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## THE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR ESTONIA'S PARTICIPATION IN THE R&I PARTNERSHIPS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

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### The intriguing case?

Source: European Commission, CORDA data, cut-off date January 1, 2017

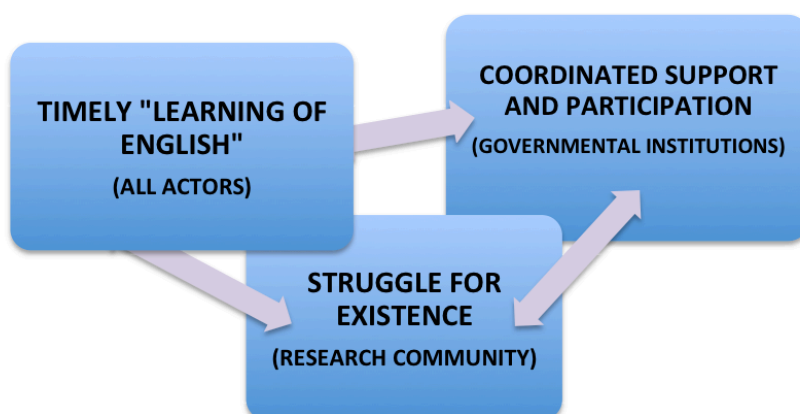
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Country	H2020 contribution (EUR million)	Horizon 2020 contribution		
		Per inhabitant	Per researcher FTE	Per EUR million spend on R&D
Luxembourg	54	94	18,892	80,767
Cyprus	62	73	71,860	768,657
<b>Estonia</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>15,767</b>	<b>217,990</b>
Romania	77	4	4,422	98,703
Hungary	109	11	4,298	72,008
Slovenia	109	53	13,848	128,243
Czech Republ	129	12	3,393	39,751
Poland	185	5	1,908	42,743
Portugal	343	33	8,663	149,794
Ireland	356	75	16,610	121,962
Finland	430	78	11,470	70,879
United Kingd	3,083	47	10,654	70,251
Germany	3,464	42	9,690	39,735
<b>EU-28</b>	<b>18,953</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>10,426</b>	<b>63,429</b>
<b>EU-13</b>	<b>907</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3,812</b>	<b>67,524</b>
<b>EU-15</b>	<b>18,046</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>11,423</b>	<b>63,277</b>

Among EU-13 countries, Estonian R&D are doing well on a number of comparative charts per capita – including on getting funding from H2020.

These numbers are a result of an increase since FP7: by now, H2020 has contributed more than the whole FP7 to Estonia.

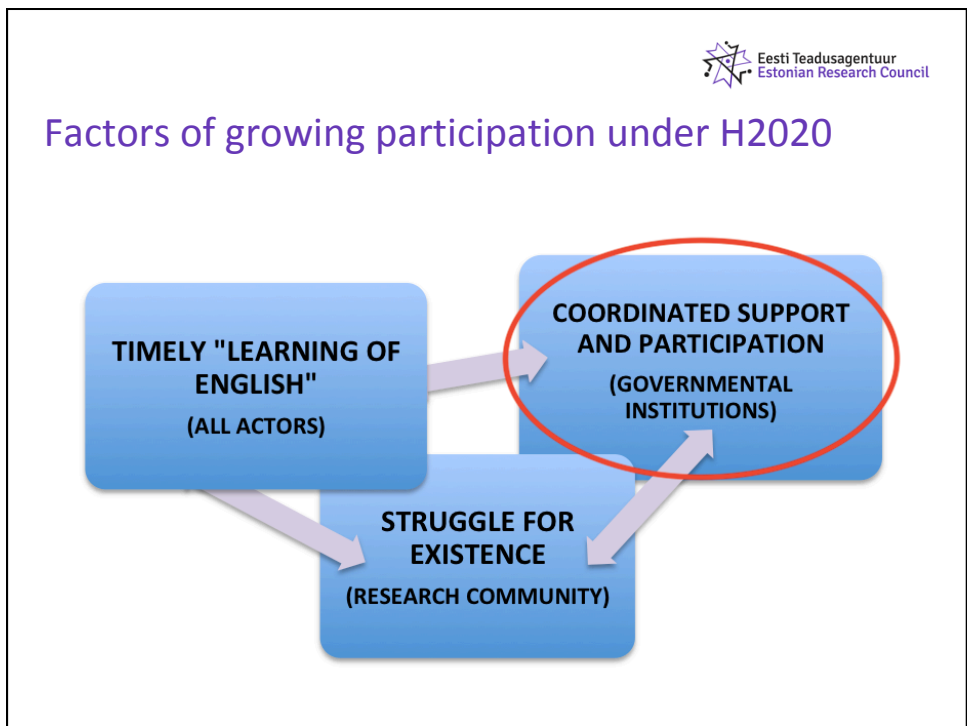
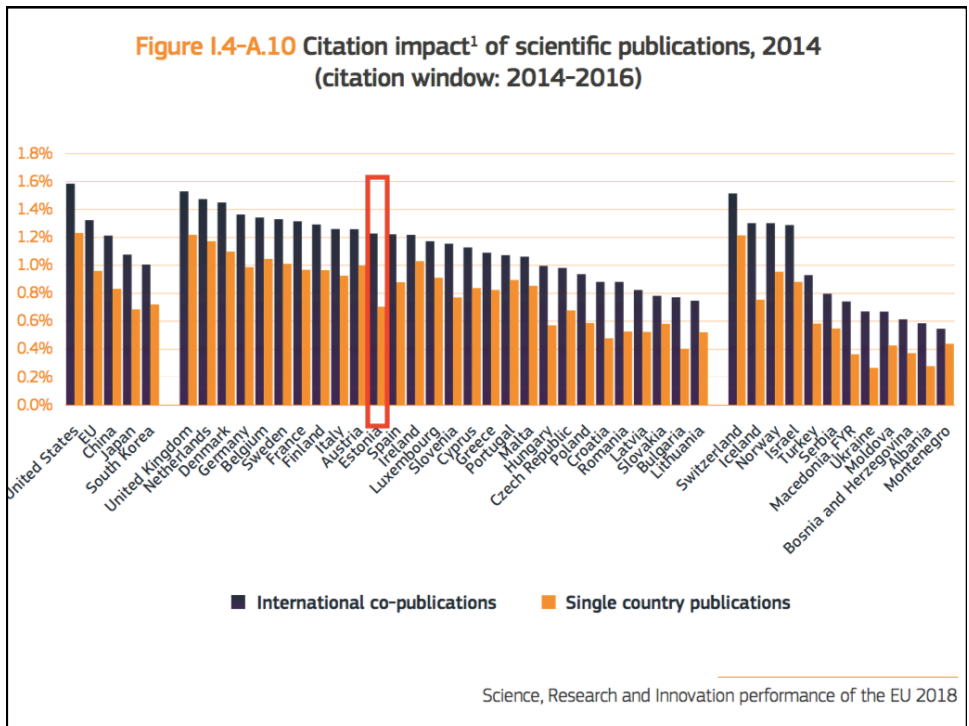
As always: multiple factors + some coincidences



## Factors and coincidences

From researcher's perspective:

- Head start: early "learning of English" (including *learning English*)
  - early international evaluations, early publish or perish policy, early need to apply for grants, incl. in English
- Continuing combination of pressure and encouraging networking on many possible levels:
  - various mobility schemes
  - timely introduction of WoS-SSCI-etc. publications as one of the main "currencies" in research
  - scarce and largely project-based funding
  - national grant applications in English, similarities with international calls
  - grant evaluations in English
  - mostly article-based PhD theses, mostly in English
- Specifically FP-related policies and actions





## The detailed participation programme (2)

- Since 2016
- Not just for one year, but renewed yearly or as needed
- Enables public sector's coordinated participation in H2020

Involved parties:

- ETAg
- sectoral ministries, RD institutions, Enterprise Estonia (companies)
- Research Policy Committee (advisory body to Ministry of Education and Research)
- Government in case of large partnerships

## Guidelines for the detailed participation programme

### National RDI strategy:

#### Smart specialisation:

1. Information and communication technology (ICT) – horizontally
2. **Health technologies** and services
3. More **effective** use of **resources**

But also:

**high level and diverse research** in general; serving the interests of **society and economy**; making economy more **knowledge-intensive**; making Estonia **visible** in **international RDI cooperation** [a number of potentially visible fields are mentioned as examples].

### The strategic framework document for EU partnerships:

- tackling of **socio-economic problems for which Estonia's own resources are insufficient** and which require international cooperation; furthering the objectives of the **sectoral development plan**
- furthering the objectives related to the development of the **society, economy and science**; facilitating **capacity building** of R&D institutions and institutions of higher education to serve the interests of the society and economy; **development of competencies** and support to **internationalisation** and research **excellence**

## ETAg's role

- **ETAg = one central research funding agency** (since 2012), separate from Ministry of Education and Research. Covers both national and international research funding
- **Centralised NCP system** – all based at ETAg; each is specialist in their field
- **Detailed participation programmes** (since 2016)
- **Scientific councillors at sectoral ministries** (mainly since 2015/16)
- **Sectoral ministries as (co)funders in ERA-NET Cofunds** (more than in FP7)
- **Strategic use of EU Structural Funds' means**

## Synergies: the detailed participation programme and the scientific councillors

- **Scientific councillors at sectoral ministries** help to engage ministries
  - Pilots since 2013, by now in most ministries. Partly funded by EU structural funds' means
- Participation in preparing the **detailed participation programme** also helps the ministries to formulate their research priorities
- Ministries are encouraged to participate in partnerships - particularly ERA-NETs (incl. as co-funders with ETAg)
- All this and being involved in ERA-NET Cofunds are stepping stones for ministries in international research cooperation and help them to set longer-term research priorities
- All this has enhanced ministries' input into Estonian FP9 positions

## Strategic use of EU Structural Funds' means – aiming at synergy with H2020 means

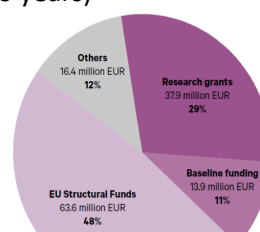


**Scientific councillors at sectoral ministries (RITA Programme)**

**Mobilias Plus Programme** (10% of all structural fund's means for RD in Estonia 2014-2020) supports

- ERC application preparation (trainings and study visits)  
+ up to 1,5 year support (about 80k€ per year) for applicants who reached the second stage of evaluation, but didn't receive funding
- EIT KIC partners (about 30k€ per year for up to two years)
- ERA CHAIR projects (up to 200k€)
- ETAg's participation in ERA-NETS' non-cofunded calls (2\*150k€ per call)

**(+ in- and outward mobility grants)**



## Links to materials in English



<https://rio.jrc.ec.europa.eu/en/library/rdi-strategy-knowledge-based-estonia-2014-2020> Estonian RDI Strategy 2014-2020

<http://www.etag.ee/en/cooperation/eu-partnerships/> Description of the strategic framework for Estonia's participation R&I partnerships of the EU - at different levels, incl. the procedure of drafting the detailed participation programme

<http://www.etag.ee/en/funding/programmes/mobilias-plus/> About Mobilias Plus Programme in general

<http://www.etag.ee/en/funding/partnership-funding/> ERA Chair, ERA-Net, EIT support schemes under Mobilias Plus

<http://www.etag.ee/en/funding/research-funding/grant-for-applying-for-an-erc-grant> Support for applying for an ERC grant

<http://www.etag.ee/en/funding/programmes/rita/> About RITA Programme

<http://www.etag.ee/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/>

[TA\\_teaduskogumik\\_ENG\\_veeb.pdf](#) Book "Estonian Research 2016" (stats, analyses, reflections)

Thank you!

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