



PROGRAMMES DEPARTMENT

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**HORIZON 2020 - RESEARCH AND INNOVATION FRAMEWORK
PROGRAMME (2014-2020)
- SUMMARY SHEET -**

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SUMMARY SHEET

SUMMARY

Horizon 2020 (H2020) is the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation of the European Union for the period 2014-2020. It has a total budget of € 77.028 M to finance research and technological development, demonstration and innovation initiatives and projects with clear European added value.

Horizon 2020 groups and reinforces the activities that during the period 2007-2013 were financed by the VII Framework Programme for Research and Development, the innovation actions of the Framework Programme for Innovation and Competitiveness (CIP) and the actions of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT).

The programme was created to support the implementation of the "Europe 2020" Strategy and the emblematic initiative "Innovation Union", contributing directly to addressing the main challenges of society, creating and maintaining industrial leadership in Europe, as well as reinforcing the excellence of the scientific base, essential for the long-term sustainability, prosperity and well-being of Europe.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

a) Create a science of excellence, which will strengthen the EU's position on the world scientific scene. For this reason:

- The European Research Council (ERC), which subsidizes European researchers of the highest level, without the need for work in an international consortium, is considerably increased and the field of future technologies is expanded to cover all sectors (FET).
- Marie Curie activities are maintained to continue to support the training, mobility and qualification of researchers and research infrastructures.

b) Developing technologies and their applications to improve European competitiveness

It has significant investments in key technologies for the industry, such as Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), nanotechnologies, advanced manufacturing, biotechnology and space.

In this section, it is necessary to highlight the activities for SMEs that can participate in the collaborative projects of the Social and Technology Challenges and for which at least 20% of the budget is established as a financing objective. Additionally, these companies have at their disposal the so-called "SME Instrument" that can finance from the evaluation of the concept and its viability to the development, demonstration and replication in the market and even reaching commercialization support with support services to make profitable the exploitation of the results. This instrument is bottom-up, with no minimum consortium and is aimed at supporting those SMEs, traditional or innovative, that have the ambition to grow and internationalize through an innovation project with a European dimension.

c) Investigate the major issues affecting European citizens

The focus is on 6 essential areas for a better life: health, food and agriculture, including marine science, energy, transport, climate and raw materials, inclusive societies and security.

The results are aimed at solving specific problems of citizens, such as the aging of society,

computer protection or the transition to an efficient and low-carbon economy.

FUNDING ENTITY

European Commission

Contact in Spain

- [CDTI \(in Spanish\)](#)
- [Oficina Europea \(in Spanish\)](#)

STRUCTURE

A. EXCELENCE SCIENCE PILLAR

One of the main objectives of the Horizon 2020 programme is to raise the level of excellence in European basic science and to ensure a constant flow of quality research to ensure Europe's long-term competitiveness. The components of the pillar are:

- The European Research Council (ERC)
- Future and Emerging Technologies (FET)
- Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA)
- Research infrastructures

B. INDUSTRIAL LEADERSHIP PILLAR

This priority aims to accelerate the development of the technologies and innovations that serve as a foundation for the companies of the future and to help European innovative SMEs to become world leading companies. It has three specific objectives:

1. Leadership in enabling industrial technologies
 - 1.1 Information and communication technologies (ICT)
 - 1.2 Nanotechnologies
 - 1.3 Advanced materials and
 - 1.4 Biotechnology
 - 1.5 Advanced manufacturing and transformation
 - 1.6 Space
2. Access to risk financing
3. Innovation in SMEs

C. SOCIETAL CHALLENGES PILLAR

One of Horizon 2020's priorities is dedicated to the challenges of society. This block reflects the political priorities and challenges of the Europe 2020 strategy in order to stimulate research and innovation to achieve the Union's political objectives.

Funding will focus on the following specific objectives (challenges):

1. Health, demographic change and well-being
2. Sustainable food security, agriculture and forestry, marine, marine and inland water research, and the bioeconomy
3. Safe, clean and efficient energy
4. Intelligent, ecological and integrated transport
5. Action for climate, environment, resource efficiency and raw materials
6. Europe in a changing world: inclusive, innovative and reflective societies
7. Secure societies: Protecting the freedom and security of Europe and its citizens

It is completed with:

- Science with and for society
- Spreading excellence and expanding participation
- European Institute of Innovation and Technology
- Direct non-nuclear actions of the Joint Research Center (JRC)

TYPES OF PROJECTS**COLLABORATIVE**

R&D and Innovation projects that respond to the research lines established by the Commission. The Commission establishes what needs to be investigated and determines what the expected result is. It also indicates the eligibility criteria of the proposals, the budget range and the range of TRLs covered.

SME INSTRUMENT

Innovation projects for SMEs with open themes. The Commission only establishes the general context of the subject in which the SME has to fit its proposal. The main characteristics are:

- More open topics.
- Non-compulsory consortium.
- Only SMEs can be partners, the rest of the entities would have to be subcontracted.
- This instrument finances 3 independent phases of the same project.

In the first phase the objective is to carry out a feasibility study for which the Commission awards a grant of € 50.000 for a maximum period of 6 months.

The second phase consists of the implementation of the R&D and Innovation project, which based on the analysis of the first phase has to demonstrate innovative processes, products and services with a duration of between 12-24 months and a co-funding of € 1-3M.

The third phase consists of preferential access to financing for SMEs that have obtained a quality seal at the end of Phase 2. Financing will be articulated through commercial banks.

In addition, H2020 incorporates **other financing instruments** such as awards, innovation public purchase actions or financial instruments of capital and debt, to maximize the chances that the results of the projects will successfully reach the market.

OTHER GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS**Eligible Funding Projects**

- R&D
- Innovation
- Coordination and support actions

In general, an H2020 project should:

- Provide added value at European level, responding to an existing need in the European Union.
- Be exclusively civil (non-military) application.
- To be developed, generally in a transnational consortium, with the participation of at least 3 independent entities from 3 Member States or associated countries, although there are certain types of projects in which you can participate individually.

- In practice, consortia tend to have a higher number of partners, which varies according to the type of project and its scope.
- Comply with the specific lines of research and innovation detailed in the work programmes and the corresponding calls, which usually also include budget recommendations, which can vary between 0.5 and several million Euros, and of duration (generally between 1 and 5 years).
- Respect ethical principles and applicable national, European Union and international legislation.

In general, they are not considered as eligible projects that:

- Do not respond to research, technological development, demonstration and innovation activities or other activities that can be financed within H2020 and the respective Work Programmes.
- Have a local, regional or national character, where the European dimension is not justified.
- Do not present a real advance on the already existing knowledge at European level (research projects), or a real innovation for the European market (innovation projects).

Evaluation criteria

The proposals are evaluated by independent experts, according to the criteria established for each call.

Generally:

- **Excellence**, as well as the level of innovation, in relation to the objectives of the specific Programme and the line / s of research specified in the call.
- **Impact**, through the dissemination and use of project results.
- The quality and efficiency of project **implementation**, quality of the consortium: competencies and complementarity; adequacy and necessity of the resources used; quality of knowledge and results management.

Beneficiary entities

Any legal entity established in any country of the European Union, state associated with Horizon 2020 or third countries, such as universities, companies, associations or groupings of companies, research centers, technology centers, Public Administrations or users in general, etc., as long as you commit to:

- Invest the time and resources necessary for the correct development of the project.
- Assume and share with the project partners the risks derived from the execution of the activities.
- Work as a team, sharing knowledge in a European consortium (except for certain projects in which you can participate individually).
- Respect the participation rules established by the European Commission.
- Work in English.

Financing

100% of the project costs subsidy, except for profit-making entities in innovation projects, which is 70%.

Eligible expenses

They include direct costs and a flat rate of 25% for indirect costs.

Application procedure

- Through the Funding & tender opportunities web portal.
- Through electronic processing.

Calls for proposals, with fixed launch and closing dates between which there is usually a period of 3 and 4 months, may refer to one or more of the H2020 priorities and / or areas of action. In certain cases, the call for proposals may be permanently open during the term of the programme, and cut-off dates will be established, after which all proposals submitted up to that moment will be evaluated.

In the work programmes corresponding to each area of action, the specific lines of action of their calls are collected and described, to which the projects to be submitted must be adjusted.

MORE INFORMATION

More information about the **programme**:

<https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/>

More information about the **calls**:

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/programmes/h2020>