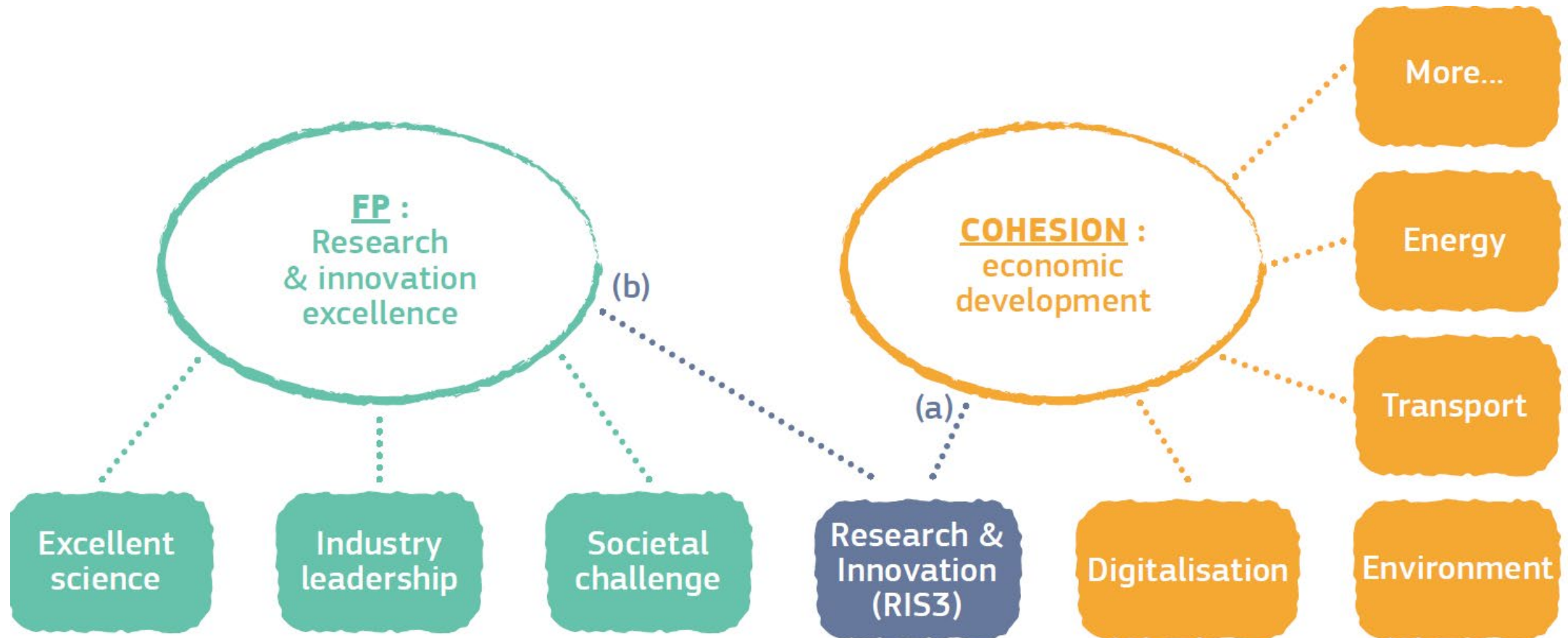




Synergies between Horizon Europe and ERDF programmes

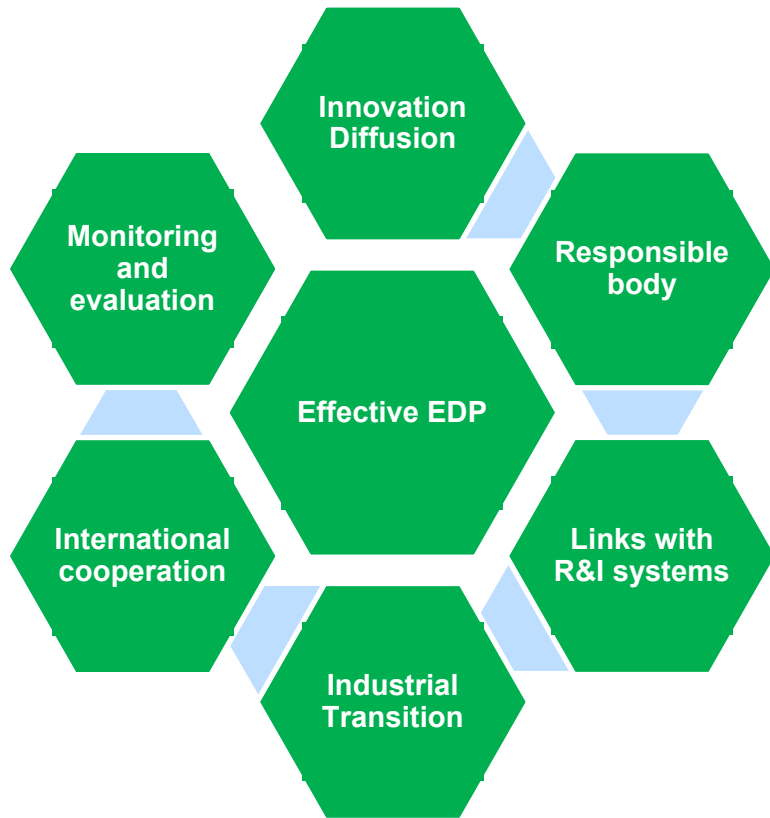
Karolina Tilman, Policy Analyst,
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Cross-cutting policy objectives



Mobilising ERDF for research and innovation: the framework

Smart specialisation as an enabling condition



ERDF Scope

Activities for applied research and innovation, including industrial research, experimental development and feasibility studies

Synergies for win-wins

- **Seal of Excellence**
- **Transfer** of up to 5% to directly / indirectly managed EU funds, incl. Horizon Europe
- **Cumulative funding:** Joint funding for projects
- Partnerships/Teaming
- **Sequential funding:** draw on results of previous EU funding for new projects



ERDF - Horizon Europe synergies

Synergies through strategic planning process:

- "Partnership Agreements", Smart Specialisation Strategies
- Horizon Europe Strategic R&I Plan & WP
- European Semester – Country-specific recommendations

Options for synergies at financial level:

- Seal of Excellence: expanded
- Transfer of up to 5% of allocation in total to directly / indirectly managed EU funds, incl. Horizon Europe
- Cumulative funding: joint funding of projects
- Partnerships: Managing Authorities may identify Horizon implementing bodies (e.g. for programme co-fund / partnerships / JUs) as intermediate bodies for implementing cumulative funding under ERDF rules. (Art. 65(3 & 5) CPR)
- Sequential funding (downstream/upstream synergies): draw on results of previous EU funding for new projects



Seal of Excellence

- ✓ Projects may receive directly, without a new qualitative evaluation, ERDF funding **under CPR rules** (i.e. only check of eligibility, contribution to programme objectives, smart specialisation priorities, scope of the fund and other issues not guaranteed by the Seal)
- ✓ The amendment to the General Block Exemption Regulation ('GBER') allows such Seal-of-Excellence support to be exempted, under certain conditions, from the State aid notification requirement of Article 108(3) TFEU (→ Articles 25a and 25b GBER-amendment)
- ✓ In addition, managing authorities may apply to these operations the categories, maximum amounts and methods of calculation of eligible costs established under the relevant Union instrument (Art. 67(5) CPR)



Transfers

Transfer of Cohesion Policy allocations: MS may request transfer of up to 5 % of their programme resources to any other EU Fund or instrument under shared, direct or indirect management

- Transferred resources may only concern the future budgetary commitments
 - The relevant ERDF programme has to be amended, incl. its financing plan
 - Investments have to be for the benefit of the transferring Member State/region
 - Commission may object to a request for transfer if achievement of ERDF programme's objectives would be undermined
 - Rules of the receiving EU Fund/instrument apply to the transferred amounts
- ✓ **Transfer-back:** Where the Commission has not entered into a legal commitment under Horizon Europe by 31 August of n+1, the corresponding uncommitted resources may be transferred back to the respective programmes covered by the CPR.



Cumulative Funding

Cumulative funding from different Union instruments **in the same operation**, as long as double financing is avoided

- ✓ Rules of each contributing Union programme apply to its respective contribution
- ✓ Cumulative financing shall not exceed the total eligible costs
- ✓ Document setting out for the beneficiary the conditions for support/ grant agreement with directly managed instrument



ERDF programmes support to European Partnerships

- ✓ The legal entities implementing HE programme co-fund can be identified as intermediate bodies of the relevant ERDF programme thus facilitating coordination and synchronisation of HE, ERDF and national support
- ✓ Operations selected under a HE programme co-fund may receive support directly from ERDF programmes, provided that such operations are consistent with the objectives of the ERDF programme
- ✓ In-kind contributions (e.g. used previously / parallel ERDF supported equipment and infrastructures for a co-fund and its projects)



Synergies through Sequential Funding

Key issue: Link and/or align strategies and connect actors from regional development and research "communities".

"up-stream" synergies: preparation for HE participation

"down-stream" synergies: exploitation of HE results



Thank you