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ERA-NET COFUND UNDER HORIZON 2020 - THE PRINCIPLES

ERA-NET Cofund under Horizon 2020 is designed to support Public-Public Partnerships, including Joint Programming Initiatives between Member States, in their preparation, establishment of networking structures, design, implementation and coordination of joint activities as well as Union topping-up of a trans-national call for proposals. It is based on the merger of the former ERA-NET and ERA-NET Plus actions and is implemented by using ‘programme co-fund actions’. It allows for programme collaboration in any part of the entire research-innovation cycle.

The main and compulsory activity of ERA-NET Cofund actions under Horizon 2020 is the implementation of a single co-funded joint call for proposals that leads to the funding of trans-national research and/or innovation projects (one co-funded call per Grant Agreement). In addition to the co-funded call the consortia may implement other joint activities including other joint calls without Union co-funding. The reimbursement rate for ERA-NET Cofund is 33%, as for the ERA-NET Plus actions under FP7.

The duration of ERA-NET Cofund actions is set at 5 years. During this time the consortium has to prepare and implement the call, select and negotiate the projects, finalise the projects including final payment to their beneficiaries. A shorter duration than 5 years is not feasible. It is possible to amend the grant agreement and allow for a longer duration, e.g. when consortia face problems in finalising the funded transnational RTD projects.



It is not any longer possible to support ERA-NETs with a Coordination and Support Action (CSA) and support only the networking. Only in exceptional cases it might be considered to support the preparation and structuring of specific emerging Public-Public Partnerships that demonstrate clear European added value.

What activities can be supported by ERA-NET Cofund?

ERA-NET Cofund under Horizon 2020 allows flexibility for the scope of activities (compulsory cofunded joint call with or without additional activities) and whether the MS contributions are made in cash (classical ERA-NET) or in kind (institutional funding ERA-NET) which are described below.

2) Implementation of a single joint call, based on MS contribution in cash and additional activities

An ERA-NET Cofund consortium may carry out other activities in addition to the cofunded joint call. Where appropriate, additional partners which do not participate in the cofunded call might be involved. The 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 (activities comparable to the ones of the FP7 ERA-NETs). The coordination costs are limited to those beneficiaries that carry out activities that go beyond the cofunded call.

and interest on the side of the stakeholders has grown, since this approach would allow to target research areas that do not work on the basis of the classical cash ERANETs. ERA-NET Cofund allows, when justified by the research area and the underlying national programmes, to target governmental research organisations, with the cofunded call for proposals being based on in-kind contributions from their institutional funding. In this case the beneficiaries carry out the transnational projects resulting from their call for proposals themselves. It is strongly advised that a strategic choice for an ERA-NET based on in-kind contribution instead of cash contribution is made by the Commission services at the outset of the process, when they elaborate in dialogue with the Member States the ERA-NET topics in the Work Programme, depending on the research area and the underlying national programmes.

In these cases the ERA-NET Cofund grant will reimburse the costs of trans-national projects, implemented by the beneficiaries, on the basis of Horizon 2020 rules for eligible direct and indirect costs. The in-kind contributions are the resources allocated as direct expenditure in the selected trans-national projects that are not reimbursed. It is not any longer possible to support ERA-NETs with a coordination and support action (CSA) and support only the networking.

What are the conditions for the implementation of the cofunded call?

The consortium must provide financial support to trans-national projects or implement such projects (partially or fully) themselves in accordance with the following conditions:

The ERA-NET Cofund grant reimburses the direct costs of providing financial support to third parties for the trans-national projects

1) Implementation of a single joint call, based on MS contribution in cash

ERA-NET Cofund can be used to implement only a single joint call for proposals (identical to the former ERA-NET Plus) with MS contribution in cash. The call is organised by national/regional funding agencies. The projects resulting from the call receive financial support from the national programmes on the basis of a grant agreement between the national programmes and the project participants (cascading grants).

The ERA-NET Cofund grant reimburses the direct costs of providing financial support to third parties for the trans-national projects, paid in accordance to national funding rules.

In the case of a combination of the co-funded call with other activities the ERA-NET Cofund grant reimburses:

- Direct costs of providing financial support to third parties for the trans-national projects, paid in accordance to national funding rules
- Coordination costs for additional activities (on the basis of unit costs per beneficiary per year, see below)

3) Implementation of a single joint call, based on MS contribution in kind

In-kind contributions in ERANET calls have been rarely used under FP6 and FP7 (IMERA+, AERTOs). They were however always possible





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. The consortium must publish the joint call on a dedicated webpage and promote it at national/regional level via their usual channels of communications to potential proposers. The joint call shall remain open for the submission of proposals for at least 60 days. The consortium must formally notify the Commission of the call and its content at least 30 days before the expected date of publication.

The consortium must make the joint call through a two-step procedure:

- Step 1: review at national or trans-national level
- Step 2: single international peer review.

A two-step procedure is necessary to ensure that only entities that are eligible for funding under the national programmes involved in the joint are invited to step 2 and that consortia can balance the requested funding and available

funding per participating state between step 1 and step 2.

In step 2, the consortium must evaluate proposals with the assistance of at least three independent experts, on the basis of the following award criteria:

- (a) excellence;
- (b) impact;
- (c) quality and efficiency of the implementation.

Proposals must be ranked according to the evaluation results. The selection must be made on the basis of this ranking. 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. An independent expert as observer, to be appointed by the consortium, shall 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.

The consortium must take all lawful steps to ensure confidentiality of information

and documents obtained during the evaluation and selection procedures of the joint call.

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.

The consortium must furthermore submit to the European Commission after the end of the evaluation information on each project selected for funding, including data on each participant and abstracts of the project proposal, in a format specified by the European Commission, for publication and evaluation purposes. This information must be updated at the end of the action (information on each funded project, including data on each participant and overview of the results).

How are the costs for the preparation, implementation and follow-up of the call covered?

No costs for activities related to the preparation, implementation and follow-up of the co-funded call are eligible. The consortium may however choose to use part of the Union contribution to support their activities 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 and unit costs for additional activities. 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. This has already been applied by all ERA-NET Plus actions under FP7. These arrangements should be reflected in the Consortium Agreement.

How are coordination costs for additional activities reimbursed?

The principle of Horizon 2020 to apply a single reimbursement rate per action does not allow any longer reimbursing fully the coordination costs for ERA-NET actions. A 33% reimbursement rate of actual coordination was considered not feasible. After stakeholder consultation on the different options in 2012 the unit costs for coordination costs of additional activities was identified as the preferred option against the background of simplification and feasibility. The use of unit costs has to be authorised by a Commission Decision, supported by e.g. identification of the costs or categories of costs; description of the methods for determining the amounts, on the basis of statistical data or similar objective means. The unit costs for ERA-NET Cofund has been determined on the basis of

historical data of a representative sample of the 71 ERA-NET projects under FP6 (Coordination costs declared and approved for the final payment).

On that basis the unit cost for eligible direct coordination costs of additional activities per beneficiary per year is fixed at EUR 29 000, to which the flat rate of 25% for indirect costs under Horizon 2020 is to be applied, as well as the reimbursement rate applicable to ERA-NET actions. As a consequence, the maximum reimbursement of direct and indirect costs of coordination of additional activities per beneficiary per year will be EUR 11 962,50.

that carry out trans-national projects partially or fully themselves cannot declare coordination costs for additional activities.

The total amount that can be allocated to coordination costs is limited. The Annex to the Work Programme specifies that the Union contribution to coordination costs should not exceed 20% of the total Union contribution to the action.

Who can participate?

The eligibility conditions for ERA-NET Cofund are similar to the ones under FP7.

ERA-NET Cofund actions support coordination and

The new approach will lead to simplification, since the ERA-NET Cofund partners only have to plan and report the number of years in which they take part in additional activities.

The consequence for the consortia is that they have to find new arrangements for financing the action. The majority will be able to participate on the basis of the unit costs. Core participants (coordinator, WP leaders) will have to be financed by using part of the Union Contribution for the co-funding of the call to pay for central costs, and the consortium will have to replace the amounts jointly with additional national funding.

The new approach will lead to simplification, since the ERA-NET partners only have to plan and report the number of years in which they take part in additional activities. The unit costs will be paid on the basis of the number of years in which a partner took part in the activities (no financial reporting), with flexibility for the consortia to decide which partners use the coordination costs in which years. Important boundary condition: Beneficiaries

collaboration between Member States and their research and innovation programmes. Consequently participation in these actions 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.

In this regard 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.



The participation of programme managers including governmental research organisations has to be mandated by the national/regional authorities in charge (normally the responsible Ministry).

The minimum conditions for participation (three independent legal entities from three different Member States or associated countries) have to be fulfilled by the entities participating in the joint trans-national call for proposals.

Any third country can in principle participate in the co-funded call as well as in the other activities including additional joint calls without co-funding. The standard H2020 rules apply for the funding of the third countries.

Sole participants may be eligible if the above-mentioned specific conditions for eligible ERA-NET Cofund partners are satisfied. A sole participant forming a sole legal entity shall explicitly indicate which of its 'members' are either programme owners or programme managers in the proposed action, and indicate for these members the respective national/regional programmes which are at the disposal of the proposed ERA-NET Cofund action.

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.

Reporting and payment schedule

The default option for ERA-NET Cofund actions foresees two reporting periods and two pre-financing payments. The first reporting period covers the period until the end of the evaluation and selection. In this case the first pre-financing payment corresponds to 10%, and the second pre-financing payment to 80% of the total Union contribution.

Only in exceptional cases, when there are insufficient EU payment credits for the second pre-financing payment, three reporting period and three pre-financing payments will be foreseen in the Grant Agreement, with 10% for the first pre-financing payments and each 40% for the second and for the third pre-financing payment.

No interim payment is foreseen in the ERA-NET Cofund, but only pre-financing payments and payment of the balance at the end of the action to take into account the fact that eligible costs for support to third parties are normally only available after the end of the transnational projects.

Any third country can in principle participate in the co-funded call as well as in the other activities including additional joint calls without co-funding.

Where to find more information?

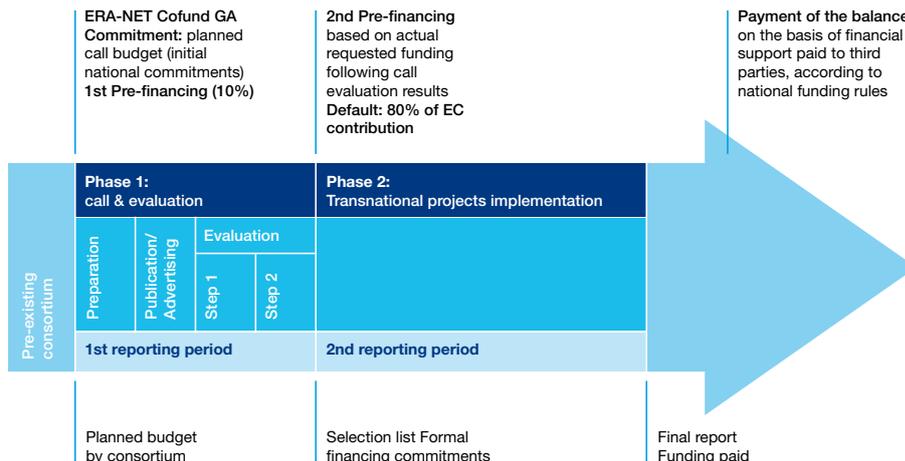
A number of documents for Horizon 2020 provide important information for the ERA-NET Cofund actions:

The General Annexes to the Work Programme 2014/15 include a description of ERA-NET Cofund and specific eligibility conditions and evaluation criteria.

A dedicated Model Grant Agreement has been designed for ERA-NET Cofund. It includes specific Annexes for the financial forms, a form for the commitment on availability of funds and model for the statement on the use of the previous pre-financing instalment.

Proposals have to be prepared with a template specific for ERA-NET Cofund.

<http://netwatch.jrc.ec.europa.eu/web/lp/learning-platform/p2p-in-h2020/background-information>



In the Work Programme 2014-2015, several ERA-NET Cofund actions and CSAs (including those in support to JPIs) are planned. The budget dedicated to ERA-NET Cofund actions should amount to close to 93 M€ in 2014 and more than 163 M€ in 2015. More than 11 M€ will be dedicated to CSAs in 2014-2015, of which 6 M€ will directly support JPIs. The table below is available online at <http://www.era-learn.eu>

	2014	2015	Title of the topic
Pillar "Industrial Leadership"			
ICT	ERA-NET, 6M€ Call closure: 23 April 2014		ICT 26 – 2014: Photonics KET More Information
		ERA-NET, 6M€ Call closure: 14 April 2015	ICT 27 – 2015: Photonics KET
Nanotechnologies, Advanced Materials and Advanced Manufacturing and Processing		ERA-NET, 10M€ Call closure: 26 March 2015	NMP 14 - 2015: ERA-NET on Materials for Energy More Information
	CSA 0,25 to 0,5 M€ Call closure: 6 May 2014		NMP 36 – 2014: Facilitating knowledge management, networking and coordination in NMP More Information
Pillar "Societal challenges"			
Health, demographic change and wellbeing	ERA-NET, 5M€ Call closure: 15 April 2014		HCO7 – 2014: ERA-NET: Establishing synergies between the Joint Programming on Neurodegenerative Diseases Research and Horizon 2020 More Information
	ERA-NET, 5M€ Call closure: 15 April 2014		HCO8 – 2014: ERA-NET: Aligning national/regional translational cancer research programmes and activities More Information
	ERA-NET, 5M€ Call closure: 15 April 2014		HCO9 – 2014: ERA-NET: Systems medicine to address clinical needs More Information
	ERA-NET, 5M€ Call closure: 15 April 2014		HCO 10 – 2014: ERA NET: Rare Disease research implementing IRDiRC objectives More Information
		ERA-NET, 5M€ Call closure: 21 April 2015	HCO11 – 2015: ERA-NET: Collaboration and alignment of national programmes and activities in the area of brain-related diseases and disorders of the nervous system More Information
		ERA-NET, 5M€ Call closure: 21 April 2015	HCO12 – 2015: ERA-NET: Antimicrobial Resistance More Information
		ERA-NET, 5M€ Call closure: 21 April 2015	HCO13 – 2015: ERA-NET: Cardiovascular disease More Information
	CSA, 2M€ Call closure: 15 April 2014		HCO2 – 2014: Joint Programming: Coordination Action for the Joint Programming Initiative (JPI) "More Years, Better Lives - the Challenges and Opportunities of Demographic Change" More Information

	2014	2015	Title of the topic
Pillar "Societal challenges"			
Food security, sustainable agriculture and forestry, marine and maritime and inland water research and the bioeconomy	ERA-NET, 5M€ Call closure: 11 June 2015	ERA-NET, 15M€ Call closure: 26 June 2014	ISIB-12-2014/2015: Public-Public Partnerships in the bioeconomy (multiple topics) A. (2014) Sustainable and resilient agriculture for food and non-food systems More Information B. (2015) Rural development C. (2015) Monitoring and mitigation of agricultural and forestry greenhouse gases (GHG) D. (2015) Sustainable crop production E. (2015) Sustainable livestock production F. (2015) Biomarkers for nutrition and health
	CSA, 0,5 M€ Call closure: 26 June 2014		ISIB-10-2014: Networking of Bioeconomy relevant ERA-NETs More Information
	CSA, 2 M€ Call closure: 26 June 2014		ISIB-11-2014: Coordination action in support of the implementation by participating States of a Joint Programming Initiative on Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change More Information
		CSA, 2 M€ Call closure: 11 June 2015	BG-16-2015: Coordination action in support of the implementation of the Joint Programming Initiative on 'Healthy and Productive Seas and Oceans' More Information
Secure, clean and efficient energy	ERA-NET, 34,25 M€ Call closure: 7 May 2014 More Information	ERA-NET, 57,85 M€ Call closure: 28 April 2015 More Information	LCE 18 – 2014/2015: Supporting Joint Actions on demonstration and validation of innovative energy solutions
Climate action, environment, resource efficiency and raw materials	ERA-NET, 10M€ Call closure: 8 April 2014 More Information	ERA-NET, 15M€ Call closure: 10 March 2015 More Information	WATER-3-2014/2015: Stepping up EU research and innovation cooperation in the water area
		ERA-NET, 25M€ Call closure: 10 March 2015	SC5-2-2015: ERA for Climate Services More Information
	ERA-NET, 12M€ Call closure: 8 April 2014		SC5-9-2014: Consolidating the European Research Area on biodiversity and ecosystem services More Information
		ERA-NET, 15M€ Call closure: 10 March 2015	SC5-15-2015: Strengthening the European Research Area in the domain of Earth Observation More Information
Europe in a changing world – inclusive, innovative and reflective Societies		ERA-NET, 5M€ Call closure: 7 January 2015	EURO 5 – 2015: ERA-NET on Smart Urban Futures More Information
	ERA-NET, 5M€ Call closure: 3 June 2014		REFLECTIVE-1-2014: ERA-NET on Uses of the past More Information
	CSAs, 3,2M€ Call closure: 29 April 2014	ERA-NET, 5M€ Call closure: tbc	INSO 7 – 2014: Towards joint programming under Horizon 2020 More Information
	CSAs, 1 M€ Call closure: 29 April 2014		INSO 8 – 2014: Synchronised Call initiatives More Information
		OTH 0,1M€	14 – Analysis of ERA-NET Cofund
	OTH 0,5M€		15 – Strategic evaluation of Joint Programming

One way to enhance the participation of countries in Public-public partnerships (P2P) such as Joint Programming Initiatives, ERA-NETs, Article 185 initiatives is to deploy European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF). This goes for all EU-Member States; it could however be especially beneficial for new Member States.



ESIF will invest up to €90 billion in innovation and research in the period 2014-2020. Therefore, Article 17a of the Horizon 2020 Regulation and Article 31 of the Rules for Participation encourage synergies between Horizon 2020 and other European Union funds, such as ESIF.

Synergies are about obtaining more impacts on competitiveness, jobs and growth by combining ESIF and Horizon 2020. Synergies are not about substituting national / regional or private co-funding to Horizon 2020 projects by ESIF money, but to amplify or carry further certain activities.

The principles to use ESIF for ERA-NET Co-fund, Article 185 initiatives and JPIs:

- Article 185 initiatives: Member States may use ESIF, however only purely national contributions will be taken into account for the calculation of the Union's contribution from Horizon 2020.

- ERA-NET Co-fund: Part of a co-funded joint call could receive funding from ESIF but only the part involving purely national contributions will be included in the calculation of the funding from Horizon 2020. Individual projects funded under the call can however receive support from ESIF in compliance with national and ESIF funding rules.

- Joint Programming Initiatives (JPIs): There is no limitation to use ESIF in JPIs provided that respondents to Joint Calls observe the rules for ESIF funding. The only exception is if the Strategic Research Agenda (or part of it) is implemented via ERA-NET Co-fund or an Article 185 initiative. In those cases, the conditions to combine Horizon 2020 and ESIF applicable for ERA-NET Co-fund and Article 185 initiatives have to be met.

How to get more information?

The Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy and the Directorate-General for Research and Innovation will soon issue guidelines for using different EU funding sources including the ESIF supporting R&I where P2Ps are also addressed.

A dedicated workshop on the "Synergies of European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) and Horizon 2020 for public-public partnerships" is organised by the European Commission on 13 February 2013 in Brussels. This workshop aims to respond to key questions on the synergies (benefits, current practices, challenges, possible next steps) through an active involvement of the participants.

If you are interested in this workshop, please contact Mrs. Serbest Sibel.SERBEST@ext.ec.europa.eu by e-mail.



On 10 July 2013, the Commission adopted the Innovation Investment Package. In addition to six proposals for Article 187 initiatives (Joint Technology Initiatives), the Innovation Investment Package includes proposals for decisions on Article 185 initiatives: AAL2, EDCTP2, EMPIR and Eurostars-2.



Those four Article 185 initiatives are the successor programmes of four out of the five existing initiatives (AAL, EDCTP, EMRP, Eurostars). The fifth initiative (BONUS) started its implementation phase in 2013, will have its interim evaluation in 2014 and will therefore decide on the preparation of a successor programme at a later stage.

- The Active and Assisted Living Joint Programme (AAL2) will address the challenges and opportunities of the ageing population by creating new ICT based products and services for ageing based on real user needs across Europe. It will focus on the close to market stage.
- The objective of the second European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership Programme (EDCTP2) is to improve

the EU's capacity to invest more efficiently in the research and development of new or improved medical interventions against poverty-related diseases for the benefit of and in partnership with developing countries, in particular sub-Saharan African countries.

- On the basis of a successfully running EMRP, the European Metrology Programme for Innovation and Research (EMPIR) integrates 50% of the research of National Metrology Institutes in Europe. It will support all priorities of Horizon 2020, will have a strong innovation focus and will provide a module for capacity building in new Member States.
- Eurostars-2 will aim at supporting research and development performing SMEs by co-financing their market oriented transnational

research projects in any field. The Commission proposes to contribute approximately EUR 1.5 billion from the Horizon 2020 budget to all four initiatives, in proportion to the amount committed by the Member States and Associated countries participating in those programmes.

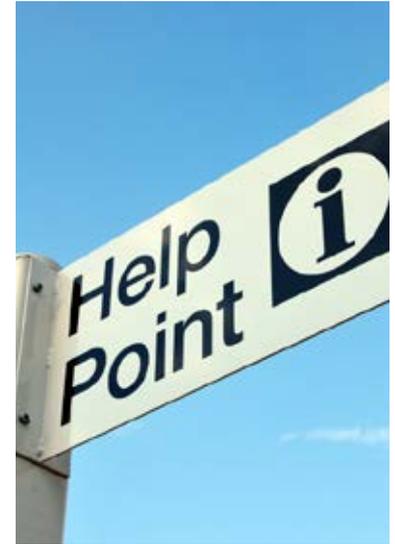
The four decision proposals are now being discussed in the European Parliament and in the Council. It is expected that the procedure could lead to the adoption of those decisions before the parliamentary elections.

http://ec.europa.eu/research/horizon2020/index_en.cfm?pg=h2020-documents

ERA-NETs under Horizon 2020 will be implemented by using a specific, new type of action: ERA-NET Cofund. There are a number of important changes compared to FP7. With this event ERA-NET participants and the broader stakeholder community will be informed about the future ERA-NET Cofund actions to ensure that the ERA-NETs under Horizon 2020 continue successfully with their activities.

The Infoday will include a general introduction on Public-Public Partnerships under Horizon 2020 and provide detailed information on the features of the ERA-NET Cofund actions including the provisions from the model grant agreement, the relevant calls in 2014 and 2015 and information on proposal submission, evaluation, grant preparation and reporting. Click on the links below for more information.

- [Agenda](#)
- [Registration to the infoday](#)
- [Webstreaming of the event](#)



UPCOMING ANNUAL SURVEY ON ERA-NET AND JPIS CALLS



Since 2011, the European Commission has been conducting annual surveys among FP7 ERA-NET, ERA-NET Plus and JPIS, in order to collect data on their joint calls and publish a report. In the report issued last May 2013, the statistics showed a total public funding for the years 2004 to 2012 of more than €2 billion. For the period 2013 – 2015, calls with a total volume between €845 million and €1.2 billion public funding were planned.

In order to update these data and look further in the future, the EC services will follow-up on earlier exercises and launch its annual survey in February 2014, in order to collect data on the calls of 2013 and the future calls (2014-2016).

The associated report to be published in April 2014 will allow a better coordination between initiatives and the calls they are implementing, as well as with the relevant Horizon 2020 activities. This is particularly important with a view of early identification of calls that are potentially relevant for co-funding via ERA-NET Cofund actions under Horizon 2020.

Lack of evaluation standards and of mutual knowledge of research systems between Member States is currently an impediment to the achievement of the European Research Area (ERA). By setting an international standard for peer review and providing a benchmark for national proposals in a longer term perspective, Synchronised Calls will contribute to the realisation of ERA.



This new ERA initiative will pilot the organisation of synchronised calls at European level. Member States will pre-determine scientific fields, where they launch national calls in a synchronised manner with one identical call deadline and using joint international peer review. This will lead to EU-wide evaluation results that will be disseminated among participating funding bodies.

The ERA Communication (COM(2012) 392 of 17 July 2012) proposed to test synchronised calls and Máire Geoghegan-Quinn, the European Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science, stated at the Joint Programming Conference in Dublin in February 2013 that the Commission is ready to fund a Synchronised Calls Pilot.

Accordingly, the Commission has now included a call for a “Synchronised Calls Initiative” in the first Work programme of Horizon 2020, within Challenge 6, and with available funding of €1 Mio. This call is especially targeted towards national/regional research funding bodies, funding both strategic, applied research and basic research and could fund between 2 to 5 excellent proposals. This will ultimately depend on the call topic and expected call budget, the size of consortia and the number of research projects proposals for the synchronised call. The Commission will fund the joint international peer review. Responsibility for funding successful research project proposals will remain at national/regional level.

Objectives and benefits

The Synchronised Call will enhance research excellence in Europe in a number of ways: by helping Member States to improve their evaluation systems, by increasing transparency and fair treatment via comparable score for proposals. It will improve the effectiveness of national research systems by facilitating benchmarking and guiding national strategies focused on strengths. Last but not least, increased efficiency of research funding will avoid duplication of funding by highlighting research done on exact same aspect. Finally, visibility of excellent researchers in participating less research intensive MS could be increased.



Essentials of the Synchronised Call

- Single, joint international peer review of all proposals

The participating funding bodies will establish a pool of experts, the evaluation criteria and a threshold. International panels of experts will evaluate the national proposals submitted to the call. The results of the evaluation will be communicated to the funding bodies which will however remain free to decide which proposals should be funded at national level.

- No transnational dimension to projects is required

It is not a joint call leading to transnational research consortia, even though the possibility to submit transnational, collaborative proposals will not be excluded.

- No fresh money is required

Through synchronised calls, existing national research funds are allocated in the usual manner. The only difference is that a joint international peer review with other funding agencies is carried out and that there is no additional evaluation at national level.

Useful to know....

This Coordination and Support Action is an Open Call and the proposal submission deadline is the 29th April 2014. The EC funding can cover costs related to the preparation and implementation of the synchronised call such as the IT tool, call promotion, meetings, expert evaluator management and fees.

In order to inform interested stakeholders about the details of the Synchronised Call Initiatives, the European Commission is organising an Information Event on 15 January 2014 in Brussels. If you are interested to attend this event, please contact your national research ministry who are being asked by the Commission to nominate national representatives for this event.

WORKSHOP ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF JOINT CALLS

On 18-19 September 2013, ERA-LEARN organised a training workshop in Brussels focusing on the implementation of Joint Calls in ERA-NETs, JPIs and other ERA instruments. 23 participants representing 18 institutions in 13 countries took part in the workshop. Something like 20 ERA-NETs, JPIs and other networks were represented. The participants were introduced to NETWATCH and to the online toolbox developed by ERA-LEARN. Presentations were given from DG Research & Innovation and from the ERALEARN partners. A session of Group work was organised on how to use the online “manual for call implementation”.

These were the Work group themes:

- Scope of call, timing, motivation and commitment of participants
- Call marketing and supporting documentation & IT support for marketing, submission and evaluation
- Evaluation and funding decision: principles, procedures, timeline in detail
- Funding modes and principles, monitoring & reporting.

In their feedback to the organisers, the participants said they were satisfied with the outcome of the workshop and they also found the online the

manual for call implementation very useful. The workshop was overbooked just a few days after the invitation was published.

ERA-LEARN will organise a similar workshop on the 8-9 January 2014 at KoWi conference room, Rue du Trône 98, Brussels.

Please check with your consortium who might be interested to participate and find a draft agenda and a registration tool here:

<http://www.era-learn.eu/implementation-workshop/>





The ERA-LEARN project facilitates learning among national and regional funding organisations in order to optimise their transnational activities, including ERA-NET performance. The ERA-LEARN Toolbox is available at <http://www.era-learn.eu>

Find previous editions of our newsletter here: <http://www.era-learn.eu>

To register for the newsletter see: <http://netwatch.jrc.ec.europa.eu>

