



# The European Commission's science and knowledge service

## Joint Research Centre

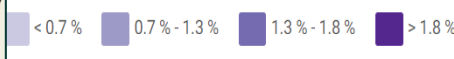
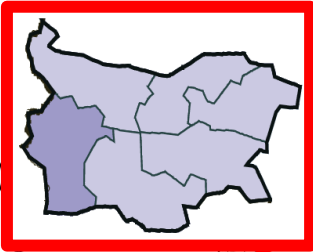
RIS3 Support in Lagging Regions & Stairway to Excellence

# Innovation divide in Europe

## R&D (Business) Expenditure

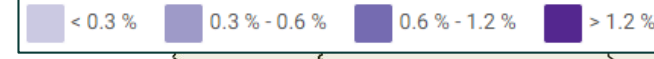
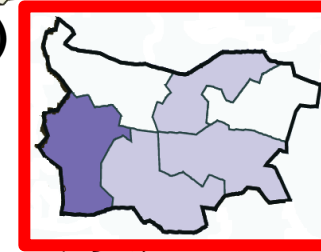
### R&D Expenditure – Total and %GDP

BG31: €5.46M (0.18%)  
**BG32: €5.01M (0.15%)**  
 BG33: €15.21M (0.33%)  
 BG34: €8.48M (0.16%)  
 BG41: €220.02M (1.11%)  
 BG42: €12.57M (0.21%)  
 BG: €266.75M



### R&D Expenditure BES – % GDP (2013)

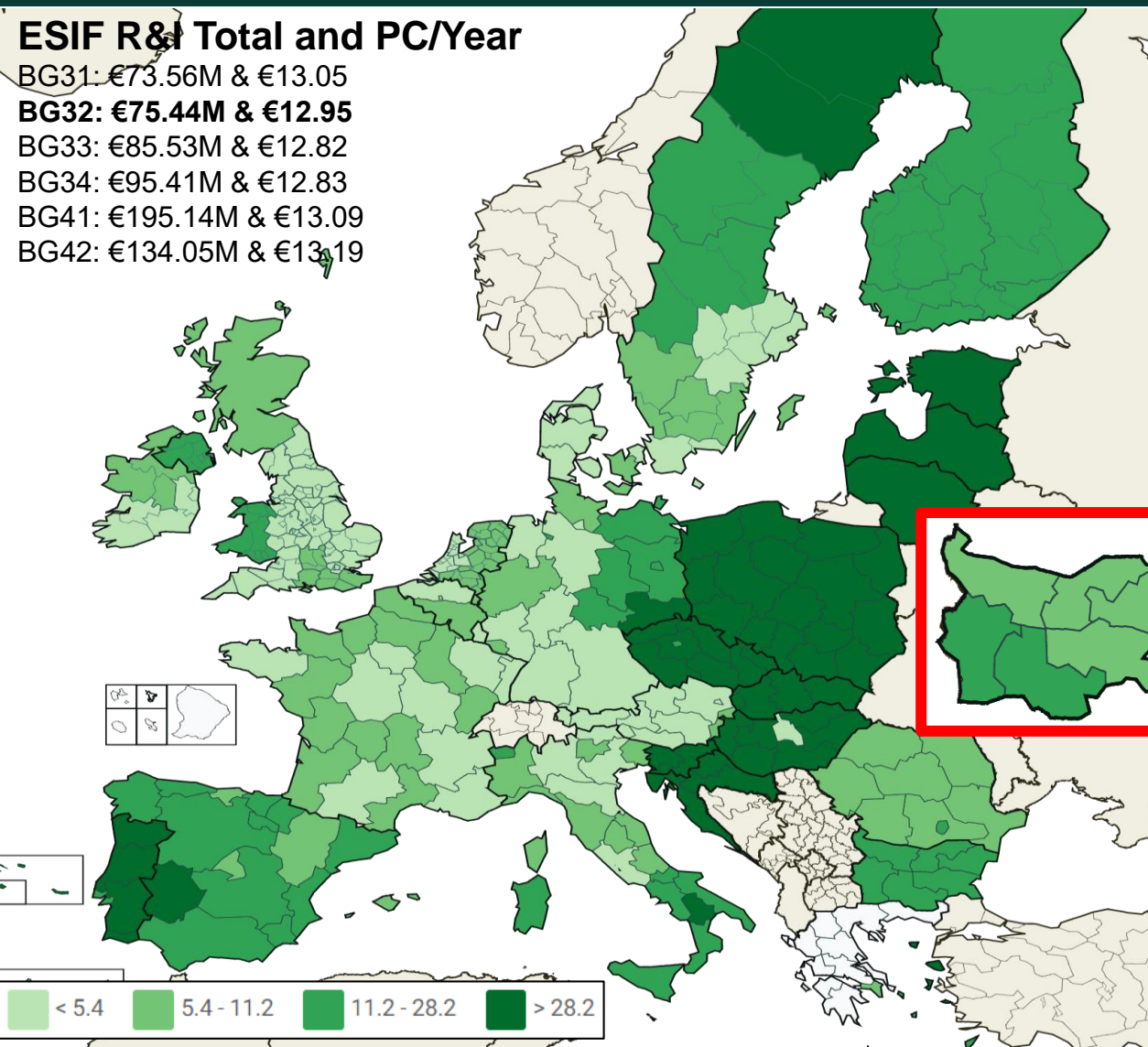
BG31: NA  
**BG32: 0.11%**  
 BG33: NA  
 BG34: 0.10%  
 BG41: 0.69%  
 BG42: 0.11%



# Innovation divide: Structural Funds VS H2020 (I)

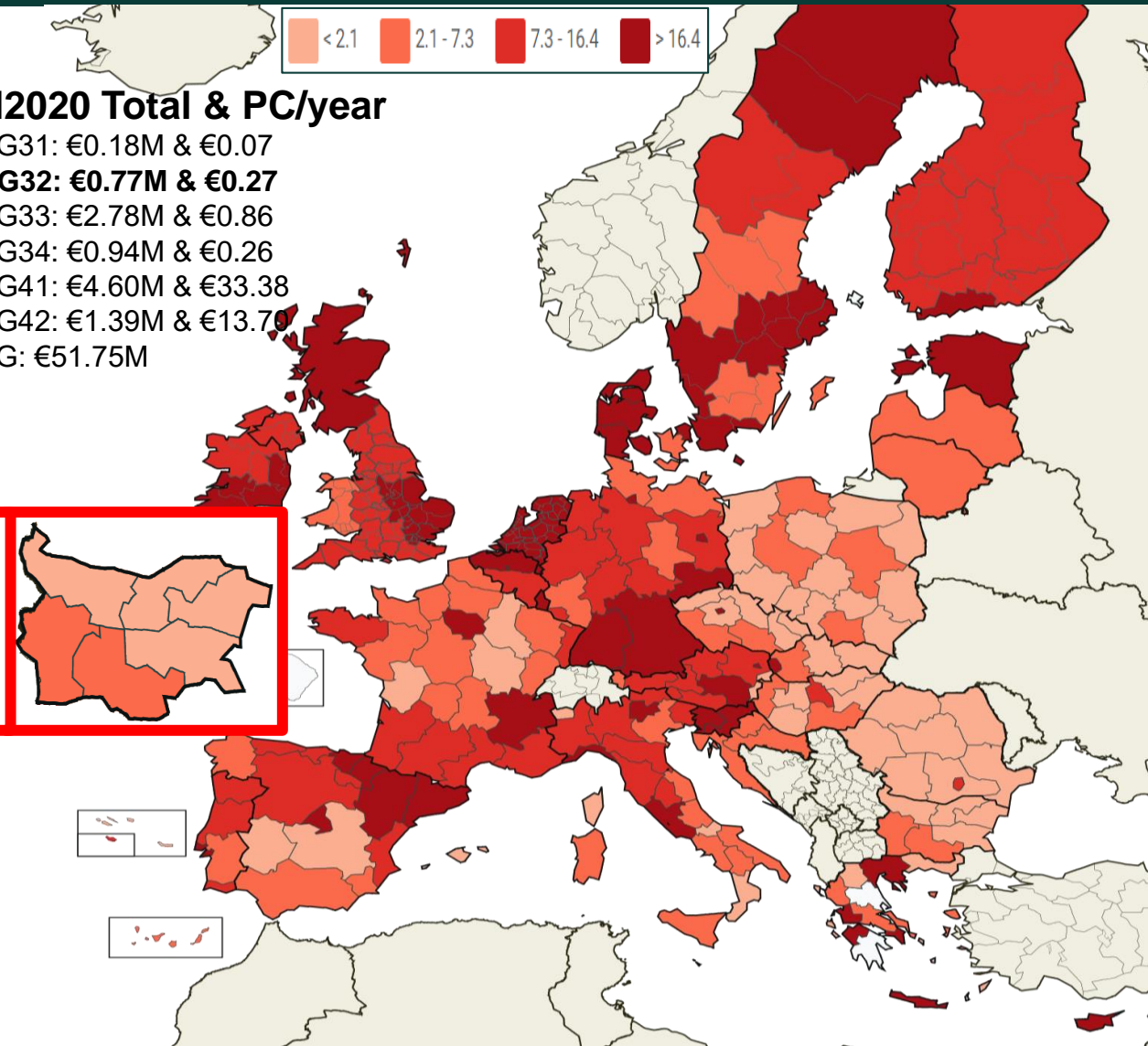
## ESIF R&I Total and PC/Year

BG31: €73.56M & €13.05  
**BG32: €75.44M & €12.95**  
 BG33: €85.53M & €12.82  
 BG34: €95.41M & €12.83  
 BG41: €195.14M & €13.09  
 BG42: €134.05M & €13.19



## H2020 Total & PC/year

BG31: €0.18M & €0.07  
**BG32: €0.77M & €0.27**  
 BG33: €2.78M & €0.86  
 BG34: €0.94M & €0.26  
 BG41: €4.60M & €33.38  
 BG42: €1.39M & €13.70  
 BG: €51.75M





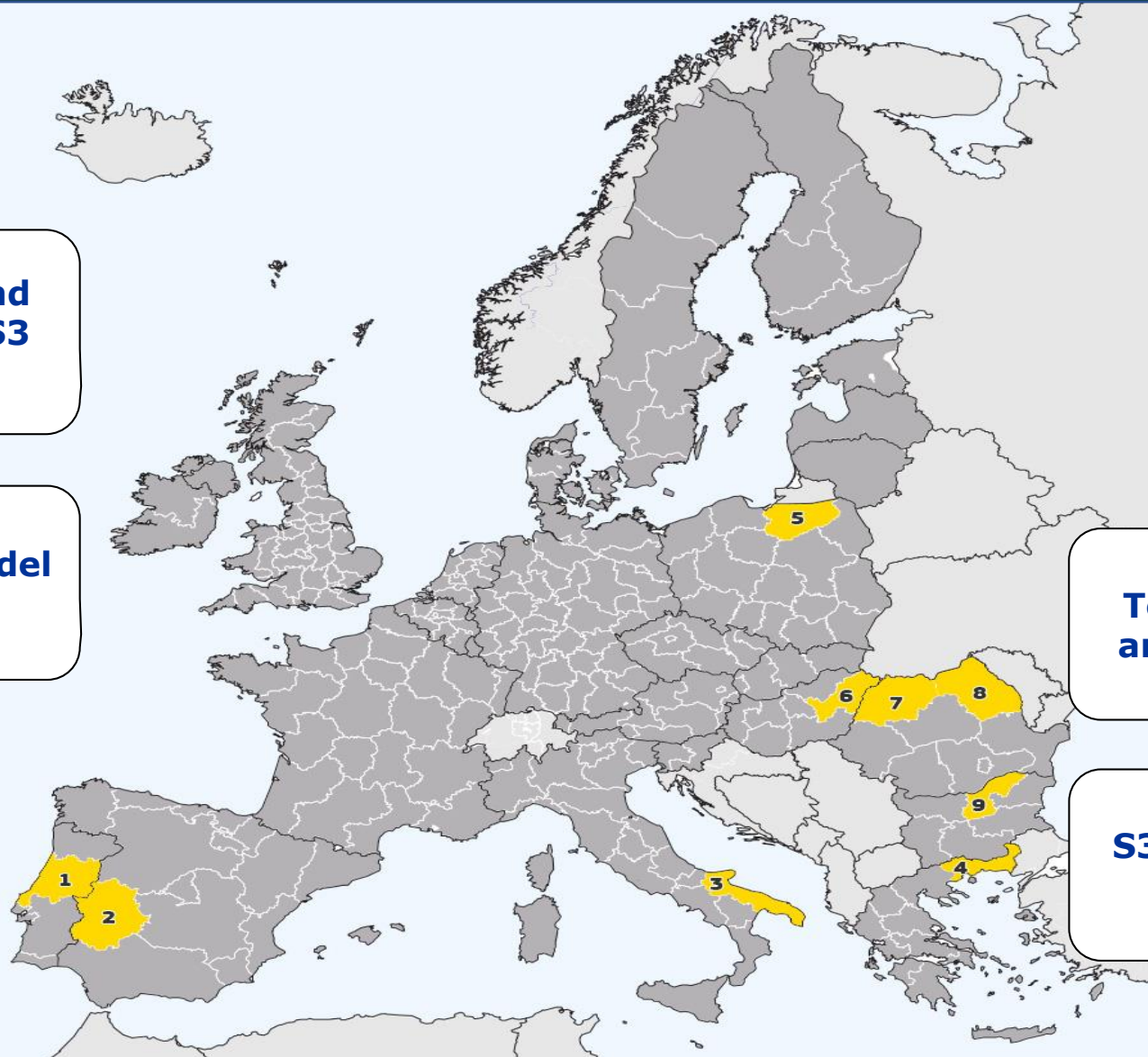
# RIS3 Support in Lagging Regions & Stairway to Excellence (S2E)

- **Lagging Regions:** launched by European Parliament in 2014 with focus on Eastern Macedonia and Thrace (EL) co-implemented by JRC and DG REGIO
- **Aim:** Provide concrete support (regarding growth and governance) to the implementation of RIS3s in selected low-growth and less developed regions in EU MSs
- **Geographical coverage:** Lagging regions in Greece, Italy, Portugal, Spain, Hungary, Poland, Romania and **Bulgaria (*Severen Tsentralen*)**
- **Thematic Coverage:** Cross thematic, focus on key horizontal issues - monitoring and governance of RIS3, transregional collaboration
- **S2E:** launched by European Parliament in 2014 and co-implemented by JRC and DG REGIO
- **Aim:** Help achieving excellence in all EU MS and regions; support the exploitation of synergies between ESIF & other R&I programmes (e.g. H2020 including JUs, EIT KICs etc., COSME, EFSI,...) ►► RIS3
- **Geographical coverage:** Support so far EU13 MS and its regions ►► now concentrates on EU28
- **Thematic coverage:** Cross thematic, focusing mainly on capacity building to increase access to H2020, and on the concept of synergy between funding

# Lagging Regions: aims and coverage

**Support the refinement and implementation of the RIS3 of selected EU regions**

**Generate lessons and a model for other regions**



## SELECTED LAGGING REGIONS

- 1 Centro
- 2 Extremadura
- 3 Puglia
- 4 Eastern Macedonia and Thrace
- 5 Warmińsko Mazurskie
- 6 Észak-Alföld
- 7 Nord-Vest
- 8 Nord-Est
- 9 Severen Tsentralen

**Test-bed for theories on S3 and for understanding RIS3**

**S3 as entry-point to address wider structural issues**

# Lagging Regions: Horizontal Activities

## Governance

- long-term sustainability of the EDP process
- relationship between national and regional levels
- synergies between structural funds and other resources
- Questionnaire survey and working group

## Monitoring and evaluation

- Working Group – experts and Mutual learning
- Development of Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs)

## Transnational cooperation

- Workshop on interregional collaboration

# Bulgarian Innovation Ecosystem: Main Issues & Barriers

- **Administrative Barriers**
  - Lack of information circulation [open dialogue] between stakeholders (silo effect)
  - Lack of project management support & Administrative burden
  - Rigid state-aid procedures (long process)
- **Coordination Problems**
  - Lack of coordination between national agencies
  - Lack of collaborative culture & Fragmented governance system without strategic focus
- **Brain Drain**
- **Lack of research infrastructure**
- **Lack of international networking**
- **Underperforming in FP6-7/H2020**





# Bulgarian Innovation Ecosystem:

## Main Issues & Barriers & Policy Recommendations for Business

### Issues & Barriers

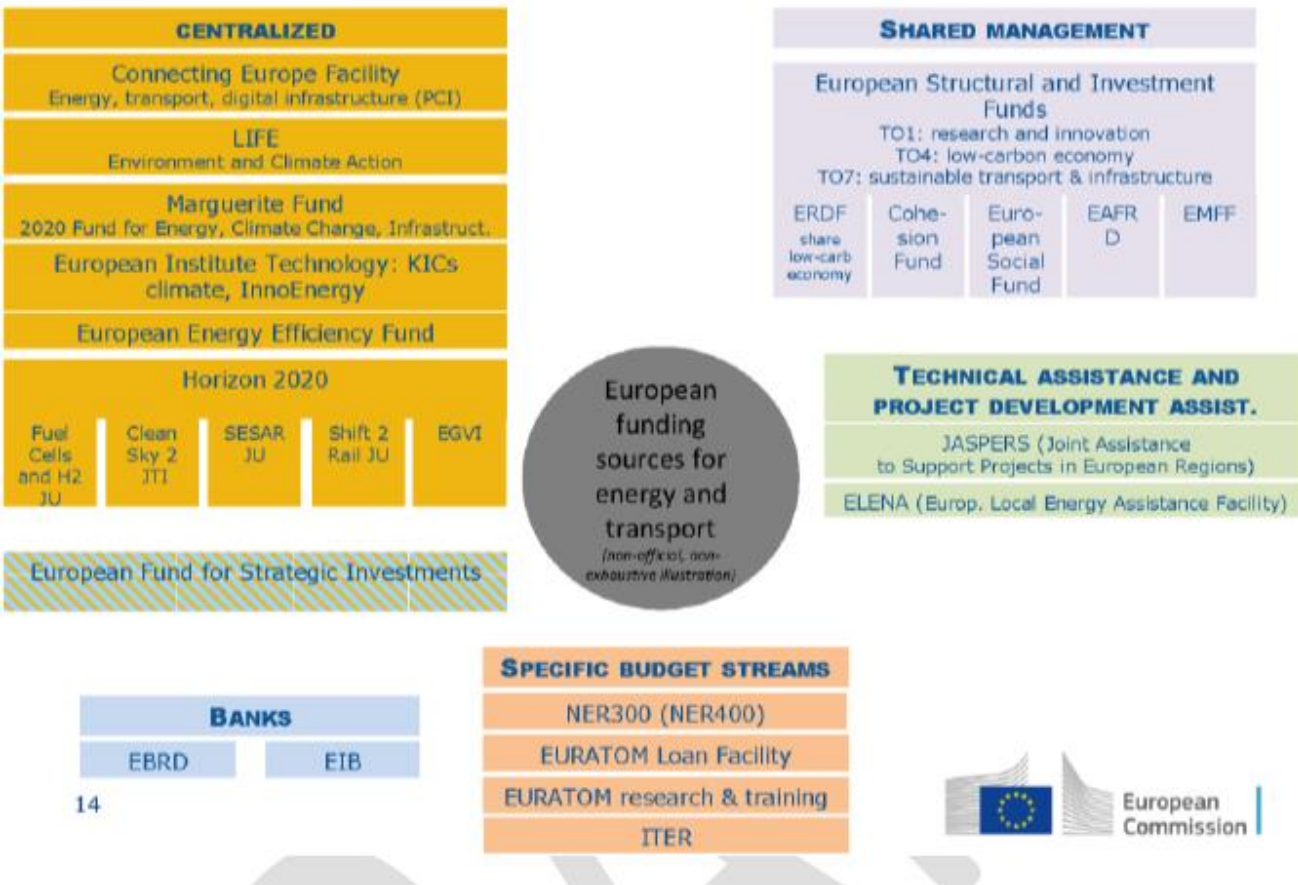
- Lack of interactions between HEIs, PROs and business (PPP) – no strategic approach to overcome this
- Lack of venture capital & business innovation culture – missing adequate incentives
- Lack of support for commercialisation - including TTOs
- Low success rate of FP proposals & no follow-up support
- (From business view) Lack of trust in BG universities including fragmented research system although business can be more linked to international networks (i.e. CleanTech Bulgaria – EIT Climate KIC)

### Policy recommendations

- Strategic involvement of Business in Entrepreneurial Discovery Process (EDP)
- Specific programmes to motivate HEIs/PROs to cooperate with business
- Intermediary organisations and activities – business involvement in TTOs
- Programmes to enhance international networking – mobilising programmes
- More (administrative, networking and financial) support to start-ups & SMEs
- Efficient IPR system (protecting both HEIs and business)
- Efficient state-aid and public procurement systems

# Funding Opportunities & Policy Instruments to Facilitate Synergies

## THE EU FUNDING LANDSCAPE



## Joint Undertakings (JUs)

- Good example of mechanism to boost interactions between H2020 and ESIF to underpin RIS3 efforts in specific domains
- Spreading synergy tools: MoU between regional MAs and JUs, JU seal of excellence, synergy guidelines in JU calls,...

## EIT Innovation Communities (KICs)

- Regional Innovation Scheme (RIS) – outreach scheme: involve regional MAs and explore synergies with RIS3/ERDF
- Already in Bulgaria: Climate-KIC 2017 Accelerator BG & Clean Air in BG and EIT InnoEnergy

# Way Forward to address barriers to synergies and increasing business participation

## Openness to all bottom-up proposals

- Lagging Region event on the EDP & Project Development in "Severen Tsentralen" region in Bulgaria
- Increase quality of ESIF calls and proposals (e.g. use of international review experts, regional focus based on the local opportunities, etc.)
- Align R&I activities with RIS3 priorities: links between research community, national/regional authorities and business
- Mutual learning between regions to achieve better interregional collaboration: e.g. multilevel RIS3 governance and synergies
- Partnering events: tailor support to interregional collaboration between more and less advanced regions, matchmaking between regions and H2020 actors & Bridging academia and industry

# iTHANK YOU!

RIS3 Support in Lagging Regions:

<http://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/ris3-in-lagging-regions>

Stairway to Excellence (S2E):

<http://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/stairway-to-excellence>

Higher Education for Smart Specialisation (HESS):

<http://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/hess>