



## Finding your way in Horizon2020

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### Contents

Definite calls for proposals Horizon2020 now published .....	1
What is H2020.....	1
How do I find the right funding for my research? .....	2
What do you need to know .....	4
What can I do to increase my chances in H2020? .....	4
Register as an expert.....	4
Do some background research .....	4
Check your academic network.....	4

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### Definite calls for proposals Horizon2020 now published

The European Commission has published the first Work Programmes and calls for [Horizon 2020](#) (H2020) at the [Participant Portal](#). If you are interested in participating in Horizon2020's first calls please contact the [Research Support Office](#) for more information and support in preparing your proposal.

### What is H2020

H2020 is the new EU funding programme for research and innovation running from 2014 to 2020 with a €70 billion budget.

The Horizon 2020 programme is built around three main pillars:

#### [Pillar 1: Excellence](#)

The aim of this pillar is to raise the level of excellence in Europe's science base and ensure a steady stream of world-class researchers to secure Europe's long-term competitiveness. It will support the best ideas, develop talent within Europe, provide researchers with access to priority research infrastructure, and make Europe an attractive location for the world's best researchers.

- [European Research Council \(ERC\)](#): Individual grants to support the most talented and creative individuals and their teams to carry out frontier research of the highest quality
- [Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions \(MSC\)](#) : Individual (post-doc) grants available to researchers regardless of their nationality or field of research. They are aimed to provide researchers with training and career development opportunities in a



different country (you have to be willing to spent time at another institute in a different country).

- [Future and Emerging Technologies \(FET\)](#): collaborative research to open up new and promising fields of research and innovation
- [research infrastructures](#) : grants to ensure Europe has world-class research infrastructures (including e-infrastructures) accessible to all researchers in Europe and beyond.

#### Pillar 2: Industrial Leadership:

The aim of this pillar is to support the development of technologies underpinning innovation across a range of sectors, including ICT and space. Horizon 2020 will have a strong focus on developing European industrial capabilities.

#### Pillar 3: Tackling the societal challenges:

The aim of this pillar is to develop new solutions to the societal problems Europe is facing today. This pillar is policy driven and top-down. Therefore the European Commission will publish bi-annual working programmes explaining in details what the problems are that they want the project to provide answers for. The societal challenges as proposed by the European Commission are as follows:

1. Health, demographic change and well-being;
2. Food security, sustainable agriculture and forestry, marine and maritime and inland water research, and the bioeconomy;
3. Secure, clean and efficient energy;
4. Smart, green and integrated transport;
5. Climate action, environment, resource efficiency and raw materials;
6. Europe in a changing world - inclusive, innovative and reflective societies;
7. Secure societies - protecting freedom and security of Europe and its citizens.

#### **How do I find the right funding for my research?**

Finding the right funding for your research is not always easy. Of course, you can always contact your [Research Support Office](#) to help you with finding the right call but a couple of questions might already help you:

Is you research curiosity driven, very scientific and ground-breaking? Does it include research projects for a number of post-docs and PhD-students?

If the answer to one of these questions is yes, you want to check the criteria for the various [ERC individual grants](#).



Are you looking for training or expertise which you cannot get at your current institute but which is available at an institute abroad? Do you know a post-doc who would want to spend some time in Utrecht to get additional training or gain additional expertise?

If the answer to one of these questions is yes, you need to check the [Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions \(MSC\)](#)

Does your research need large, expensive infrastructures (also including big databases)?

If the answer to one of these questions is yes, you need to check the [research infrastructures](#)

Is your idea so out of the box and a little bit controversial that you are unsure whether anybody would be interested in funding it?

Check: [Future and Emerging Technologies \(FET\)](#):

Is there a European dimension to your research? Or does your research provide answers to some societal question? Do you have a European consortium, or could you create or find a European Consortium, to collaborate with?

If the answer to one of these questions is yes, you might want to check the [7 work programmes](#) from pillar three: the grand societal challenges. Having built pillar three of H2020 around the main societal challenges like an ageing population, food security, energy efficiency, the EU attaches high importance to embed [socio-economic sciences and humanities](#) (SSH) into each of the work programmes. This means that in **all** of the seven work programmes there are either specific topics with a socio-economic and humanities background. Some examples:

- call “EE 12 – 2014: Socioeconomic research on energy efficiency” from the “Secure, clean and efficient energy” work programme
- call PHC 23 – 2014: *Developing and comparing new models for safe and efficient, prevention oriented, health and care system* from the health work programme.

Of course for researchers from the faculty of Law, Economics and Governance will have most opportunities in challenge 6 “Europe in a changing world: inclusive, innovative and reflective societies” provides the most opportunities with calls on “Overcoming the Crisis: New Ideas, Strategies and Governance Structures for Europe” (deadline: 03/06/2014); “the Young Generation in an Innovative, Inclusive and Sustainable Europe” (deadline: 03/06/2014); “Reflective Societies: Cultural Heritage and European Identities” (deadline: 03/06/2014 or 30/09/2014); “Europe as a Global Actor” (deadline: 29/04/2014).

Does your research have a strong link to industry or SME and would you need to, or could you, cooperate with industrial partners or SME and does your topic link with ICT, Space research nanotechnology etc?

If yes, you can check the funding opportunities in [Pillar 2: Industrial Leadership](#)



### What do I need to know

- The funding scheme for almost all types of funding (except Marie Curie) is 100% funding for the direct cost (staff and other costs) and 25% overhead. Contact your [Research Support Office in your faculty](#) to assist you with the budget.
- The work programmes are valid for two years so check the call deadline for the topic you are interested in. Some will only open in 2015 (which gives you plenty of time to prepare)!

### What can I do to increase my changes in H2020?

#### ***Register as an expert***

If you [register as an expert](#) you have a chance of being selected to assist in the:

- evaluation of proposals
- monitoring of actions
- preparation, implementation or evaluation of programmes and design of policies.

This is a great way to get to know how the European evaluation process works and, if you are selected to monitor actions or prepare, implement or evaluate policies, it is a great way to get yourself noticed in Brussels and maybe get a chance to influence the next working programmes!

<https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/experts/index.html>

#### ***Do some background research***

If you are preparing a proposal for a H2020 call it is good to check what the most recently [funded projects](#) on the topic are. This will give you an idea of the kinds of projects that are already funded and the consortia that are active on your topic. You could contact coordinators of interesting project to see whether they are doing a follow up

#### ***Check your academic network***

If you want to participate in a European project but do not want to coordinate yourself you will need to find a consortium. The best way to do this is to ask around in your academic network to see whether any of your colleagues has plans to start a project.