

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

Work plan and first results

Stefan Kah & Markus Gruber

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Content

- Aim of the research
- Methodology
 - Lessons from previous research on synergies
 - Case studies
 - Interviews (EU-level and Member States)
- Assumed success factors for synergies
- Example: Lower Austria
- Next steps

Aim of the research

“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

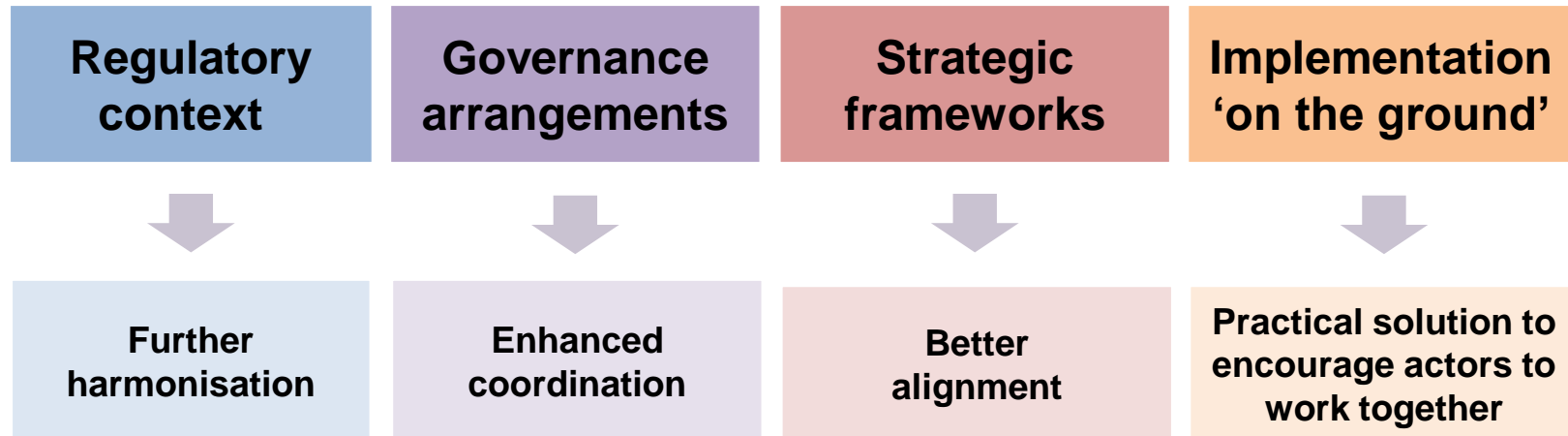
- **Desk-based research**
 - Literature (e.g. studies, evaluations, guidance documents)
 - Project databases
- **Interviews**
 - Fund/instrument managers
 - Other policy-makers (e.g. “enablers”, S3 contacts)
- Identify key messages
 - Synthesise findings
 - Formulate recommendations

Methodology

Lessons from previous research

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:



Methodology

Case studies

Case Study	Rationale
Lower Austria (Austria)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Smart specialisation strategy on agri-food at regional level• High share of national funding in R&D and innovation
Scotland (UK)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Leading on “Joint Demonstration” case in bioeconomy, as part of thematic partnership (TP) “food & feed from agrofood waste”
Tuscany (Italy)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Leading TP on agri-food “high technology farming”• Strong track record in synergies between funding streams
North-East (Romania)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Leading TP on agri-food “sust. dev. of production field crops”• Low share of national funding in R&D and Innovation
Slovenia	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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!

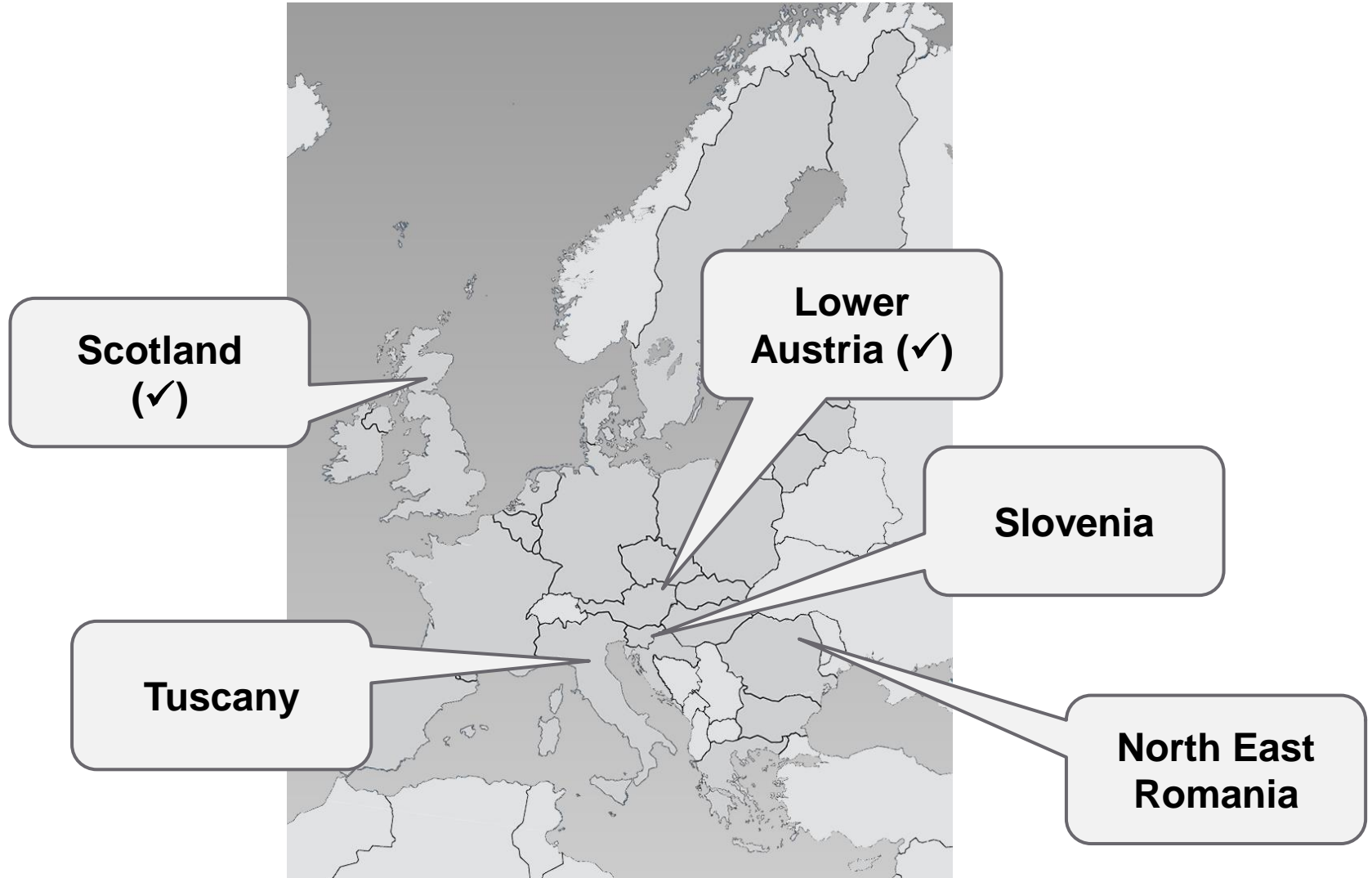
Methodology

EU level: scoping interviews

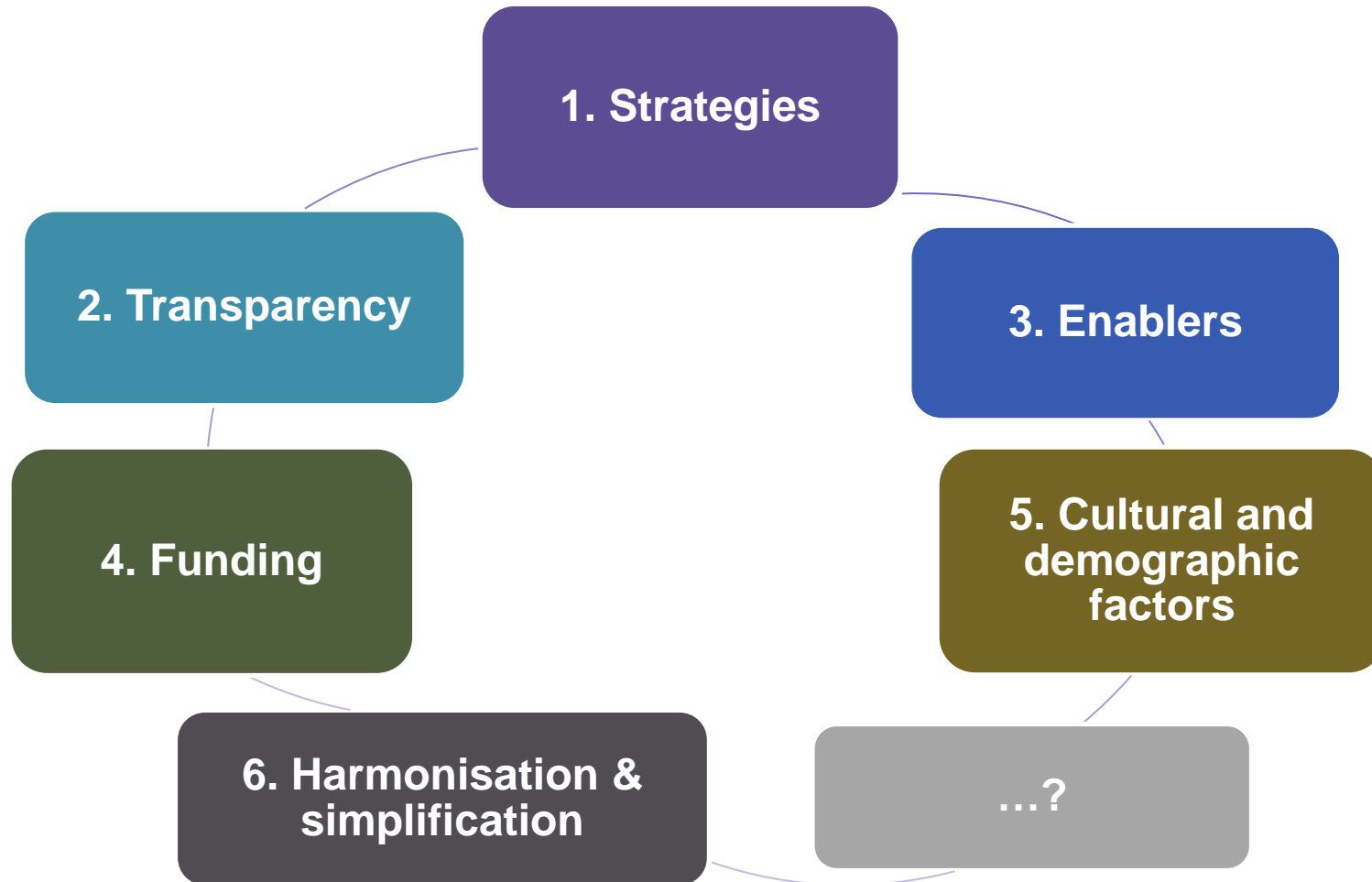
- **DG AGRI** ✓
- **DG RTD** ✓
- **DG REGIO** ✓
- **DG ENV** *pending*
- **JRC** (✓)
- **EIP-AGRI Service Point** (✓)
- **ENRD** *pending*

Methodology

Member State level: case study interviews



Assumed success factors for synergies



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

University of Applied Sciences, e.g. food product development, New: Agrotechnology

Austrian Institute of Technology

Francisco Josephinum

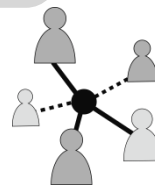
IFA Tulln

R&D

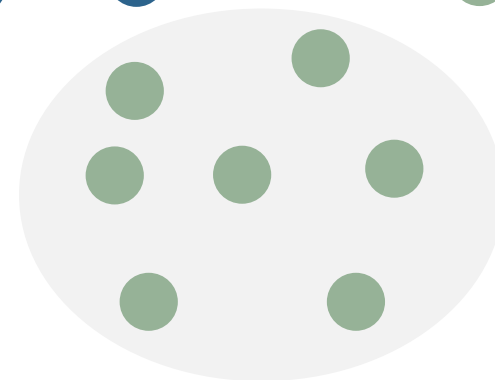
„Enablers“:

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

Cluster organisation
LMC
(Lebensmittel Cluster Niederösterreich)



Businesses:



Farmers & Associations:



Financial Support Instruments



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)

Agri-innovation ecosystem: Lower Austria

Cluster organisation: Food Cluster Lower Austria (LMC)

ecoplus – Regional Development Agency

Co-funded by ERDF

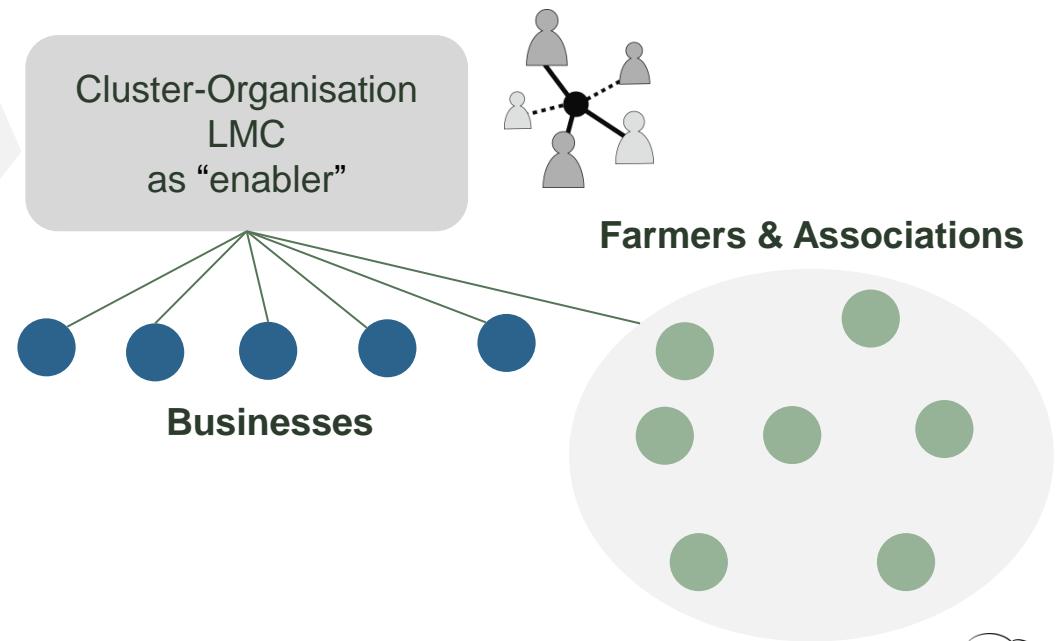
3 cluster employees

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



Lessons so far from Case Study Lower Austria

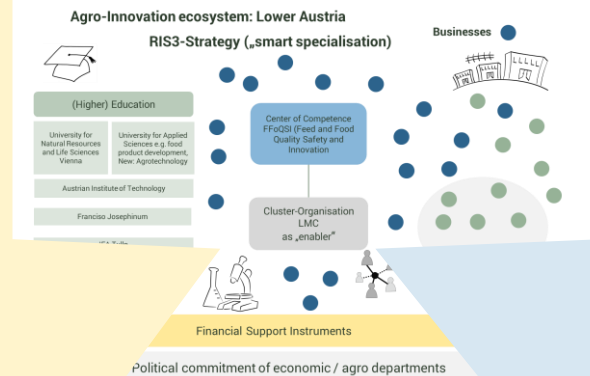
Obstacles for synergies

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

stefan.kah@strath.ac.uk
markus.gruber@convelop.at