



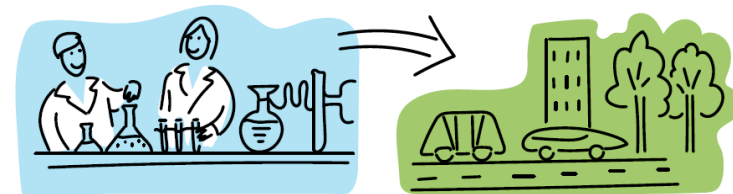
## CAPACITY BUILDING FOR PARTICIPATING IN HORIZON EUROPE – ESTONIAN EXAMPLE

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Head of Department, International Research Cooperation

Synergies between Horizon Europe and  
the new cohesion policy programmes:  
a practical approach – 20 Oct 2022

# GOALS IN HORIZON EUROPE

- *To maintain high level of funding (measured per capita)*
- *To broaden participation – involve (besides universities and R&D institutions) more enterprises, non-profit societies, public-sector institutions, sectoral ministries, local governmental bodies, etc.*
- *To take leadership and coordinating role in consortia*
- *To be succesful in applying for calls in excellent science pillar*
- *To contribute to solving global societal challenges*



# MOBILITAS PROGRAMME (ERDF) TO SUPPORT PARTICIPATION IN HORIZON EUROPE

## Mobilitas Plus programme 2015-2022

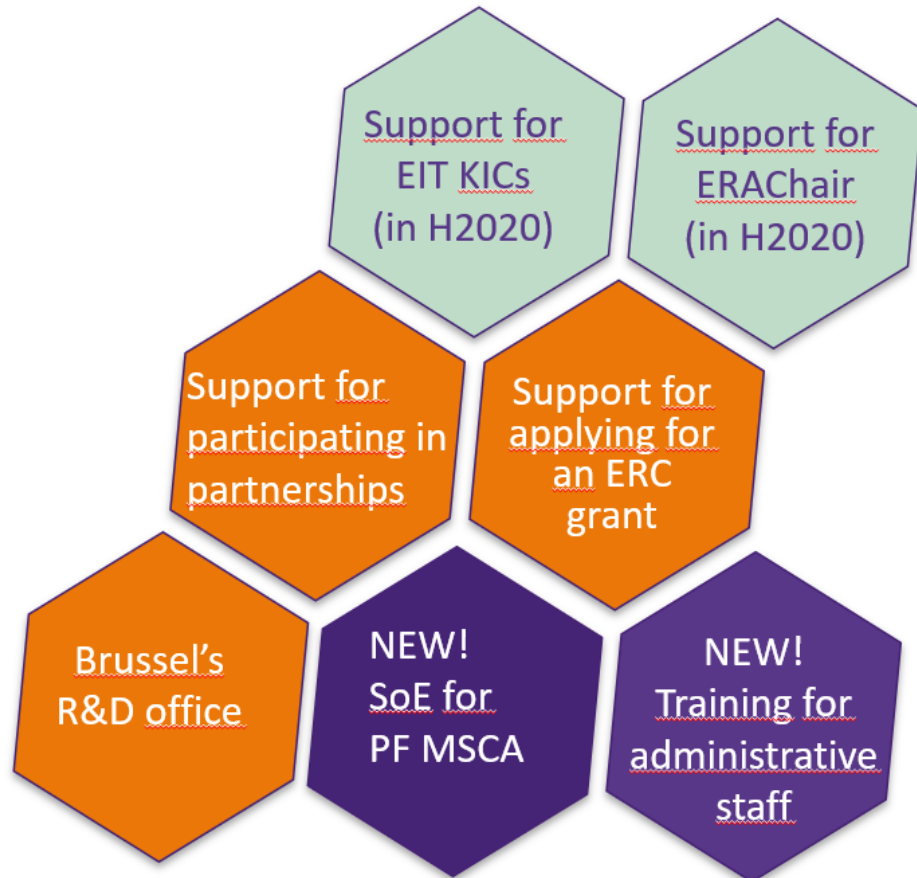
- budget 35 MEUR, 83.5% ERDF

## NEW programme 2022-2027

- budget 36 MEUR, 70% ERDF

## Mobilitas aims to:

- improve the international visibility
- strengthen the international competitiveness
- support transnational research collaboration and networking
- support intersectoral and international mobility and cooperation



# PARTICIPATING IN PARTNERSHIPS

## ***AIM: to contribute to solving global societal challenges***

- *We fund partnership calls and ERA-NET calls from Mobilitas programme. Possibility to combine ERDF and EC cofunding in Horizon Europe is significant step towards synergy!*
- *26 ERA-NET projects were funded from Mobilitas programme (1/3 of all ERA-NET projects ETAG funded).*
- *In HEU 12.5 MEUR from Mobilitas to partnerships*

## ***AIM: to take leadership and coordinating role in consortia***

- *Extra 50 000 euros for coordinator's role in partnership project*



# SUPPORT TO ERC APPLICANTS - 1

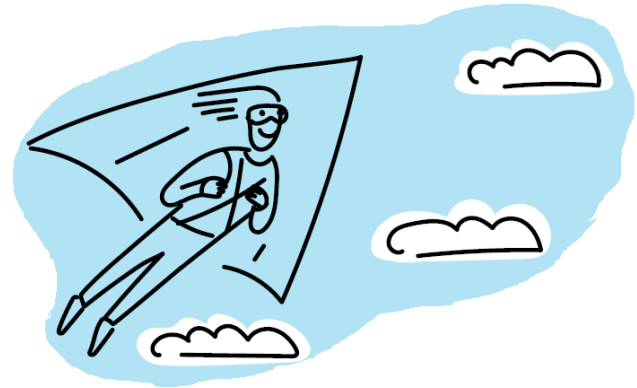
***AIM: to be succesful in applying for calls in excellent science pillar***

*Up to 1,5-year support (up to 100 000 € per year) for any researcher working for an Estonian RTD institution, who has applied for an ERC grant and reached the second stage of evaluation, but still not received funding.*

**21 projects were funded in H2020**

Aims to:

- motivate (re-)applying
- value prestigious ERC grants
- prevent brain-drain



# SUPPORT TO ERC APPLICANTS - 2

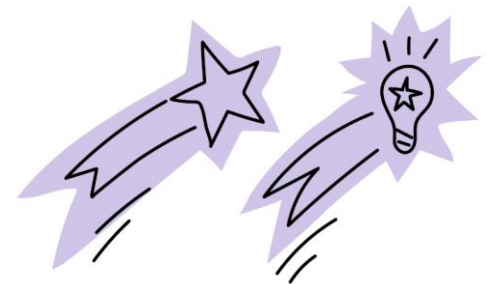
***AIM: to be succesful in applying for calls in excellent science pillar***

*With the focus on ERC, the aim was to have at least 100 researchers participating at ERC Project writing trainings, interview trainings, study visits to ERC grant holders and consultations.*

***more than 200 researchers were supported in H2020***

Aims to:

- promote applying for ERC grants
- support applicants in differents steps



# SEAL OF EXCELLENCE FOR MSCA

*AIM: to be succesful in applying for calls in excellent science pillar*

- *We are in the process of finalising Seal of Excellence scheme for Marie Skłodowska-Curie postdoctoral fellowship applications*
- *One application = 3 schemes for funding*

Aims to:

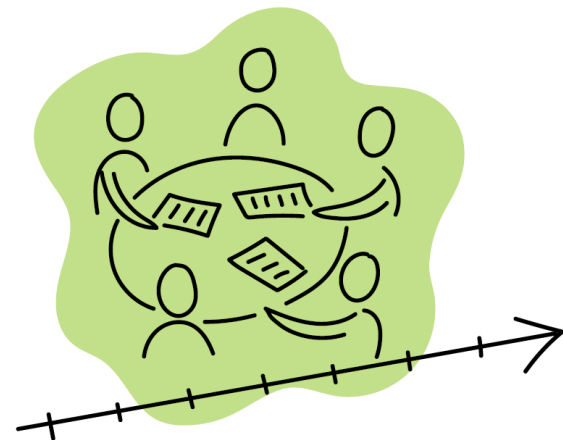
- introduce Horizon Europe to early-career researchers
- take advantage of Horizon Europe evaluation process
- increase number of MSCA applicants (and grantees)



# R&D LIASON OFFICE IN BRUSSELS

***AIM: to maintain high level of funding (measured per capita)***

- *Brussels R&D Liason office: since 2012*
- *brokering information, contacts, networking, search for potential collaboration partners, organizing infodays, seminars in other countries/European Commission, cooperation with*
- *two full-time R&D Liason Officers starting from 2023*





# CHALLENGES

- In Estonia, Structural Funds form about 1/3 of our RDI funding
  - national funding is used on institutional (base)funding and national grant schemes
  - new, innovative elements for capacity building are financed from Structural Funds and are heavily influenced by the Structural Funds policy and rules (Smart Specialisation Strategy)

Following smart specialisation strategy limits possibility to contribute to all ERA priorities where we have competences and know-how – for instance in partnerships or in bottom-up initiatives





Mobilitas<sup>+</sup>



European Union  
European Regional  
Development Fund



Investing  
in your future