JPI Urban Europe and Structural Funds

Development of a new Approach in Bundling RDI and ESIF funds

Workshop on Synergies between European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) and Horizon 2020, for Public-Public Partnerships
Brussels, 13 February 2014

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The Challenge

• Urbanisation is one of the grand challenges of our time. One of its main features is its complexity.
• In such an environment, linear approaches, such as the classical “innovation chain” fail to provide solutions. However, RDI funding is still lined up along this hypothetic chain.
• In order to create solutions, and push for implementations, the necessity to cluster funding contributions along the innovation chain becomes increasingly evident.
• A combined and overarching funding approach holds the promise of more innovative solutions for all urban stakeholders.
A new Approach

- A new ERA-NET on Smart Cities is currently in the proposal phase. If successful, ...
  - the goal of this ERA-NET will be to create solutions for the challenges presented by dynamics of urbanisation
  - the ERA-NET will also initiate a 4-year process towards the harmonisation of RDI programmes with ESIF programme activities
  - special emphasis will be placed on addressing the needs of EU13 countries, and on initiating collaborations with EU15 countries
Expected Synergies

• Synergies can be expected on national level ...
  – to develop funding mechanisms, which are compatible with the limitations imposed by the EU competitiveness frame
  – which would still enable us to develop solutions in the planning and investment of Smart Cities

• Synergies can also be expected on a European level ...
  – where the ERA-NET will be working towards cross-border collaboration of RDI funders with ESIF funding bodies
  – Where RDI and investment-oriented funding support will join forces in order to foster innovation and implementation in urban and Smart Cities development.
Findings from the Preparatory Work

• Successes and positive findings:
  – Harmonising RDI and ESIF funding gives cities an opportunity to inject innovation into investments, which they would have to make anyway.

• Difficulties & barriers:
  – Regional politics tend to assign ESIF funds rather to the shrinking regions of the periphery. In doing this they ignore the higher potential of cities to create a dynamics of innovation and economic growth.

• Recommendations:
  – Encourage regional ESIF funders to seek active collaboration with national RDI funding agencies and programme owners. Support cities in the creation of bundles of projects along the innovation funding chain.
Thank you for your attention!

Joint Programming Initiative

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