

# 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

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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 hypothetical 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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