



EUROPEAN UNION
EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND
EUROPEAN REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT FUND

EXECUTIVE AGENCY „OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME
„SCIENCE AND EDUCATION FOR SMART GROWTH”



OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME
SCIENCE AND EDUCATION
FOR SMART GROWTH

COORDINATION OF DIRECTLY MANAGED FUNDS

OP “SCIENCE AND EDUCATION FOR SMARTH GROWTH”

OP 2014-2020

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OPSESG Executive Agency”

November 8, 2018



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1. GENERAL INFORMATION - PRIORITY AXIS 1 OF SESG OP 2014-2020

1. Name: RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT

2. Investment priority 1a: Enhancing research and innovation (R&I) infrastructure and capacities to develop R&I excellence, and promoting centres of competence, in particular those of European interest

3. Funding: European Regional Development Fund and National co-financing - **235 mln. Euro**

4. Objectives :

- 1) Enhancing excellent and market-oriented research **176 mln.euro**
- 2) Increasing the participation of Bulgarian researchers and research organisations in international cooperation **45 mln. Euro**

- Performance reserve **14,1 mln. euro**



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2. IMPLEMENTATION

1. **Competitive Grant** procedures opened under SO 1: Enhancing excellent and market-oriented research - **176 mln.euro**

- CREATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE
- CREATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF CENTRES OF COMPETENCE

2. **Objectives of the two procedures :**

- To support the enhancement of the level and the **market orientation of the research activities** of leading research organizations in Bulgaria
- To **improve the capacity for generation of research excellence** and innovation capacity.
- To overcome the shortage of competitive and internationally recognized research complexes meeting advanced infrastructure and top level research standards in areas of interest to the Bulgarian economy, namely the priority areas of the **Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialization (ISSS)**.

3. **A Non State aid regime** was chosen under item 20 of the Framework for State aid for research and development and innovation (the Framework).

4. Projects applied with **financial analysis**. If **net revenue will be generated** within the meaning of Article 61 (1) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the eligible expenditure of the project **will be reduced** .

5. **Only economic activities** which **does not exceed 20% of the relevant overall annual infrastructure capacity** are eligible under the procedure.



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3. CURRENT STATE OF PLAY - PRIORITY AXIS 1 OF SESG OP 2014-2020

- ❖ Two procedures under **SO1** were contracted: **Creation and development of Centers of Excellence** and **Creation and development of Centers of Competence** aiming to support the enhancement of the level and the market orientation of the research activities of leading research organizations in Bulgaria and to improve the capacity for generation of research excellence and innovation capacity.
- ❖ As a result of the assessment process **13 contracts** have been signed* as follow:
 - ✓ CoE – 4 contracts have been signed at total amount of 80,8 mln. euro
 - ✓ CoC - 9 contracts have been signed at total amount of 93,1 ln. euro*

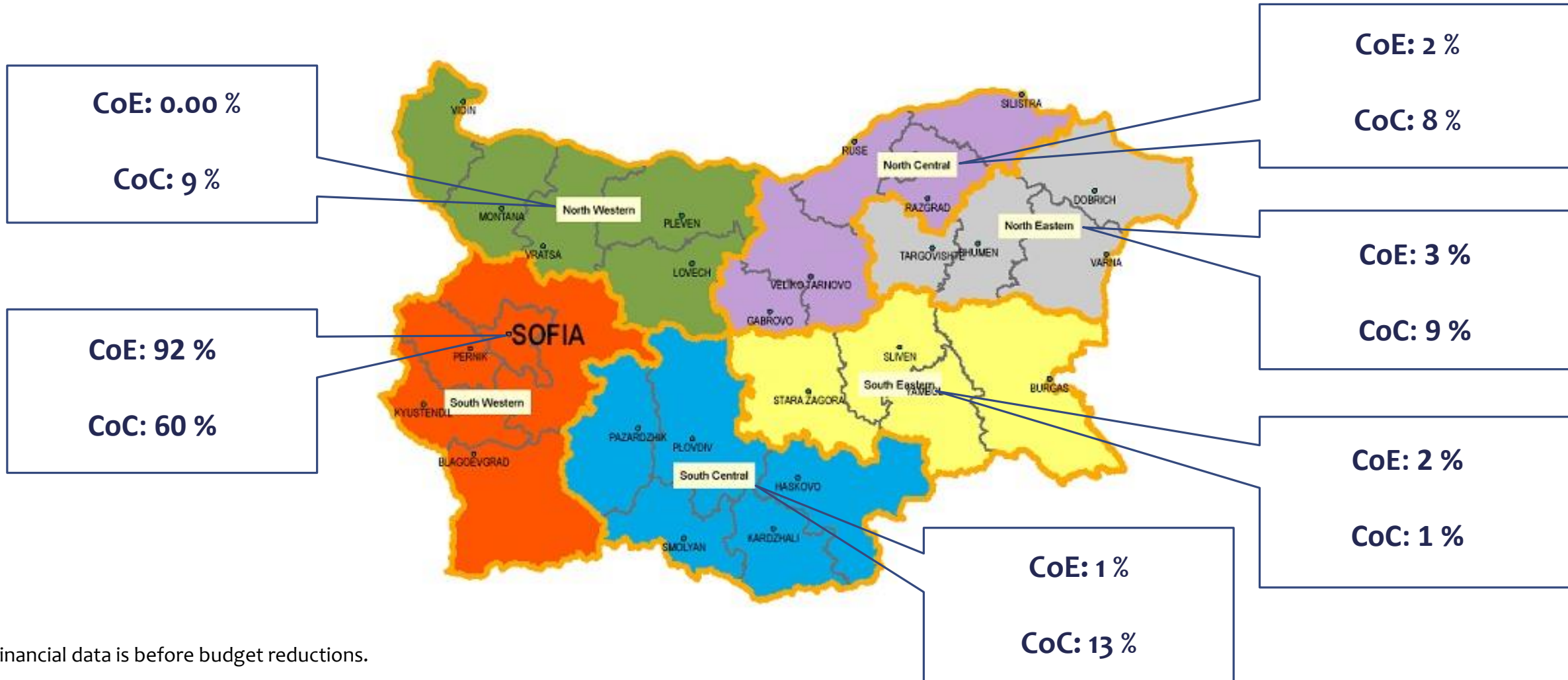
Expected results:

- ❖ 4 CoE to be established and operational by the end of year 2023 in sphere of Mechatronics & Clean Technology, Informatics & Information and Communication Technologies, New Technologies in Creative and Recreational Industries;
- ❖ 9 CoC* to be established and operatonal by the end of year 2023 in sphere of Mechatronics & Clean Technology, Informatics & Information and Communication Technologies, Industry for Healthy Life and Bio-technology;

(*currently, one contract is in process of termination)



4. TERRITORIAL BALANCE AND SHARE OF FUNDS AS A RESULT OF THE SIGNED 4+9 CONTRACTS UNDER THE CoE (158 107 822,84) AND CoC (182 137 589,94)



Note: Financial data is before budget reductions.



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5. HORIZON 2020, SPREADING EXCELLENCE/WIDENING PARTICIPATION: SUB-PROGRAMME

- ✓ Helps to bridge the Research & Innovation divide in Europe; consists of mainly 3 actions: *Teaming, Twinning and ERA Chairs*.
- ✓ Can **facilitate the development** of centers of competence and the improvement of R&I capacities under ERDF investment priority 1a.
- ✓ Such ESIF support can either be **complementary** to the Horizon 2020 grant or provided it in parallel once the equipment and infrastructure needs have been identified via the Horizon 2020 project.
- ✓ Can help remedying brain drain and **attract internationally renowned researchers and professors**.
- ✓ Even if a positively evaluated proposal cannot be funded from Horizon 2020, **ERDF could be used to implement it**, provided an ESIF programme allows for similar support measures.
- ✓ The separate actions of Teaming and Twinning will create new (or significant upgrades of existing) Centres of Excellence and expertise and encourage pan- European networking among researchers with a **strong focus on excellence and innovation**.
- ✓ Applicants (and compulsory coordinators) for all three actions must **be from an RDI underperforming MS**, i.e. the Czech Republic, Estonia, Slovenia, Hungary, Lithuania, Poland, Croatia, Malta, Latvia, Slovakia, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Romania, Portugal and Luxembourg.



6. HORIZON 2020, SPREADING EXCELLENCE/WIDENING PARTICIPATION: SUB-PROGRAMME TEAMING

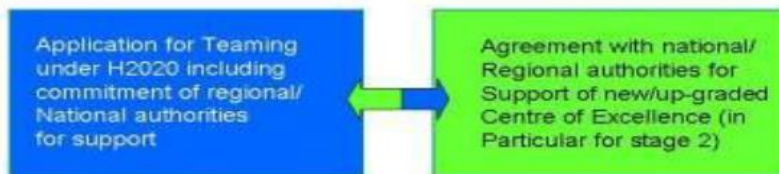
Teaming: minimum 2 partners: Applicant organisation from a low performing Member State and an excellent research center. Two stages:

First stage: 12 months; Clear strategy for the new (or up-graded) center of Excellence including alignment with RIS3, long-term S&I strategy, business plan with SWOT analysis. **Commitments from the interested national or regional authorities to commit financial resources need to be provided (e.g. resources coming from the European Structural and Investment Funds).**

Second stage: For successful Stage 1 projects: 3-5 years strategy, EUR 15 million Grant coverage/Cost item: Administrative costs, staff costs; **Non-eligible costs:** infrastructure support, large equipment costs

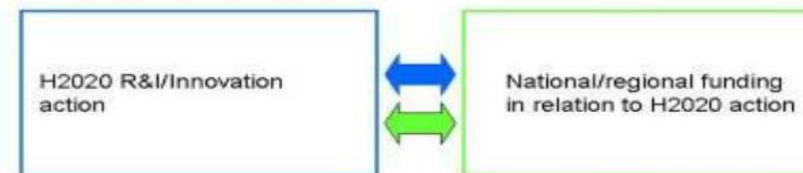
Scenario Teaming: ESIF used for costs non-eligible under Horizon 2020 (combined or parallel funding)

Combined Funding for Teaming:



H2020 teaming expects alignment of proposed Teaming with RIS3 and commitment of national/regional authorities' co-funding (e.g. ESIF) already at stage 1.

Parallel funding:



Mutually supportive activities: through the involvement of ESIF, a higher impact is created or a region becomes involved that otherwise would not have this opportunity.



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7. OPERATIONAL PROGRAM “SCIENCE AND EDUCATION FOR SMART GROWTH”

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 2 INCREASING THE PARTICIPATION OF BULGARIAN RESEARCHERS AND RESEARCH ORGANISATIONS IN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Amendment of the operational programme which provides for the possibility to finance additional support to projects approved under Horizon 2020, Widespread (teaming) phase 2: Priority Axis 1. Specific objective 2

➤ SESG OP will support activities included in the agenda of the Bulgarian scientific organizations for projects that are approved for funding under the Horizon 2020 (WIDESPREAD- (Teaming), Phase 2,

Activities to be supported:

- Construction, modernization and use of research infrastructures;
- Collection of data arrays and archives;
- Training and mobility of researchers;
- Activities must be provided for complementary funding for projects eligible for funding under the Horizon 2020 (WIDESPREAD- (Teaming) Phase 2.

Infrastructure / equipment investments should be at least 74% of the total ERDF support under the OP in order to ensure the sustainable development of the research infrastructure. It will not be allowed isolated renovation of buildings with a limited impact on the quality and quantity of the research.



8.

Pros

Challenges

Complementary support

Joint support for G Research

Pilot experience for 2021-2027

Improved absorption rate

Strategic approach

State Aid

Indicators

Coordination

Seal of excellence



9. STRENGTHENING SYNERGIES AND COMPLEMENTARITIES BETWEEN THE ESIF AND THE DIRECTLY MANAGED FUNDS – THE CASE OF THE BULGARIAN OPERATIONAL PROGRAM “SCIENCE AND EDUCATION FOR SMART GROWTH”

Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund Plus, the Cohesion Fund, and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and financial rules for those and for the Asylum and Migration Fund, the Internal Security Fund and the Border Management and Visa Instrument (COM(2018) 375 final)

Article 67 Selection of operations by the managing authority

5. For operations awarded a Seal of Excellence certification, or selected under the programme co-fund under Horizon Europe, the managing authority may decide to grant support from the ERDF or the ESF+ directly, provided that such operations are consistent with the objectives of the programme.

The co-financing rate of the instrument providing the Seal of Excellence certification or the programme co-fund shall apply and shall be set out in the document referred in paragraph 4.

Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL establishing Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, laying down its rules for participation and dissemination (COM(2018) 435 final)

Article 11 Complementary and combined funding

Actions awarded a Seal of Excellence certification, or which comply with the following cumulative, comparative, conditions:

- (a) they have been assessed in a call for proposals under the Programme;
- (b) they comply with the minimum quality requirements of that call for proposals;
- (c) they may not be financed under that call for proposals due to budgetary constraints, may receive support from the European Regional Development Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Social Fund+ or the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development, in accordance with paragraph 5 of Article [67] of Regulation (EU) XX [Common Provisions Regulation] and Article [8] or Regulation (EU) XX [Financing, management and monitoring of the Common Agricultural Policy], provided that such actions are consistent with the objectives of the programme concerned. The rules of the Fund providing support shall apply.



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10. Support to the beneficiaries and the Managing authority for improved capacity in the execution, management and evaluation of effectiveness and efficiency

Interreg Europe & JASPERS & JRC collaboration with SESGOP MA



Interreg Europe Policy Learning Platform



Joint Assistance to
Support Projects in European Regions



Joint Research Centre
Research & Innovation



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11. ANNUAL FORUM/ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURES 2019-2023



Forum



Regular communication and mutual understanding between the participants within the process of planning, approval, financing, execution of ERDF projects within the research and innovation area are essential for the beneficial resulting.

ANNUAL FORUM/ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURES 2019-2023

The Annual forum/Annual conference will be held in Sofia Tech Park in 2019 – 2023 with the intention to bring together participants who finance, manage, evaluate and execute research infrastructure projects namely:

EC: DG REGIO, JASPERS, DG R&I, JRC; Other European CoE/CoC;

CCU, Managing authorities, FMFIB, Sofia Tech Park; CoE&CoC Beneficiaries; Business, etc.



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THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

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