



The EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation

# HORIZON 2020

**Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation**

**Info Day - Brussels 15 June 2017**



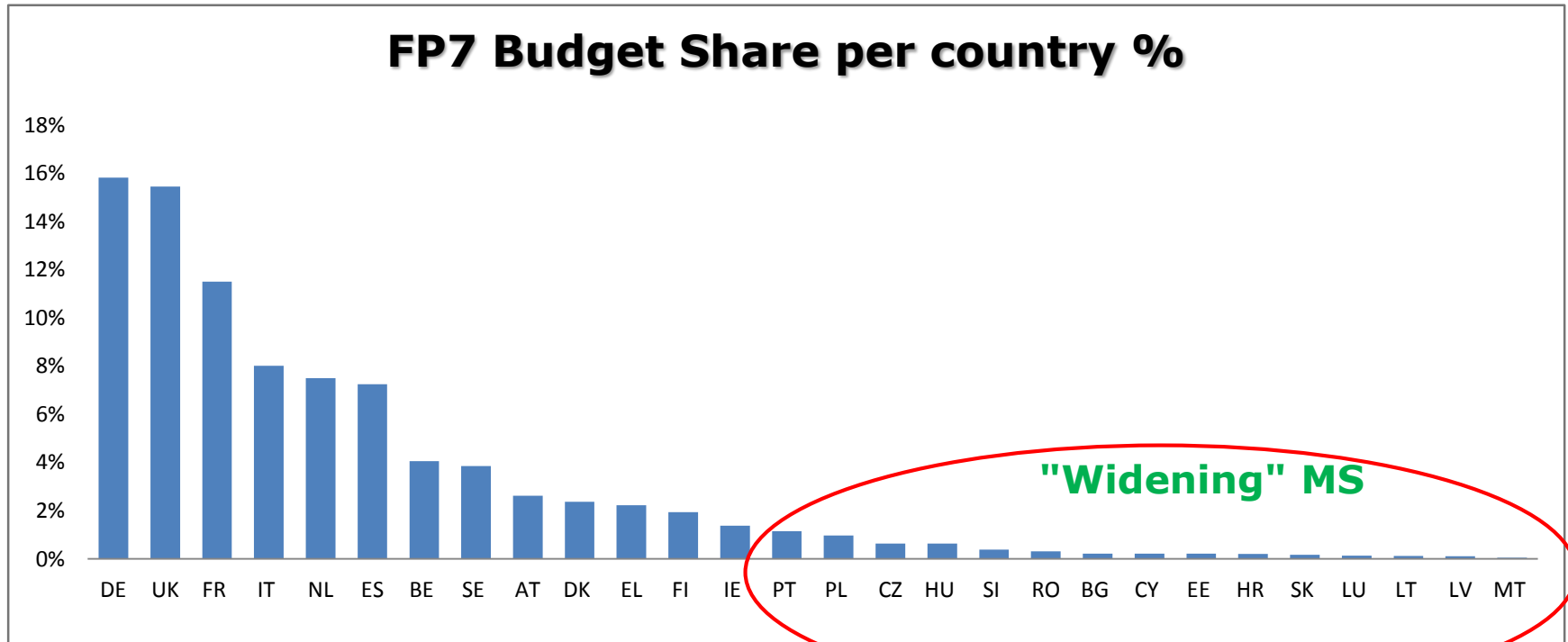
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*Unit B.5 – Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation*

# Background

- Disparities in research and innovation performance: barrier to competitiveness, growth and jobs across Europe
- Some countries experience low participation in the EU Framework Programmes because of:
  - insufficient national R&D investments
  - lack of synergies between national research systems and the EU research landscape
  - system learning effects
  - reduced access to international networks
  - problems with information, communication and training

# FP7 country participation



# Specific eligibility criteria for WIDENING

- Particular political objectives of WIDENING in H2020
- Necessitate a targeted approach to help those participants with low performance in R&I
- H2020 legal text >> "low performing RDI Member States and regions"

Eligibility Criterion: The Composite Indicator of Research Excellence

➤ Threshold: MS below 70% of the EU average

## "Low RDI Performing" or "Widening" Countries:

**MS:** Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia

**AC:** Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Faroe Islands, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, Turkey and Ukraine

# The Widening Package under H2020

Measures in Horizon 2020 under **Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation:**

- Teaming (institution building)
- Twinning (institutional networking)
- ERA Chairs (bringing excellence to institutions)
  
- NCPs (information, communication, support)
- Policy Support Facility (support for R&I Policy design)
- COST ( stimulating cross border science networks)

Total Budget in H2020 ~ **€ 800 million**

## Where are we 3 years later: The Interim evaluation of H2020

**JUNE**

- Publication of the **Staff Working Document (SWD)**

**JULY**

- Publication of the **report of the High Level Group on maximising the impact of EU R&I programmes** (chaired by Pascal Lamy)
- **Conference: "R&I – Shaping our Future" (3 July)**

**OCT.**

- Publication of the **evaluations of Public-Private Partnerships and Public-Public Partnerships** (Art.185 & Art. 187 initiatives)
- Publication of **Commission Communication** on the Interim Evaluation of Horizon 2020

# SCOPE, METHODS AND EVIDENCE-BASE



## STRENGTHS

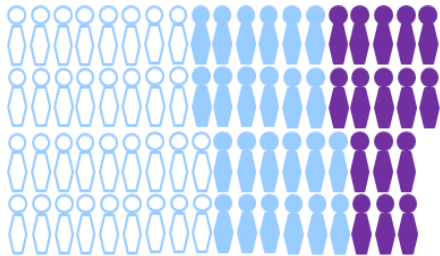
- > **Wide evidence base**
- > Use of **counterfactual analysis**
- > Benchmarking with FP7
- > Building **in-house evaluation culture**



## CHALLENGES

- > **Very few projects completed**  
(~0.6% of budget committed)
- > **Data availability** & quality,  
lack of impact indicators
- > Time-lags for R&I impacts

## WHERE WE STAND APPLICANTS, PROPOSALS AND SIGNED GRANTS



~**75,000** applicants

submitted over **100,000** proposals

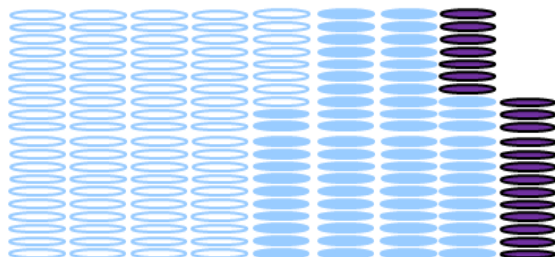
requesting **EUR ~173 billion**

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~**11,000** grants were signed for  
~**EUR 20 billion**



Overall **success rate was 11.6%**



**Less than 1 in 4** high-quality  
proposals could be funded



## KEY FINDINGS: EFFICIENCY

### ON TRACK TO BE MORE EFFICIENT THAN FP7



- Administrative expenditure below the 5% legal target
- Time-to-grant 110 days faster than FP7

### NETWORKS A WIDE RANGE OF STAKEHOLDERS



- Participants from over 130 countries
- 52% of participants are **newcomers**; more of them come from EU-13 (31.2%) than EU-15 (19.7%)

### LARGE-SCALE OVERSUBSCRIPTION

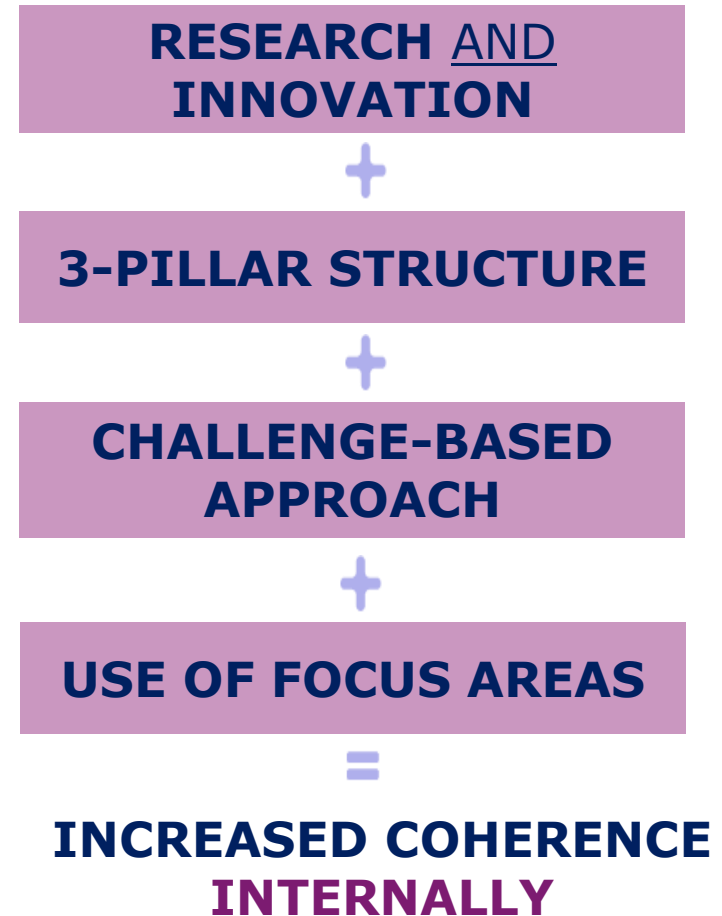


- Success rate only 11.6% (vs. 18.4% in FP7)
- ~EUR 1.7 billion spent to write unsuccessful proposals

## KEY FINDINGS: COHERENCE

### INCREASED COHERENCE WITH OTHER INITIATIVES

- With **Structural Funds**: e.g. through the **Seal of Excellence**
- **Structuring effect**: e.g. through ERC quality label & **Teaming**
- R&I: engine to implement the **Sustainable Development Goals**



## EFFICIENCY: ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT



Over **EUR 60 billion more** needed to fund **all high quality proposals**.



Comprehensiveness of **evaluation feedback** is a concern.



**International cooperation** should be further increased.



**Low participation from EU-13, but improving over time**.

# Update on Teaming following the 2016 Phase 1 call

## Phase 1 Call : Business Plan for a Centre of Excellence (CoE)

Budget: €12 million  
Call deadline: 15 November 2016  
Project Size: €400,000 (eligibility condition)  
Project Duration: 12 months (eligibility condition)  
Results announced: March 2017  
Start date of all projects: September 2017

## Phase 2 (Restricted) Call in 2018: Start-up/Implementation of the CoE

Project size & duration: ~ €15 million & 5-7 years  
Funding for: Substantial support for the start-up phase of the CoE (administrative, personnel and operational costs as well as very limited support for equipment and consumables)

➤ More information for Phase 2 in the future 2018 Work Programme

# Commission's position on low remuneration of researchers in Widening countries

- Commission reimburses personnel costs at level of normal salaries in national systems.
- A long-term sustainable solution to the researchers' salary divide can only be national reforms to provide for possibilities at national level to reward excellent researchers.
- In the short-term, the Horizon 2020 model grant agreement (AGA) has been revised:
  - It clarifies that the level of personnel costs paid in national projects would be considered as basic remuneration, so that the capping of €8000 would apply only to bonuses above this.
  - This change will have a retroactive effect to all ongoing signed H2020 grants.

Learn more:

**Horizon 2020 Participant Portal:**

**<http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/index.html>**

**Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation website:**

**<http://europa.eu/!ym83BF>**

***THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!***

