



ERA
LEARN
2020

In-Kind/ Institutional ERA-NET-COFUND- Projects

An Overview and practical Examples
September 2016



- ❖ **ERA-NET COFUND:** In general
- ❖ **The exceptional case:** In-Kind/ Institutional ERA-NET-COFUND-Projects
- ❖ **Who** can submit an In-Kind/ Institutional ERA-NET-COFUND-Project
- ❖ **Costs Requirements, Reimbursement and Black Box**
- ❖ **Eligible Costs in Horizon 2020**
- ❖ **Practical examples / Call Example**
- ❖ **Summary**
- ❖ **Links**

ERA-NET-COFUND in general

- ❖ ERA-NET Cofund allows for **programme collaboration in any part of the entire research-innovation cycle.**
- ❖ ERA-NET Cofund has the **central and compulsory element of implementing one substantial call with top-up funding** from the European Union.
- ❖ The **financial contributions of Member States** can be in cash or **in kind** in order to broaden the scope of ERA-NETs towards **the coordination institutional funding of governmental research organisations** (If the ERA-NET is based on in-kind contribution instead of cash contribution will be announced in the call text)

The exceptional case: In-Kind/ Institutional ERA-NET-COFUND- Projects

- ❖ In-Kind ERA-NET-COFUND-Projects **target governmental research organisations**
- ❖ The co-funded call for proposals will in these cases be based on **in-kind contributions from their institutional funding.**
- ❖ The **beneficiaries carry out the transnational projects** resulting from their call for proposals **fully or partially themselves.**
- ❖ The **in-kind contributions** are the resources allocated as **direct expenditure in the selected trans-national projects that are not reimbursed by the Union contribution.**
- ❖ **Eligible costs:** The selected trans-national projects must follow Horizon 2020 rules



Why In-Kind/ Institutional ERA-NET-COFUND-Project:

- ❖ A high level of governmental research funding is allocated as institutional funding
- ❖ It remains largely untapped for research coordination.
- ❖ The limited experience with initiatives that tackle this issue is positive:
 - ❖ **AERTOS** funded under FP7 is an example of an ERA-NET working mainly with institutional funding.
 - ❖ The ERA-NET Plus **iMERA Plus** is a particular successful example of institutional funding being integrated in a call with more than Euro 60 million public funding, leading to the Art.185 initiatives **EMRP** (FP7) and **EMPIR** (H2020) integrating 50% of the metrology research into a single initiative.

Source: Niehoff 2014: “The ERA-NET scheme from FP6 to Horizon 2020”

Who can submit an In-Kind/ Institutional ERA-NET-COFUND- Project /1

- ❖ 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).



Who can submit an In-Kind/ Institutional ERA-NET-COFUND- Project/2

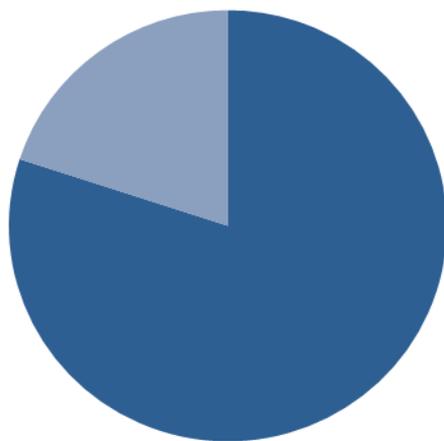
- ❖ **Three legal entities owning or managing public research and innovation programmes.** Each of the three shall be established in a different Member State or associated country. All three legal entities shall be independent of each other.
- ❖ Only in addition to the minimum conditions, and if justified by the nature of the action, programmes funded by other entities (international programmes, foundations or other nonpublic programmes) may participate

- ❖ **Eligible Costs** = Costs for the **implementation of trans-national projects by the beneficiaries** if they carry out trans-national projects partially or fully themselves.
- ❖ Implementation of such projects must be in accordance with the following conditions:
 - ❖ The **projects must be trans-national projects** involving at least two independent entities from two different EU Member States or Associated Countries.
 - ❖ The projects must be selected **following a joint trans-national call** for proposals and the rules of the EC (2 steps procedure , fixed award criteria, three independent experts, selected in the order of the ranking lists....)
- ❖ **Beneficiaries** that carry out trans-national projects partially or fully themselves **cannot declare coordination costs for additional activities**
- ❖ **No costs for activities related to the preparation, implementation and follow-up of the cofunded call are eligible.**

Reimbursement and In-Kind Contribution

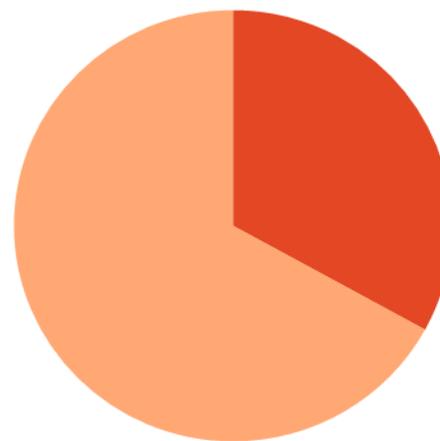
for the implementation of transnational Projects

Total estimated eligible costs



- Direct costs for the implementation of transnational projects by the beneficiaries
- Indirect cost 25% of direct costs

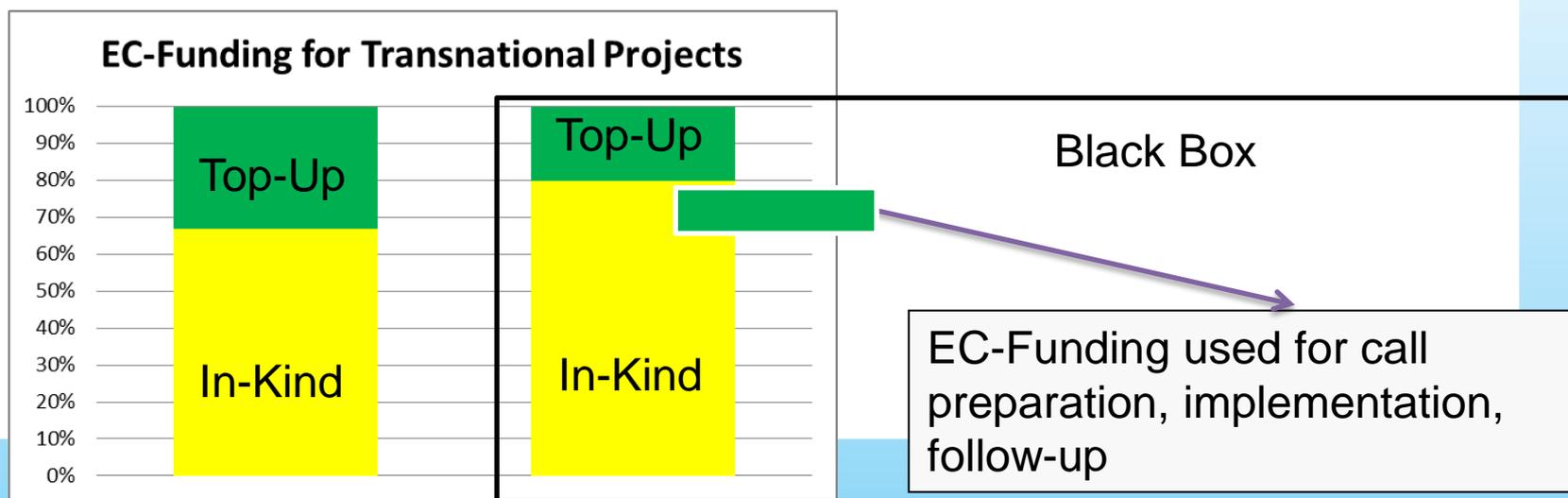
EC-Funding and In-Kind contribution



- Reimbursement rate 33%
- In-Kind Contribution



- ❖ The consortium may choose to **use part of the Union contribution to support their activities (call preparation, implementation, follow up)** as long as the corresponding costs are not declared as eligible and the **Union contribution does not exceed 33% of partners' funding of trans-national projects**
- ❖ This means in practice that they have to **replace any Union contribution that is used to support their activities with additional national contributions to the funding of trans-national projects.**
- ❖ In an In-Kind-ERA-NET-COFUND-Project this would mean that **the In-Kind-Contribution has to be increased** in order to cover the funding gap.



General Conditions for eligible costs in Horizon 2020

- ❖ Incurred by the beneficiary (or involved Third Parties carrying out tasks)
- ❖ Incurred during the duration of the action (except costs for final reporting)
- ❖ Indicated in the estimated budget of the action
- ❖ Identifiable and verifiable
- ❖ Necessary for the action as described in the Grant Agreement
- ❖ In compliance with national laws on taxes, labour and social security
- ❖ In compliance with beneficiary's usual accounting practice
- ❖ Reasonable, justified, sound financial management

Type of costs to be funded – in the trans-national projects

Horizon 2020

Standard cost categories:

- ❖ Personnel costs
- ❖ Subcontracting costs
- ❖ Other direct costs (e.g. travel expenses, equipment /infrastructure depreciation, services...)
- ❖ Indirect costs

Trans-national projects must follow Horizon 2020 rules.

WP 2016 Call Example

- ❖ **LCE-26-2016:** Cross-thematic ERA-NET on Applied Geosciences

- **Link:**

- <http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/topics/lce-26-2016.html>

- **Scope:**

-The co-funded call for proposals must be based on **in-kind contributions** from their institutional funding and the beneficiaries **will carry out the transnational projects resulting from their call for proposals fully or partially themselves.....**

ERA Planet:

- ❖ [ERA-Planet](#) - national programmes and funding stems from institutional in-kind of 36 research performing organisations. ERA-Planet demonstrates that an in-kind ERA-NET Cofund can be applied for by research performing organisations.
- ❖ More information see [EL2020 Case Study](#)

ERA4CS

- ❖ Network under the Roof of JPI Climate.
- ❖ The [co-funded call](#) will target two complementary topics of which one is financed with cash and one is based on in kind contribution of several Research Performing Organisation (RPOs).
- ❖ More information see [EL2020 Case Study](#)



Summary – In-Kind-ERA-Net Cofunds

- ❖ Basis requirement: **National (or regional) research programmes** with a view to implementing a joint transnational call for proposals
- ❖ Target beneficiaries are **publically-funded research performing organisations mandated by the national/regional authorities** in charge of the programme (normally the responsible Ministry)
- ❖ **One joint transnational call for proposals is required** – this call is co-funded by the EC
- ❖ Beneficiaries will **carry out the transnational projects resulting from their call for proposals fully or partially themselves**
- ❖ **Horizon 2020 rules have to be applied when implementing the transnational projects**
- ❖ **EC funding will be 33%** of the total eligible cost – 67% is covered by the in-kind contributions from the institutional funding of the beneficiaries
- ❖ If the **EC funding is partly used to cover the call preparation, implementation and follow up the In-Kind contribution has to be increased** resulting in a lower funding rate for transnational projects – Black Box



❖ **ERA-NET Cofund under Horizon 2020:**

http://ec.europa.eu/research/era/era-net-in-horizon-2020_en.htm

❖ **Specific provisions and funding rates ERA-NET Cofund:**

http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/wp/2014_2015/annexes/h2020-wp1415-annex-d-eranet-cofund_en.pdf

❖ **ERA-NET Cofund: Guidelines & Practical Documentation**

<https://www.era-learn.eu/manuals-tools/p2p-in-h2020/practical-documentation>

❖ **Case Studies on running In-Kind ERA-NET Cofunds ERA-Planet and ERA4CS:**

<https://www.era-learn.eu/alignment/novel-alignment-modalities>