



ERA
LEARN
2020

**Day 1, Topic 1:
Experience with ERA-NET Cofund under
Horizon 2020**

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Collecting experience with current implementation of ERA-NET Cofund, covering

- (a) proposal preparation to grant agreement
- (b) co-funded call
- (c) consortium management and financing

- ➔ Important input for the Evaluation of ERA-NET Cofund (January – June 2016)
- ➔ Instrument and Commission tools work fairly well, but sometimes difficulties to understand/fill in budgetary tables and deal with technicalities (financial rules, in-kind ERA-NET)

- Consortium set-up and financing
 - Need to have the financial commitment at the right level and right point in time
 - Explain and agree on how to implement
 - Uncertainty : how much money for other activities
 - ➔ But steep learning curve, will get much easier for the next ones
- Top-up distribution
- Following the ranking list is difficult, mixed mode good practice, starting with e.g. 50% Union contribution for gap filling works
- “Black Box” is absolutely essential for the sound financial management, but difficult to understand by newcomers
- Widening participation
- Union contribution considered sufficient, but sometimes too big to be fully absorbed (risk of under-spending!)

- Important to have a commitment from partners to aim at maximising the number of funded projects
 - ➔ maximise Union contribution for the consortium, not the individual agencies!
- Need to keep a balance between requested Union contribution and minimising risk of under-spending
- Need for guidance on reporting requirements and possible audits, in particular for unit costs (reminder: ERA-NET Cofund can be extended beyond 60 month if necessary)
- Need for good practice material on ERA-NET Cofund management
- Widening:
 - Specific information needs of agencies (new coordinators)
 - ERA-NET cofund rules are flexible to allow for innovative approaches, develop and exchange good practice!
- Balance between more harmonised implementation and flexibility

“You can keep the instrument as it is for the next Framework Programme”