between education, research and innovation, promoting the **Triple Helix** of government authorities, industry and research institutions and utilizing **Open Innovation** approaches
- **Smart specialisation**: regions' focusing on specific strengths
- **International peer review** where possible and appropriate also in Cohesion Policy Funds
- **Simplification**: HORIZON 2020 and Cohesion Policy Funds

Next programming period (iv)

Key recommendations 1

- **Align National Reform Programmes and the Development and Investment Partnership Contracts with objectives of Europe 2020 and Innovation Union**
- **Focus CPF on clusters; streamline cluster schemes**
- **Small Business & Innovation Research Scheme**
- **EIT and KICs providing testbeds for new approaches – support KIC CCs in convergence regions**
- **European Research Infrastructures and Regional Partner Facilities as key support structures for ERA**
- **Use CPF for the modernisation of universities and research organisations – equipment, people**

Next programming period (v)

Key recommendations 2

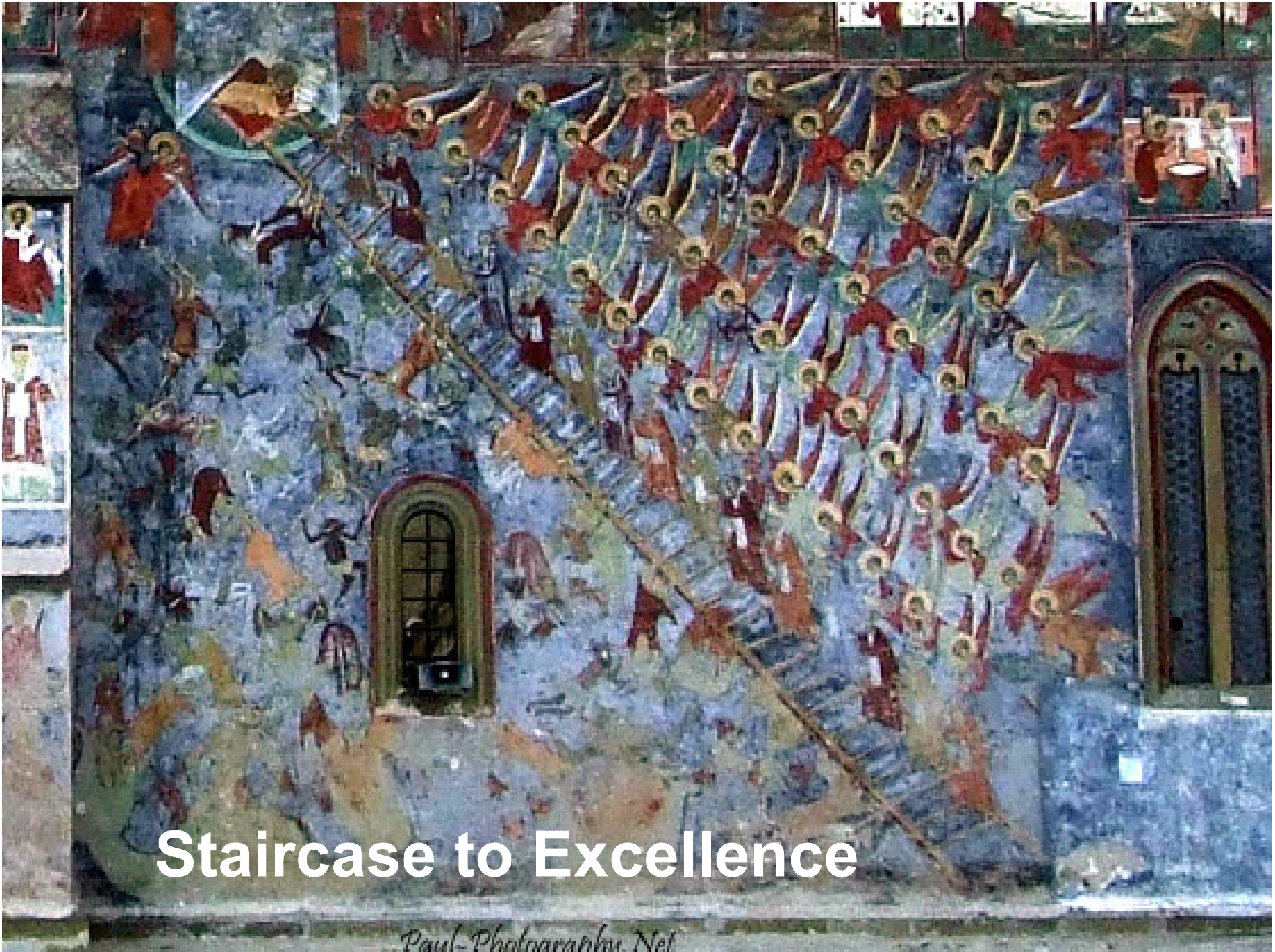
- **Utilize the possibility of greater transnational cooperation and cross-border investment**
- **Allow the use of CPF funds of a region also in other Member States (regions)**
- **Launch a unified EU technology licensing process enhancing the commercialization of R&D results from universities, non-profit organizations and SMEs across EU Member States**
- **Develop further and simplify public procurement including pre-commercial procurement**
- **Utilize RSFF and new financial instruments**

Regions of Knowledge, Research Potential

- **Anchor RoK in the Territorial Cooperation part of Cohesion Policy Funds**
 - Support especially research driven clusters strengthening regional research and innovation excellence
 - Ensure that all regions can participate
 - Consider widening the focus of RoK to the networking of clusters
 - Fully integrate the RoK scheme in the Operational Programmes considering smart specialisation strategies
- **Integrate the REGPOT into Cohesion Policy Funds**
 - An inclusive capacity building scheme
 - Offer a centralised management approach for voluntary participation based on a common pot in order to keep EU wide competition
 - Build on the evaluation experience of DG RTD
 - Ensure a substantially increased budget; maintain 100% funding and explore possibilities to diversify funding sources

Summary

- **The next programming period 2014-2020 will be a decisive phase for promoting EU R&I activities in a new global context – window of opportunity**
- **Close coordination and cooperation of HORIZON 2020 and the Cohesion Policy Funds oriented towards the objectives of the Europe 2020 and Innovation Union will strengthen R&I in the EU**
- **HORIZON 2020 and Cohesion Policy Funds working together will present an important European competitive advantage – the Commission as ‘facilitator’ and the Member States and regions as the main actors**



Staircase to Excellence

Thank you!

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