

ERRIN analysis of the European Commission regulation proposal establishing Horizon Europe and its rules for participation and dissemination

Introduction

Building an effective and well-resourced European research and innovation policy post-2020 requires input from a range of stakeholders, including citizens. These stakeholders often work together in partnership at the city or regional level combining proximity with critical mass. On this basis, ERRIN, the European Regions Research and Innovation Network, argues that effective research and innovation is increasingly dependent on strong interconnected research and innovation ecosystems embedded in regions and cities. A well-functioning quadruple helix (research, industry, public authorities, and citizens) is essential to achieving impact, and thus all its dimensions should be supported.

Horizon Europe should help regions to develop the European dimension of their domestic innovation ecosystems, and open new avenues for European collaborations. This would also support **new export opportunities and allow testing European solutions in different regional contexts**, hence reinforcing the single market and the competitiveness of the European Union as a whole. A well-resourced programme is essential for producing excellent cutting-edge research, capitalising on research infrastructures and clusters and providing incentives for risk-taking when bringing innovations to market.

Regions are increasingly seen as the primary point of reference for EU innovation policy. Digital Innovation Hubs and the European Roadmap for Research Infrastructures are an illustration of this trend. This is also essential to generating innovation capacity through a bottom-up process, building on existing strengths and bringing together key stakeholders to increase critical mass. Building critical mass in one or several regions is not enough. Europe needs new partnerships for research and innovation excellence in the whole of Europe, which is based on enhanced multilevel governance, and a shared open innovation culture.

Regional innovation ecosystems generate significant impacts for the economy and regional competitiveness as well as excellent innovation that is close to people and their local needs. This link to territories also helps bringing science close to the society as there is a natural link with cities and regions facilitating active citizen involvement, understanding, and ownership.

The benefits of regional innovation ecosystems can be further accelerated if they connect with each other to access complementary skills, infrastructure or markets. Interregional cooperation based on Smart Specialisation could help reshape EU value chains by promoting investment synergies between the private and public sectors within different regional innovation ecosystems. This contributes to the development of the EU economy as a whole.

Proposal establishing Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, laying down its rules for participation and dissemination COM (2018) 435			
Topic	Article	Analysis/justification	Text changes
Definitions	Article 2 – Definitions	<p>Regional innovation ecosystems can significantly contribute to meeting the objectives of the framework programme, especially through projects mobilising territorial ecosystems and/or innovation hubs from several Member States.</p> <p>Building an effective and well-resourced European research and innovation policy post-2020 requires input from a range of stakeholders, including citizens. These stakeholders often work together in partnership at the city or regional level combining proximity with critical mass. On this basis, ERRIN, the European Regions Research and Innovation Network, argues that effective research and innovation is increasingly dependent on strong interconnected research and innovation ecosystems embedded in regions and cities. A well-functioning quadruple helix (research, industry, public authorities, and citizens) is essential to achieving impact, and thus all its dimensions should be supported.</p>	<p>Article 2 (after (2) – ‘smart specialisation strategy’)</p> <p><i>“Regional innovation ecosystems” means public and private quadruple helix actors (academia, industry, government, and civil society/citizens) organised at regional or local level. These actors coordinate research, innovation, and education activities, and accelerate between them dissemination of results, innovation, and development of new economic activities and services that create sustainable jobs, while being close to the citizens and their local needs, bringing science close to society.”</i></p>
Programme objectives	Article 3 – The programme’s general objective is to deliver scientific, economic and societal impact from	Ensuring coherence between European, national and regional funding to research and	Add in Article 3 (1) Addition in bold.

	<p>the Union’s investments in research and innovation so as to strengthen the scientific and technological bases of the Union and foster its competitiveness, including its industry, deliver on the Union strategic priorities, and contribute to tackling global challenges, including the Sustainable Development Goals.</p>	<p>innovation is crucial for increasing the impacts of the European R & I policy.</p> <p>Regional innovation ecosystems generate significant impacts for the economy and regional competitiveness as well as excellent innovation that is close to people and their local needs. This link to territories also helps bringing science close to the society as there is a natural link with cities and regions facilitating active citizen involvement, understanding and ownership.</p>	<p>“...and foster its competitiveness in all member states and regions, including its industry, in particular through building a society based on knowledge and innovation, deliver on Union strategic priorities...”</p>
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Annexes to the proposal on establishing the Horizon Europe specific programme COM(2018) 436			
Pillar III: Open Innovation			
Topic	Article	Analysis/justification	Text changes
Introduction	<p>p. 59, paragraph 4 p. 60, paragraph 1</p>		<p>Addition to current text in bold.</p> <p>“Policy to develop and deploy breakthrough innovations and scale-up companies has to be bold in taking risks and must take into account the above-mentioned challenges and add value to related innovation activities implemented by individual Member States, both at a national and local level including cities and regions.”</p> <p>“Renewed and reinforced coordination and cooperation mechanisms with Member States, including national, regional and local level, and Associated Countries, but also with private initiatives...”</p>

<p>European Innovation Ecosystems</p>	<p>2.2 Areas of intervention EIC Forum of Member States and Associated Countries</p>	<p>In order to meet the objective of “encouraging cooperation, networking, and exchange of ideas, funding and skills among national and local innovation systems” both national and regional public authorities should be invited to the EIC Forum of Member States and Associated Countries. This is especially important to link up Smart Specialisation Strategies to the wider EU R&I agenda and create regional partnerships across Member States.</p>	<p>Additions to current text in bold.</p> <p><u>p. 68, first paragraph</u> “As a first step the Commission will organise an EIC Forum of Member States and Associated countries’ public authorities and bodies in charge of national and regional innovation policies and programmes...”</p> <p><u>p. 68, third bullet point</u> “Enhance coordination between national and regional innovation programmes and the EIC, so as to stimulate operational synergies and avoid overlap...”</p>
		<p>Building on shared smart specialisation priorities, regional and local actors can work on specific innovations and join forces to develop innovative solutions across the whole value chain. These collaborations are need-based and connect actors from different territories with similar and/or complementary skills.</p> <p>Regional innovation ecosystems support, that encompasses quadruple helix actors from various Member States, should complement national and regional R&I funding, while also providing the framework necessary to offer opportunities on demonstration, use of financial instruments, joint public procurement initiatives etc.</p>	<p>Additions to current text in bold.</p> <p>p. 69, first bullet point Promote and co-fund joint innovation... (to be added after the first sentence) “Support should also be given to regional innovation ecosystems to connect with each other to access complementary skills, infrastructure, and markets. Cooperation based on Smart Specialisation strategies can help reshape EU value chains by promoting investment synergies between the private and public sectors within different regional innovation ecosystems.”</p>

		<p>Partnerships at the city or regional level combines proximity to end-users and citizens as well as critical mass, and through connecting these ecosystems on a European level, new and more diverse actors would be attracted to Horizon Europe.</p> <p>To achieve desired impact, adequate funding for the European Innovation Ecosystem section needs to be secured.</p>	
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About ERRIN

ERRIN, the European Regions Research and Innovation Network, is a Brussels-based platform with more than 130 regional stakeholders, most of whom are represented by their Brussels offices. Founded in 2001, ERRIN promotes knowledge exchange between its members focusing on joint actions and project partnerships to strengthen regional research and innovation capacities. ERRIN supports regions in developing their collaborative and open regional innovation ecosystems to enhance the EU's research and innovation capacity, and to build a competitive Europe which supports smart, sustainable, and inclusive growth in all regions