



Implementing funding synergies in Co-funded European Partnerships

The case of Centro region of Portugal

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Centro region of Portugal: brief overview

CCDRC is a public institute, within the indirect administration of the State, that integrates various public policies that pursue strategies to promote the integrated **development of the territory** (namely, in the domains of environment, cities, economy, culture, education, health, land use, nature conservation, and agriculture and fisheries) and provides **technical support to local authorities** in Centro of Portugal.

CCDRC is also responsible for the **management of the Regional Programme** (multi agenda and multi fund - ERDF, ESF and JTF) and for the **coordination, implementation and monitoring of the regional RIS3**.



Centro region of Portugal: brief overview



In Portugal (mainland), regions are not autonomous
so there is no regional budget.

The operationalisation of funding synergies, at
regional level, can only be explored in the context of
the Regional Programmes of the Cohesion Policy
(mobilising ERDF).

R&D&i internationalisation approach (2014-2020)

Synergies with ESIF

Sequential funding upstream

Sequential funding downstream

Alternative funding

Combined funding

GOAL: Increase regional stakeholders' participation in European programmes and projects of European relevance, through the mobilisation of ESIF (from the Regional Programme) in areas that are relevant for the Centro RIS3 implementation.

Examples of synergies in the 2014-2020 period



Sequential funding upstream

Promoting the regional participation in European Research and Innovation programmes, namely Horizon 2020, by supporting the preparation of project proposals (e.g. meetings, travels, consulting costs, access to databases).

Incentives Scheme to R&TD
Internationalisation,
Individual Projects

Sequential funding downstream

TRL 3-4 Proof-of-Concept pilot call within the Regional Programme to exploit results from previous research projects, including those from Horizon 2020.

- foreseen in the portfolio of instruments but only implemented by the Centro Regional Programme (in 2021).

Support System For Scientific Research and Technology (SAICT)
Proof-of-Concept Projects

Examples of synergies in the 2014-2020 period



Alternative funding

Direct financial support to companies/projects that were attributed the EU Seal of Excellence. No national evaluation was then performed except for the alignment with RIS3.

Incentives Scheme to R&TD
Seal of Excellence Projects

Combined funding

Co-funding the national counterpart for the participation of regional stakeholders in European R&D projects (EUREKA, Eurostars, ERA-NET, Joint Undertaking), using ESIF. A correspondence between the national evaluation criteria/parameters and the European ones was established to avoid national evaluation, except for the alignment with RIS3.

Incentives Scheme to R&TD
Projects at European Scale

Synergies in the 2021-2027 period

New

Funding synergies in Co-funded European Partnerships from Pillar 2 of Horizon Europe

Given the changes in the CPR for the 2021-2027 framework period, allowing the allocation of ERDF as national counterpart in the Co-funded European Partnership, CCDRC is participating in the following HE Partnerships, using ERDF from the Regional Programme:



**Driving Urban
Transitions**



**Sustainable Blue
Economy Partnership**



**TRANSFORMING HEALTH
AND CARE SYSTEMS**

Synergies in the 2021-2027 period

New

Funding synergies in Co-funded European Partnerships

Challenges

- The institutional architecture of Portugal and the governance model of the Portuguese Partnership Agreement is quite centralised, leaving little room to tailor the management of the instruments to the regional needs and specificities
- As Centro is the only Portuguese region (in the mainland) engaging in this effort, we lack support to put pressure on the introduction of the needed adjustments to the national regulatory framework;

Synergies in the 2021-2027 period

New

Funding synergies in Co-funded European Partnerships

Operational difficulties

- As a funding agency, we only support stakeholders from Centro region; the national funding agency supports stakeholders from the whole country (including Centro region). Our engagement in these efforts should not excuse the national funding agencies from funding stakeholders from our region – how do we operationalise this, without compromising the ranking lists?
- There needs to be a strong articulation and combination of efforts on the operationalisation of synergies, both from the side of the Commission (all parties involved) and the side of the Member States (both national and regional levels), to find solutions for each concrete bottleneck; some examples of Centro concrete difficulties regarding:
 - The appointment of an Intermediate body
 - Timing of regional calls
 - Adequacy of the supporting information systems to specific ‘rules’
 - Issue of a common Payment Authority for all Programs

Synergies in the 2021-2027 period

New

Funding synergies in Co-funded European Partnerships

Timing is key!

Because of our involvement in this effort we are more aware of the concrete difficulties in each phase of the process and so in better position to try to influence the needed adjustments in the regulatory frameworks under development to better allow for these more demanding types of synergies to happen.



Thank you!

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