

# National Support Measures to Enhance FP participation

**Launching Event of Horizon 2020**

16.01.2014, Kyiv

**Virág ZSÁR**

Regional Centre for Information and Scientific Development  
(RCISD), Budapest, Hungary



# Background information on the Hungarian R&D&I system

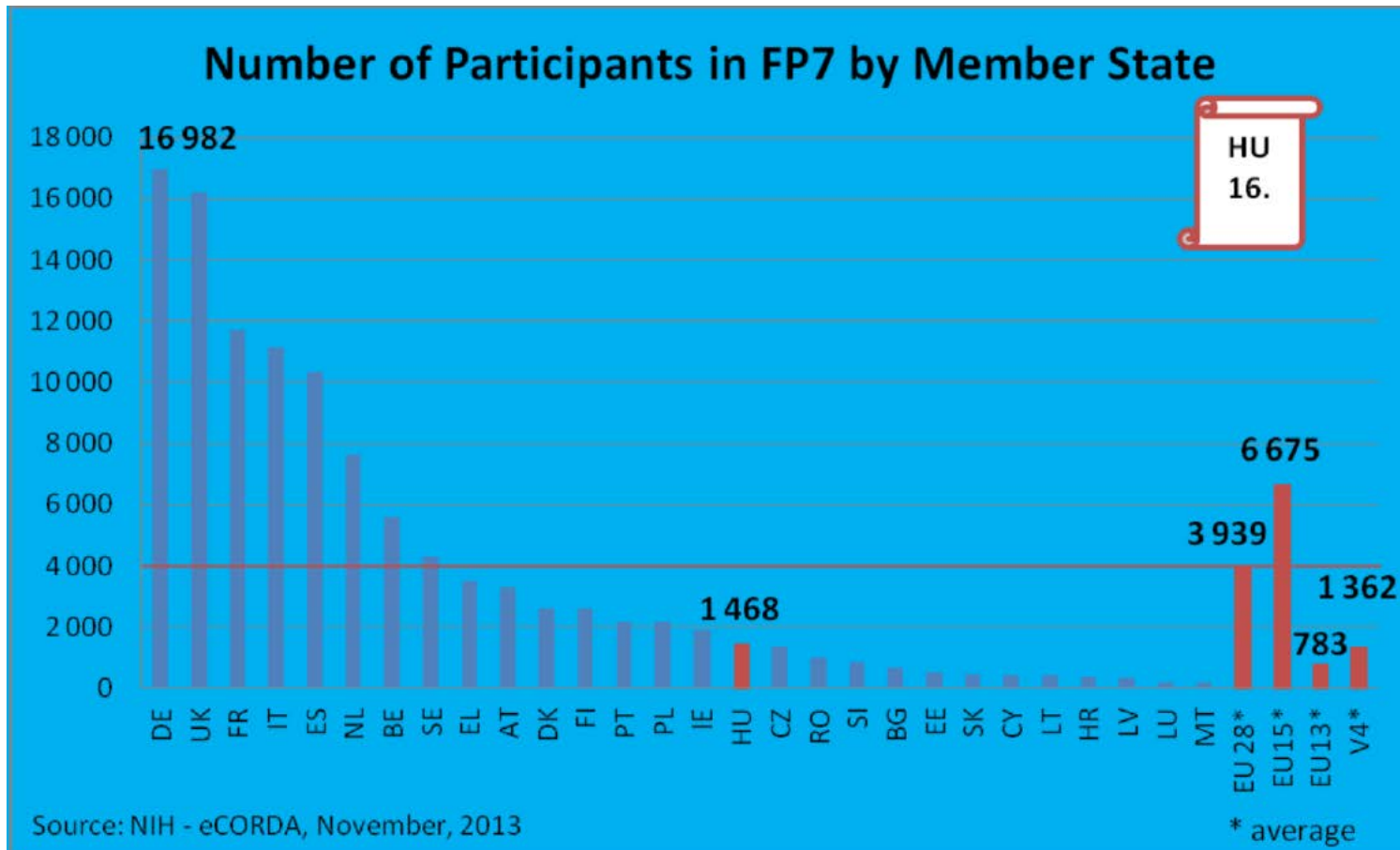
	2004	2012	Target for 2020
Total expenditure on R&D as a percentage of the GDP	0,88%	1,3%	1,8%
Total number of researchers	30 420	36 945	56 000

- International excellence of researchers working in a few, narrow research fields
- Limited number of junior researchers, brain drain
- Significant basic network infrastructure for ICT research
- Exploitation of research results and innovation is still weak
- Public research funding is unsatisfactory
- Lack of capital of SMEs to conduct R&D&I
- Willingness of big companies to invest in R&D
- Bottlenecks within the triple helix

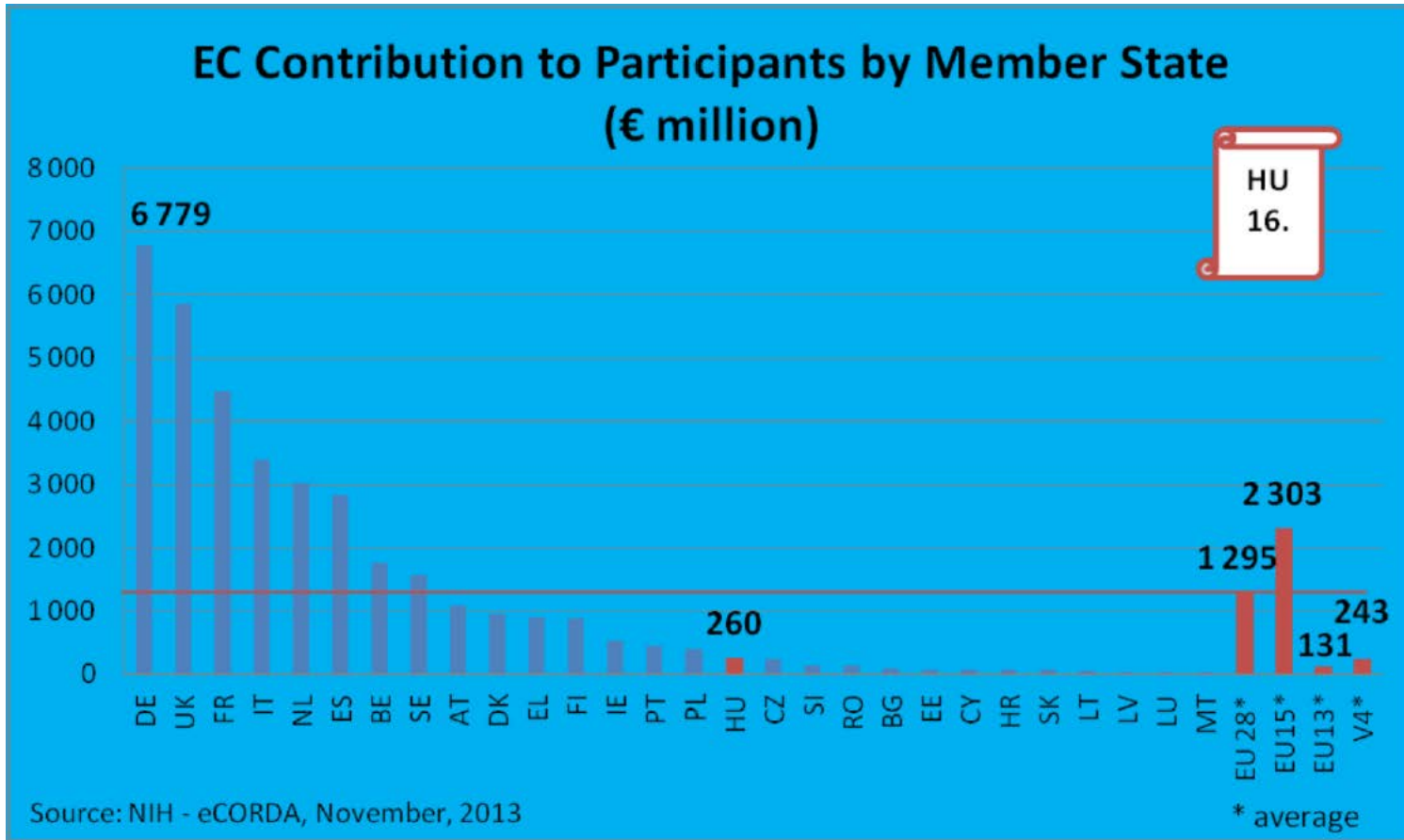
# General Features of Participation in Framework Programmes

- **Requirement:** scientific and technological excellence, quality and efficiency regarding the implementation and management, potential impact through development, publication and use of project results
- **Influences on the level of FP participation**
  - Socioeconomic factors
    - Personnel and monetary capacities of a country
    - Management skills
    - Excellence
  - R&D&I system
    - Converting research results into products
    - R&D strategy

# Hungarian Participation in FP7



# Hungarian Participation in FP7



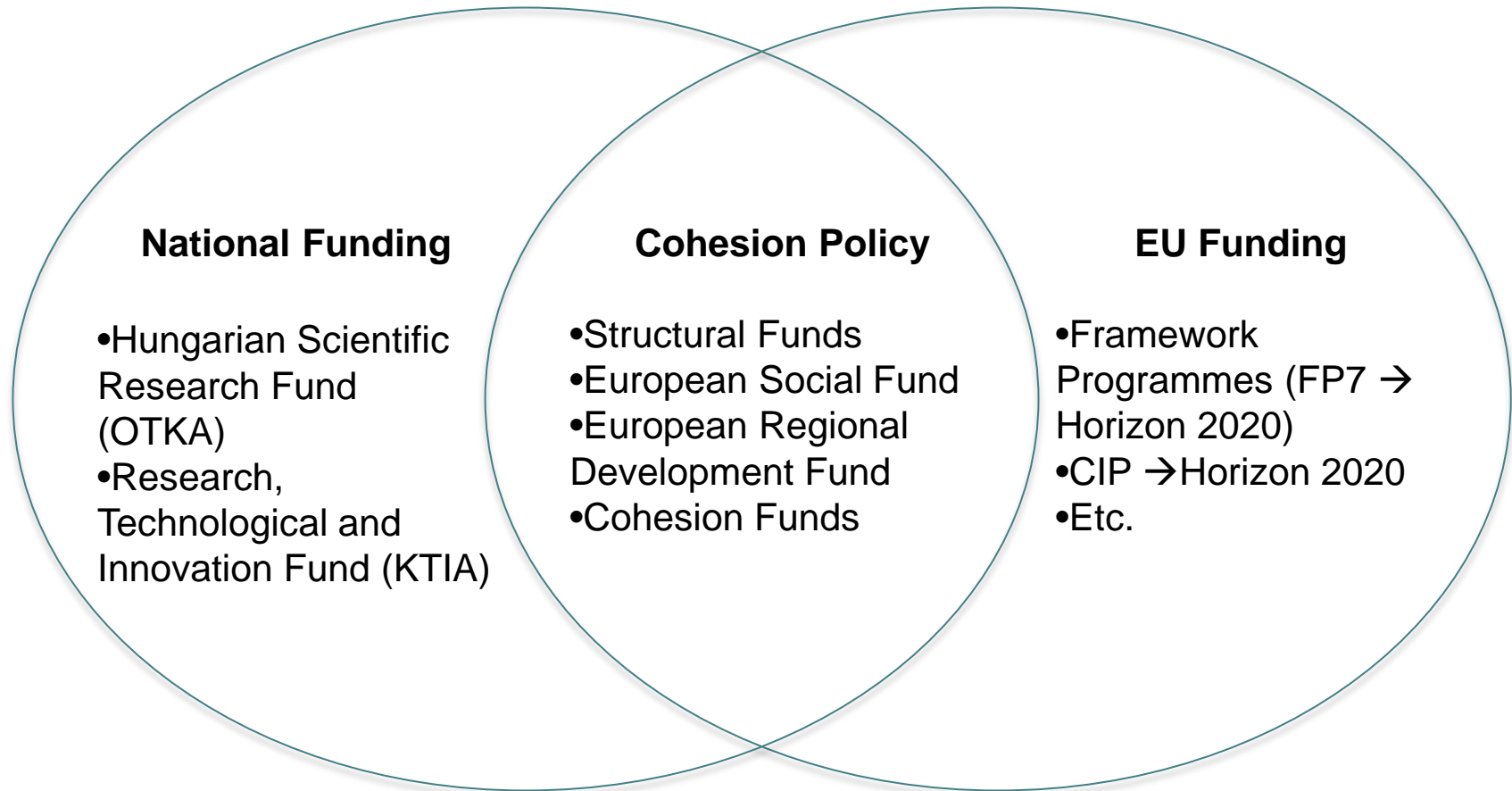
## Hungarian Participation in FP7

- Hungary is much below the EU average but has a relatively good position compared to EU 12 countries
- The reason is many-folded
- Various programmes and initiatives were elaborated to improve the participation rate of Hungarian institutions, research entities

# Most important problems hindering FP participation

1. Administrative burdens
2. Financial and liquidity problems
  1. Companies have to calculate with precise budget, timing, etc.
  2. Difficulties of universities to secure in-kind contribution
  3. Lack of motivation: no extra fee in public research institutions for researchers involved in FP projects
3. Problems of „new-comers”
  1. Hard to get involved into a successful, experienced consortium – impossible to win as a coordinator
  2. Lack of know-how (regulations, techniques) and relationship with experienced applicants from Western Europe
  3. Lack of experienced evaluators → hindrances in the information channel
  4. Lack of expertise in management and administrative issues within research entities & groups
4. Unsatisfactory research infrastructure (outdated, low capacities)
5. Uncertainty of national funding

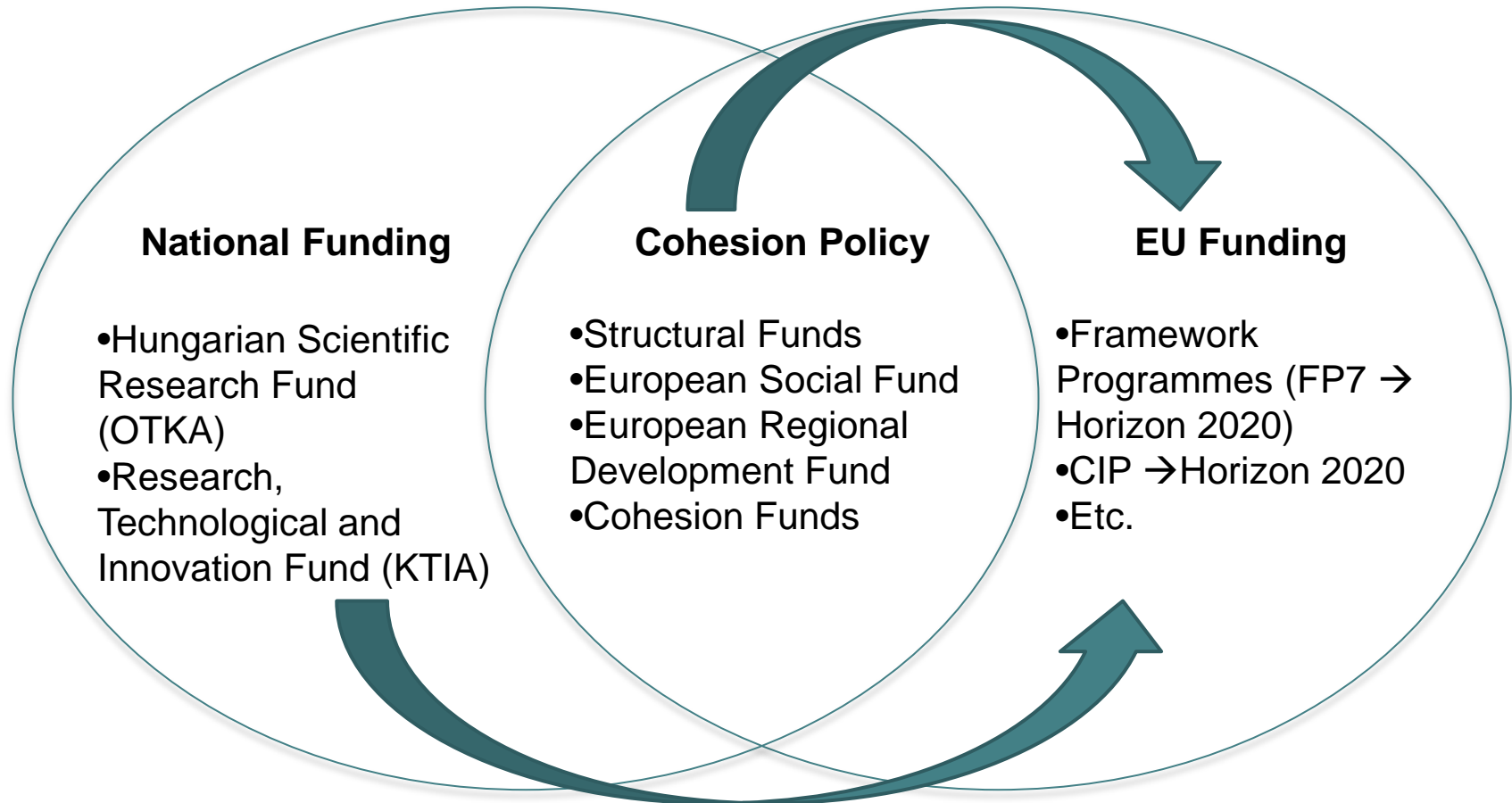
# Sources of RTDI funding in Hungary



**Additional Funds:** Swiss Contribution, EEA Financing Mechanism, etc.



# National and EU funds are supposed to facilitate participation in FPs



**Additional Funds:** Swiss Contribution, EEA Financing Mechanism, etc.

# Elements of National Funding supporting internationalization & FP participation (1)

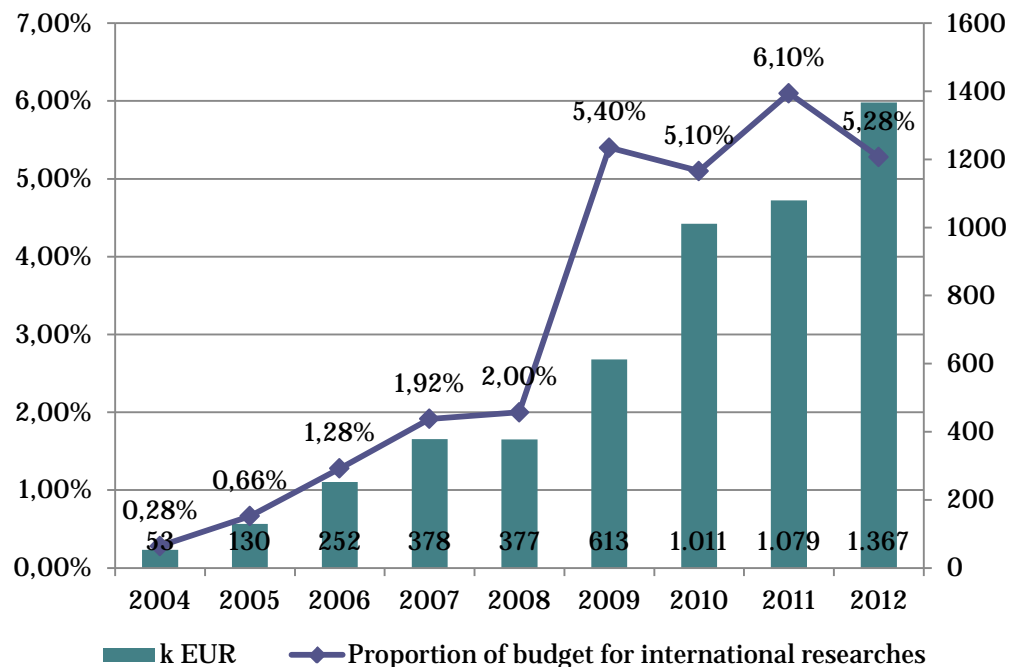
## Hungarian Scientific and Research Fund (OTKA)

→ main aim is to support basic research

### Main instruments supporting internationalization:

- Support for excellent, internationally significant research in the frame of international cooperation
- Support for internationally acknowledged research teams
- Membership in international organizations, R&D foundations
- ERA-NET contribution

## Research & international cooperation



# Elements of National Funding supporting internationalization & FP participation (2)

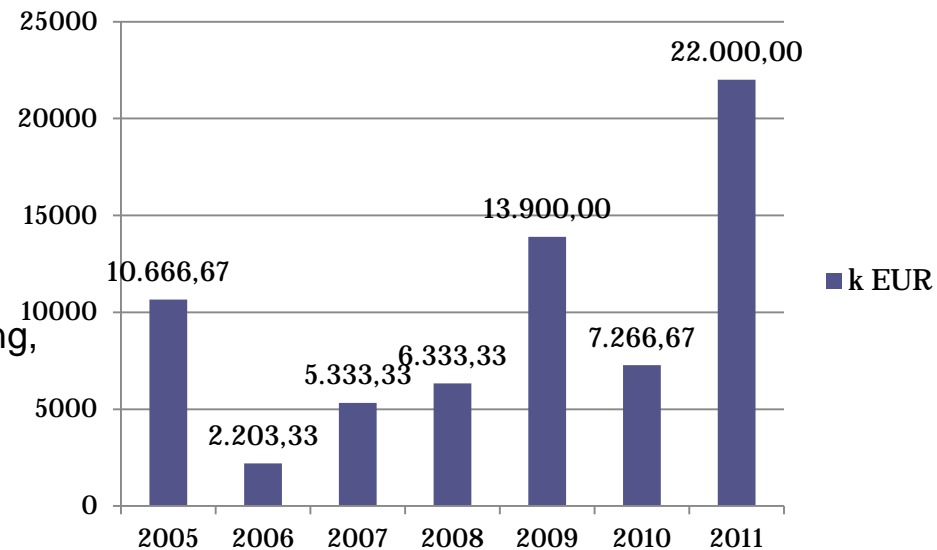
## Research, Technological and Innovation Fund (KTIA)

→one of the main aim is to widen international RTD cooperation and enhance participation in FPs

### Main Instruments:

- BONUS: national top-up of cooperation projects
- Support for consortium building, participation in proposal writing and contracting
- ERA-NET: co-funding
- EUROSTARS: co-funding
- EUREKA : co-funding
- ERC grants
- MOBILITY programme
- MECENATURA: personal exchanges & networking, conferences, exhibitions, etc.
- Bilateral S&T cooperations
- Large-scale International Projects

KTIA sources for international cooperation



# Brief evaluation of National Funding programmes

- These programmes were not formulated according to a long term strategy
- Highly dependent on decision-makers, administration, personal connections, embeddedness of research institutions, etc.
- Applicants had to face delays in contracting, administrative burdens during the implementation, delays in the delivery of subsidies
- Nonetheless, the programmes are of utmost importance to support participation in FPs
  - Enabling accession to international grant systems
  - Preparing the research community for multinational R&D&I culture, standards and environment

# Elements of Cohesion Policy supporting internationalization & FP participation (2007-2013)

- **Structural Funds**

- Using **European Social Fund** and **European Regional Development Fund** to prepare institutions to participate in Horizon 2020
  - Establishing internationally competitive scientific and innovative capacities (*Economic Development Operational Programme, Social Infrastructure Operational Programme*)
  - Development of a knowledge based society (*Social Renewal Operational Programme*)

- **European Territorial Cooperation**

- *Cross-Border Cooperation (CBC)*
  - AU-HU: innovation, integration & competitiveness
  - HU-RO: cooperation in the field of S&T&I
- *Transnational Cooperation*
  - Central Europe: enhancing innovation
  - Southeast Europe: development of innovation and entrepreneurship

- **Instruments for Pre-Accession (IPA)**

- *IPA Cross-Border Cooperation*
  - HU-HR IPA: joint RTDI projects
  - HU-SER IPA: product oriented RTI

## **Additional element: European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI)**

- ENPI CBC
  - HU-RO-SK-UA: development of R&D infrastructure in the bordering regions, dissemination of research results

# Elements of Cohesion Policy supporting internationalization & FP participation (2014-2020)

- **Structural Funds:**
  - Human Resource Development Operational Programme:
    - Enhancing international competitiveness of basic research: joining European competence centres, establishing S&T services and innovative cooperations, networking, etc.
  - Economic and Innovation Operational Programme:
    - Excellence of research institutions and reinforcement of international cooperation
    - Strategic RDI cooperation and initiatives: interdisciplinary cooperation, involvement of SMEs, excellence of strategic R&D institutions
- **European Territorial Cooperation**
  - Transnational Programmes – under programming
    - Danube Region (sucessor of Southeast Europe)
      - Innovation is supposed to be one of the priorities
    - Central Europe
      - Cooperation on innovation to make CE more competitive is supposed to be one of the priorities
  - Cross-border Cooperation
    - Under programming

# Brief evaluation of Cohesion Policy measures

- Their availability is differing depending on the development level of regions
- Applicants had to face delays in contracting, administrative burdens during the implementation, delays in the delivery of subsidies
- Securing the in-kind contribution can be problematic
- European Territorial Cooperation programmes are not available for private entities (only by subcontracting the activities)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
ATTENTION

**Virág ZSÁR**

E-mail: [virag.zsar@rcisd.eu](mailto:virag.zsar@rcisd.eu), [bilat-ukraine@rcisd.eu](mailto:bilat-ukraine@rcisd.eu)