

# ***ERA-NET Cofund: Overview***

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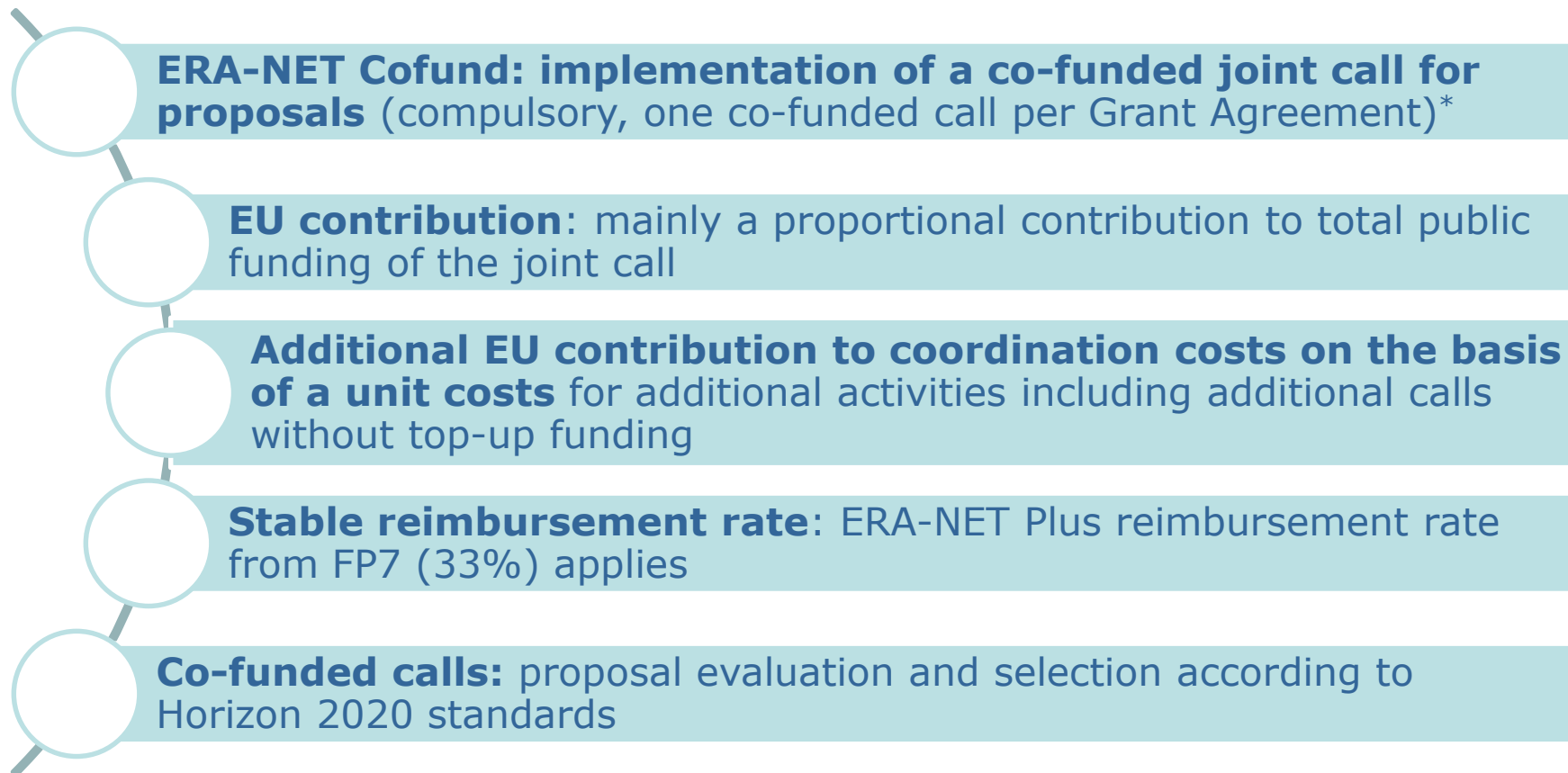
DG Research & Innovation

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Unit A4 – Missions and Partnerships

European Partnerships Sector

## ERA-NET Cofund – main features



\* ERA-NETs based on a Coordination and Support Action (CSA) are no longer possible. Only in exceptional cases it might be considered to support the preparation and structuring of specific emerging P2Ps that demonstrate clear European added value.

## Who can participate ?

- **Eligibility conditions ERA-NET Cofund similar to ERA-NET under FP7.**
- Participation is limited to entities that can fully participate in joint calls and other actions between national and regional programmes.
- Participants in ERA-NET Cofund actions **must be research funders: legal entities owning or managing public research and innovation programmes.**
- **Programme Owners** are typically national/regional ministries/authorities responsible for defining, financing or managing research programmes carried out at national or regional level.
- **Programme Managers** are typically research councils or funding agencies or other national or regional organisations that implement research programmes under the supervision of the programme owners. Their participation has to be mandated by the national/regional authorities in charge (normally the responsible Ministry).
- Only in addition to the minimum conditions, and if justified by the nature of the action, **programmes funded by other entities** (international programmes, foundations or other non-public programmes) may participate.

### A. Implementation of a single joint call (MS contribution in cash)

- Call for proposals organised by national/regional funding agencies
- Activities: call preparation, implementation and follow-up
- **Eligible costs:** financial support paid to third parties

### B. Implementation of a single joint call (MS contribution in cash) and additional activities

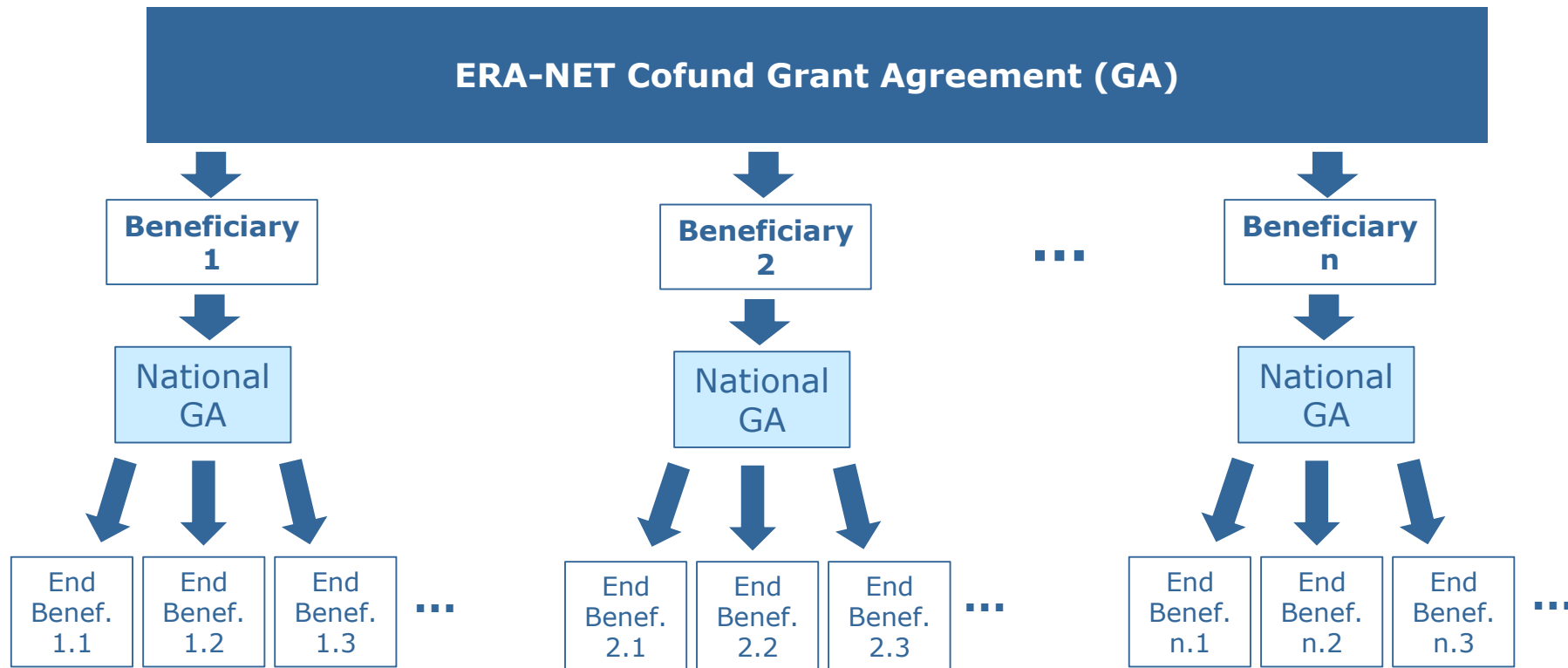
- Call and activities as in A.
- Additional joint activities including additional joint calls without Union top-up funding.
- **Eligible costs:** financial support paid to third parties and coordination costs for additional activities (unit costs per beneficiary per year).

### C. Implementation of a single joint call (MS contribution in kind)

In exceptional cases

- Call for proposals organised by governmental research organisations
- Beneficiaries carry out the projects resulting from the call themselves
- **Eligible costs:** costs of trans-national projects on the basis of Horizon 2020 rules
- In-kind contributions: non-reimbursed expenditure

# Structure of ERA-NET Cofund Grant Agreement



### A. Implementation of a single joint call

- Call for proposals organised by national funding agencies
- Activities prepared, implemented and followed up by the beneficiary
- **Eligible costs:** financial support paid to third parties

### B. Implementation of a single joint call (MS contribution in cash) and additional activities

- Call and activities as in A.
- Additional joint activities including additional joint calls without Union top-up funding.
- **Eligible costs:** financial support paid to third parties and coordination costs for additional activities (unit costs per beneficiary per year).

### C. Implementation of a single joint call (MS contribution in kind)

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## Co-funded call: Rules for providing support to or implementation of trans-national projects (Important: these are conditions for costs to be eligible!)

The beneficiaries must

provide financial support  
to trans-national projects

or

implement such projects  
(partially or fully)  
themselves

The proposals/projects must

- be **transnational projects** (at least two independent entities from two different EU Member States or associated countries)
- be selected following a joint transnational **call for proposals, two-step procedure**
- be evaluated in step 2, with the assistance of at least **three independent experts**, on the basis of excellence, impact, quality and efficiency of the implementation
- be ranked according to the evaluation results, and **selected in the order of the ranking list(s)**

## Co-funded call – conditions & deliverables

After the end of the evaluation the consortium must submit to the Commission the following:

- (a) the ranking list(s) of the projects;
- (b) the observers' report on the evaluation;
- (c) the joint selection list of the projects to be funded, and
- (d) from each consortium partner participating in the joint call, a formal and duly signed commitment on availability of funds for the selected projects.

In addition:

- a) After the **end of evaluation** information on each project selected for funding (data on each participant and abstracts of the project proposal),
- b) At the **end of the action**: information on each funded project (data on each participant and overview of results).

**Important: The conditions for call implementation for the co-funded call do not apply to additional calls without Union top-up funding.**



## Co-funded call – practical issues

- **Choice of the funding mode** to ensure selection according to ranking
  - good practice: mixed mode
  - real common pot: possible
- Use of **step 1 to balance requested and available funding**
- Possibility to use **more than one call topic**
  - dedicated budgets per topics, multiple ranking lists or
  - use expert panel to adjust scores and create single ranking list
- Only **proposals with identical scores at the threshold of available funding** may be selected according to the availability of funds in order to maximise the number of selected projects.
  - choice of half scores / vs. full scores
- **Independent expert as observer:** appointed by the consortium, to assess the conformity of the implementation of the joint call and, in particular, review the proper implementation of the independent international peer review and the establishment of the ranking list of trans-national projects.
- Possibility of **centralised management** of grant agreements
- **Important: structural funds and financial instruments can be used, but do not qualify for top-up funding**
- ➔ **Make use of good practice documented by ERA-LEARN!**

## ERA-NET Cofund: additional activities

- ERA-NET Cofund consortia **carry out other activities in addition** to the call receiving top-up funding.
- **Option is normally defined in the call text**, e.g.: *"Proposers are encouraged to implement other joint activities including additional joint calls without EU co-funding"*.
- **Activities have to be related to the coordination of public research and innovation programmes** and should focus on the preparation and implementation of joint activities including additional calls without Union top-up funding (**typical ERA-NET FP7 activities**).
- **Additional partners might be involved** which do not participate in co-funded calls.
- The coordination cost for the other activities takes the form of a **unit cost per beneficiary year** and is limited to those beneficiaries that carry out activities that go beyond the co-funded call.
- Proposers have to **demonstrate the appropriateness of the overall coordination costs** for the proposed additional activities.

## Most common additional activities of ERA-NET Cofund actions

List of activities	% of responses
a. Launching and implementing additional call for proposals	52.4
b. Implementing joint activities related to dissemination and up-take of research results	47.2
c. Developing a common vision in the thematic area	42.9
d. Developing/updating a strategic research (and innovation) agenda in the thematic area	39.2
e. Networking and brokerage events to extend participation to additional countries	38.2
f. Implementing joint foresight activities to explore the future in the given thematic area	35.8
g. Mapping of national research in the specific thematic area	34.4
h. Capacity building and networking activities to foster participation of low budget/ performing countries	26.4
i. Organising joint mobility and/or researcher training activities	23.1
j. Creating a database of funded national projects in the specific thematic area	22.2
k. Shared use of existing infrastructures	21.7
l. Joint development of (new) infrastructures	9.0
m. Implementing joint activities related to pre-commercial public procurement or procurement of innovative solutions	5.7

## ERA-NET Cofund: unit costs for additional activities

- Based on historical data of a representative sample (around 30%) of the 71 ERA-NET projects under FP6 (Coordination costs declared and approved for the final payment).
- 7% indirect costs were deducted, extreme amounts were excluded
- Resulting average amount of direct costs for coordination is EUR 29 783., which includes marginal costs for subcontracting of around 4,5%
- **Unit costs for coordination costs per beneficiary per year: EUR 29 000**
- The flat rate of 25% for indirect costs under Horizon 2020 is applied as well as the reimbursement rate applicable to ERA-NET actions (normally 33%).

- ➔ **Maximum reimbursement per beneficiary per year of EURO 11 962,50.**
- ➔ **Annex WP H2020:** Union contribution to coordination costs for additional activities should not exceed 20% of the total Union contribution to the project.
- ➔ Beneficiaries carrying out the trans-national project themselves cannot claim coordination costs.
- ➔ **No need for financial reporting!**

# ERA-NET Cofund MGA – forms of costs

## A. direct costs related to trans-national projects

A.1 Direct costs of providing financial support to third parties implementing trans-national projects

A.2 Direct costs for the implementation of trans-national projects by the beneficiaries

A.2.1 Direct personnel costs for the implementation of trans-national projects by the beneficiaries

A.2.2 Direct costs of subcontracting for the implementation of trans-national projects by the beneficiaries

A.2.3 Other direct costs for the implementation of trans-national projects by the beneficiaries

ERA-NET  
"cash"

ERA-NET  
"in-kind"

B. direct coordination costs for of additional activities (unit cost)

C. indirect costs (25% flat rate) (excluding support to third parties, subcontracting etc.)

# Relevant information on ERA-NET Cofund

## Documents

- [Annex D](#) to the work programme
- [Model Grant Agreement](#) incl. Annexes
- [Annotated Model Grant Agreement](#) pp 557-586
- [Template Part B](#) of the proposal
- [Checklist](#) for ERA-NET Cofund actions
- ARES(2016)6685659 [Conditions and Criteria](#)

## Additional information:

- [ERA-NET Cofund Online Manual](#)
- [ERA-LEARN newsletters](#)
- [ERA-LEARN website](#)
- [ERA-LEARN ERA-NET Cofund Section](#)