



# **Widening R&I Excellence in the SEE countries within the new MFF**

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# About me

- Project Manager
  - SEERC – International Research Centre of the University of Sheffield (UK), based in Greece.
  - SEERC – Building capacity in SEE through cutting-edge R&I
- Chairman, External Grants Committee
  - Triple Helix Association (Global)
- Project Manager
  - Advanced Resource Efficiency Centre (UK)



# Context

- Globalizing competition for R&I funds
- SEE countries become marginalized
- Cannot compete with Western European countries
- Need alignment between cohesion/structural funds & R&I funds
- Lack of R&I culture
- Different incentives/objectives for structural funds
- Fixed MFF budget with multilateral pressures



## Quick wins

- Specialized criteria for SEE countries – to access a wider share of R&I funds
- Focus on Widening calls (Twinning, Teaming, ERA Chairs, etc)
- Coordinate R&I funds with structural funds (at the national level)
- But such efforts have been attempted in H2020 – and the effect is not fully met for SEE countries
- Something more is needed !



## Solution 1 – Smart specialization

- Widening the implementation of smart specialization in see to ensure coordination of R&I funds with structural funds



## Solution 2 – Responsible Research and Innovation

- Boosting the adoption of responsible research & innovation (RRI) to bring R&I closer to the public
- RRI redefines the way research is being performing under the following quadruple-helix led pillars: ethics, governance, science communication, public engagement, open access, open science, etc.
- This would enable a massive societal education on R&I, boosting thus the impact on R&I excellence, while also uprising the society to value more R&I (leading to cultural change) and more pressures set on regions/government to prioritize R&I.



## Solution 3 – Impactful research

- All funded R&I initiatives should definitely comply with the “impactful research” principles (i.e. UK Research Excellence Framework - a “meaningful change for the client”)
- This meaningful change brings direct impact on the local/regional/ national economy by providing products/services/innovations that serve real needs.
- By serving real needs, the impactful research leads then to a better coordination with the structural funds investment and therefore, the alignment can become even more cohesive.



Thank you & discussion.