Horizon 2020 – Building Consortia and Networks

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Overview

• Consortuium Building – Why?

• Consortuium Building – How?
  – Consortium building
  – International Co-operation
  – Gender Consideration

• Networking Opportunities
  – COST
  – ERASMUS +
  – Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions – RISE
  – Pan-EU Networks
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
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
- The European 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!
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
• Approach potential partners **early**, as the best organisations tend to be committed to other consortia early

• Ask your colleagues for forthcoming calls and with a view to calls in WP18-20

• See who participated in successful projects using information available on [CORDIS](#).
Forming a consortium?

- Think carefully about your management experience and experience with EC funding
- 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)
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
How to find consortium partners?

- Existing contacts
- FP7/Horizon 2020 projects on **CORDIS**
- EC networking/brokerage events or info days
- **Partner searches (NB: use with caution):**
  - National Contact Points
  - CORDIS partner search (create profile)
  - IDEAL-IST (ICT research)/NMP/Fit for Health/Transport/Energy/ Climate action/Enterprise Europe Network
- Social media (e.g. LinkedIn)
How to find partners?

- Health: http://www.fitforhealth.eu/
- ICT: http://www.ideal-ist.eu/partner-search/pssearch
- Pharmaceuticals: https://cloud.imi.europa.eu/web/eimi-pst
- Environment: http://www.irc.ee/envncp/?page=search
- Transport: http://www.transport-ncps.net/services/partner-search.html
- Space: http://www.fp7-space.eu/fp7-space-info-16.phtm
Meeting with Partners to Discuss Proposal idea

- Can be invaluable to meet in person to talk through ideas with potential collaborators
- Is there any resource to meet:
  - From your institution
  - From other sources of funding, e.g. BBSRC ‘European Partnering Awards’

  • European Partnering awards are small awards for BBSRC grant holders covering travel and subsistence to meet with the aim of developing and submitting Horizon 2020 bids

Use UKRO Meeting Room!

http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/funding/internationalfunding/europe.aspx
Approximately 16% of all projects funded under SSH flagged topics were missing partners with relevant expertise.

In 2015, 51% of all SSH partners in consortia were from higher education establishments or research organisations. 21% of all SSH partners came from private for profit entities, such as for-profit research organisations, SMEs or consultancies.

SSH partners come predominantly from the following EU Member States: United Kingdom (11%), Italy (10%), Germany (10%), Spain (8%), Belgium (8%), and France (6%).

Countries with the highest shares of SSH coordinators are United Kingdom (19%), Germany (16%), and Spain, Italy and Belgium (all 13%).

Full report on embedding SSH in 2015 calls is available here.
Integrating SSS research across Horizon 2020 is essential to maximise the returns to society from investment in science and technology. Integrating the socio-economic dimension into the design, development and implementation of research itself and of new technologies can help find solutions to societal problems. The idea to focus Horizon 2020 on ‘challenges’ rather than disciplinary fields of research illustrates this new approach.

Quick finder for H2020 topics of cross-cutting priorities:

- Cross-cutting Key-Enabling Technologies (KETs)
- ERA-NET
- Gender
- Contractual Public-Private Partnerships (cPPPs)
- Innovation Procurement
- International cooperation
- SME Instrument

Social sciences and humanities
Participation of third countries dropped from approximately 4.9% in FP7 to 2.3% in Horizon 2020 (2014-2015)

Most active international partners in 2014 calls:

- USA
- South Africa
- Canada
- China
- Russia
- Australia
- Brazil
- Japan
- India
- Republic of Korea

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.
Networking Opportunities
What is COST?

• COST is an intergovernmental framework for European Cooperation in Science and Technology, allowing the coordination of nationally-funded research on a European level.

• Established in 1970s; oldest intergovernmental framework in Europe.

• Aims to enable breakthrough scientific developments leading to new concepts and products.
  – It thereby contributes to strengthening Europe’s research and innovation capacities.
What is COST?

• COST operates in 36 European countries and Israel.

• COST supports the integration of research communities, leverages national research investments and addresses issues of global relevance.

• COST contributes to the European Research Area and is aligned with Horizon 2020.

• COST is open to all disciplines, as well as novel and groundbreaking science and technology ideas.
COST Countries

- **EU 28**
- **EU Candidates and Potential Candidates:**
  - Bosnia and Herzegovina
  - fYR Macedonia
  - Iceland
  - Serbia
  - Turkey
- **Other Countries:**
  - Norway and Switzerland
- **COST Cooperating State:**
  - Israel
COST key features

- Networking opportunities for researchers
- COST Actions aim primarily at sharing knowledge
- Open to international cooperation
- Open to all science and technology fields
- Interdisciplinarity is of particular importance
- Capacity building
- Lean administration
- Easy implementation
COST Actions (1)

- Pan-European, **bottom-up** science and technology networks
- Open to researchers from academia and industry or to policy stakeholders.
- Consist of researcher from **at least 5 COST Member Countries**
- Maximum duration – 4 years; EUR 130k per annum on average
- **No research funding provided**, main aim is to support networking activities carried out within COST Actions
- Participation can be in one of two ways
COST Actions (2)

• Collaborations and networking achieved through:
  • Management Committees
  • Working Group Meetings
  • Scientific Workshops and Seminars
  • Training Schools
  • Short-Term Scientific Meetings (STSMs)
  • Dissemination and Publications
• Support covers the costs of networking activities:
  • Meetings (e.g. travel, subsistence, local organiser support),
  • Conferences
  • Workshops
  • Short-term scientific exchanges
  • Training schools
  • Publications and dissemination activities

• Reimbursement of costs after reports approved.
• Eligibility criteria apply – **VAT is not eligible!**
COST calls for proposals

- Proposals submitted to a continuously open call with 2 collection dates per year.
- Submission in one stage – new in 2015
- Decision taken within 8 months from collection date.
- Actions should start within 3 months.
- Next collection date will be 7 September 2017, 12:00 noon (CET)
Further Information on COST

- More Information is available on the COST actions through the following links:
  - UKRO Factsheet on COST - https://www.ukro.ac.uk/subscriber/Factsheets/factsheet_cost.pdf
  - COST website: cost.eu
  - Existing Actions: cost.eu/COST_Actions
  - How to join existing Actions: cost.eu/participate
  - Submitting a proposal for a new Action: cost.eu/participate/open_call
  - Eligible countries: cost.eu/about_cost/cost_countries
  - UK Cost National Co-ordinator: http://www.cost.eu/about_cost/who
What is Erasmus+?

- EU programme aiming “to boost skills and employability, as well as modernising Education, Training and Youth work”
- Budget of €14.7 billion over seven years (2014-2020)
- **Erasmus+ Programme Guide** provides information on available schemes
- Brings together seven existing programmes, also providing support for Sport for the first time:
Key Action 1 - Mobility of individuals

- Mobility of learners and staff
- Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees
- Erasmus+ Master loans

Key Action 2 – Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices

- Strategic Partnerships
- Knowledge Alliances
- Sector Skills Alliances
- Capacity-building
- IT support platforms

Key Action 3 – Support for policy reform

- Knowledge in the fields of education, training and youth
- Initiatives for policy innovation
- Support to European policy tools
- Cooperation with international organisations
- Stakeholder dialogue, policy and Programme promotion

Jean Monet initiative

- Academic modules, Chairs and Centres of Excellence
- Policy debate with the academic world
- Support to associations
- Stakeholder dialogue, policy and Programme promotion

Sport

- Collaborative Partnerships
- Not-for-profit European sport events
- Strengthening of the evidence base for policy making
- Dialogue with relevant European stakeholders
Erasmus+ programme implementation

European Commission: Overall Programme Management

Centralised activities
- Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA)

Decentralised activities
- UK National Authority: Department for Business, Innovation and Skills
- UK National Agency: British Council and Ecorys UK
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
KA1: HEI Staff Mobility

- 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.
Third country funding

• 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.
Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA)

Nothing in life is to be feared just understood.

- Marie Curie
Main Objectives:

• Ensure Europe’s attractiveness as a destination for excellent researchers

• Have a structuring effect on the European Research Area through trans-national and inter-sectoral mobility to create a European labour market for researchers

• Strengthen human potential by:
  – Encouraging people to become researchers
  – Encouraging researchers to carry out their research in Europe
Operates on a ‘bottom-up’ basis

For any research and innovation ideas (basic research; market take-up)

**Mobility** (cross-border and cross-sector) is a key requirement

Enhance skills of **people behind research and innovation**

Strong participation across sectors

Dissemination and **public engagement** - public outreach

Gender balance – equal opportunities in the research content
Research and Innovation Staff Exchange (RISE)

• “Aim to promote international and inter-sector collaboration through research and innovation staff exchanges, and sharing of knowledge and ideas from research to market (and vice-versa) for the advancement of science and development of innovation”

• Should involve institutions from the academic and non-academic sectors (particularly SMEs) based in MS/AC and/or third countries

• Development of partnerships in the form of joint research and innovation activities between the participants

• Knowledge sharing via international and/or inter-sector mobility through two way secondments of staff with built-in return mechanism – no recruitment of new staff!
  – Exchanges between MS/AC only: secondments must be inter-sectoral
  – Exchanges between MS/AC and third countries: secondments can be same sector and/or intersectoral
Research and Innovation Staff Exchange

- Participants must be from at least three different countries, at least two of which are MS/AC
- If all participants are in the same sector, one participant country must be a third country
- Secondment period – 1-12 months (does not need to be continuous)
- Projects up to 4 years and max 540 exchange visit months
- Typical activities in RISE:

  Workshops
  Joint R&I
  Networking
  Knowledge exchange
  New skills
  Conferences
RISE – Minimum Set-up

- At least 3 independent participants in 3 different countries
- At least 2 participants from 2 different MS/AC
- If all in MS/AC: at least 1 academic and 1 non-academic
Pan-European Networks within H2020

- Joint Technology Initiatives
- European Technology Platforms
- Joint Programming Initiatives
What are JTIs?

JTIs are partnerships between the Commission and the private sector (industry) in the form of public-private partnerships.

Article 25 of the H2020 Regulation states that: “
‘Horizon 2020 may be implemented through public-private partnerships where all the partners concerned commit to supporting the development and implementation of pre-competitive research and of innovation activities of strategic importance to the Union's competitiveness and industrial leadership or to addressing specific societal challenges.’
Why JTIs?

To define common ambitious research objectives in line with Europe 2020 objectives and industry needs

To solve problems together with industry

To combine research and innovation elements

To leverage private investment in R&I

To strengthen European industrial leadership
7 Joint Technology Initiatives

- Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI2)
- Clean Sky 2
- Single European Sky ATM Research (SESAR)
- Fuel Cells and Hydrogen 2 (FCH2)
- **Bio-based Industries (new)**
- Electronic Components and Systems for European Leadership (ECSEL)
- **Shift2Rail (new)**
European Technology Platforms

• ETPs are industry-led stakeholder fora recognised by the European Commission as key actors in driving innovation, knowledge transfer and European competitiveness.

• ETPs develop research and innovation agendas and roadmaps for action at EU and national level to be supported by both private and public funding. They mobilise stakeholders to deliver on agreed priorities and share information across the EU.

• By working effectively together, they also help deliver solutions to major challenges of key concern to citizens such as the ageing society, the environment and food and energy security.

• ETPs are independent and self-financing entities. They conduct their activities in a transparent manner and are open to new members.
## European Technology Platforms

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The overall aim of the Joint Programming process is to pool national research efforts in order to make better use of Europe's precious public R&D resources and to tackle common European challenges more effectively in a few key areas.

It is a structured and strategic process whereby Member States agree, on a voluntary basis and in a partnership approach, on common visions and Strategic Research Agendas (SRA) to address major societal challenges.

On a variable geometry basis, Member States commit to Joint Programming Initiatives (JPiS) where they implement together joint Strategic Research Agendas.
Joint Programming Initiatives

• Alzheimer and other Neurodegenerative Diseases (JPND)
• Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change (FACCE)
• A Healthy Diet for a Healthy Life
• Cultural Heritage and Global Change: A New Challenge for Europe
• Urban Europe - Global Urban Challenges, Joint European Solutions
• Connecting Climate Knowledge for Europe (CliK’EU)
• More Years, Better Lives - The Potential and Challenges of Demographic Change
• Antimicrobial Resistance- The Microbial Challenge - An Emerging Threat to Human Health
• Water Challenges for a Changing World
• Healthy and Productive Seas and Oceans
Thank you for your attention

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