Horizon 2020

Building Consortia and Networks

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Consortium building

Why perfect consortia and networks matter in Horizon 2020?
Evaluation of proposals

- In FP7, evaluators were able to give high scores to proposals with certain shortcomings by recommending changes to the composition of the consortium, budget, etc.

- In Horizon 2020, proposals will be evaluated on their own merit; what is submitted will be evaluated.

- Evaluators can no longer suggest changes during evaluations and proposals submitted by inadequate consortia will lose points.
Evaluation

• Three criteria
  – Excellence
  – Impact
  – Quality/efficiency of implementation

• Plus
  – Financial capacity
  – Operational capacity
    • Can the consortium do the work proposed?
    • Based on competences, experience and complementarity of individual participants and consortium as a whole
Evaluation of proposals

Quality and efficiency of the implementation

– Quality and effectiveness of the work plan, including extent to which the resources assigned to work packages are in line with their objectives and deliverables;

– Appropriateness of the management structures and procedures, including risk and innovation management;

– Complementarity of the participants and extent to which the consortium as whole brings together the necessary expertise;

– Appropriateness of the allocation of tasks, ensuring that all participants have a valid role and adequate resources in the project to fulfil that role.

Revised wording for 2016-17!
Consortium building

How to build a successful consortium?
Who do I need in my consortium?

- Depends on topic and type of action
- Certain calls target specific partner types
  - SMEs, international partners, Government, end users, etc.
- Partners must always match activities in proposal (especially now with the new wording of the evaluation criteria)
- Commission favours large and ambitious projects and thus prefers large and diverse consortia.
- Ensure proper geographical spread (if applicable)
- Golden rule: always go for the best organisations/people for the job!
Research and Innovation Action

• Description
  - “Action primarily consisting of activities aiming to establish new knowledge and/or to explore the feasibility of a new or improved technology, product, process, service or solution”

• Funding rate: 100% direct + 25% indirect costs

• Multi-beneficiary
  - Minimum: three legal entities each of which established in a different Member State or associated country
Innovation Action

• Description
  – “Action primarily consisting of activities directly aiming at producing plans and arrangements or designs for new, altered or improved products, processes or services. For this purpose they may include prototyping, testing, demonstrating, piloting, large-scale product validation and market replication”

• Funding rate: 70% (100% for non-profit) + 25% indirect costs

• Strong emphasis on industry participation

• Multi-beneficiary
  – Minimum: three legal entities each of which established in a different Member State or associated country

No research activities funded, unless absolutely necessary!
Coordination and Support action

• Description
  
  “Action consisting primarily of accompanying measures such as standardisation, dissemination, awareness-raising and communication, networking, coordination or support services, policy dialogues and mutual learning exercises and studies, including design studies for new infrastructure”

• Funding: 100% direct + 25% indirect costs

• Mono or Multi-beneficiary

  – Minimum one legal entity established in a Member State or Associated Country

No research activities funded!
Co-ordinator or Partner?

Co-ordinator

• Prepares and submits the proposal
• Links the Commission with the consortium partners
• Monitors compliance on the project
• Responsible for distribution of EU contribution, record keeping, reporting to the Commission
• Organises scientific and project management meetings
• Maintains the consortium agreement

Partner

• Works on their work package(s)
• Submits reports to co-ordinator
Approaching potential partners

• Approach potential partners early, as the best organisations tend to be committed to other consortia early in the days.

• Ask your colleagues for the 2016-17 Work Programmes!

• See who participated in successful projects using information available on CORDIS.
Forming a consortium?

• Think carefully if you have no management experience and no experience with EC funding
  – (Small role in a project led by someone with prior experience may be the best first step)

• Clarify the roles, budget and IPR issues, early

• Check if there is funding available to help you build partnerships:
  – Internally
  – Internationally (some third countries i.e. South Africa, Chile, Brazil etc. have small pots of money available for this purpose)

There is no EU funding available for such activities
Invited to join a Consortium?

- Can be the easiest way to get involved, BUT be sure that it is right for you, otherwise, you might be wasting your time.
  - What do you know about the consortium and its members?
  - Is the project appropriate for you?
  - Are you happy with your proposed role?
  - Are you happy with the allocated funding?
  - Have you checked this with your organisation – it is the organisation that will be the ‘partner’, not you
- Projects are normally coordinated by organisations from MS/AC, so be careful if institutions from third countries want to do that
Looking to join a consortium?

- Be focused and know what you want to do
- Find out who the key researchers are in the field
- Take up all opportunities for contact (see later slides)
- Raise your profile – let others know you are available
- Consider what your ‘unique selling points’ are
- Attend EC Information days – good networking opportunity
Approximately 30% of all SSH flagged topics were missing partners with relevant expertise.

In 2014, 67% of all SSH partners in consortia were from higher education establishments (47%) or research organisations (20%). 17% of all SSH partners came from private for profit entities, such as for-profit research organisations, SMEs or consultancies.

For project consortia led by an SSH partner, the SSH coordinators come predominantly from the EU-15 (92%).

Countries with the highest shares of SSH coordinators are Germany (19%), the Netherlands and the UK (13%).

Full report on embedding SSH in 2014 calls is available here.
Eligibility for funding of TCs

• Exceptionally, funding may be provided in the following cases:
  
  – Under the existence of a **bilateral agreement** specifying such funding i.e. EU-US agreement for Societal Challenge 1
  
  – When such funding is specifically mentioned in the call text or topic
  
  – When **Commission** deems participation of an entity essential for the success of the project because it can provide expertise that cannot be found in Europe, access to data, infrastructures, geographical area, etc.
INCO in 2014 calls

- Participation of third countries dropped from approximately 5% in FP7 to 2% in Horizon 2020
- Most active international partners in 2014 calls:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Participations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>29</td>
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<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>28</td>
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<td>Russia</td>
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<td>Japan</td>
<td>10</td>
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<td>India</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republic of Korea</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: eCORDA/EU Open Data Portal
International cooperation

• **Two thirds** of all INCO flagged topics were missing third country partners.

Consortia can improve their chances of being funded, by properly embedding the cross-cutting issues and involving the relevant partners.
Gender of consortium members

• In the *Excellence* part, under ‘Concept and approach’, applicants are asked to do the following:
  – “Where relevant, describe how sex and/or gender analysis is taken into account in the project’s content”.

• In the *Implementation* part, under ‘Members of the consortium’, applicants are asked to do the following:
  – “specify the sex of the persons who will be primarily responsible for carrying out the proposed research and/or innovation activities”.
Gender of consortium members

• Try to ensure good gender balance of the individuals involved in the project, as this may be a determining factor during evaluation:

• Priority order for proposals with the same overall score:
  1. Excellence score
  2. Impact score
  • Reversed for Innovation Actions!
  3. Size of EU budget allocated to SMEs;
  4. Gender balance among the personnel named in the proposal primarily responsible for carrying out the research activities.
Information about successful consortia from 2014

Average numbers of partners in Horizon 2020 consortia:

- RIA: 12 partners
- IA: 12 partners
- CSA: 10 partners
- FET RIA: 6 partners
- MSCA RISE: 5 partners
- MSCA ITN
  - EID: 3-4 beneficiaries
  - ETN: 9 beneficiaries
  - EJD: 5-6 beneficiaries
How to find partners?

• Existing contacts

• Past projects

• Partner searches: UKRO, CORDIS, etc.

• COST Actions

• EU conferences (including events on the calls) and project evaluation

• National Contact Points

• Enterprise Europe Network (innovative SMEs)

• Social Media (Linked-in etc.)
First set of data on 2014 calls

- Available on [CORDIS](http://CORDIS) from March, updated in July
- Can be used to determine:
  - Average EU contribution per type of action
  - Average number of partners per type of action
  - Average length of projects
  - Type of partners involved
- Cannot be used to determine success rates!
- Also... UKRO factsheet and Portal articles
COST actions

- COST Actions are networks centred around nationally funded research projects in fields that are of interest to at least five COST countries. The financial support averages EUR 130,000 per year for a four-year period.
- COST Actions allow European researchers, engineers and scholars to cooperate and coordinate nationally funded research activities, and to jointly develop their own ideas in any science and technology field.
- Duration of COST Actions is four years; they can include a range of networking tools, such as workshops, conferences, training schools, short-term scientific missions (STSMs), and dissemination activities.
- COST Actions can also pave the way to or establish synergies with EU-funded research projects.
- COST does not fund research itself!
New COST Open Call

- No longer follows the Domain structure that existed in the past
- The new scientific organisation of COST reflects a **fully open and bottom-up approach** through a single Scientific Committee
- The new approach includes a **renewed Submission, Evaluation, Selection and Approval** favouring excellence and encouraging multi- and interdisciplinary approaches
- Confirms the need for **anonymity** of the organisations involved
- Application consists of **admin forms** (online tool) and **Technical Annex**
- Next **collection date moved to 25 April** for budgetary reasons, with the following one possibly in December (rather than September).
- **Reduction in number of COST Actions funded (25 instead of 40)** for the April collection date.
The 36 COST Member Countries are:

Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.
Further information about COST

- COST website: [www.cost.eu](http://www.cost.eu)
- Running COST actions: [http://www.cost.eu/COST_Actions/all_actions](http://www.cost.eu/COST_Actions/all_actions)

- UK COST NCP:
  
  Ann Miller (BIS)
  
  Tel. +44 1142075288
  
  [ann.miller@bis.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:ann.miller@bis.gsi.gov.uk)
Erasmus+ funding

2007-2013
- Erasmus
- Grundtvig
- Leonardo
- Comenius
- Youth in Action
- Erasmus Mundus
- Tempus
- Alfa
- Edulink

2014-2020
- 1: Learning Mobility
- 2: Co-operation
- 3: Policy Support
- Sport
- Jean Monnet

PCICFHE
- Sport
Erasmus+ Structure

Key Action 1 - Learning mobility of individuals
- Mobility of staff
- Mobility of learners

Key Action 2 – Co-operation for innovation and the exchange of good practices
- Knowledge alliances
- Sector skills alliances
- IT support platforms
- International partnerships

Key Action 3 – Support for policy reform
- Jean Monet initiative

Sport
UK National Agency – Division of Schemes

• British Council:
  – Higher education
  – Schools
  – Youth Key Action 1

• Ecorys UK:
  – Vocational education and training
  – Adult education
  – Youth Key Actions 2 and 3
Eligible participant countries

• Programme countries - programme will be open to:
  – **EU Member States:** Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, UK
  – **Non-EU Programme Countries:** Turkey, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway

• Some Actions of the Programme are open to any Partner Country of the world. For some other Actions the geographical scope is less broad.
KA1: HEI – Staff Mobility

Scope
- Open to programme & partner countries

Duration
- Between Programme Countries: 2 days - 2 months
- Between Partner & Programme countries: 5 days - 2 months
- Min. 8h of lecturing abroad

Activities
- Staff mobility abroad for teaching or training purposes
- Staff from enterprise encouraged to teach at HEIs
• A period abroad can combine teaching and training activities.

• **Teaching** periods: activity allows HEI teaching staff or staff from enterprises to teach at a partner HEI abroad. Staff mobility for teaching can be in any subject area/academic discipline.

• **Training** periods: activity supports the professional development of HEI teaching and non-teaching staff in the form of training events abroad (excluding conferences) and job shadowing/observation periods/training at a partner HEI, or at another relevant organisation abroad.
Various third countries provide funding to facilitate cooperation between their researchers and their EU counterparts:

- **CEST+I** (Chile-EU Science, Technology and Innovation Initiative) project provides support for working visits in Europe and Chile aimed at elaborating project proposals to apply to Horizon 2020.

- **B-BICE+** project supports visits and exchanges between Europe and Brazil for researchers willing to apply jointly to Horizon 2020.

- **South African Government** provides funding for SA researchers willing to come to Europe to discuss participation in H2020 projects with their EU counterparts.

- **ERA-Can+** Twinning Programme support the pairing of EU and Canadian-funded projects so that partners may undertake new networking and research collaborations.
Thank you