
Template: Interview with national funding agencies

This interview will last between 45 and 60 minutes.

Acronym of project being discussed: _____

Call identifier under which project was supported: _____

Name of interviewee: _____

Organisation and location (country): _____

Name of interviewer and partnership to which the project belongs: _____

Overall about the partnership

1. What do you think about the process of defining research topics of common interest to be addressed through calls? Please explain. *(Some funding agencies are perfectly located in the partnership and in their country because they have the decision-making role, as well as the national funds so they are the appropriate structure to take part in the partnership. Some also take care to record the potential interest of their research community in the possible call topics before these are defined. Other funding agencies may lack coordination with the Ministries who will be the decision-makers and/or have the funds, subsequently they may lack this national coordination when research topics are discussed in a partnership. In other partnerships topics end up to be too generic to accommodate all research interests and thus may lose the needed focus to achieve their overall research aims.)*
2. How do you record interest from the your country`s research community in the research topics addressed by the partnership? How do you publicise the partnership`s calls within your country?
3. What was the evaluation and selection process you applied? What do you think of them in terms of effectiveness, efficiency, etc.? *(As these are ERA-NETs, the partnerships are obliged to apply the evaluation and selection process of FP7 and then H2020 but in some countries, proposals also have to be evaluated and in some cases submitted following the national agencies` rules; this creates an extra burden on the process)*
4. How many proposals included researchers from your country in the partnership`s call until now? How many of them were successful? How many of them were supported? Did you manage to spend the total of your national contribution made so far?
5. How would you explain the high/low level of success of your researchers?

About the specific project

1. What kind of assistance did you provide at the application stage as well as in the implementation phase of the project?
2. How does monitoring the specific project compare with monitoring projects at national level (i.e. funded by national, regional programmes)? *(For example, in terms of time and skills requirements, human resources, etc.)*
3. Were there any issues while monitoring the specific project? Please explain. How did you overcome them? *(For example, a requirement for double reporting i.e. both to the national agency and the partnership's call secretariat, incorporating incompatibility of eligible costs across different national programmes and differences in financing issues across the different national programmes, etc.)*
4. What were the main achievements of the specific project or the most important failures? Please explain why.
5. Were there any challenges that you had to face in order to support the specific project? Please explain. How did you overcome them? *(For example, lack of synchronisation between funding provided by the different national programmes, incompatible rules of participation between the different national programmes, inability to fund certain types of beneficiaries or certain types of research by certain national agencies, delays in securing the total necessary funds for the project, other?)*

Thank you for your time!

A summary of the key discussion points will be sent to you shortly for comments/approval.

We also plan to insert some quotes in the case study report.

Please let us know if you want us to leave out your name in the quotes.