

#H2020

#EESC



Interim evaluation of Horizon 2020

Presentation of the results of the stakeholder consultation

Panel 2: The views of civil society organisations

28 April 2017 Monika Panayotova



COMAC MEDICAL
EXPERTS IN CLINICAL RESEARCH



European Economic and Social Committee



European
Commission

Comac Medical

Experts in Clinical Research



COMAC MEDICAL
EXPERTS IN CLINICAL RESEARCH

THE FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

HORIZON 2020

ABOUT US/COMAC in Horizon 2020

COMAC Medical

Established in 1997 by Dr. Milen Vrabevski, Founder and CEO

Operations

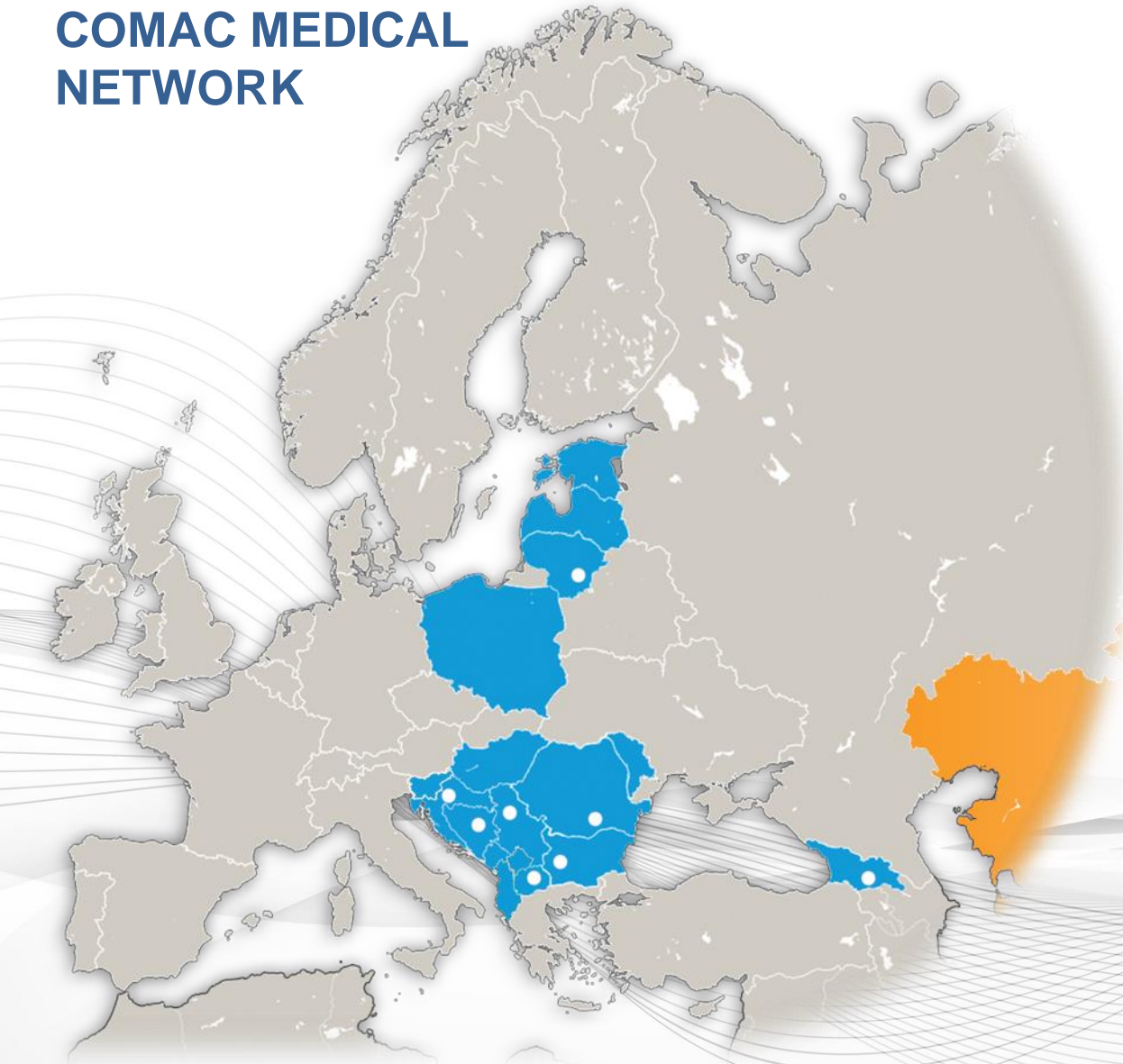
COMAC Medical Ltd. has 20 years of experience as a Clinical Research Organization (CRO) with the expert personnel, laboratory facilities, Phase I Unit. Through a network of 8 offices with access to the best University facilities, Key Opinion Leaders and large patient pools, COMAC is operating in 21 European countries with population of over 215 mln: Bulgaria, Romania, Croatia, Slovenia, Serbia, FYR Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Kosovo, Albania, Moldova, Georgia, Cyprus, Greece, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Poland, Hungary, Sweden and Germany.

The company Headquarter is situated in Sofia /Bulgaria/. The rest of the company's offices are in some of the biggest countries in the CEE/SEE regions: Bucharest /Romania/; Vilnius /Lithuania/; Zagreb /Croatia/; Belgrade /Serbia/; Skopje /FYR Macedonia/; Tuzla /BiH/; Tbilisi /Georgia/.

COMAC Medical with Horizon 2020

The company was a beneficiary of Horizon 2020's SME Instrument Phase I project on the topic: "Improving diagnostics of respiratory diseases and boosting the COMAC MEDICAL competitiveness and growth by validation of fractional EBT biomarker through new method of measurement and device" and received a Seal of Excellence for its Phase II Project Proposal.

COMAC MEDICAL NETWORK



Offices in:

- Sofia /Bulgaria/
- Bucharest /Romania/
- Belgrade /Serbia/
- Skopje /FYROM/
- Tuzla /B&H/
- Vilnius /Lithuania/
- Zagreb /Croatia/
- Tbilisi /Georgia/

WHAT ARE THE TWO ISSUES WHICH WORKED WELL IN HORIZON 2020 AND TWO WHICH NEED FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS?

✓ Two issues which worked well in Horizon 2020

The Commission has taken a number of steps to simplify the rules for participation by introducing a **number of administrative and financial simplifications** to the FP 7 rules for participation, which ease the administrative burden on beneficiaries and facilitates their access to Horizon 2020, among them I would mention the following:

- 1) The increased application of **flat rates on direct and indirect costs**, incl. the introduction of average personnel costs;
- 2) The effective **front-office IT tools** which has substantially improved the interaction with beneficiaries, has led to less administrative burden for both sides and helped to avoid the risk of potential duplication of funding.



WHAT ARE THE TWO ISSUES WHICH WORKED WELL IN HORIZON 2020 AND TWO WHICH NEED FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS?



✓ Two issues which need further improvements

1) **Attracting more young researchers, entrepreneurs and innovators and Equal payment for the scientists under Horizon 2020**

- Participation of young scientists in project teams is very important in order to achieve sustainability and to keep talented young researchers in EU and Widening countries, in particular.
- Investing in young researchers represents an investment in the so called catching-up economies as those people could stay at the research institutions, or become future tech/innovative company founders, inventors etc.
- Equal payment for the scientists and thus to create an open and attractive European labour market with a flexible mobility not only from the new Member states towards the old ones but the other way around as well.

2) **Better feedback from the evaluators. Need of reasoned and detailed description of what has to be improved by the applicants which will generate better success rate**

HOW COULD THE EU FUNDING LANDSCAPE FOR R&I BE FURTHER RATIONALISED?

- **Synergy and coherence between Horizon 2020 the structural funds and other so that the "multiplier effect" could be reached**
- **Involvement of more young researchers, entrepreneurs, innovators in order to achieve a more comprehensive approach to modify the research and innovation landscape**
- **“Pooling and sharing” of efforts and resources**
- **Structural reforms of the national R&I systems and sufficient national R&D investments**
- **Further efforts in networking, communication and training through information initiatives focusing on practical and not on general issues**



HOW COULD THE SOCIETAL RELEVANCE OF EU R&I PROGRAMMES BE BOOSTED?

- Reframe problems in a different way, generate innovative solutions and strategic vision in order to find new creative approaches
- Keep the balance between research excellence and better impact of the projects
- Create a meeting point between the business ambitions for growth and the creative and innovative spirit for positive change in human health



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

Monika Panayotova

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