



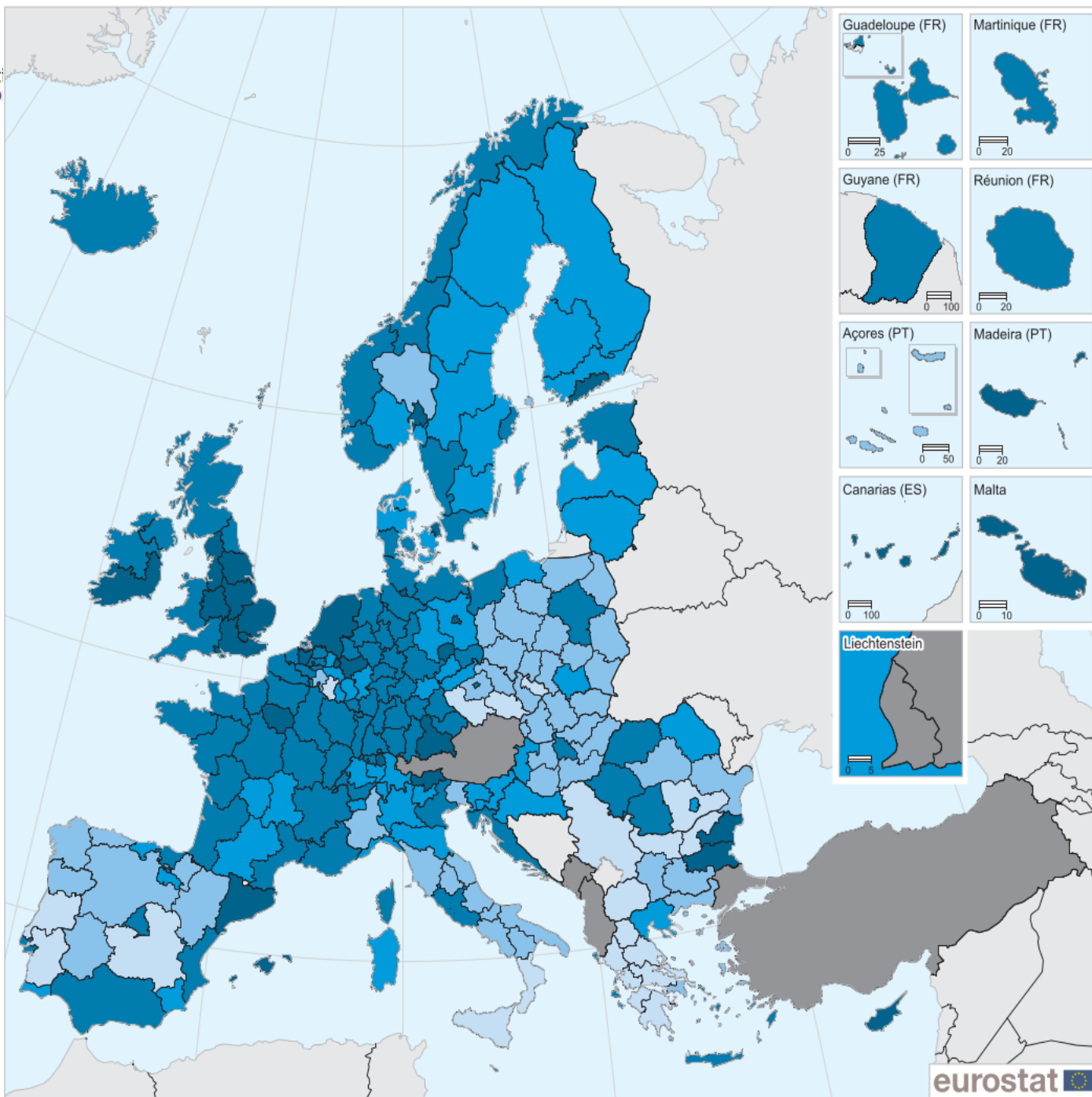
Eesti Teadusagentuur
Estonian Research Council

EU Structural Funds 2007-2013 / 2014-2020 and the support schemes for R&D and RI-s: the Estonian experience

PRIIT TAMM

Department of Research Funding
Estonian Research Council

ELIXIR – EXCELERATE structural funds workshop
October 8-9th, 2015; Brno, Czech Republic



Structural Funds 2007-2013

National Strategic Reference Framework 2007-2013

- Operational Programme for Human Resource Development
- Operational Programme for the Development of the Living Environment
- Operational Programme for the Development of Economic Environment
- Innovation and growth capacity of enterprises
- **Improving the competitiveness of Estonian R&D activities through the research programmes and modernisation of higher education and R&D institutions**
- Transport investments of strategic importance
- Development of regional transport infrastructures
- Development of information society

EU Structural Funds 2007-2013 and R&D

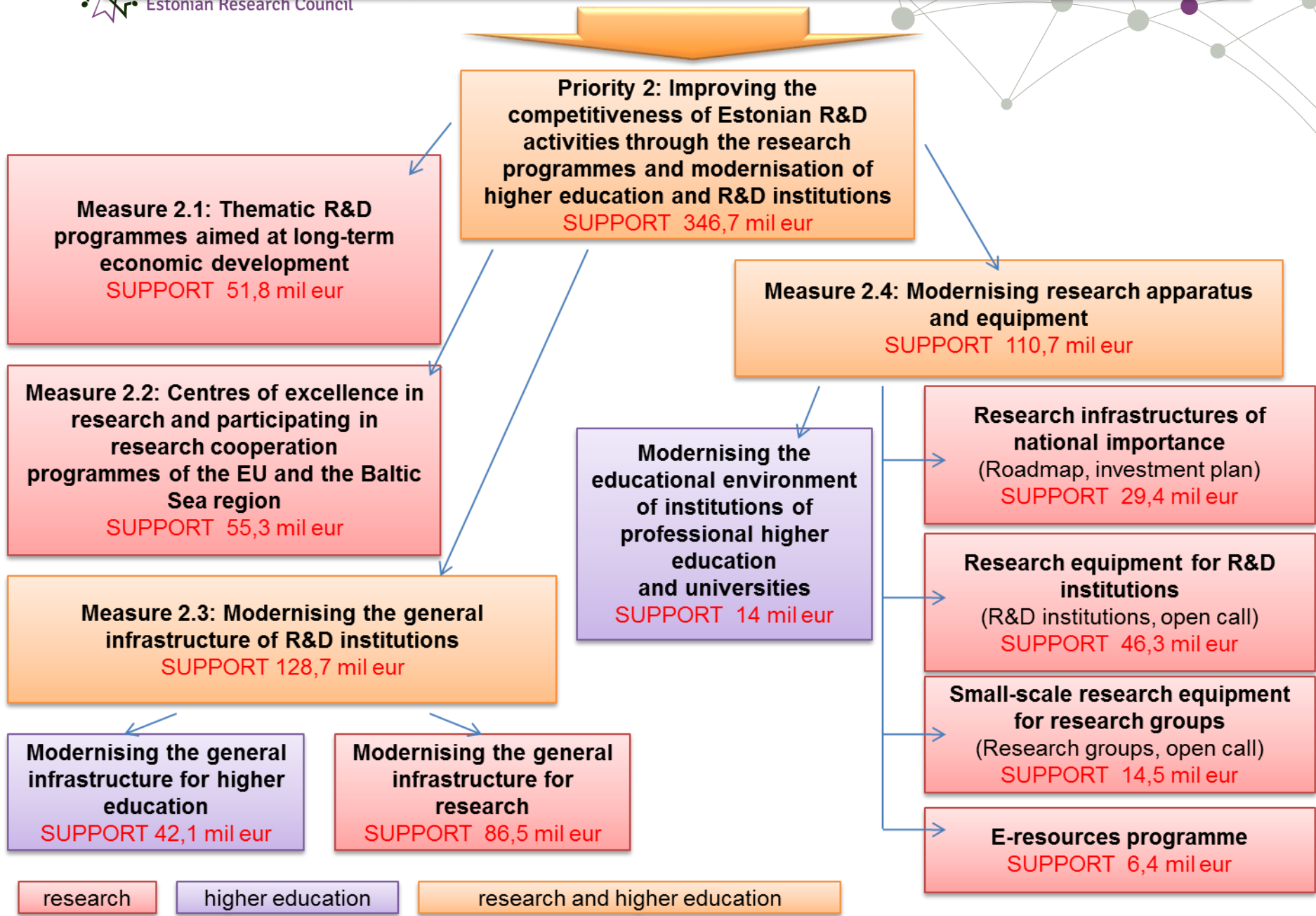
Total SF funding for Estonia 3.4 billion €

For research and higher education activities and investments,
total 364.7 M€, incl

- Thematic R&D programmes 51.8 M€
- Centres of Excellence 55.8 M€
- **Modernising the general infrastructure of R&D organisations
128.7 M€**
- **Modernising research apparatus and equipment 110.7 M€**

R&D human resources programmes and entrepreneurial R&D support schemes are excluded.

OP 2 – Operational Programme for the Development of Economic Environment



Small-scale research equipment for research groups

Research group level

Open calls for R&D institutions, one proposal – up to 64000 eur for 2 years

1st call – 119 projects, total support 6.4 M€

2nd call – 47 projects, total support 2.4 M€

3rd call – 46 projects, total support 2.5 M€

etc

Research equipment for R&D institutions

R&D institutions level, upgrading according to R&D institutions' needs and several of them are part of Estonian Roadmap RI-s

Open calls for R&D institutions, one proposal – up to 1.2 M€ for 2 years

1st call – 30 projects, total support 15.3 M€

2nd call – 24 projects, total support 7.6 M€

3rd call – 27 projects, total support 10.7 M€

4th call – 20 projects, total support 6.1 M€

Research infrastructures of national importance

Based on Estonian Research Infrastructures Roadmap

Joint infrastructure activities between R&D institutions

Must serve the research and business community

Financing of the start-up phase (mostly equipment, IT systems, some construction, building capacity, trainings of potential users, networks etc)

Investment plan until 2015, approved by the Government

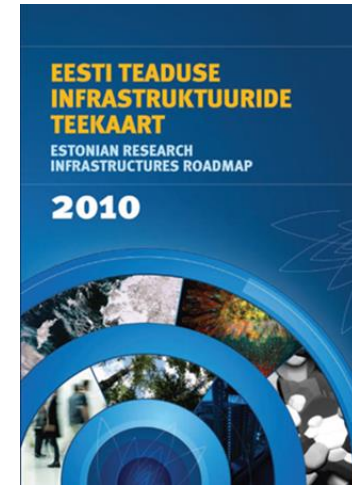
Financial decision for 9 roadmap RI-s

Roadmap

Roadmap was launched in 2010 (20 RI-s), became as an annex to the Estonian R&D strategy.

Roadmap Update in 2014 (18 RI-s).

A planning instrument for 10-20 years, containing a list of new objects or upgrading of infrastructures of national or international importance; to be updated in every 3 years, next update in 2017. It is neither financial commitment nor order of importance; contains physical objects, service providing structures and participation in international organisations.



Programme „Internationalisation of Research“

Mostly for preparatory activities for RI-s, networking, clarifying the international RI conditions, raising local capacity etc – and finally to decide whether join or not. Open calls.

Project/ESFRI object	Status (2015)
Estonian Beamline at MAX-IV Synchrotron Radiation Source	3 M EUR for construction the joint beamline with Finland
European Social Survey	Member of ESS ERIC
European Spallation Source	Member of European Spallation Source ERIC
European Southern Observatory (ESO)	Membership declined
Estonian Magnet Lab incl joining EMFL	Membership declined
INSTRUCT	Membership declined
EATRIS	Member of EATRIS ERIC
ELIXIR	Member of ELIXIR

Support for ELIXIR Estonia

- Financed from the programme „Internationalisation of Research“
- Funding 393700 eur (2012-2015), project led by University of Tartu (prof Jaak Vilo)
- Supported activities:
 - Preparatory activities to join ELIXIR
 - Creation of national consortium
 - Creation of Tools infrastructure
 - Creation of training materials and training

Lessons from 2007-2013

- Too many small investment schemes for RI-s, but the gap is now filled;
- R&D organisations are cooperating first time on such a large scale; many new RI initiatives;
- „Think big!“ attitude has grown;
- Several large proposals emerged on the table to join international RIs, which needed clear principles which ones and why to join;
- To join international large scale RIs means huge investments on local level;
- Operational costs will be the issue.

ESIF 2014-2020

Operational Programme for Cohesion Policy Funding 2014-2020

Priority axes:

- Qualifications and skills meeting the needs of society and the labour market
- Increasing social inclusion
- Improvement of access to, and prevention of dropping out of the labour market
- **Growth – capable entrepreneurship and internationally competitive RD&I**
- Development of small and medium sized enterprises and strengthening the competitiveness of regions
- Energy efficiency
- Water protection
- Green infrastructure and improved preparedness for emergencies
- Sustainable urban development
- Sustainable transport

ESIF 2014-2020 and R&D

Basic strategies for R&D:

- Estonian R&DI strategy 2014-2020
- S3 measures in R&D

Trends for new funding period:

- More focus on economic and societal impact and on applied research:
 - Smart Specialisation
 - Involvement of other ministries
- Strengthening R&D institutions
- Less attention to infrastructures and more on human resources (mobility and internationalisation)
- Less amount of support schemes

1. Excellence and diversity

Goal: Estonian research is competitive and visible in the world, while covering main directions (for HE). Estonia is an attractive place for RD&I. Research career is valued.

Support schemes:

- Support for Structural Reforms in RD and HE institutions (Call closed)
- Support for Centres of Excellence (Call closed)
- Science Popularisation (Programme started)

2. Increasing socio-economic impact of R&D

Goal: R&D is oriented to the needs of society and economy, appreciating applications. Prof-s cooperate with business and government. State is a smart procurer of research.

Support schemes:

- Support for applied research for societal challenges (Call will be launched in 2015)
- Support for scientific advisors in ministries (Call will be launched in 2015)

3. Changing economic structure: Smart Specialisation

Goal: Research system actively contributes to change economic structure. Share of knowledge-intensive business is growing. Value added in export has grown.

Support schemes:

- Support for applied research between business and academia (Call will be launched in 2015)
- Scholarships for students (in S3 areas) (prep)
- Support for Technology Competence Centres (Call closed)
- Support for Clusters (prep)
- Support for Start-Up programme (prep)
- Innovative procurement (prep)

Smart Specialisation areas (S3)

ICT

- Horizontally through other sectors

Healthcare

- Biotechnology
- E-health

Resource valorisation

- Chemical industry (shale oil)
- Innovative construction (wood)
- Functional food
- Innovative materials

4. International cooperation

Goal: Estonia is active and visible in international R&D cooperation. International cooperation contributes solving grand challenges. Estonia participates in joint R&D infrastructures.

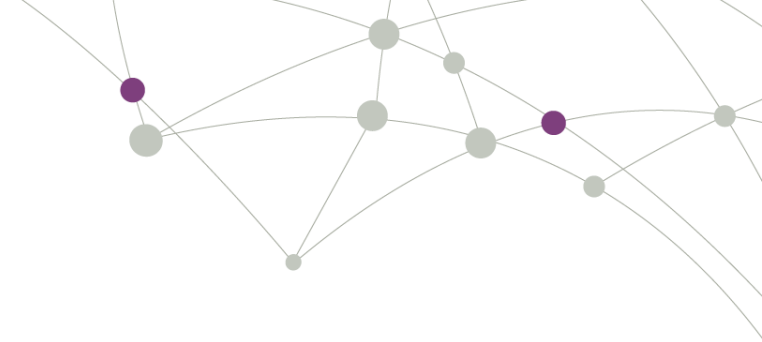
Participation in the European Research Area and H2020 initiatives, incl. joint programming, innovation partnerships, etc and regional initiatives of Nordic-Baltic area.

Support schemes:

- Internationalisation of Research and Higher Education (prep)
- Support for Research Infrastructure Roadmap (including ESFRI) (1st Call will be launched in 2015, 2nd in 2017)

Support for Research Infrastructure Roadmap (including ESFRI)

- Budget 30.9 M€, incl 26.2 M€ from EU (85%), 3 M€ (10%) national cofinancing, 1.5 M€ (5%) applicants cofinancing
- Ex-ante conditionality: connection to ESFRI roadmap
- Connection to S3 strategy
- Goal is to develop Roadmap RI-s to achieve full-scale functionality, to open RI-s to all possible users including foreign users
- The regulation approved in July 2015
- The 1st Call will be launched in 2015, 2nd call will be launched in 2017-2018 (in connection of updating the Roadmap)
- Investment plan in spring 2016, to be approved by the Government



Thank you!