European Research Funding News provides an overview of EU-related news, developments and opportunities under the following headings:

- **Highlighted items**
- **Other news and policy developments**
- **Tips, intelligence and advice**
- **Application deadlines**
- **Events**
- **Key contacts**

This newsletter is just one element of the support available to help you understand the EU funding environment and to provide you with the guidance and resources you need to develop successful H2020 research bids. A fuller introduction to this support is available via the R&IS H2020 webpages [here](link).

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### Highlighted Items

**UKRO Annual Visit to the University of Sheffield 16 February 2017**

At a crucial time for UK involvement in EU funding, UKRO be visiting the University of Sheffield to present on a number of key H2020 topics. A small number of 1:1 sessions with our European Advisor (Ailidh Woodcock) are also available on a first come first basis. Further details below. Please book attendance via the link [here](link).

- 10.00: Introduction from John Derrick
- 10.10: Update on H2020 developments
- 11.30: How to build consortia and networks in H2020
- 12.50: How to include and deliver impact in H2020
13.30: How to Involve Industry Partners in Horizon 2020

14.30 onwards: 10 minute 1:1 sessions with our European Advisor at UKRO

Update on 2018-20 Work Programmes
Work on the final set of Horizon 2020 work programmes is now well underway with draft scoping papers for a number of areas already available. Key developments are:

- An emphasis for 2018-20 will be on achieving greater impact. We will see a number of bigger calls and topics, which are going to be more mission-oriented with better linkages between impact at topic, call and programme level. UKRO understands that the Commission is not looking for bigger projects/consortia but to maximise impact overall. The aim is also to clarify the impact sections in the work programmes to make it easier for researchers to understand what is - and what is not expected.

- There are likely to be four new focus areas (in the areas of sustainable development/climate, digitisation, the circular economy and security). For these calls, topics are coordinated between different societal challenges and we can expect bigger budgets and a mission-oriented approach.

- To tackle the issue of low international cooperation in Horizon 2020, there will be a number of strategic flagships, which could take different forms including joint calls with other countries.

- The Commission will try to reduce oversubscription where possible, by continuing to use two-stage deadlines where appropriate and having broad, but well defined topics, with budgets to match. The aim is to be able to fund more than one proposal for the majority of topics.

Beware of Fraudulent Grant Notification
UKRO understands that fraudulent letters with the European Commission logo are being sent to individual researchers, informing them of the award of an "EU Grant covering Small and Medium Business Enterprise, Academic and Research activities". The origin of the letter is supposedly the European Commission representation in Denmark, and researchers are asked to contact a consultancy to arrange the transfer of the grant. UKRO has confirmed with the European Commission that these letters are not genuine and we would advise subscribers to be vigilant. If in doubt, please contact our UKRO European Advisor at ukro@bbsrc.ac.uk.

Updated Frequently Asked Questions for ITN 2017 Call Available
The 10 January 2017 deadline for ITN applications is fast approaching. The European
Commission has updated the FAQs for the currently open 2017 MSCA Innovative Training Networks Call. Further information

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**News and Policy Developments**

If you have not already done so, you are strongly encouraged to register with UKRO, the European office of the UK Research Councils. Doing so will allow you to follow the links below and to gain, free of charge, access to a range of subscription-based resources including factsheets, briefings and email alerts (note that this subscriber material must not be copied to external facing web pages or shared beyond UoS). Please do make the most of this really valuable service - register today.

**Marie Sklodowska Curie Actions - Latest News on Closed Calls**
Updated information on the latest Marie Sklodowska Curie Actions (MSCA) that have closed. This is useful information that will help you understand the MCSA funding landscape. Further information

**Draft 2018-2020 Space Scoping Paper Available**
UKRO has obtained a draft version of the 2018-2020 Scoping Paper for the LEIT Space part of Horizon 2020. Priorities to be translated into specific calls:

- Supporting EU flagship space programmes Copernicus and EGNSS (Galileo/EGNOS);
- Strengthening the competitiveness of the European space sector;
- Supporting Europe's autonomy in accessing and using space in a secure and safe environment; and
- Strengthening Europe's role as a global actor.

**Draft 2018-2020 Transport Societal Challenge Scoping Paper Available**
UKRO has obtained an updated version of the draft 2018-2020 Scoping Paper for Societal Challenge 4: 'Smart, Green and Integrated Transport'. Priorities to be translated into specific calls:

- Towards an integrated, sustainable and robust transport system;
- Technologies transforming the transport system;
- Competitiveness, business models and markets; and
- Accounting for the people: demand, needs and behaviours; inclusion and access.

UKRO has obtained an updated version of the draft 2018-2020 Scoping Paper for Societal Challenge 3: ‘Secure, Clean and Efficient Energy’. Priorities to be translated into specific calls:

- Global leadership in renewable energy technologies;
- Smart citizen-centred energy system;
- Efficient energy use; and
- Decarbonisation of fossil fuels.

Policy Aspects of the Research and Innovation Pillar of the Energy Union Announced

The European Commission has proposed new wide-reaching measures to accelerate the transition to a competitive low-carbon economy by improving the regulatory environment and boosting investment in clean-energy research and innovation. The policy will determine the funding priorities under future Horizon 2020 calls for proposals in the area of energy, transport and climate research. [Further information]

Updated Annotated Model Grant Agreement: Summary of Changes

Not for the faint-hearted but for anyone involved in project management and EU finance this is a very useful article summarising the most important changes introduced in the latest version of the Annotated Model Grant Agreement (AMGA), published on 25 November. [Further information]

Horizon 2020 Monitoring Report 2015 Published

A surprisingly interesting read, the European Commission has published its second Horizon 2020 Monitoring Report, which summarises the first two years of the programme. [Further information]

Armenia Ratifies Horizon 2020 Association Agreement

Armenia has ratified its Horizon 2020 Association Agreement, becoming the sixteenth country to be associated to the programme. [Further information]

New FET Open Promotional Video

The European Commission has released a short video explaining the Future and Emerging Technologies (FET) Open scheme. [Further information]
**Tips, Intelligence and Advice**

**Become an expert evaluator**
Register on the Participant Portal as an expert evaluator as this will enable you to know the selection and assessment criteria. Previous calls have shown that there is a direct link between being an evaluator and success in applications.

**Go Global**
International cooperation (with third countries) is a cross-cutting issue in Horizon 2020. Although not all topics require the inclusion of third countries, having one or two organisations from third countries in the consortium increases the proposal's chance of being funded. Note, though, that there still needs to be a strong academic case for the inclusion of such partners.

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**Application Deadlines**

A calendar of all published H2020 deadlines, including links to full call details, is available [here](#). The below is a reminder of upcoming deadlines for the bottom up schemes under the Excellent Science pillar of H2020 (and hence open to proposals in all areas).

**NEW: H2020 Marie Skłodowska Curie Research and Innovation Staff Exchange scheme (RISE)**
The RISE scheme promotes international and inter-sector collaboration through research and innovation staff exchanges, and sharing of knowledge and ideas from research to market. Support is provided for the development of partnerships in the form of a joint research and innovation project. RISE involves organisations from the academic and non-academic sectors, based in and outside Europe. Consortia must consist of at least three legal entities, independent of each other and established in at least three different countries. At least two of them must be EU member states or associated countries. If all participating organisations are from the same sector, at least one participant must be from a third country. All H2020 funding calls allow third country partners who secure their own funding to participate in consortia. Under Excellent Science, Switzerland may participate as an associated country. Funding will support eligible researchers for a period of one to 12 months. The top-up allowance of the seconded staff member is €2,000 per month.
See details of information session in events section below.
Closing date: 5 April 17
Further information  University of Sheffield guidance and support

REMINDER: H2020-MSCA-ITN-2017 Marie Sklodowska-Curie innovative training networks
Competitive applications to this scheme will already be at an advanced stage of development. ITNs aim to raise excellence and structure research and doctoral training, extending the traditional academic research training setting, incorporating the elements of open science and equipping researchers with the right combination of research-related and transferable competencies. The living allowance annual reference rate for early stage researchers is €37,320. The allowances are subject to country correction coefficients and a funding rate of 100 per cent. Researchers in some categories will also receive a mobility allowance of €600 and a family allowance of €500. The indicative budget for this call is €430 million.
Closing date: 10 Jan 17
Further information  University of Sheffield guidance and support

REMINDER: H2020 ERC-2017-CoG ERC consolidator grants
Competitive applications to this flagship scheme will already be at an advanced stage of development. These grants support principal investigators who are at a career stage at which they may still be consolidating their own independent research team or programme. Grants are worth up to €2 million over five years, plus an additional €750,000 start-up grant. The total budget for this call is €575m, to support an estimated 320 grants.
Closing date: 09 Feb 17
Further information  University of Sheffield guidance and support

Events

A list of key training, information and networking events is available here. The below summarises recently published events.

MSCA - RISE Call 2017 Information Event in London - Registration Open
UKRO, in its capacity as UK National Contact Point for the Marie Sklodowska-Curie Actions, is holding an information event in London on 25 January 2017 on the Research and Innovation Staff Exchange Action 2017 call. Further information
eHealth Week 2017 10-12 May 2017
The coming eHealth Week 2017 from 10-12 May 2017 will discuss topics such as 'Cross-border exchange of personal health data: from policy to practice' and 'European Reference Networks: how digital health helps'. Further information

How FET projects can reach investors
FET2RIN is calling for a second round of workshops to help FET-funded projects with their outreach activities to the market. Applications are now open for three workshops to be held in Brussels in January, February and March 2017. Further information

Key Institutional Contacts

Arts and Humanities: Dr Barry Dixon (b.dixon@sheffield.ac.uk)

Engineering: Lee Allman (l.allman@sheffield.ac.uk) and Tony Lesowiec (t.lesowiec@sheffield.ac.uk).

Medicine: Dr Neil Harris (neil.harris@sheffield.ac.uk) and Graham Hughes (graham.hughes@sheffield.ac.uk)

Science: Dr Graham Kiddle (graham.kiddle@sheffield.ac.uk)

Social Sciences: Dr Bethan Taylor (b.l.taylor@sheffield.ac.uk)

EU Project Implementation: Dr Andrew Isaac (a.d.isaac@sheffield.ac.uk)

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