



Funded by EU under 7th Framework Programme

BILAT-UKR* AINA

ENHANCING THE BILATERAL S&T PARTNERSHIP WITH UKRAINE*ADVANCED INNOVATIVE APPROACH

Conclusions – Day 1

Dr. George Bonas

BILAT-UKR* AINA External Review Panel member

Context and key political messages

- This is the **2nd Stakeholder's Forum** organized under the BILAT-UKR* AINA project
- The 1st one focused more on the need for a *closer cooperation between Research and Industry*, as it has been recalled by *Prof. A. Zagorodny*, Vice-President of the NASU.
- But today the focus is on the ways to increase the participation in H2020 since **Ukraine is becoming an Associated Country**



Context and key political messages

- *Dr. Maksym Strikha (Deputy Minister of Education and Science of Ukraine)* highlighted the **importance of the Association to H2020**, which unfortunately is coming at a very difficult period for the country due to the tragic developments in the East
- In that context: there is a **gap between S&T and the Society** that needs to be narrowed; no traditional methods and efforts are necessary (e.g. open access to information)
- Moreover: **intensive steps from all parts** are necessary in order to successfully participate in the ERA



Context and key political messages

- *Mr. Thierry Devars (EC representative)* expressed its **satisfaction for the completion of the negotiation**, which demanded a lot of efforts from both UA and EU sides. He insisted that the Association is not only an objective but also a **starting point** for a more intense cooperation
- **Opportunities and Ownership** but also **Challenges** are ahead: There is a need to be **pro-active** in order to be **successful** in the competitive environment of H2020



Context and key political messages

- In terms of **Opportunities** – few examples: no limits in consortia; can host ERC Grants; access to measures for SMEs and to Risk Financing; etc.
- **Challenges** - There is urgent need of:
 - **Efficient information relays/multipliers/NCPs** to transmit info in all provinces and institutions;
 - **‘Ownership mentality’**: H2020 is becoming an UA Programme! (active participation in Council Groups and Committees)
 - Measures to increase **RDI system’s competitiveness** are needed



Context and key political messages

From its side the Ministry (*Mrs. Stella Shapoval*):

- Announced already the **financial support of the NCPs** as a first measure to accompany the Association
- Highlighted the **responsibility on the UA side** since there is now a financial contribution to H2020
- Expressed the need of **assistance from experienced MS and AC** to turn the Association in a success.



Lessons learned and good practices from Association experiences



Lessons learned and good practices from Association experiences (*MD – Lidia Romanciuc*)

- Three successful **Action Plans** were implemented in the country 
- **Coordination as national level among public authorities** is necessary for a successful Association (for opportunities and conditions including financial issues) 
- **Specific Programmes have been setup** (e.g. on Mobility) with support from **EuropAid**
- Practical measure: **align priorities of Bilateral cooperation programmes** with EU MS to the FP priorities



Lessons learned and good practices from Association experiences (*PL – Zygmunt Krasiński*)

- Series of **support instruments** set by the Ministry:
 - Pact for Horizon – important political support
 - **Grants** for project preparation;
 - Co-financing FP projects;
 - Active **network of NCPs**
- **Strategic activities supported by the NCPs:**
 - Programming of Structural Funds;
 - Developing **Centres of Excellence** (networking, Int. coop., etc.)
- **Structural and organizational changes in the Universities/institutes** were needed



Lessons learned and good practices from Association experiences (*HU – Bela Kardon*)

- **Categories** of researchers by the **level of internationalization** of their activities were setup
- **Membership in COST** (*→ At least participate, if possible, in ALL COST Actions*)
- Practical measure: Register as **Evaluators of the H2020** proposals
- **A weaker political and financial support from the state** (e.g. budget cuts in Univ.; closing office in Brussels) **results in a weaker participation in the FP**



Good practices and Recommendations

(from NCP experiences in AT, DE, EE, FR, PL, UA)



Good practices and Recommendations

- Ukraine as Widening Country (after Association) should **participate in ‘*Spreading Excellence and Widening participation*’** part of H2020
- The **peer review on the performance of the Ukrainian NCP system**, implemented by the BILAT-UKR* AINA project, can **provide orientations for future improvements** of the national NCP system that was recently re-organized



Good practices and Recommendations

- **Information and examples** on the organization of NCP systems in several EU MS/AC that have been presented can also provide **valuable paths** in optimizing the UA system. E.g.:
 - A **contract** between the NCP with the respective Ministry is in place in several EU MS (AT, DE, PL, etc.) → contributes to ownership and commitment; clarifies who does what/when.
 - **Professionalization** and **visibility** of the NCPs, as well as more involvement of the **private sector** are necessary.
- **“Supporting an efficient NCP system should be considered as a strategic investment”**





THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

Dr. George Bonas

Managing Director

CeRISS

Athens, Greece

Email: george.bonas@ceriss.eu

Web: www.ceriss.eu

Tel.: +30 210 3210779

