



GREEN ERA-HUB
on Agri-Food and Biotechnology

What could be the drivers of building joint programming?

Based on the discussion of the „Partnering for the future” event Day 1.



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Key Insights on BIOEAST and Western Balkans Participation in Horizon Europe

Challenges



Infrastructure Deficits: Limited research infrastructure and resources hinder competitive proposal submissions.



Funding Gaps: Significant disparities in requested versus funded budgets.



Low Financial Success Rates: BIOEAST countries are underrepresented in both participation and funding success.

Recommendations

- Increase engagement in transnational consortiums.
- Improve infrastructure and resources for proposal development.
- Align national research programs with European-wide goals for greater funding opportunities.

Major Challenges in Joint Programming Initiatives

Research Management Capacity

- **Limited Expertise:** Both the document and our observations highlight insufficient knowledge in research management. This limits efficient project planning and execution, a critical need identified by participants in the workshop.
- **Best Practices Needed:** Sharing best practices from successful countries can help strengthen these capacities, as discussed during the workshop.

Access to Funding and Resources

- **Combination of Funds:** One of the biggest challenges is the complexity of combining different funding sources to support projects effectively, which hinders successful participation.
- **Underdeveloped Infrastructure:** Research institutions in BIOEAST and Western Balkans often lack the necessary financial resources and infrastructure to participate competitively in EU programs. This was a key point raised in the workshop.

Bureaucratic and Administrative Burden

- **Excessive Bureaucracy:** High administrative load, as well as national-level regulations, slow down the participation process, making it difficult for these countries to navigate complex EU funding requirements.
- **Delays and Red Tape:** These procedural delays create barriers to timely and effective project implementation, a sentiment echoed during the workshop discussions.

Additional Institutional and Strategic Barriers

Project Management Knowledge

- **Limited Experience:** Lack of project management knowledge, especially in handling large-scale, international collaborations, remains a persistent issue for BIOEAST and Western Balkans countries. Training in this area is needed to build local expertise.
- **Capacity-Building Programs:** As noted during the workshop, dedicated programs that improve project management skills are essential for these countries to succeed in international initiatives.

Misalignment of National R&D Priorities with EU Goals

- **Scope Mismatch:** A major barrier is the misalignment between national research priorities and those of the EU, such as the European Green Deal or Horizon Europe goals. This lack of coherence makes it harder for countries to secure EU funding.
- **Strategic Gaps:** National programs need to better align with EU goals to unlock opportunities for greater collaboration and funding.

Regulatory and Institutional Barriers

- **Complex Regulations:** The fragmented and sometimes overly complicated regulatory frameworks in many BIOEAST and Western Balkan countries limit their ability to participate in joint programming initiatives.
- **Institutional Support:** Weak institutional frameworks and a lack of supportive policies reduce the competitiveness of these countries in securing international funding, a point emphasized by several participants during the workshop.

From challenges to solution

Yesterday, we uncovered the difficulties, but today's presentations are here to offer guidance and solutions for overcoming them. 😊

Overview of Today's Key Themes and Discussions

Understanding the Partnership Landscape and Policy Feedback

- The day begins with a deep dive into the current landscape of partnerships within Horizon Europe. Presentations will cover insights from the European Commission on how these partnerships function, followed by feedback on policy initiatives and activities aimed at widening participation, particularly for Western Balkan countries. We'll also hear reflections on the outcomes of a recent workshop in Rome and the BIOEAST SRIA and Stakeholder Manifesto, providing valuable context for future cooperation.

Organizing Alignment and Enhancing Research Management – a good example

- In the second session, we will focus on how to better align national capacities and research management strategies. Presentations will discuss the importance of coordination and aligning scientific agendas to improve collaboration in joint initiatives. The goal is to explore methods for streamlining efforts between national and international research programs to maximize impact.

Discussing Future Needs and Cooperation Drivers

- The final session will involve an open discussion on the future of partnership-based cooperation. We will explore key steps needed to create new research and innovation initiatives, and how countries can increase their commitment. The discussion will also address the important policy and political messages necessary to promote and support future instruments, ensuring they align with both national and European priorities.



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Thank You for your attention!

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