Synergies among EU funds in the field of Research and Innovation in Agriculture

Work plan and first results

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Content

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“To provide a better understanding of the potential and the use of synergies among EU funds in the fields of research and innovation in the agri-food sector”

• Find and analyse **good practices**
• Identify **success factors and barriers**
• Focus on: **Horizon 2020, EAFRD** (incl. EIP-AGRI) and **ERDF**, but also include
  • other EU schemes where relevant (e.g. ESF, LIFE, etc.)
  • national / regional support schemes
• Conceptualisation of a **virtual case** of optimal synergetic policy-making for R&I in the agri-food sector
Methodology

EU-level and case study research

• Desk-based research
  • Literature (e.g. studies, evaluations, guidance documents)
  • Project databases

• Interviews
  • Fund/instrument managers
  • Other policy-makers (e.g. “enablers”, S3 contacts)

➤ Identify key messages
  ➤ Synthesise findings
  ➤ Formulate recommendations
2016 study for the EP’s REGI Committee:

- **Maximisation of synergies between ESIF and other EU instruments**
- Looking at: ESIF, COSME, CEF, H2020, RIS3, EIP-AGRI, EFSI
- Main messages:

  - Regulatory context
  - Governance arrangements
  - Strategic frameworks
  - Implementation ‘on the ground’
    - Further harmonisation
    - Enhanced coordination
    - Better alignment
    - Practical solution to encourage actors to work together
## Methodology

### Case studies

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<th>Case Study</th>
<th>Rationale</th>
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| Lower Austria    | • Smart specialisation strategy on agri-food at regional level  
                   • High share of national funding in R&D and innovation                                                                           |
| (Austria)        |                                                                                                                                            |
| Scotland         | • Leading on “Joint Demonstration” case in bioeconomy, as part of thematic partnership (TP) “food & feed from agrofood waste”             |
| (UK)             |                                                                                                                                            |
| Tuscany          | • Leading TP on agri-food “high technology farming”                                                                                     |
| (Italy)          | • Strong track record in synergies between funding streams                                                                                |
| North-East       | • Leading TP on agri-food “sust. dev. of production field crops”                                                                          |
| (Romania)        | • Low share of national funding in R&D and Innovation                                                                                     |
| Slovenia         | • Leading TP on agri-food “sustainable food production”                                                                                   |
|                  | • Smart specialisation strategy at national level                                                                                          |
|                  | • EAFRD, ERDF and Horizon 2020 governance at national level                                                                                |

…but gather evidence from across the EU28!
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<th>Methodology</th>
<th>EU level: scoping interviews</th>
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Methodology

Member State level: case study interviews

- Lower Austria (√)
- Slovenia
- North East Romania
- Tuscany
- Scotland (√)
Assumed success factors for synergies

1. Strategies
2. Transparency
3. Enablers
4. Funding
5. Cultural and demographic factors
6. Harmonisation & simplification

...?
Case Study Example: Lower Austria

- Lower Austria is 1 of 9 Austrian federal states ("Länder") with wide-ranging competences, incl. in RTDI
- Lower Austria is located in the east of Austria. It surrounds the federal capital of Vienna, with major research and educational institutions.
Agri-Innovation ecosystem: Lower Austria

RIS3-Strategy (smart specialisation)

(Higher) Education
- University for Natural Resources and Life Sciences Vienna
- Austrian Institute of Technology
- Francisco Josephinum
- IFA Tulln

R&D

Competence Centre FFoQSI (Feed and Food Quality Safety and Innovation)

Cluster organisation LMC (Lebensmittel Cluster Niederösterreich)

„Enablers“:

Businesses:

Farmers & Associations:

Financial Support Instruments
Agri-Innovation ecosystem: Lower Austria

RIS3-Strategy (smart specialisation)

Agri sector in RIS3 Strategy

- Bio-based economy (Technopol Tulln agricultural and environmental technology)
- Food Production and Safety (Food Cluster Lower Austria, LMC)
- Agricultural technology (Technopol Wieselburg)
Cluster organisation: Food Cluster Lower Austria (LMC)

ecoplus – Regional Development Agency
Co-funded by ERDF
3 cluster employees

Members:
• 105 firms and organisations

Tasks:
• Community building
• Identifying the needs / trends of the sector
• Development of cooperative innovation projects (products and services)
• Organising cooperative training initiatives

Cluster-O rganisation LMC as “enabler”

Businesses

Farmers & Associations
Lessons so far from Case Study Lower Austria

Obstacles for synergies:
- **Small size** of farms and businesses
- **Lack of trust** between actors
- **Complex funding conditions**, especially of EU programmes
- **“Red line”** between agriculture and the up-/downstream processing industry in innovation support

Potential measures:
- Community Building and **Trust** as a fundament
- **“Enablers”** as crucial success factor
- Simple **financial incentives** for multi-actor projects as a must
- **Strategic** approach & political **consensus**
- **Connect** to the world outside
Next steps

1. Finalise scoping interviews
   • DG ENV, JRC, EIP-AGRI Service Point, ENRD

2. Continue case study research
   • Finalise a) Lower Austria & b) Scotland
   • Carry out c) Slovenia, d) Tuscany and e) North-East Romania

3. Identify and analyse good practices

4. Synthesise findings & formulate recommendations
Thank you for your attention

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