

# CONFERENCE ON SYNERGIES IN THE RESEARCH AND INNOVATION FUNDING IN EUROPE

7<sup>TH</sup>–8<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2022, PRAGUE CONGRESS CENTRE



For years, European stakeholders have been exploring how to **harvest the full potential of synergies** in the research and innovation funding to maximise investments in science and technology advancement in Europe. Much closer alignment of policy-making and funding instruments across the education, research, innovation, industrial, cohesion and other sectorial policies, resulting in the 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 to exploit synergies, and **increase the research and innovation funding intensity in the EU**, and thereby strengthen the knowledge basis of the European societies to address the grand societal challenges and economic needs by science-based solutions.

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 investments at the Member State levels, calls for an **advanced approach to synergies**.

Only if European stakeholders succeed in designing, creating and implementing a broad variety of policies in a synergic fashion, when **individual implementation instruments complement each other**, they'll be able to capitalise on synergies, and prevent from duplication of efforts and fragmentation of resources.

Despite remarkable achievements and good practice examples that have already emerged in the European Research Area, such as the European partnership co-funds, the Seal of Excellence or synergy investments by the Member States' national and the EU Cohesion Policy Funds, capitalising on the full potential of synergies in the research and innovation funding is still pending and it remains a challenge due to the **persisting lack of coordination, overlaps and different administration approaches**.

The flagship Conference on Synergies in the Research and Innovation Funding in Europe, to be held on 7<sup>th</sup>–8<sup>th</sup> July 2022 in Prague under the auspices of the Presidency of Czechia in the Council of the EU, shall provide a high-level forum to **share experiences, exchange good practice examples and identify deficiencies** when it comes to implementation of synergies.

As synergies shall be viewed as an instrument to increase the EU's research and innovation funding intensity, maximise the potential of cooperation in science and technology in Europe, and bridge the gap and close the research and innovation divide in the European Research Area, one of the goals of the conference is, *inter alia*, to present and endorse the so-called **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.



**DAY 1**      **THURSDAY, 7<sup>th</sup> JULY 2022**

Moderator      **Tomáš SACHER**, *Director*  
*Czech Centre in Berlin*

Rapporteur      **Martin BUNČEK**, *Managing Director*  
*Technology Agency of the Czech Republic*

12<sup>00</sup> – 13<sup>30</sup>      **ACCREDITATION AND BUFFET LUNCH**

13<sup>30</sup> – 13<sup>40</sup>      **WELCOME**  
**Petr GAZDÍK**, *Minister of Education, Youth and Sports, Czechia*

13<sup>40</sup> – 13<sup>50</sup>      **INTRODUCTION**  
**Helena LANGŠÁDLOVÁ**, *Minister of Science, Research and Innovation, Czechia*

13<sup>50</sup> – 14<sup>00</sup>      **SYNERGIES AS A TOP HORIZONTAL PRIORITY OF THE EUROPEAN  
RESEARCH AND INNOVATION POLICY-MAKING APPROACHES**  
**Mariya GABRIEL**, *Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth (tbc)*

14<sup>00</sup> – 14<sup>15</sup>      **SYNERGIES AS A TOP HORIZONTAL PRIORITY OF THE EUROPEAN  
RESEARCH AND INNOVATION POLICY-MAKING APPROACHES**  
**Allen WEEKS**, *Director General, ELI ERIC*

14<sup>15</sup> – 14<sup>30</sup>      **HOW CAN THE EU COHESION POLICY FUNDS CONTRIBUTE  
TO SYNERGIES IN THE RESEARCH AND INNOVATION POLICY**  
**Normunds POPENS**, *Deputy Director General*  
*Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission (tbc)*

14<sup>30</sup> – 15<sup>30</sup>      **POLITICAL DEBATE**  
Opening remarks by moderator  
**Jean-Eric PAQUET**, *Director General*  
*Directorate General for Research and Innovation, European Commission*

Panel composition:

**Helena LANGŠÁDLOVÁ**, *Minister of Science, Research and Innovation, Czechia*  
**Frédérique VIDAL**, *Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation, France (tbc)*  
**Anna EKSTRÖM**, *Minister of Education and Research, Sweden (tbc)*  
**Diana MORANT**, *Minister of Science and Innovation, Spain (tbc)*

15<sup>30</sup> – 15<sup>45</sup>      **Q&A**

15<sup>45</sup> – 16<sup>15</sup>      **COFFEE BREAK**

16<sup>15</sup> – 17<sup>15</sup>

### **SYNERGIES IN PRACTICE**

Opening remarks by keynote speaker

**Vít VONDRÁK**, *Director of IT4Innovations National Supercomputing Centre*  
*VŠB – Technical University of Ostrava (tbc)*

Panel composition:

TBA

TBA

TBA

TBA

17<sup>15</sup> – 17<sup>30</sup>

### **Q&A**

17<sup>30</sup> – 17<sup>45</sup>

### **CONCLUSIONS OF THE 1<sup>ST</sup> DAY BY THE RAPPORTEUR**

18<sup>00</sup> – 18<sup>30</sup>

### **OPTIONAL GUIDED TOUR IN THE PRAGUE CONGRESS CENTRE**

18<sup>30</sup> – 22<sup>00</sup>

### **BUFFET DINNER AT THE CONFERENCE VENUE**

**DAY 2**      **FRIDAY, 8<sup>th</sup> JULY 2022**

8<sup>00</sup> – 9<sup>15</sup>      **WELCOME COFFEE**

9<sup>15</sup> – 9<sup>30</sup>      **PLENARY INTRODUCTION TO THE PARALLEL BREAK-OUT SESSIONS**

Moderator:      **Tomáš SACHER**, *Director*  
*Czech Centre in Berlin*

9<sup>30</sup> – 11<sup>00</sup>      **PARALLEL BREAK-OUT SESSIONS**

**(1) RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURES**

Moderator:      **Lukáš LEVÁK**, *Director of Department for Research and Development*  
*Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, Czechia*

Rapporteur:      **Jana KOLAR**, *Chair of the European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures*

**Panel composition:**

**Věslav MICHALÍK**, *Mayor*  
*Dolní Břežany, Czechia*

**Ivana ILIJASIC VERSIC**, *Director*  
*CESSDA ERIC*

**Andreas PETZOLD**, *Head of Group Global Observation*  
*Institute of Energy and Climate Research Jülich*

**Jacques DEMOTES**, *Director General*  
*ECRIN ERIC and EU-AMRI*

**(2) EU COHESION POLICY FUNDS**

Moderator:      **Sylvie SAMKOVÁ**, *Head of Unit for Preparation of the Operational Programme Calls*  
*Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, Czechia*

Rapporteur:      **Inka VAVERKOVÁ**, *Senior Analyst*  
*Technology Centre of the Czech Academy of Sciences*

**Panel composition:**

**Katarzyna KACZKOWSKA**, *Deputy Director*  
*Department for Innovation and Development Support Programmes*  
*Ministry of Development Funds and Regional Policy, Poland*

**Katrin PIHOR**, *Head of Research and Development Policy Department*  
*Ministry of Education and Research, Estonia*

**TBA**

**TBA**

### (3) INNOVATION

Moderator: **Monika VRBKOVÁ**, *Head of Financing Entrepreneurship Support Team  
South Moravian Innovation Centre, Czechia*

Rapporteur: **Táňa Hálová Perglová**, *Unit for European Research Area  
Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, Czechia*

#### Panel composition:

**Keith SEQUEIRA**, *Head of Unit EIC Board, Strategy and EA Feedback to Policy  
Directorate General for Research and Innovation, European Commission*

**Joana MENDONÇA**, *Chair of the Board of Directors  
Agência Nacional de Inovação, Portugal*

**Elena BOU**, *Innovation Director  
EIT InnoEnergy (tbc)*

**Slovak Seal of Excellence beneficiary financed from the Operational Programme (tba)**

**TBA**

### (4) EUROPEAN PARTNERSHIPS

Moderator: **Lucie NUÑEZ TAYUPANTA**, *Head of Unit for European Research Area  
Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, Czechia*

Rapporteur: **Petra ŽAGAR (tbc)**

**Brit HELLE**, *Head of Secretariat  
EUREKA*

**Michael HUEBNER**, *Senior Policy Officer  
Federal Ministry of Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility,  
Innovation and Technology, Austria*

**Miroslav HALTUF**, *States Representative Group Co-Chair  
Shift2Rail Joint Undertaking*

**TBA**

11<sup>00</sup> – 11<sup>30</sup> **COFFEE BREAK**

11<sup>30</sup> – 12<sup>00</sup> **OUTCOMES OF THE PARALLEL BREAK-OUT SESSIONS PRESENTED BY THEIR RAPPORTEURS**

12<sup>00</sup> – 12<sup>15</sup> **CLOSING**

**Radka WILDOVÁ**, *Deputy Minister for Higher Education, Science and Research  
Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, Czechia*

12<sup>15</sup> – 14<sup>00</sup> **BUFFET LUNCH**

14<sup>00</sup> – 16<sup>00</sup> **OPTIONAL SITE VISIT TO THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF MENTAL HEALTH**