

EaPPLUS

Eastern Partnership +



Experiences from Estonia for a successful Participation in H2020 Programming

Maria Reinfeldt

Ministry of Education and Research

Workshop for Programme Committee members

20-21 March 2018



REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
AND RESEARCH



Topics

- Overview of Estonia's participation in H2020 (how are we doing?)
- National measures to support participation in H2020: Four examples
- Development of National positions + main challenges
- Recommendations how to actively prepare and participate PCs meetings

How well are we doing?

Estonia's participation in H2020

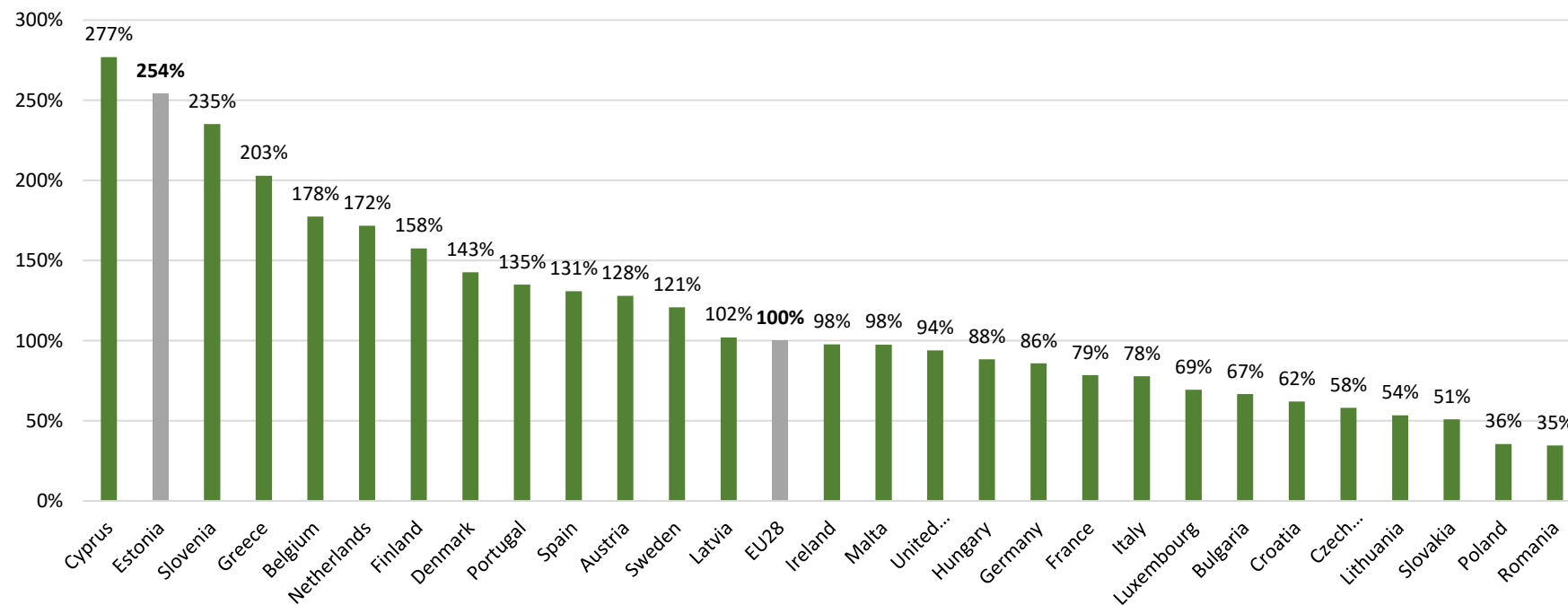
Key figures:

EU contribution: 98 MEUR

Total no. of projects: 272

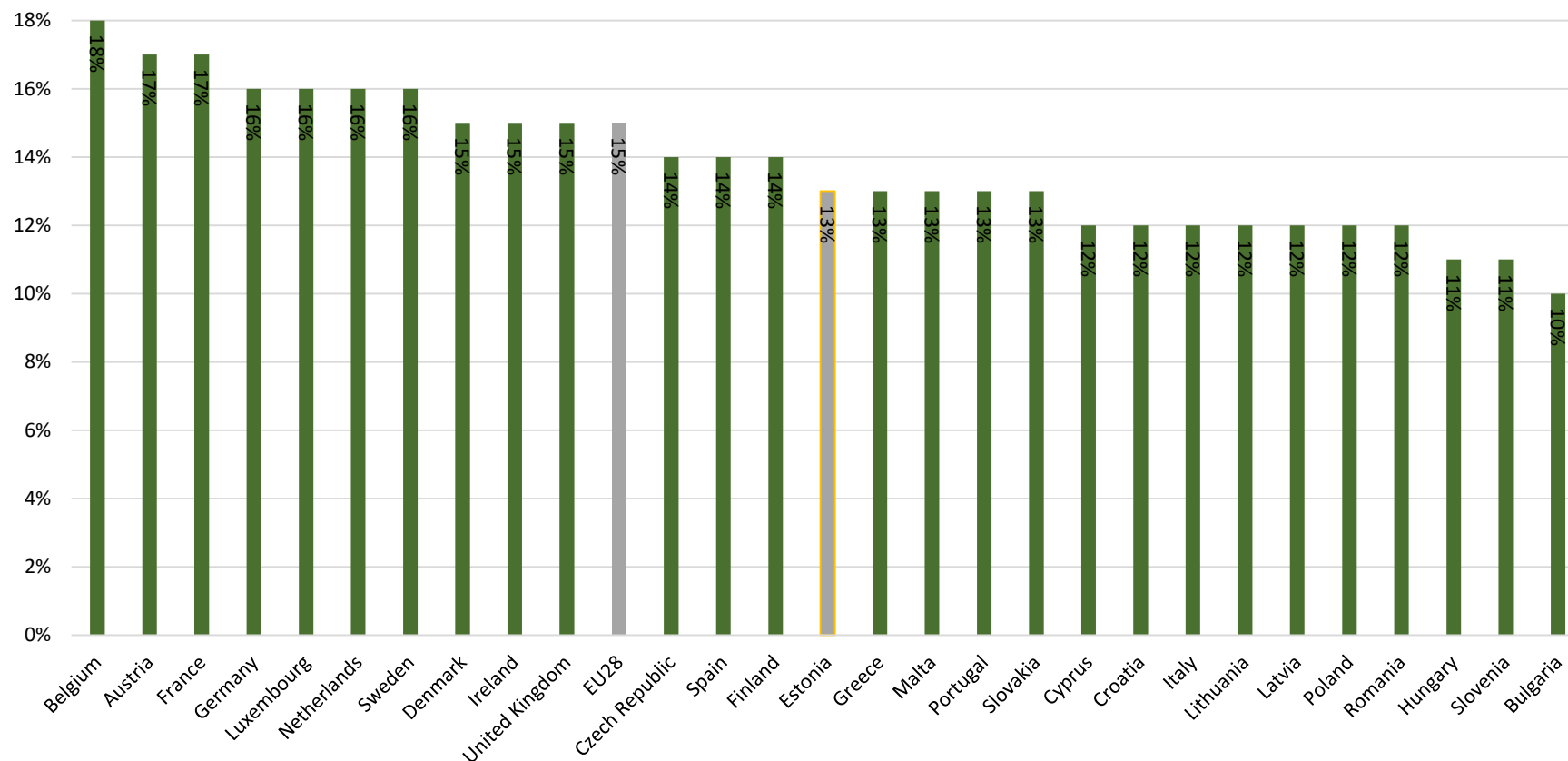
Total no. of participants: 342

(by the end of 2017)

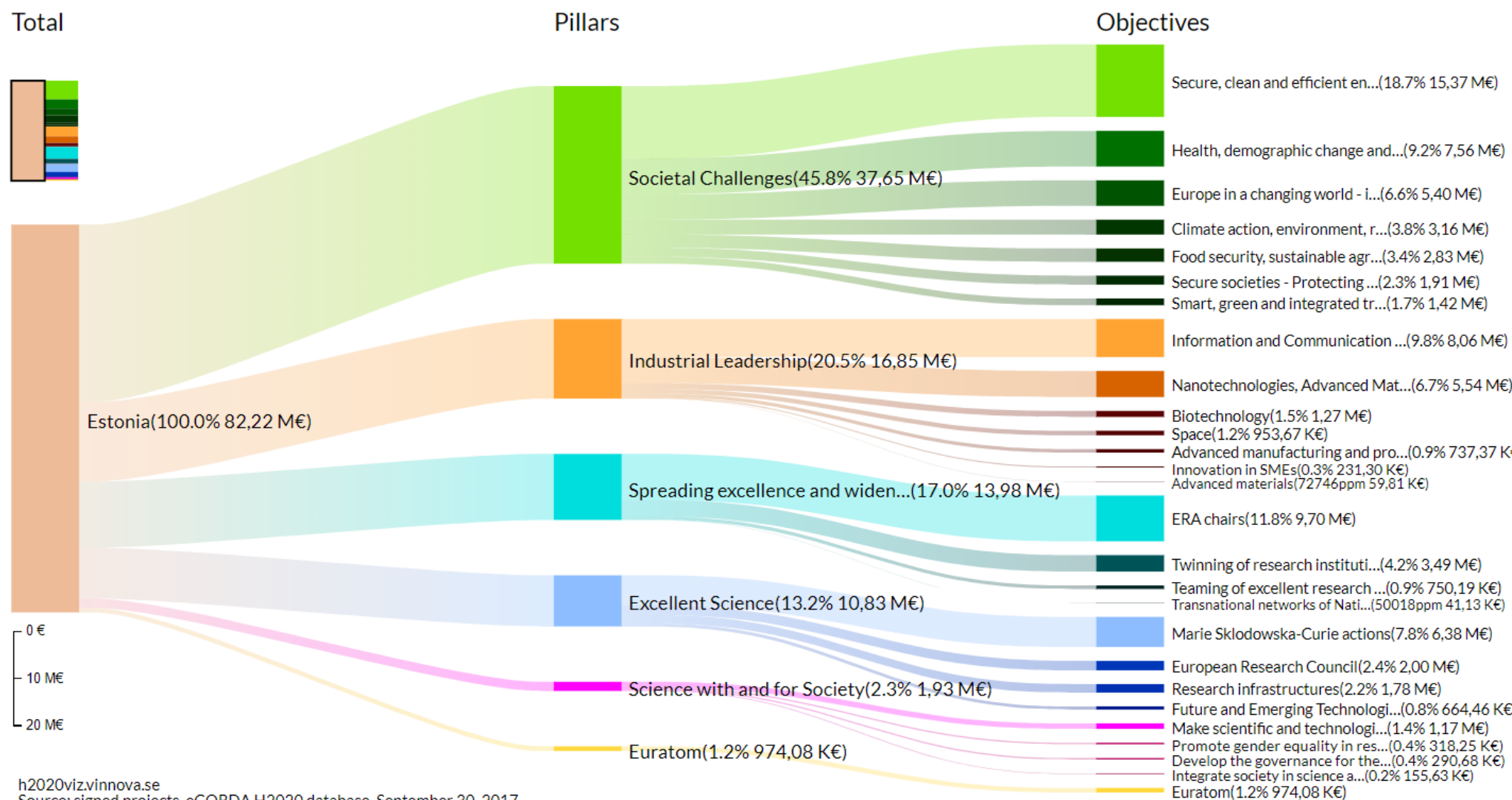


EU financial contribution in retained proposals to applications in relation to GDP compared to EU28 average *(by the end of 2017)*

Estonia's participation in H2020



Estonia's participation in H2020 sections



National measures to support participation in H2020 (I)

Support for preparing successful applications to Horizon 2020

- Evaluation result must be above threshold in H2020
 - Support for coordinators: 4000 €
 - Support for individual projects: 2400 €
 - Baltic Bonus: 1 000 € (*extra bonus if LV or LT partners are involved*)

National measures to support participation in H2020 (II)

Support for ERC grant appliers

- Support for training and study visits
 - Training for writing ERC grant proposals
 - Training for ERC interviews
 - Short term study visits to ERC grant holders
- Reimbursement of costs (up to 1,5 Y) for researchers that have made it to the 2nd stage of evaluation but have not received positive funding decisions → **goal is to get them to re-apply**

National measures to support participation in H2020 (III)

Support for Estonia's participation in EU R&I Partnerships

- Strategic framework as part of National RDI Strategy (+ yearly update of Estonia's participation in partnerships)
- Co-funding (e.g. ERA-NET, EIT-KIC support)
- Programme 'Strengthening of sectoral R&D (RITA)' – supports:
 - Strategic, interdisciplinary R&D activities
 - Knowledge-based policy-formulation
 - Creation of research counsellors' positions in sectoral ministries

National measures to support participation in H2020 (IV)

Baseline funding - institutions get awarded for FP revenues.

- Horizon 2020

National funding

Total grant revenue from framework programmes

- Since 2005 the base-line funding for Estonian research institutions has taken into account the revenue from FP-s. Funding formula:
- **50% research revenue from abroad and business sector contract research**
- 40% scientific publications
- 10% No. of defended PhD degrees

Development of National positions

I Cross-cutting issues

- **Coordinator:** Ministry of Education and Research (also a member of the ‘Strategic configuration’ of PC and ERAC)
- **Involved parties:**
 - National-level: NCPs, PC members, sectoral ministries (= research counsellors), R&I community
 - Brussels-based: Scientific councillor in the Perm. Rep., Estonian Liaison Office for EU RTD

II Thematic consultation

- PC member (*responsible for coordination*) and expert(s), sectoral ministries, related R&I community (=> National mirror group)

III Internal consultation process and Information activities

- Written consultation, conferences/ workshops/ seminars, analysis of participation
→ consolidation into National positions (approved by the government)
- Trainings, Information days, newsletters, drawing national media attention on success stories etc.

Challenges for National coordination and participation

Root cause: The shift of FPs towards demand-side measures (e.g. global challenges, missions, partnerships). This requires:

- **Effective cross-sectoral national coordination** → *solution?* Sectoral ministry representative as members of the PCs
- **Matching mind-set and programmes at National level** → *solution?* National programmes targeted towards strategic R&D (defining topics + funding)
- **Re-thinking the (NCP) support for applicants** – they do not only need consultancy for project writing, but advocates to get into consortia
- **A lot of pan-European platforms influencing the content of WPs where we do not often have resources to participate in** → *solution?* To prioritize participation. At the same time allow bottom-up proposals from the scientific community.

Recommendations how to actively prepare and participate PCs meetings

At National level:

- Create of National mirror groups for thematic areas (*establish regular meetings*)
- Cooperate closely with the sectoral ministry to receive feedback on thematic areas
- Try to get feedback to early WP drafts
- Involve Universities, state institutions/ agencies
- Monitor your participation – identify trends, opportunities etc.
- Amplify impact on WPs by participating in advisory groups or in EU R&I Partnerships that develop strategic research agendas

In Brussels:

- Take an active role during & outside meetings: e.g. host pre-meetings, arrange lunch meetings, do groundwork on other countries' positions etc.

Thank you for your attention!

Maria Reinfeldt

Ministry of Education and Research, Research Policy Department

Maria.Reinfeldt@hm.ee



REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
AND RESEARCH

