



Policy Dialogue Report

Warsaw, Poland- March 31, 2014

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This report has been drafted by META Group and Coventry University, under the MIRRIS (Mobilising Institutional Reforms in Research and Innovation Systems) project. MIRRIS aims to encourage greater participation in the European Research Area by the EU13 countries through a process of analysis, dialogue and mutual learning among national research and innovation stakeholders and institutional actors.

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1. Introduction

Within the EU's flagship R&D&I Framework Research Funding programme (FP7), EU15 member countries have tended to significantly out-perform newer member states (EU13) both in terms of absolute numbers of participations, participations per head of population, volume of funding awarded and success rate of applications.

On March 31, 2014, during the 1st Policy dialogue, hosted by MIRRIS Consortium Partner PARP (Polish Agency for Enterprise Development), the details specific to Poland's participation in FP7 were presented. The intent of the policy dialogue was to provoke the discussion among participants for the purpose of starting a debate on how to improve the Country's performances also in the view of new opportunities available within ESIF 2014-2020. This report summarizes the outcomes of the dialogue highlights strength, weaknesses, opportunities and threat, identifies potential gaps and provides a portfolio of suitable intervention schemes as a base for the 2nd Policy dialogue tentatively scheduled for November 2014.

The report is divided in two parts: the first part provides a snapshot on the key factors affecting the FP7 participation of Poland and main inputs collected by the MIRRIS Team during the 1st Policy dialogue in Warsaw. The second part contains the SWOT and GAP analysis with a first set of recommendations and a portfolio of support schemes selected among good practices identified by MIRRIS to improve participation to EU R&D programs.



2. Background

2.1. Participation to EU R&D programmes

- Poland is underperforming for the size of its research and development employment sector (but much less than would be the case based on a simple population estimate). The difference is still sizeable (over 1,100 participations) and suggests that mechanisms which improve the motivation, and capacity of research and development staff and institutions are likely to improve performance.
- Poland's success rate in applying for FP7 funding is very close to the overall EU13 average. However because Poland has submitted relatively few applications (for its size), it has one of the smallest numbers of FP7 beneficiaries per head of population and one of the smallest gains of FP7 funding per inhabitant, standing at just €8.90. If FP7 funding for countries is adjusted for Purchasing Power Parity (using prices for 2012), Poland's situation improves somewhat, although the broad trends in FP7 funding receipts are unchanged.
- Poland's participation in the European Research Area is relatively strong in several thematic areas, particularly: "ICT" (230 beneficiaries), "Nanotechnologies, Materials and New Production Technologies" (164), and "Transport" (149) (Eurada, 2013).
- Available data concerning participation in the 7th Framework Programme, which was published after 307 calls, suggests that Polish organizations participated in research projects less frequently than in the case of FP6. However, funding the beneficiaries received through FP7, soon to be ended, is considerably higher. This undoubtedly reinforces the role of Polish institutions in the current financial perspective for the period 2007-2013. The higher funding is a consequence of the fact that Polish institutions started to receive more important roles within the projects. This assumption is also confirmed by the fact that despite fewer participations, Polish organizations in 7th Framework Programme received the role of the project coordinator as often as in the 6th Framework Programme.¹
- Participants of research projects financed from the Framework Programme's budget are, in most cases, teams that represent higher education institutions and research and development centers (including research institutes). The share of higher education institutions was at its peak during the 6th Framework Programme².

¹ OPI Report: Polish institutions in the framework programmes-evaluation research, 2013

² OPI Report: Polish institutions in the framework programmes-evaluation research, 2013

2.2. Barriers and enablers of participation in FP7

- There are important differences in the experience of Poland with regard to FP7 and ERDF monies earmarked for R&D in the period 2007-2013. The ratio of FP7/ERDF funding in Poland is 0.03. This compares to 3.8 in Denmark and 3.5 in Belgium where FP7 funding is more significant than ERDF. There are then, quite different incentives operating across EU member states. The extent to which this may influence FP7 performance is an important potential topic for discussion with national stakeholders.
- The “Shanghai 500” includes two Polish universities, the Jagiellonian University and University of Warsaw (both in the 300th to 400th place bracket). Perhaps unsurprisingly therefore, Poland, in common with most of the 2004 accession states does not have a large institutional presence from a major university in FP7 – No Polish university features amongst the 50 most active HES organisations taking part in FP7 (Sixth Monitoring Report; page 93).
- Poland scores towards the bottom of the European Union’s innovation scoreboard index. Particular weaknesses are: ‘linkages and entrepreneurship’ (measures of SME innovation and collaborative activities); and ‘innovators’ (innovative activity among SMEs).
- Data show that public expenditure on education as a percentage of gross domestic product is significantly higher across the EU15 than the EU13. The position of Poland is broadly consistent with this overall picture.
- National business systems are crucial when assessing innovation in its broadest sense. In this respect, the European Council and Commission continue to recommend that Poland improve its business climate; nevertheless, it should be noted that in the prestigious worldwide Doing Business (2014), as far as the ease of doing business is concerned, Poland is ranked 45th. This is well above the EU13 average and even above several EU15 member states: Spain (52nd), Luxembourg (60th) and Italy (65th).
- Empirical evidence indicates that Discretionary Learning (DL) forms of work are more conducive to innovation. In this respect, Poland exhibits higher levels of DL work organisation than across the EU13 as a whole, but lower than the average level for EU15 countries.
- The principal language of the international research community, including that of the Framework Programme itself, is English. With the exception of the former British colonies Cyprus and Malta, significantly lower proportions of the populations of

EU13 countries are fluent in English than is the case for the EU15. In the case of Poland, the level of English language competence amongst the population is below even the average of the EU13.

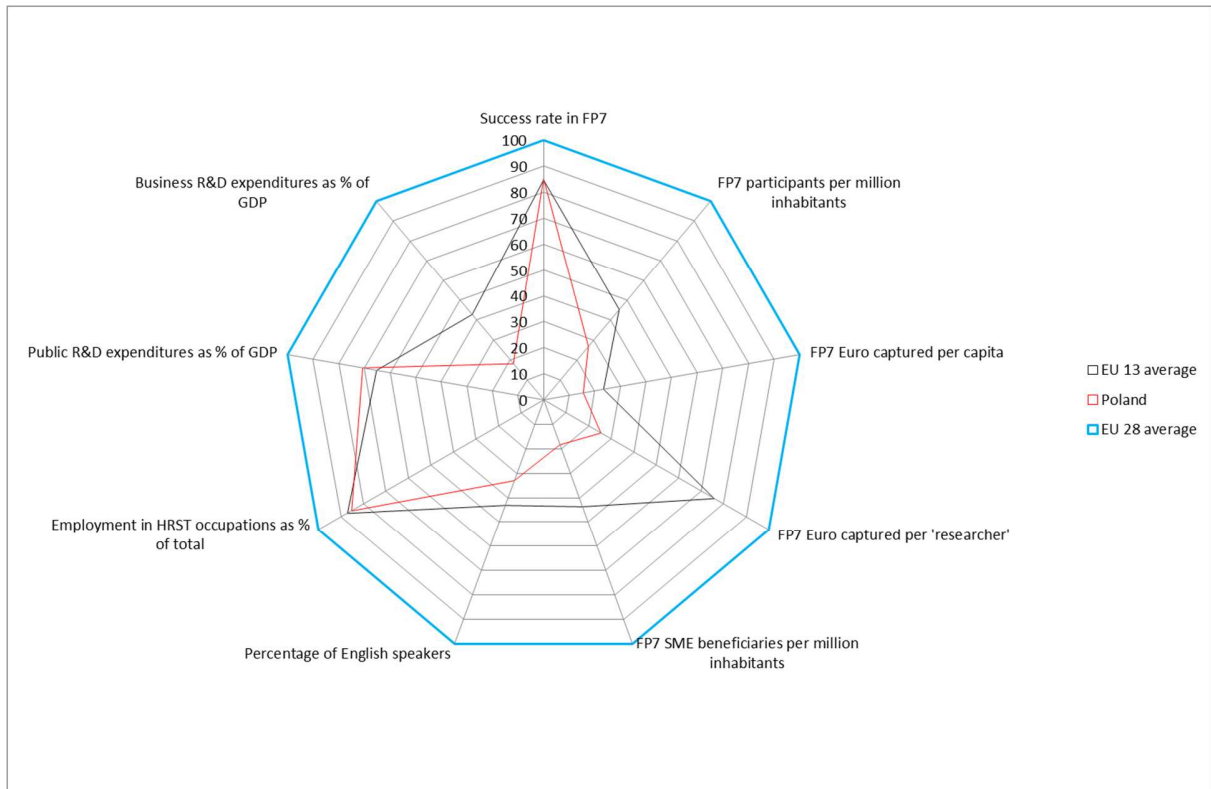
2.3. Wider science and technology context

- Spending on R&D in Poland is relatively low in comparison to the EU28. The Polish Government is also disproportionate importance compared to the EU28 average. In Poland, some 55.8 per cent of funds come from the Government sector, making it large than the business enterprise sector.
- Poland has some 4.5 million employees working in a science and technology occupation. Although the proportion of the workforce employed in these occupations is relatively low compared to many other European countries, standing at 28.9 per cent compared to an EU average of 33.9.

2.4. Poland within the EU context

- Success rate in FP7 is almost identical to the average of the EU13 but is below that of the EU27. The number of FP7 participations is much smaller than would be expected for a country of Poland's size. The number of FP7 participations per million inhabitants is around a quarter of the EU27 average, and significantly below the average of the EU13. Relatedly, Poland also performs below the average for the EU13 on indicators of Euros captured and SME participations.
- Public expenditure on R&D in Poland is comparable with the EU13 average but below that of the EU27. As is the availability of skills and employment in science and technology occupations. In contrast, private firm expenditure on R & D is very significantly below the EU13 average. Poland also has comparably low rates of English speaking which might influence the ability to successfully apply for FP7 funding.

- The 'Spider diagram' below shows how Poland compares with the EU13 overall in FP7 outcomes as well as some of the enablers and barriers which influence this performance³.



³ The performance of Poland and of the EU13 combined, is benchmarked against the performance of the EU27, which is equal to 100 per cent in each of the categories.

3. Key outcomes of the 1st MIRRIS Policy dialogue conducted in Poland on March 31, 2014

- The success rate of Poland in participating in FP7 was in overall found satisfactory. Questions raised addressed number of projects submitted, willingness and motivation of researchers/institutions and SMEs to participate as well as supporting administrative infrastructure. No specific added value is seen by Polish players in participating in FP7 proposals. During the discussion quality of proposals was another issue considered together with the attitude by, rare institutions/researchers of not sharing their proposal to get feedback in order to improve them.
- There are important differences in the experience of Poland with regard to FP7 and ERDF funding earmarked for R&D. In the period 2007-2013 significant amount that was invested and available through structural funds for R&D and this contributed, on one hand to raise the amount of such activities in the countries and to improve the endogenous R&D infrastructure, but on the other saturated the capabilities of the researchers and SMEs and not allowing them to exploit the international dimension opened up by FP7 and other R&D programmes available at EU level.
- During the discussion it was also highlighted the lack of a national strategy to promote R&D polish excellences abroad and showcase added value of participation to international competitive programmes that goes beyond just access to financial resources.
- The discussion also confirmed the important role played by the NCPs to inform Polish stakeholder on opportunities available at EU level but raised the fact that, so far there are not structured actions for promotion of the R&D infrastructure abroad and for marketing of Polish excellence.
- Lobbying and building of network and international consortiums are additional important factors that need to be further considered as an integral part of a national strategy. Lack of investments on behalf of private sector and involvement with industrial sector are identified as weaknesses as well. Mobility and access to international networks as well as sharing of best practices and know-how is a must.
- Important institutional reforms recently launched introduced a parametric evaluation of the R&D system. Moreover, in the second part of 2014, the Ministry of Science and Education will introduce the measures that will fine-tune the

parametric evaluation giving importance to engagement in EU activities. It is expected that these reforms will contribute to increasing interest for participation in EU Programs. The National Contact Points (NCPs) are also encouraged by the Ministry of Science and Education to be more active in their approach moving from diffusion of information to providing coaching and one to one support. In the near future, new instruments will also be launched:

1. Grants to apply to EU programmes for which the prerequisite will be a pre evaluation by experts to get the grant;
 2. Financial incentive for researchers working in EU projects in addition to 8000 EUR provided by the Commission (the bonus for the team will be in the amount to 20-30% of the grant received);
 3. Mirror of widening actions with structural funds.
- The lack of private investment into R&D&I is a visible gap as well as the fact that R&D community is unbalanced in relation to social sciences (and not sector oriented), which will be even a bigger challenge for participating in H2020.
 - During the meeting it was highlighted as the international cooperation between Polish universities and their counterparts from abroad is well established and works on daily basis, nevertheless it does not results in partnerships for participating in proposals for EU programmes as it could.

According to the OPI Report on Polish Institutions Framework Programmes are perceived as means for financing research by 83% of scientists. All of the Polish coordinators declared that they were motivated financially, while the organizations who had the role of a consortium partner declared so in 82% of the cases. Participating in the projects because of scientific specialization of an institution was most common in research institutes (91%) and was the least common reason among the institutes of the Polish Academy of Sciences (76%). Higher education institutions and research institutes indicated the development of their research staff's careers as one of the reasons (87% and 84% respectively). Beneficiaries underlined the fact that entering a project gives an institution a leverage effect and results in further participation. The participation of an organization in the Framework Programmes improved the attractiveness of an organization as an employer. Nevertheless, the increase of employment was perceived as a short term effect of projects. During the in-depth interviews, the beneficiaries claimed that the contacts that have been worked out in the Framework Programmes allows them to participate in more projects.

„What is very important are personal contacts. Keeping them in good condition helps us at entering new consortia, which develop the ideas we worked on in the previous projects. Sometimes, our partners recommend our partnership in new consortia and thanks to personal contacts we are able to use these recommendations for our activities.”

4. SWOT ANALYSIS



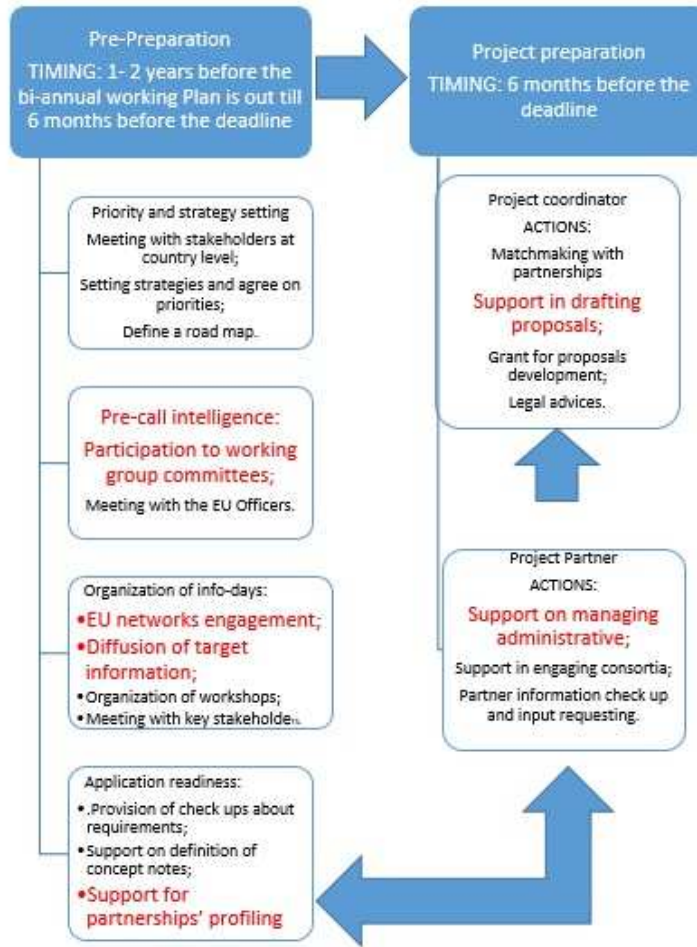
Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on selected thematic areas: ICT (230 beneficiaries), Nanotechnologies, Materials and Production Technologies (164) and Transport (149); • A wide network of NCPs already in place with a new approach moving from diffusion of information to providing coaching and one to one support; • Well established International co-operation between Polish universities and their counterparts from abroad. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incomplete portfolio of support services for facilitation of participation to EU projects (services and financial support); • Difficulties in turning established International co-operation between Polish universities and their counterparts from abroad into partnerships for EU projects; • Lack of international visibility of Polish R&D organizations (Only two institutions in Poland are included in the "Shanghai 500" - the Jagiellonian University and University of Warsaw (300th and 400th). No Polish university features amongst most 50 most active HES organisations taking part in FP7); • Low mobility of researchers (both in inward and outward direction); • Lack of motivation from R&D performers to participate to EU projects; • Low level of public-private collaboration; • Low participation of industries (and SMEs) to FP programmes; • Competition by Structural funds programmes rather than synergies.
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New resources made available in the 2014-2020 programming period by ESIF and opportunities to better streamline synergies with centrally managed programmes compared to the past; • A National Research Programme adopted in August 2011 marks a step towards fragmentation of R&D efforts (although it remains unclear how priorities are linked and taken forward in innovation); • Reforms of science and higher education systems that have initiated a major restructuring and shift towards a more efficient and competitive system, including support mechanisms to induce science-industry cooperation; • The new parametric evaluation of the R&D system. The Ministry of Science and Education will introduce in 2014 new measures to refine the parametric evaluation giving importance to engagement in EU activities; • Pact for Horizon 202 signed by 320 research institutions by July 2014; • New instruments to be launched: grants to apply to EU programmes for which a prerequisite will be a pre evaluation by experts to get the grant; financial incentives for researchers working in EU projects in addition to €8000 provided by the Commission; mirror of widening actions with structural funds. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brain Drain of well-trained researchers; • Low level of R&D&I investment in business. (Poland scores towards the bottom of the European Commission Innovation Union Index Scoreboard and this is largely attributed to lack of SME innovation and collaborative activities, and innovative activities among SMEs; • An innovation-friendly environment, which fails to drive public-private collaboration, and does not stimulate growth of innovative companies; • Lack of a national strategy to promote R&D abroad and showcase added value of international competitive programmes and therefore showcase Polish research excellence.

5. GAP Analysis pursuant to MIRRIS Participation Value Chain

The diagram below displays where gaps have been identified in the Polish R&D&I system based on the MIRRIS decision tree for participation in Horizon 2020 projects. The gaps identified are concentrated in the following areas:

- **Applicant awareness:** more opportunities to make researchers and research institutions aware of the potential routes for applying for funding should be sought.
- **Applicant readiness:** there is a need for researchers to be equipped with appropriate skills and knowledge in order to understand the processes in place that can lead to successful project proposals.
- **Consortium facilitator:** there is currently low participation as a consortium facilitator and therefore more resources should be channelled into increasing this activity in the future.
- **Proactive partner search:** research institutions should provide support for researchers in order to take a proactive stance towards participation in international projects.
- **Targeted search:** researchers and research institutions should be provided with support to encourage a more targeted search for suitable projects to participate in.
- **Proposal drafting:** researchers should be provided with training opportunities to develop skills in developing successful proposals, including opportunities to understand examples of best practice.
- **Involvement professional networks:** in order to foster greater participation within wider networks researchers should aim to increase their participation in professional networks within, and beyond national borders.

**Participation Value Chain
Supply Side**



6. Gaps and Recommendations based on collected input during 1st Policy dialogue

Based on the analysis of the policy landscape, the strengths, weaknesses opportunities and threats of the Polish R&D&I environment, and drawing on previous evidence presented, alongside the first round of policy dialogue, there are a series of recommendations which could be considered in order to foster an increase in Poland's participation in FP7 Programmes and EU funding in the future.

Potential gaps

- R&D performers are overbooked with projects financed by Structural funds and do not have resources to devote to the international dimension;
- Researchers are not motivated in participating in FP7 projects due to not stimulating compensation received for the work done;
- Lack of administrative support, which is essential for preparation and submission of proposals;
- Lack of national strategy that would be focusing on increase of FP7 participation highlighting the added value coming out of building international networks and cooperation, use of structural funds for increasing of FP7 participation;
- Lack of promotion of Polish excellence, lobbying activities and;
- Need for international cooperation, building up of networks and consortiums, share of best practices and know-how;
- Low participation of Industries (including SMEs) to FP programmes;
- Access to pre- information still not fully effective;
- Lack of visibility of the R&D infrastructure abroad;
- Low rate of English speakers affecting the participation in EU projects

Proposed recommendations

- Avoid competition among different sources of funding exploiting opportunities arising from the new ESIF programming period 2014-2020 also in terms of synergies with H2020 (focusing on upstream and downstream actions);
- Better exploitation of the presence of institutional stakeholders in Brussels to access to relevant pre information and engage the international dimension (access to partners);
- Leverage from the new evaluation system to incentivise participation to international projects and H2020;
- Promote more proactive approach making available specific training and education in accessing international grants and in promoting R&D offer;
- Improve the capability of ensuring a bi-directional flow of information both from Brussels to Poland on opportunities of related to participation to EU programmes and from Poland to other countries to promote excellence of the Polish R&D System;
- Establishment of administrative infrastructure is essential. Share of best practices and effective infrastructures from other EU countries shall be beneficial;
- Strategic objectives to be cleared for different components of the R&D&I value chain (going from research to market);
- Establishing of an national agency for promotion of national research at EU level as Italian organization APRE;
- Coordination of regional offices in Brussels with regards to R&D, at the stage of program being designed, levering of networks and partnerships during and after participation in the proposal;
- Organization and exchange of researchers for the purpose of increasing abilities of speaking foreign language(s) including share of best practices and know-how;
- Introduce measures that would be attractive for foreign researchers to come and work in Poland.

7. Selected practices

Based upon identified gaps pursuant to the above noted MIRRIS Participation Value Chain, MIRRIS has selected among 29 collected good practices, several practices that according to all analysed factors are the most relevant for Poland.

In the following text, full description of the selected practise is provided in order to provide an overview of the relevant experiences and tools.

7.1. Description of good practice-APRE, the Italian NCP host organization

- Title: APRE, the Italian NCPs' host organisation
- Topic: Practices for fostering higher participation in EU research funding programmes, ii - Structural support measures: National Contact Points (NCPs) and other advisory structures
- Country: Italy
- Geographic level (regional or national): National
- Organisation: APRE – Agenzia per la Promozione della Ricerca Europea
APRE aims at providing information, support and assistance to Italian organisations, (public and private entities, physical persons) in matter of participation to initiatives and programmes at the national and European level, in the field of research and development, technological innovation and transfer.
- What were the aims of the experience/tool?
The final aim of the experience is to increase the access of national (Italian) entities to European R&D funds through increasing their participation to European-funded projects.
This aim is pursued through different support activities, described below.
- In which part of the decision tree is the experience?
 - Applicant awareness and readiness
 - Partner search
 - Proposal drafting
- Who were the beneficiaries or the target group?
All Italian entities and physical persons that may have a role in participating to European R&D funded projects. Besides the services provided to everybody, APRE has set a number of particular services specifically for its associates.
- Description of the experience of using the best practice:
APRE provides to its beneficiaries the three following main types of services:

INFORMATION

- Info-days on European programmes and existing opportunities (call content and priorities, EU research policies, SME funding opportunities, opportunities for researchers international career opportunities and training);
- Setup of specific information and communication systems, notably public newsletters, and weekly dedicated news for APRE's associated members in order to reach-out to a widespread constituency;
- Publication of monographic dossier focused on specific aspects of European R&D funding programmes, written by researchers and sector experts.

ASSISTANCE

- A partner search service to support beneficiaries in building well-balanced international consortia;
- Proposals' pre-screening;
- Creation of a feedback collection system to know from the constituency the most frequent difficulties encountered when addressing European programme calls, in order to fine-tune APRE's assistance;
- APRE is also part of the Enterprise Europe Network (EEN) ensuring valuable networking channels also for what concerns SMEs participation.

TRAINING

- Provision of trainings for a) researchers and other potential European funds beneficiaries (including webinars) on how best approaching European calls and write project proposals; b) other NCPs on APRE's assistance experience. At this regard, APRE has developed a number of NCP handbooks, distributed at the European level and beyond.

The successfulness of APRE's user experience lies in particular on the following characteristics:

- ✓ service continuity for 25 years;
- ✓ service centralisation under a same organisation, guaranteeing coordination among Italian NCPs;
- ✓ service presence on the national territory, through a network of regional representation branches (19 branches in 17 regions);
- ✓ APRE networking activity with other national and international entities (and in particular with the EU dedicated structures) in order to promote best practice and research result transfer;
- ✓ APRE's international participation in international NCP networks or in other research organisations' networks in order to transfer its competences or align to others' best practices.

➤ What is the period during which the experience/tool has been carried out?
APRE runs with continuity since 1989, when it was founded as a development of a task-force set up the year before by the Italian Ministry for Education, University and Research.

➤ What were the results of this best practice?

A single national and reference entry-point for the R&D EU funds programmes and opportunities. Some data regarding the support given during the FP7 period (2007-2013):

- Info Days: About 100 info-days per year / more than 10 per month (at the national and regional level, and also in collaboration with other entities).
- Average number of request for assistance received per year: 13.000
- Pre-screened proposals: 6000;
- Training organised: 95;
- Training with Apre staff as trainers: 450;
- Over 11000 people trained;
- 1100 partner search requests published;
- Bilateral meetings amongst Italian researchers and international research delegations: 60;
- ✓ Publications: 21 (Themes: Dossiers on FP7; guides on proposal drafting; European policies);
- ✓ Information: (76 Monthly Newsletters, 193 Weekly newsletter for associated members; 173.000 page visit in 2012; 1800 email sent);
- ✓ Registered users in the database: 46.000 (existence of a national widespread community on R&D).

➤ What is needed for the experience/tool to be successfully replicated?

- Good coordination amongst NCP, namely through co-presence in the same space;
- One-flow coordination and communication with the national institutions (e.g. Ministries or agencies) in charge of research;
- Investments in networking and communication;
- Continuity.

For any references or bibliography here: www.apre.it

7.2. Description of good practice-GIURI, Informal group of the Italian representation offices in Brussels

- Title: GIURI
- Topic: Practices for fostering higher participation in EU research funding programmes; upgrading the system of Research and Innovation.
 - Country: Italy
 - Geographic level (regional or national): National
 - Organisation: GIURI – Informal group of the Italian representation offices in Brussels
 - What were the aims of the experience/tool?

The Group consists of an informal platform composed by Italian representation offices particularly active in research and innovation related matters. So far, the Group counts more than 50 members, representing research organizations, business organizations, national/regional institutional bodies, financial intermediaries.

The Group's main objective is facilitating and improving the synergies, the exchange of information and the cooperation among its members (representative offices of Italian organizations dealing with research), their national/regional constituencies and the European Institutions. Its main focus is sharing experiences and know-how in the field of R&I at EU level, with a particular attention to Horizon 2020 and other relevant policy initiatives. As a group, GIURI is able to influence national system more effectively addressing the European R&I policies.

- In which part of the decision tree is the experience?

Pre-call intelligence.

- Who were the beneficiaries or the target group?

Research organizations, business organizations, national/regional institutional bodies, financial intermediaries.

- Description of the experience of using the best practice:

The GIURI started its activities in July 2011 upon initiative of ENEA (National Agency for new Technologies, Energies and Sustainable Economic Development). The group gathers all Italian representation offices in Brussels dealing with research. They organize thematic meetings on topics of interest for their members, which are then discussed with representatives of the European Commission and representatives from the European Parliament.

- What is the period during which the experience/tool has been carried out?

GIURI started in 2011 and is still ongoing. The meetings have been organized on monthly base.

- What is needed for the experience/tool to be successfully replicated?

This experience shows that coordination activities help stakeholders to better access the information without investing significant financial resources and still making an

impact. Moreover, this experience is showcasing importance of having the representation offices in Brussels.

7.3. Description of good practice- INNcorpórate a Europa service

- Title: iNNcorpórate a Europa service
- Topic: Practices for fostering higher participation in EU research funding programmes; upgrading the system of Research and Innovation Practices for fostering higher participation in EU research funding programmes. It is an assessment service provided to enterprises by the Regional Development Agency (RDA) and the office of the Region of Murcia in Brussels to promote the participation of private companies in European Programmes
- Country: Spain
- Geographic level (regional or national):Regional (Region of Murcia)
- Organisation: INFO – Regional Development Agency
- What were the aims of the experience/tool?

Increase the participation of private enterprises in European programmes to increase their competitiveness.

- In which part of the decision tree is the experience?

Applicant readiness.

- Who were the beneficiaries or the target group?

About 150 private companies per year. Among them, 70% belonging to the industry and 30% to services. 40 of these companies with experience in EU projects and the majority are newcomers.

- Description of the experience of using the best practice:

- Provide coordinated assessment, companies using local experts of the Regional Development Agency and experts of its office in Brussels. The service is provided by 4 experts (officers), 2 of them based in Brussels and the other 2 bases locally in the Region of Murcia.
- The assessment is provided along the whole life cycle of the project. The company receives advice about how to carry out the activity or solve a certain problem. The common starting point is the project idea, consequently the service helps the company to identify the most appropriate call, look for partners/consortia and the write the proposal. After the submission it is provided assessment in the evaluation follow-up, the negotiation with the European Commission and the project implementation.
- The majority of the 372 (year 2013) assessment services provided are done during the early stages of the process (idea, identification of call partner searches). The assessment provided is less relevant in number but more intensive in time for the proposal preparation, negotiation and project implementation. In any case, the main output is that companies have always an expert, permanently accompanying to resolve questions and provide assistance.
- This assessment service is complemented with the initiative "Plan Europe-SME" which coordinates the efforts of the main stakeholders of the Region of Murcia.

The Plan provides awareness and capacity building. Specifically it carries out the following 3 main activities:

- ✓ Preparados (ready): It has been established 5 working groups with involve 21 stakeholders (clusters, technology centers, research organisations, etc.) Each group shares specialised information about EU programmes and organises a regional InfoDay for each major call.
- ✓ Hospitality: Every quarter a project officer from a company or a regional stakeholder goes to the Brussels office during one month to receive customized training and assistance to prepare project proposals.
- ✓ Con-idea: a yearly award to the best project idea not submitted yet by a company. The price is a free assistance from a private consultant to help the company to write the proposal for an EU call.
- What is the period during which the experience/tool has been carried out?

Since 2011.

- What were the results of this best practice?

In period 2012-2013:

Services to companies	219	372
Disseminated profiles	147	151
Expressions of interests	203	300
Proposals submitted	16	24
Brokerages in Brussels	12	9

- What is needed for the experience/tool to be successfully replicated?
- ✓ Long term commitment to provide a valuable service to companies
- ✓ At least 2 persons, one locally based and the other based in Brussels

For any references or bibliography here:

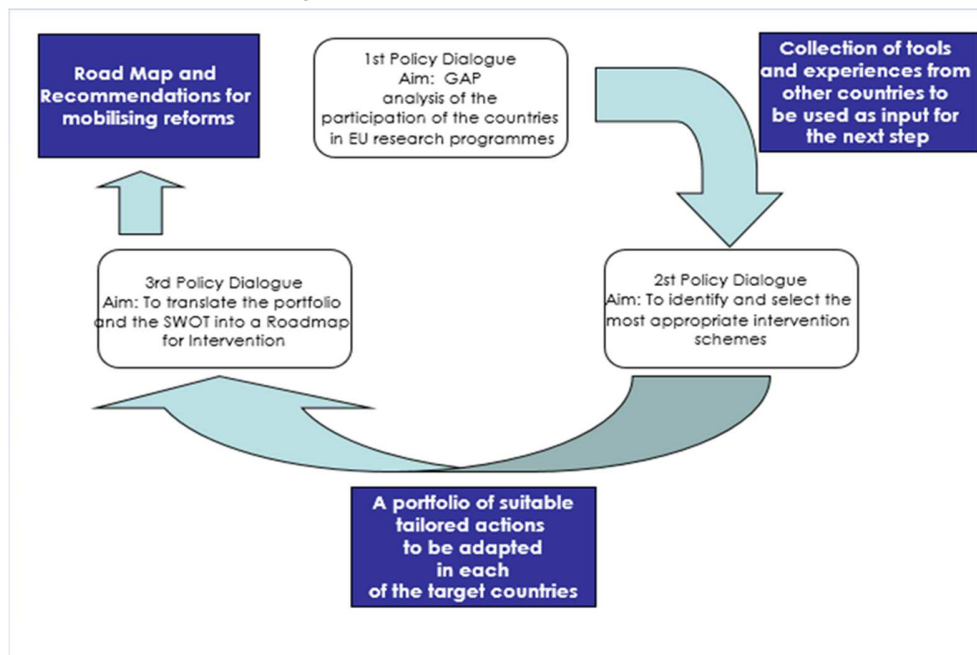
Nova Magazine of Research and innovation in the Region of Murcia. Number 28, page 14. Description of the iNNcorpórate a Europa Service

Nova Magazine of Research and innovation in the Region of Murcia. Number 29, page 14. Description of the Hospitality Service.

For review and selection of other collected best practices, please visit www.mirris.eu

8. Next step: the second policy dialogue

The second policy dialogue, planned for November 05 2014, will focus on the



identification and selection of the most appropriate intervention schemes. MIRRIS team will closely cooperate with Polish stakeholders, PARP, Ministry of Science and Education and NCP in order to collect input to prepare a road map that would lead to improving the participation of Polish researchers into EU programs.

9. Annexes

9.1. Annex 1: List of Participants of the 1st Policy Dialogue in Poland

March the 31st 2014 - Warsaw, Poland

Name	Surname	Organization	Organization	Position
Cezary	Błaszczuk	Narodowe Centrum Badań i Rozwoju	National Centre for Research and Development	Head of coordination section
Prof. Tomasz	Dietl	Instytut Fizyki PAN	Warsaw University	Head of Laboratory for Cryogenic and Spintronic
Prof. Ludosław	Drelichowski	Uniwersytet Technologiczno-Przyrodniczy w Bydgoszczy	University of Technology and Life Sciences in Bydgoszcz	Professor
Mateusz	Gaczyński	Ministerstwo Nauki i Szkolnictwa Wyższego	Ministry of Science and Higher Education	Director at Ministry of Science and Higher Education, Department of Strategy
Olaf	Gajl	Ośrodek Przetwarzania Informacji – Państwowy Instytut Badawczy	Information Processing Institute	Director of the Information Processing Institute
Andrzej	Galik	Krajowy Punkt Kontaktowy Programów Badawczych	National Contact Point for Research Programmes of the European Union	NCP Adviser,
Daria	Golebiowska-Tataj	Szkola Biznesu Politechniki Warszawskiej	Warsaw University of Technology Business School	Researcher/Professor at Warsaw University of Technology Business School
Krzysztof	Gulda	Europejska Przestrzeń Badawcza	European Research Area	Vice chair of the European Research Area and Innovation Committee
Robert	Haligowski	WSK "PZL-Rzeszów"	Aviation Valley	Technology Management Office, EU R&T Director
Monika	Jasinska	Uniwersytet Przyrodniczo-Humanistyczny w Siedlcach	Siedlce University of Natural Sciences and Humanities	Academic
Joanna	Kartasiewicz	Akademia Leona Koźmińskiego	Kozminski University	Research Manager
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Agnieszka	Stokłosa	Poznańskie Centrum Superkomputerowo-Sieciowe	Wielkopolska ICT Cluster	
Jacek	Woźniak	Małopolski Urząd Marszałkowski	Marshal Office of the Malopolska Region	Director; Marshal Office of the Malopolska Region, Department of Regional Policy
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Justyna	Kulawik			
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				Deputy Director of the Enterprise and Innovation Department
Anna	Brussa	Polska Agencja Rozwoju Przedsiębiorczości -PARP	Polish Agency for Enterprise Development	Director of the Enterprise and Innovation Department
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Michał	Polański	Polska Agencja Rozwoju Przedsiębiorczości -PARP	Polish Agency for Enterprise Development	Director of the Economic Promotion Department
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9.2. Annex 2 Policy Landscape

9.2.1. Institutional framework

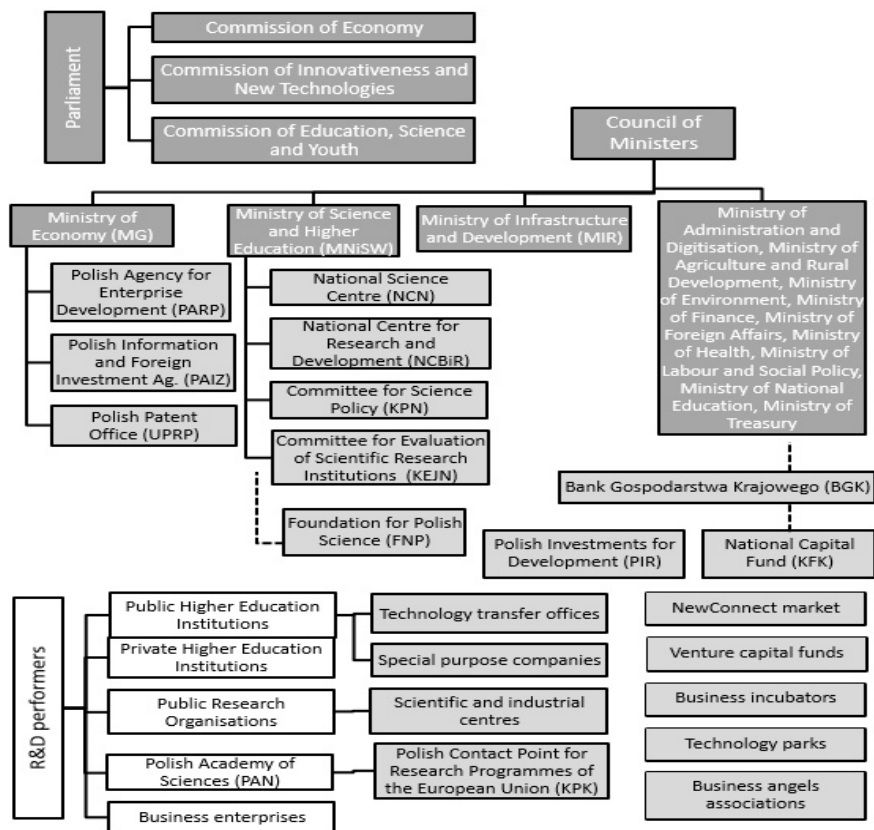
The Polish R&D&I system is characterised by the central role of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education and the low contribution of private sector businesses. However, with ongoing reforms and efforts to encourage greater collaboration between research institutions and businesses there is the potential for this to change.

The Ministry of Science and Higher Education has acted as a large financing agency, and therefore has exerted significant control over the research strategies, assessing research proposals and evaluation research performance in Poland. The Ministry also played a central role in creation of policy documents relating to research. Given that most policy instruments are based on legal acts, the role of Parliament has therefore been important in shaping the policy landscape for research institutions.

Since 2009, there have been significant governance changes as part of reforms to science and higher education. These reforms had two key objectives:

- Introduction of a competitive and performance-oriented funding system
- Decentralisation of science policy by creating new executive agencies:
 - National Science Centre National Science Centre (NCN) an executive agency based in Krakow, which oversees funding and redesign of the National Centre for Research And Development (NCBiR).
 - The NCBiR is an agency responsible for the management of research and development programmes, improving knowledge transfer between science and industry, creating a dynamic career model for those entering R&D&I.

The network of institutions involved in the R&D&I system in Poland is outlined below:



Source: Erawatch (2014)

The reforms were intended to promote research excellence via competitive funding including the distribution of EU Structural funds through open competition. Another important policy instrument in Poland is the *Strategy for Innovation and Effectiveness of the Economy for 2012-2020 Dynamic Poland (SIEG)* introduced in 2012. This represented the most extensive strategic document addressing R&D&I priorities, with four broad objectives:

- 1) Strengthening regulatory and financial environments to address the needs of an innovative and effective economy including developing appropriate regulatory actions;
- 2) Stimulating innovativeness, improving quality of research, strengthening relationships between science and industry;
- 3) Improving the efficient use of natural resources and raw materials focusing on energy and resource efficiency and sustainable construction practices;
- 4) Increasing the internationalisation of the Polish economy by supporting exports and foreign investments of Polish firms, attracting foreign investors into Poland.

- SIEG represents a shift away from previous policies which focused on infrastructure investments to place more emphasis on the role of R&D&I as a source of competitiveness in the national economy.
- This strategy focused on the years 2012-2020 and addressed the entire R&D&I policy spectrum and set quantifiable objectives to funding and outputs.
- In January 2013 a draft of the *Enterprise Development Programme (PRP)* addressed some of SIEG's objectives related to business enterprises including a proposal for *National Smart Specialisation (KIS)*. KIS is used as a basis for the distribution of funds as part of the *Operational Programmes for 2014-2020*. KPB indicates the priorities for R&D&I activities and provides a framework for exploiting the availability of EU funding.
- KPB indicates 7 broad R&D priorities: new energy technologies; lifestyle disease, innovative drugs and regenerative medicine; advanced information and telecommunication technologies; advanced materials; natural environment, agriculture and forestry; social and economic development of Poland in global markets; national security and defence.
- In 2012 new rules for the distribution of EU Structural funds were introduced and the Ministry of Development and Infrastructure (MRI) coordinates the preparation of programmes to guide the future distribution of EU Structural Funds.
- The main R&D&I funding stream will be through *Operational Program Smart Growth (POIR)* with objectives to increase expenditure on research from both government and private sector businesses. POIR focuses on promoting applied R&D&I carried out by businesses as well as intensifying (or establishing) cooperation and collaboration between research and industry. In addition to national level operational programs there will also be 16 Regional Operational Programs designed to support R&D&I which is complementary to nationwide programs.
- In January 2013 the Ministry of Economy produced a draft of an *Enterprise Development Program (PRP)*. The new program is designed to streamline the system to make pathways clearer:
 - Use non-refundable grants for highly innovative R&D&I projects and revolving financial instruments to aid absorption of innovations
 - Centralising R&D&I support in central government agencies and distributing funds for the absorption of innovations by regional institutions

- Preferences for funding R&D&I projects related to technology
 - Preferences for financing initiatives via consortia rather than in individual organisations in order to stimulate the development of networks and partnerships between industry and academia
 - Strengthening links between science and industry by encouraging support of internships in businesses and secondments of employees into scientific institutions. However, it is important to highlight there is no reference to forms of synergy with central managed funds (H2020, COSME etc.)
- There are also policy efforts that address research infrastructures in Poland:
 - *Polish Roadmap for Research Infrastructure (PMDIB)* includes 33 investment projects selected in a nation-wide competition. The roadmap is designed to consolidate scientific expertise and encourage the development of consortia to reduce the duplication of investment, but also stimulate collaboration between research teams. As noted above, again, it is important to highlight there is no reference on participation to H2020.

9.2.2. Networks

The Polish R&D&I system is highly centralised and while there is a countrywide network of contact points for European funded research projects these are largely concentrated in Krakow.

Under FP7 there were 10 regional consortia or contact points and 23 thematic contact points dedicated to industry. However for Horizon 2020 there were three different NCPs for different areas of Horizon2020 funding, and NCPs were nominated as experts to the Horizon2020 Programme Committees.

9.2.3. Supporting Researchers and Research Institutions

A significant challenge faced by the research system in Poland is the 'brain drain' of well-trained researchers. This has been recognised and for the period 2014-2020 a series of support measures have been designed using EU Structural funds.

The mobility of researchers remains an issue for Polish research institutions:

- Mobility Plus is a programme which offers competitive grants for researchers to complete R&D activities at an international university for at least six months. This is designed to promote international collaborations.
- There are however no policies to attract the inward mobility of international researchers.

- The Foundation for Polish Science has a programme called Homing Plus which aims to attract researchers working at international universities to come back to Poland, and a programme named WELCOME aimed at attracting international researchers to move to Poland to establish a research team at a Polish institution.

There have been more recent efforts to encourage participation in European projects via the Pact for Horizon 2020. The Minister of Science and Higher Education has urged scientists to sign the pact to show commitment towards the Horizon 2020 and by July 2014, 320 research institutions had signed it (PAP, 2014a).

The 'Pact for 2020' is designed to mobilise researchers to engage in European research programs. By signing the pact universities are committing to work towards engagement with Horizon 2020 but it also urges the Ministry to create an effective system of support for institutions that do engage with these international research programmes.

In return the Ministry has indicated that it will reward researchers who apply for European grants but also develop a Committee for Evaluation of Scientific Units with new rules developed to take into account participation in H2020 competitions. It also indicates it will develop support mechanisms for Polish researchers such as the Grants for Grants programme that will finance the preparation and an initial evaluation of applications in an effort to raise the quality of applications submitted.

This is in addition to a website with information on the procedures for applying to H2020 competitions as well as examples of good practices from other universities and research institutes from across Europe.

9.3. Annex 3 - Highlights from Mirris on the National reform programmes 2012 - R&D and innovation

A weakness of the Polish economy continues to be a low level of R&D and innovation investments and a lack of innovativeness in businesses. Despite recent growth, Poland's R&D expenditure remains relatively low (0.74 % of GDP in 2010) and is among the lowest in the EU. The pervasive underinvestment of the private sector is also to be noted. The low levels of investments are reflected in a poor scientific and technological performance. Poland recognises these shortcomings. Recent reforms of the science and higher education systems initiated a major restructuring and shift towards a more efficient and competitive system, including support mechanisms to induce science-industry cooperation. However, there are still structural problems with the functioning of an innovation-friendly environment, which at present fails to drive private-public collaboration, and does not stimulate the growth of innovative companies. So far, structural fund support for R&D and innovation has been skewed towards absorption of new technologies, and has been less successful in undertaking indigenous research and innovation projects, especially at regional level. As a result,

ongoing reforms need to be accompanied by more effective support measures, in particular for innovative young companies and SMEs. The National Research Programme adopted in August 2011 is an important step in tackling the existing fragmentation of R&D efforts. However, it remains unclear how priorities are linked and taken forward in innovation, and more broadly, in industrial policy.

An important role will be played by the measures to be implemented in the new ESIF programming period 2013-2020. To this regard it will be crucial how the Smart Specialisation Strategies prepared in Poland will address the challenge of synergies between structural funds and H2020, COSME programmes and how these funds will strengthen the competitiveness of the Polish R&D ecosystem upstream and downstream of the research value chain and the capability to open up to and benefit from the international dimension.

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