

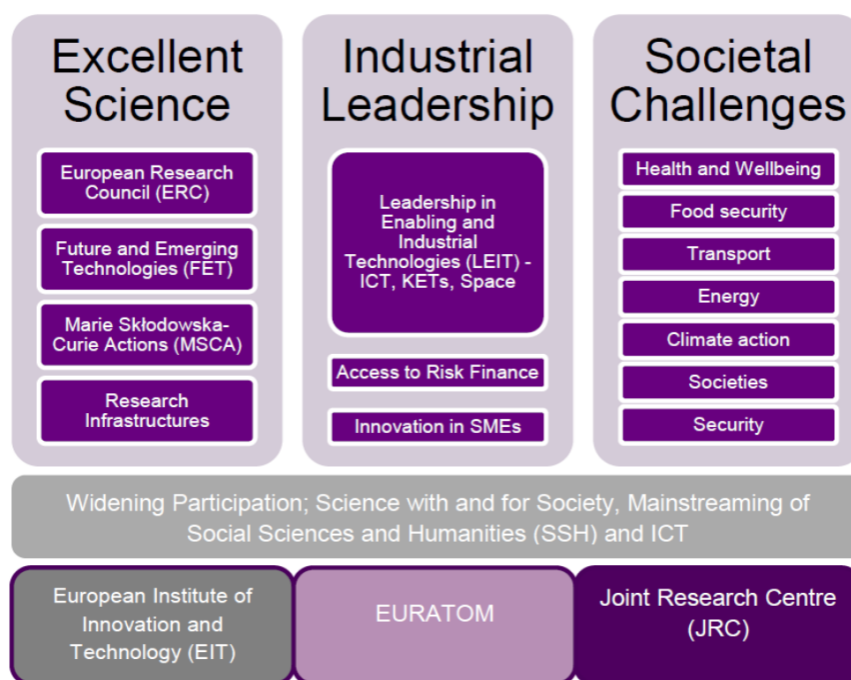
## Horizon 2020 in a nutshell - RES briefing note 10, 18<sup>th</sup> Nov 2013

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### What is Horizon 2020?

It is the EU's main funding programme for research and innovation. It will run from 2014 to 2020, with first calls due to **open on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2013**. It has a budget of EUR 70.2 billion and it is structured in three main pillars:



**Pillar 1 – Excellent Science:** mostly bottom-up funding for individual researchers or teams.

- ☞ **The European Research Council (ERC)** provides funding for excellent researchers at different stages of their career
- ☞ **Future Emerging Technologies (FET)** geared specifically towards turning new ideas into new technology on a short time scale
- ☞ **Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA)** fund mobility, training and career development through individual fellowships, networks and staff exchanges.
- ☞ **Research Infrastructures** focus on funding for e-infrastructures and access to infrastructures for researchers.

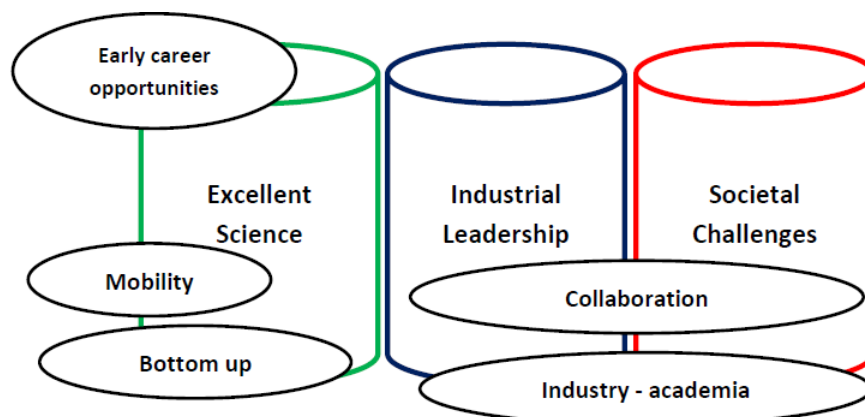
**Pillar 2 – Industrial Leadership:** research and innovation projects, with strong focus on industrial involvement and applied research. It funds Key Enabling Technologies (KETs), including ICT, Nanotechnologies, Advanced Materials, Biotechnology, Advanced Manufacturing and Processing, and research in the area of Space.

**Pillar 3 – Societal Challenges:** collaborative projects, on top-down defined, challenge-based topics; for consortia of -usually- a minimum of 3 legal entities from 3 EU Members or Associated Countries. The seven challenges are:

1. Health, demographic change and wellbeing
2. Food security, sustainable agriculture, marine and maritime research and the bio-economy
3. Secure, clean and efficient energy
4. Smart, green and integrated transport
5. Climate action, resources and raw materials
6. Inclusive, innovative and reflective societies
7. Secure societies

## Who can apply?

Both individual researchers and research teams can apply. The choice depends on career stage, project type and size, whether it is basic or applied research, or whether someone is interested in moving to another country.



## What is the project duration and how many partners do I need?

It varies. A typical small or medium-scale collaborative project would usually last 2-4 years, larger could run for 3-5 years. There are no formal limits. The best way to approach project planning is to ensure that projects are underpinned by **solid time planning with clear milestones and objectives**. Minimum or maximum budget levels for projects in the work programmes can give an indication of the appropriate project duration. There are exceptions where the duration of a project or grant is specified.

How many partners and which countries should be included mainly depends on what you judge is most appropriate for the work you are planning to undertake. There are no fixed rules as such on the maximum, but there are usually minimum requirements in terms of the number of partners and sometimes also the types of organisations.

## Funding rates

One single reimbursement rate of 100% of direct costs of the research project (this includes salaries, research expenses, travel and subsistence, goods and services, non-recoverable VAT ) for all activities, plus a single flat rate for indirect costs of 25% of the total direct costs.

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions are based on flat rates (same as previous programme, FP7).

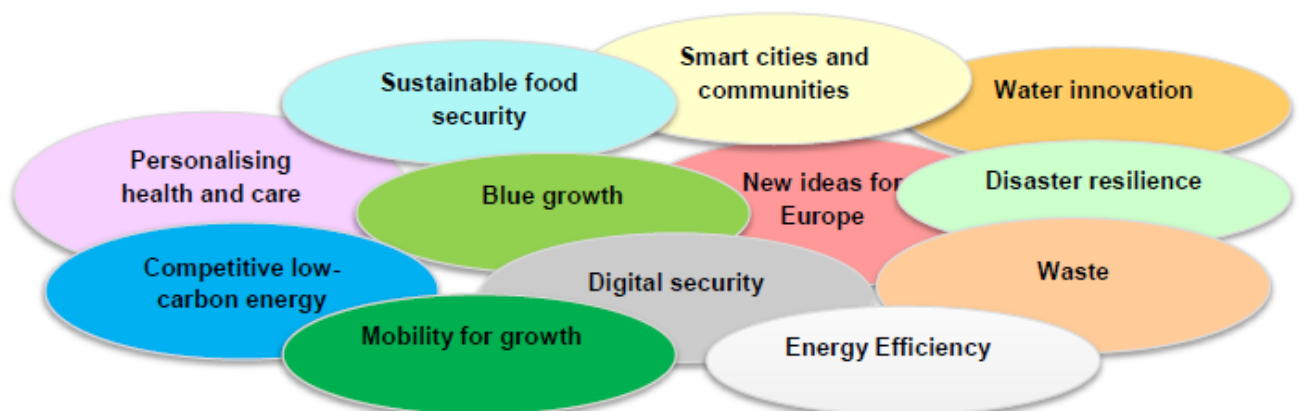
## How is Horizon 2020 implemented?

Alongside the bottom-up funding schemes (ERC, Marie Skłodowska Curie, FET Open) where the topics are not prescribed, the Commission will produce overall biannual Work Programmes specifying the focus areas for that particular period. These **strategic roadmaps** form the basis of biannual work programmes for each of the three pillars.

The work programmes for each pillar define the topics, challenges, and the expected impact. They also give details of call dates and deadlines, budgets, funding rates, and any other project-specific requirement. Calls will open every year.

## Focus areas for 2014/15

The focus areas for 2014/2015 which have driven the individual work-programmes for each pillar for this period are:



## Call timings for 2014/15

The first Horizon 2020 calls are likely to be published on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2013. These would be the '2014' calls followed by annual calls until 2020. Most calls will be launched at the same time, but certain calls will be launched at later dates during the year. After a call is launched, researchers usually have between 2-3 months until the deadline to prepare their proposals.

## Other aspects

- ☞ **Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation programme** aims to improve participation in Horizon 2020 of low-performing Member States and Regions via three calls: Teaming, Twinning and ERA (European Research Area) Chairs. See work programme for further details.
- ☞ **European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)** which aims at integrating the 'knowledge triangle' of higher education, research and innovation, by funding Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs). KICs are large long-term projects bringing together organisations from all parts of the knowledge triangle. KICs focus on a major societal challenge, with a view to turning them into entrepreneurial opportunities in terms of products and services. There are three existing KICs (Climate KIC, ICT Labs and Inno-Energy) and calls for five more are planned under Horizon 2020 (on healthy living, raw materials, food security, manufacturing and urban mobility).
- ☞ **The Joint Research Centre (JRC)** is the Commission's own research centre with institutes across Europe. These normally do not provide funding but produce studies in different fields on behalf of the Commission.
- ☞ Horizon 2020 also includes **EURATOM**, which funds activities in the fields of fusion energy research and nuclear fission and radiation protection.

## How to apply to Horizon 2020

1. **Register** on the participant portal: <http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/page/home>
2. **Read work programme and related documentation.** All documents will be found in the participant portal, which is also the portal for submission of proposals (and, if successful, for grant negotiation and grant management).
3. **Contact your Research Development Officer (RDO)** who will offer advice and support with the development of your proposal, internal review and approvals, and proposal submission processes. It is advised that you contact your RDO at the earliest opportunity, and before investing a lot of work into proposal planning.

### More information:

- ☞ European Commission Horizon 2020 website: <http://ec.europa.eu/research/horizon2020/>
- ☞ UK research office (UKRO) website: [www.ukro.ac.uk](http://www.ukro.ac.uk)
- ☞ Horizon 2020 webpages at Sussex : [www.sussex.ac.uk/staff/research/funding/horizon2020](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/staff/research/funding/horizon2020)

*If you are interested in applying to Horizon 2020 please contact your Research Development Officer (RDO) for support and advice with your proposal and the application process*

[www.sussex.ac.uk/staff/research/people](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/staff/research/people)