

HORIZON 2020

1. Horizon 2020

Horizon 2020 is the new and improved financial instrument, replacing the 7th Framework Program (FP7) and implementing the Innovation Union which is a Europe 2020 flagship initiative aspiring at securing Europe's global competitiveness. The overall budget allocated for the carrying out of Horizon 2020 is approximately 80 billion euros for the next six years, making it the financially largest research infrastructure across the globe.

Its main aim is to improve and promote research and innovation in the European Union in all fields, producing world-class science, removing barriers to innovation and making it easier for the public and private sectors to work together in delivering innovation. All of these aim have the common goal of achieving a sustainable economy for the next generations.

Horizon 2020 has no specific target group as the calls can include, universities as well as private companies, organizations and NGOs. Therefore, it is an “open-to-everyone” program which aims at giving equal opportunities to all stakeholders and interested parties.

This European funding program is divided into eight categories:

- i. Excellent Science
- ii. Industrial Leadership
- iii. Societal Challenges
- iv. Fast Track to Innovation Pilot
- v. Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation
- vi. Science with and for Society
- vii. European Institute of Innovation and Technology
- viii. EURATOM

The most important feature of the present program is that its formulation was specifically designed to allow creativity for the consortiums to be formed and undertake such tasks. Thus allowing for an unlimited amount of innovative ideas to be submitted for funding to the end of improving and promoting innovation in the European Union.

ACTIONS AND FUNDING RATES

The actions described below only refer to the actions under the Societal Challenges Pillar of HORIZON 2020. For any actions under ERA-Net, Pre-commercial Procurement, the Research Council and any other pillar please ask for the relevant informative documentation.

1. Research and Innovation Actions:

These activities aim at establishing new knowledge and/or to explore the feasibility of a new or improved technology, product, process, service or solution.

The **funding** rate for this type of actions is **100%**.

Participants must be at least three legal entities established in three different EU and partner countries. These entities shall be independent from each other.

2. Innovation Actions:

These activities must directly aim at producing plans and arrangements or designs for new, altered or improved products, processes or services. Prototyping, testing, demonstrating, piloting, large-scale product validation and market replication can be included.

The **funding** rate for this type of actions is **70%** for all profit organisations and institutions and **100%** for not for profit legal entities.

Participants must be at least three legal entities established in three different EU and partner countries. These entities shall be independent from each other.

3. Coordination and Support Actions:

These activities are accompanying measures (standardisation, dissemination, awareness-raising and communication, networking, coordination or support services, policy dialogues and mutual learning exercises and studies etc).

The **funding** rate for this type of actions is **100%**.

Participants to these actions must be at least one legal entity established in the EU or partner country.



4. SME Instrument:

The SME instrument is targeted at all types of innovative SMEs showing a strong ambition to develop, grow and internationalise. It provides staged support covering the whole innovation cycle in three phases complemented by a mentoring and coaching service.

The **funding** rate for this type of action is **70%**.

Participants must be at least one SME established in the EU or partner country as per the European Commission's definition below:

*'The category of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) is made up of enterprises which employ **fewer than 250 persons** and which have an **annual turnover not exceeding 50 million euro**, and/or an **annual balance sheet total not exceeding 43 million euro.**'*