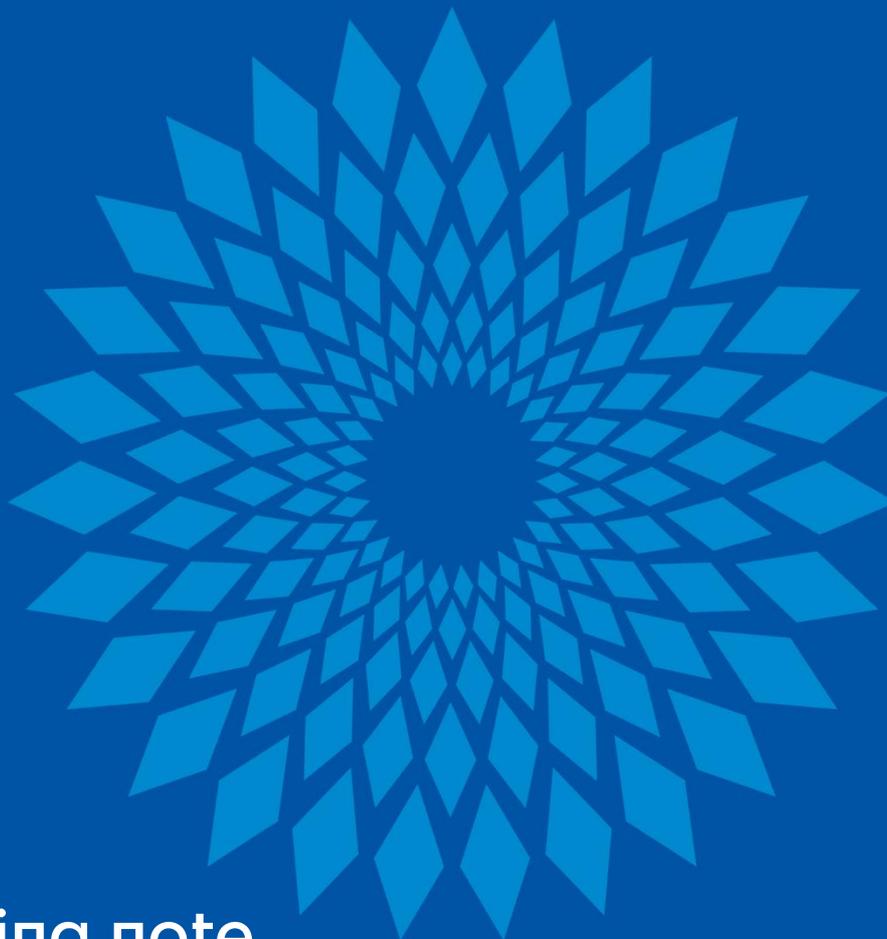


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Czech Presidency of the Council
of the European Union



Briefing note Synergies in Practice

Conference on Synergies
in the Research and Innovation
Funding in Europe

Prague, Czech Republic
7 – 8 July 2022

Briefing note for the panel debate

Synergies in practice

For years, **European stakeholders have been exploring how to harvest the full potential of synergies in the research and innovation funding** to maximise both public and private investments in the science and technology advancement in Europe. A closer alignment of policy-making and funding instruments across the educational, research, innovation, industrial, cohesion and other sectorial policies, resulting in **a coherent implementation aimed at common objectives, has been the ultimate goal.**

A lot of efforts have been already made by both the Member States and the European Commission, as well as research performing organisations, and businesses and industries **to fully exploit synergies and increase the research and innovation funding intensity in Europe**, and thereby also strengthen the knowledge basis of the European society to address grand societal challenges and economic needs by science-based solutions in a well-coordinated fashion.

Nevertheless, **the growing number of financial instruments introduced to the European research and innovation funding landscape**, including the EU Framework Programmes for Research and Innovation, the EU Cohesion Policy Funds, the EU Recovery and Resilience Funds, or the Digital Europe Programme, all of them being linked to the investments at the Member State level, **calls for an advanced approach to synergies in the research and innovation funding in Europe.**

Only **if European policy-makers and funders succeed in designing, creating and implementing a broad range of sectorial policies and their funding instruments**, including the strategy, legal, administrative and financial levels, in a synergic manner, when individual financial schemes complement each other, **they will be able to prevent from duplication of efforts and fragmentation of resources**, and capitalise on synergies eventually.

In spite of remarkable achievements and good practice examples, which have emerged and evolved in the European Research Area, such as the European Partnership co-funds, application of the Seal of Excellence principles, or synergic investments from the Member States' budgets and the EU Cohesion Policy Funds, **capitalising on the full potential of synergies in the research and innovation funding in Europe is still pending and remains a challenge.**

The **Flagship Conference on Synergies in the Research and Innovation Funding in Europe, to be held from 7th to 8th July 2022 in Prague under the auspices of the Presidency of Czechia in the Council of the EU**, is aimed to provide European research and innovation stakeholders with a high-level debate forum to share experiences, exchange good practice examples and identify deficiencies when it comes to the implementation of synergies.

To that end, the conference will approach synergies from various angles and perspectives, including **the plenary sessions to outline the topic at the high political level and four parallel break-out sessions to address synergies in the particular areas of (1) Research Infrastructures, (2) EU Cohesion Policy, (3) Innovation and (4) European Partnerships and Missions.** Conclusions from the parallel break-out sessions will be reported at the conference plenary by designated rapporteurs.

Since synergies shall be viewed as an instrument to increase the EU's research and innovation funding intensity, maximise the potential of collaboration in science and technology in Europe, and bridge the research gap and close the innovation divide in the European Research Area, **one of the goals of the event is to endorse the "Prague Declaration on Synergies in the Research and Innovation Funding in Europe"**, inviting European stakeholders to continue removing barriers to make full use of synergies.