CAPACITY BUILDING FOR PARTICIPATING IN HORIZON EUROPE – ESTONIAN EXAMPLE

Maarja Adojaan, PhD,
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 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

Support for applying for an ERC grant
Support for ERA Chair (in H2020)
Support for EIT KICs (in H2020)
Support for participating in partnerships
NEW! SoE for PF MSCA
NEW! Training for administrative staff
Brussel’s R&D office
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 Mobiltas 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 successful 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
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 different steps
AIM: to be successful 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 Liaison 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 Liaison 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