



# Achieving impacts: Evaluation in Horizon 2020


## *Teaming, Twinning, ERA Chairs*

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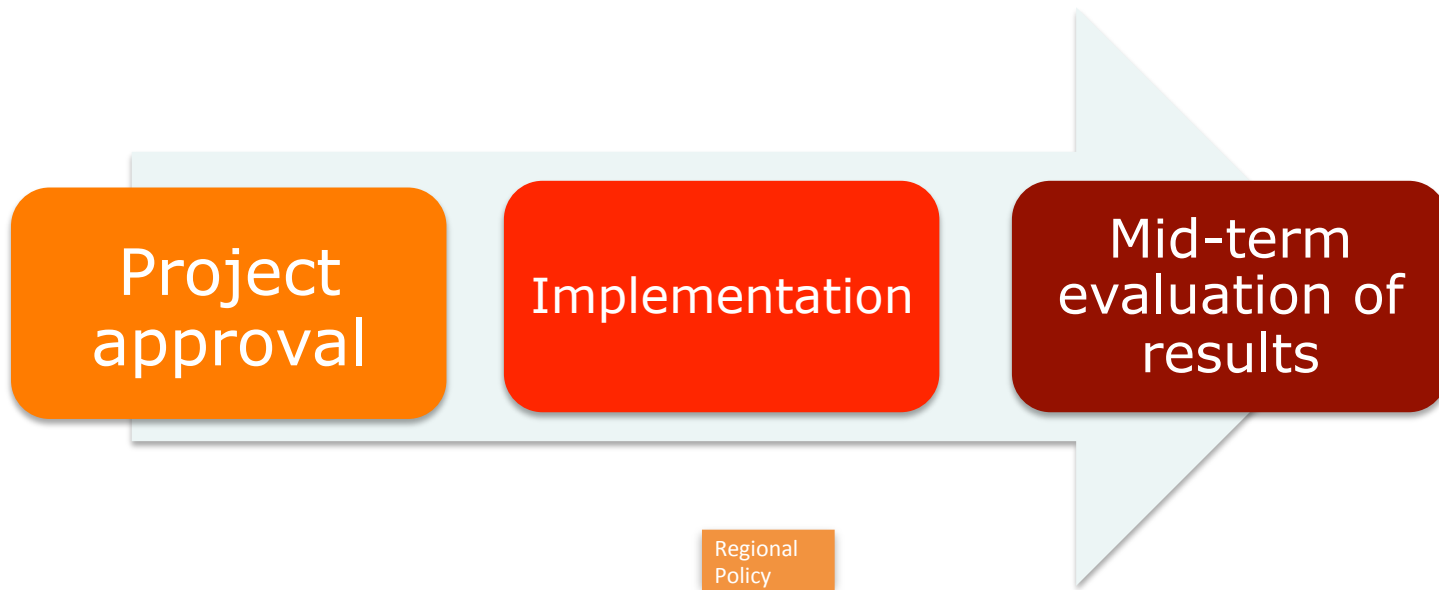
Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation  
DG Research & Innovation



- 
- Why?
  - What, how and when?
  - With whom?
  - Who does what?

# What is evaluation?

*It is an **evidence-based judgment** of the extent to which an intervention has been **effective and efficient, relevant** given the needs and its objectives, coherent both internally and with other EU policy and **achieve EU value added***



# Why is evaluation relevant? because it deals with.....

*What do we want to achieve with our actions?*

*Which are the changes we want to contribute to?*

*Socio-economic impacts*

*M&E is a learning process dealing with the complexity of a changing environment and with different contexts*



# Horizon 2020- Evaluation's process

***H2020 Midterm evaluation*** (finalized in 2017, prepared in 2016): will address the ***Twinning and ERA Chairs*** project which started in 2015

***Aim:*** assess the progress, define frameworks, test them, identify baselines

*RTD Unit B5 is in charge of the Evaluation of Widening – REA in charge of Monitoring*

# Horizon 2020

## THE EVALUATION QUESTIONS

# ACHIEVEMENTS: RESULTS AND IMPACTS

*What have been the direct and indirect results achieved so far?*

Qualitative and  
quantitative

Positive and negative

*What has been the progress towards achieving an impact based on the specific objective(s)?*

# EFFECTIVENESS

*To what extent have the objectives been achieved?*

*What are the expected/intended effects?*

*What are the unexpected/unintended effects?*

*To what extent did the intervention cause the observed changes/effects?*

*Does ERA Chair/Twinning play an adequate role in promoting scientific excellence/in supporting innovation?*



## EFFICIENCY AND USE OF RESOURCES

*Are the activities carried out efficient and are they clear and appropriate?*

*Are the activities (cost) effective? Were the costs involved justified, given the changes/effects which have been achieved?*

*What kind of approaches could be considered to generate further efficiency gains?*

## External coherence

*To what extent is this intervention coherent with other interventions which have similar objectives? (complementarity, synergies, overlapping, etc.)?*

*To what extent is the intervention coherent internally?*

# EUROPEAN UNION ADDED VALUE

*What is the additional value resulting from the EU intervention(s) via the Twinning and ERA Chairs activities, compared to what could be achieved by Member States at national and/or regional levels?*

# INDICATORS

## ***Key Performance Indicator***

*Evolution (compared to a reference period prior to the signature of the grant agreement) of the publications in high impact journals in the given research field of the research organisation funded (ERA-Chair and Twinning activities)*

***Progress indicators : To measure what is happening to correct, strengthen, improve...***



## RESEARCH & INNOVATION

### Synergies with Structural funds

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## Highlights

12 October 2015

### Seal of Excellence



This quality label is awarded to project proposals submitted for funding under **Horizon 2020**, which succeeded in passing all of the stringent selection and award criteria but could not be funded under the available Call budget. The 'Seal' identifies project proposals which merit funding from alternative sources **public or private, national, regional, European or international**.

[Know more](#)

#### Why?

Not all the good proposals get funded in Horizon2020. The SEAL will benefit:

- **SMEs**: get a 2nd chance to get funding
- **Regions**: identify and support high quality proposals with a clear territorial impact

[Know more](#)

#### How?

The action concerns, for this initial 'pilot' phase, only proposals applying for the SME instrument and in particular all those SME instrument proposals evaluated above the quality threshold.

[Know more](#)

9 October 2015

### Commissioner Moedas to announce the 'Seal of Excellence' initiative

The Commissioner will announce, jointly with Commissioner Creţu, the launch of the 'Seal of Excellence' for proposals under the 'SME Instrument', at the opening session of the 13th edition of the OPEN DAYS - European Week of Regions and Cities.

Commissioner Moedas will also announce the establishment of a 'Knowledge Exchange Platform' (KEP), jointly set by DG Research and Innovation and the Committee of the Regions. The objectives of the KEP are to set up learning mechanism for regions and cities on research and innovation activities, valorise new knowledge created through Horizon 2020 projects and maximise synergies between Horizon 2020 and the European Structural and Investment Funds.

## Social Corner

### Tweets

- Alicia O'Rourke** @aor\_4  
Interested in the Seal of Excellence? Check out Q&A europa.eu/1JQ49XU #sealofexcellence #h2020 #EUOpenDays pic.twitter.com/8A26knDRJm  
2h
- F. Hacque-Cosson** @FHacque  
#EUFunds synergies up thx to New #SealofExcellence btw #H2020 #ESIF @CorinaCreţuEU @Moedas ow.ly/TktzE Pilot: phase @H2020SME  
3h
- Annamaria Zonno** @ZonnoA  
#sealofexcellence: 100 proposals submitted to H 2020 SMEs Instrument funded with national funds  
3h
- Karin Aase** @IKarinAase  
#sealofexcellence in a Swedish context: ec.europa.eu/easme/en/news/... #EUOpenDays @H2020SME @vinnovase  
4h
- Annamaria Zonno** @ZonnoA  
#sealofexcellence presented at Open Days: funding innovative SMEs for competitive territories  
4h

[More tweets](#) [Tweet about this topic](#)

# SEAL OF EXCELLENCE WEBSITE

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## Seal of Excellence

In a period of scarce resources, the impact of our investments in Research and Innovation needs to be maximised: creating synergies between Horizon 2020 and other funding sources (such as, but not exclusively, the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF)) is a way to achieve it.

This was also a clear mandate from President Juncker to Commissioners Moedas and Creţu.

«We fully support the 'Seal of Excellence' as an important first step in a longer term process of building synergies between Horizon 2020 and the European Structural and Investment Funds. It will help innovative companies to access and enhance the knowledge economy in their regions, contributing therefore to the implementation of smart specialisation strategies»

### Why a 'Seal of Excellence' ?

Every year, thousands of organisations in Europe apply to the Horizon 2020 Programme investing precious resources and time. The European Commission runs one of the most complete evaluation systems in the world, using international independent experts. The evaluation screens against three defined criteria (excellence, impact and quality & efficiency of implementation) and identifies those proposals not mature enough to receive funding (below quality threshold) and those that are considered as meriting funding (above threshold). Only some of the above threshold proposals receive funding depending on the available Horizon 2020 budget.

The 'Seal of Excellence' certificate will be awarded to the applicants of above threshold not funded proposals: a holder of the certificate can then approach alternative funding sources (regional, national, private or public) and present the certificate as a label of a high-quality project proposal. Thanks to the 'Seal', high quality proposals from **innovative Small and Medium Enterprises** will have additional chances to be funded. The precious time and effort SMEs invested in the proposal and idea development will thus not be wasted.

The 'Seal of Excellence' offers at the same time a unique opportunity for **regions and Member States** (and any other interested actor) to fully exploit the high-quality Horizon 2020 evaluation process: to easily identify and possibly support high-impact proposals coming from promising innovative companies, with an ambition to grow and compete internationally.

## Seal of Excellence



What it is

Who can benefit

How to use it

## More Information

- Regional Policy: Research and Innovation
- Community of Practice
- The Horizon 2020 SME Instrument
- Guide on Synergies 2.0 MB

## Case Studies

- Italy: The Experience of Lombardy
- Sweden: Building on the H2020 SME Instrument



**Thank you for your attention!**

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DG Research & Innovation

**HORIZON 2020**

The Horizon 2020 logo, featuring the word "HORIZON" in large, white, sans-serif capital letters, with a globe of the Earth in the center of the letter "O". The word "2020" follows in the same font. The background is a blue, glowing horizon with light rays emanating from the globe.