

Index of question



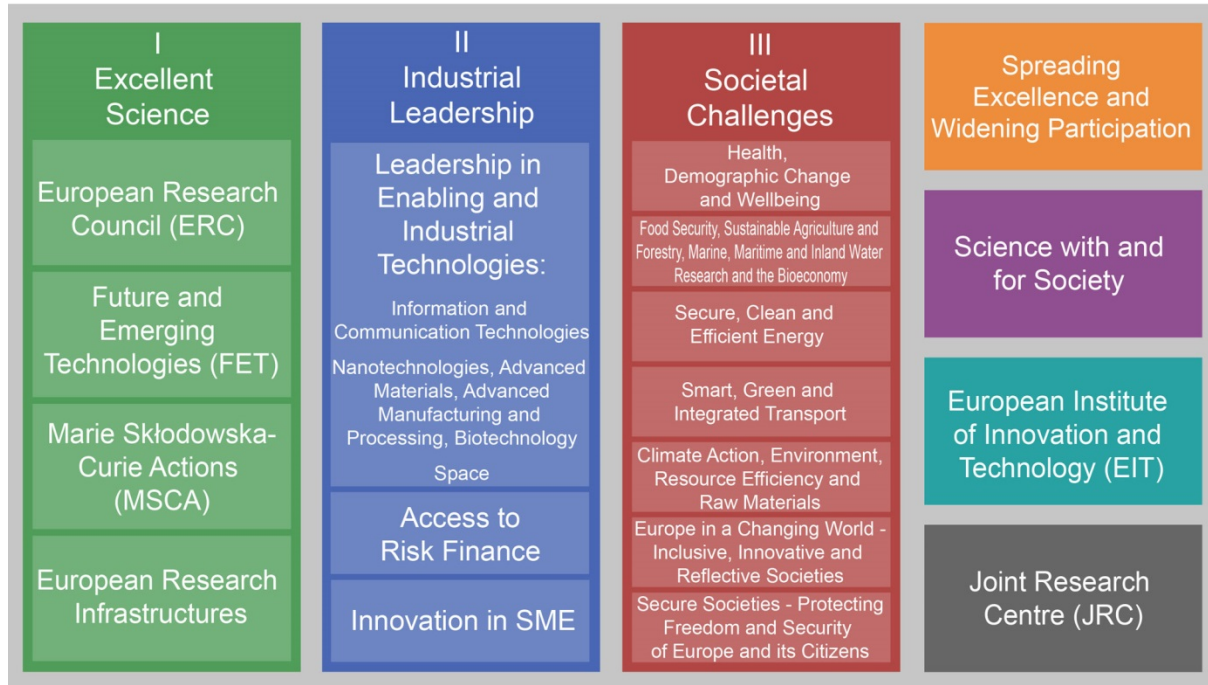
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Participation opportunities

What are the different programme areas of Horizon 2020?



Source: DLR Project Management Agency

Horizon 2020 is the EU's programme for research and innovation lasting from 2014 - 2020. With a budget of approximately 75 billion euro, it will contribute to the creation of new growth and jobs in Europe. International cooperation is an important cross-cutting priority of Horizon 2020. Apart from the [general openness for partners from non-European countries](#) (neither EU Member States nor [Associated countries](#)), there are [targeted international cooperation actions](#) across Horizon 2020 aiming to support the inclusion of partners from third countries in thematic areas of mutual benefit and interest. Furthermore, [horizontal international cooperation activities](#) are to support the mainstreaming international cooperation across Horizon 2020.

Horizon 2020 has three main parts, each with several specific objectives:

[Excellent Science](#) - reinforce and extend the excellence of the Union's science base

- European Research Council
- Future and Emerging Technologies
- Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions
- European Research Infrastructures, including e-Infrastructures

[Industrial Leadership](#) – speed up development of the technologies and innovations that will underpin tomorrow's businesses and help innovative European SMEs to grow

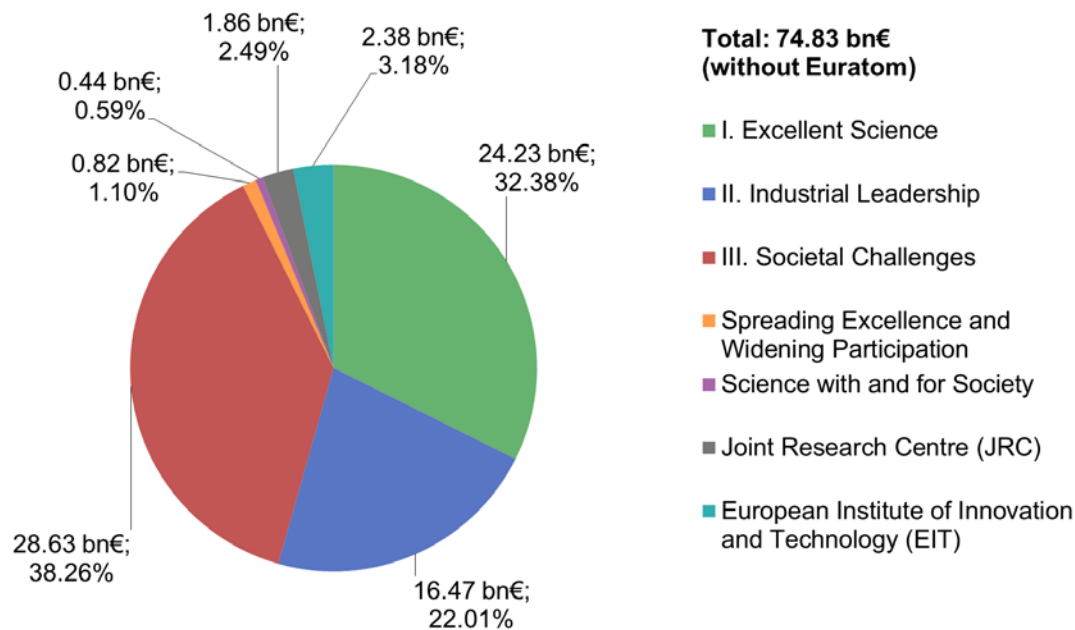
- Leadership in Enabling and Industrial Technologies
 - Information and Communication Technologies

- Nanotechnologies, Advanced Materials, Advanced Manufacturing and Processing, and Biotechnology
- Space
- Access to risk finance
- Innovation in SMEs

Societal challenges - addresses major concerns shared by citizens in Europe and elsewhere

- Health, Demographic Change and Wellbeing
- Food Security, Sustainable Agriculture and Forestry, Marine, Maritime and Inland Water Research and the Bioeconomy
- Secure, Clean and Efficient Energy
- Smart, Green and Integrated Transport
- Climate Action, Environment, Resource Efficiency and Raw Materials
- Europe in a changing world - Inclusive, innovative and reflective societies
- Secure societies – Protecting freedom and security of Europe and its citizens

What is the budget allocation of Horizon 2020?



Source: DLR Project Management Agency

Who can apply to Horizon 2020 calls?

Any national or legal person can take part in Horizon 2020, for instance companies, research organisations, universities, non-governmental organisations – regardless of their place of establishment or residence. Participation of non-European entities is encouraged. In general, it is necessary to possess the operational and financial viability (operational capacity) to carry out the proposed research tasks.

Where do I find open calls?

All open calls are published on the European Commission's [Research Participant Portal](#). This website also provides additional information, reference documents and the possibility to submit and manage your proposal.

How long does it usually take to receive funding in Horizon 2020?

In general the "time to grant" is 8 months in Horizon 2020. 5 months after the call deadline the EU-Commission informs the coordinator about the results of the evaluation. 3 months later the Grant Agreement is signed and the project can start. In order to enable beneficiaries to start working, certain amounts are granted at the beginning of the project.

Can non-European researchers participate in Horizon 2020 calls?

Yes, Horizon 2020 is open to participation from across the world. Applicants from third countries (neither the 28 EU Member States nor [Associated countries](#)) are free to take part in Horizon 2020 calls, even though the call/topic text does not explicitly state so. However, most projects require the inclusion of at least three different entities from three different Member States or Associated countries. These collaborative projects are to ensure a European added value. In addition, researchers and institutions from third countries can participate in a project. Apart from these collaborative projects, there are several exceptions which do not have this minimum requirement of three different entities, such as Coordination and support Actions, programme co-fund actions or in justified cases provided for in the work programme. Furthermore, the [European Research Council Grants](#) and the Marie-Sklodowska-Curie Actions also do not have this requirement and provide particular chances for third country participants. Apart from this general opening, there are [targeted international cooperation actions](#) which provide a particular opportunity. For more information consult the European Commission flyer '[Horizon 2020 – Open to the world! – How to participate in Horizon 2020](#)'

Why should a researcher from a third country, which is not automatically eligible for funding, be interested in participating in Horizon 2020?

Horizon 2020 provides a unique opportunity to share knowledge, experience and facilities across Europe and beyond. Apart from the financial benefits, it offers the chance to participate in ambitious research and innovation projects, improve the international network, create new business opportunities and increase the visibility. It provides an opportunity to tackle global societal challenges together. For more information consult the European Commission flyer '[Horizon 2020 – Open to the world! – Why participate in Horizon 2020?](#)'

How do I find European project partners?

As most parts of Horizon 2020 fund collaborative research, finding project partners is of crucial importance. Ideally, you can use your current partners or find new partners via their business networks. If not, there are several databases to publish your organisation profile or identify contact proposals, first of all [CORDIS](#), the Community Research and Development Information Service. In addition, [several thematic databases](#) exist which have a more specific focus on a certain field of research and innovation. The participation in brokerage events and information days can be another opportunity to find project partners. And last but not least,

the [National Contact Point \(NCP\)](#) from a third country could contact the European NCP colleagues through their joint NCP network in order to identify potential project partners.

Are there any calls which are particularly suitable for international cooperation?

Apart from the general openness, targeted international cooperation actions across Horizon 2020 are to promote the international cooperation in areas of mutual interest and benefit. Therefore, topics have been flagged as being particularly suitable for international cooperation in nearly all parts of Horizon 2020. Consortia are particularly encouraged to include partners from non-European countries. However, this explicit mentioning of third countries in the work programme does not presuppose automatic funding for partners from industrialised and emerging economies.

The European Commission provides an [overview on current topics](#) which have been flagged as being particularly suitable for international cooperation. Moreover, there are additional documents/tools which list those topics which encourage international cooperation in general or with certain third countries or regions:

- [INCONTACT project's Horizon 2020 calls dataset](#)
- [Overview table created by the German + French National Contact Point for International Cooperation](#)

What is the difference between joint and coordinated calls?

Both joint and coordinated calls for proposals have in common that they are launched in parallel by the EU and a third country or international organization in areas of common interest and mutual benefit. With regard to joint calls, the proposals are evaluated and selected through joint evaluation and selection procedures. Coordinated calls differ in so far as the Commission will only evaluate the proposals for the EU action. In the next step, the participants in this EU action sign a Grant Agreement with the EU while the participants from the third country action sign one with their funding agency. A coordination agreement links the actions and ensures the necessary synergies. The European Commission has published a [guide on how to draw up a coordination agreement](#).

What is the rationale behind the targeted international cooperation activities with a certain international partner country/region?

As outlined in the [EU's International Strategy for Research and Innovation](#) from September 2012, the cooperation with key partner countries and regions in Horizon 2020 is guided by [Multi-Annual Roadmaps](#). They provide information on areas and partners identified for international cooperation. In a first step, an analysis is pursued based on the following criteria:

- research and innovation capacity,
- access to new markets,
- contribution to the Union's international commitments and
- the framework in place to engage in cooperation (including lessons learnt).

In a second step, a differentiation of activities by country and/or region will provide further focus:

- EFTA countries, enlargement countries and countries covered by the European Neighbourhood Policy (fostering the integration into / alignment with the European Research Area)
- Industrialised countries and emerging economies (focus on competitiveness and tackling global challenges)
- Developing countries (focus on assistance in their socio-economic development)

The Multi-Annual Roadmaps provide the basis to develop [*topics which encourage international cooperation in general or with a certain partner country/region.*](#)

What is the role of horizontal international cooperation activities?

International cooperation in Horizon 2020 will be supported by horizontal measures which are located in the 6th Societal Challenge: Europe in a changing world: inclusive, innovative and reflective societies. In FP7, these horizontal international cooperation activities were located in the Capacities [INCO Programme](#).

In the [first work programme of Horizon 2020 \(2014/2015\)](#), bilateral (for instance with China, Australia and USA) and bi-regional cooperation (for instance Black Sea, Africa and the Southern Mediterranean Neighbourhood) aims at

- promoting the [general opening](#) by stimulating researchers in the Union's international partners to participate in Horizon 2020
- supporting the development of [targeted international cooperation activities](#) by contributing to the identification of areas where there is mutual benefit in cooperation
- identifying and eliminating obstacles to international cooperation

In the [second work programme of Horizon 2020 \(2016/2017\)](#), the international cooperation will be particularly supported by

- the Service Facility in support of the strategic development of international cooperation in research and innovation - provide services that support the policy development, priority setting, follow-up and implementation of the strategy for international cooperation in research and innovation
- and the Centres/Networks of European research and innovation – connect European researchers and entrepreneurs globally, in order to strengthen the position of Europe as a world leader in science, technology and innovation

Are there any programme parts of Horizon 2020 which are not open to international cooperation?

Entities from third countries are excluded from [Innovation in SME](#) (as mono-beneficiary), Access to risk finance and Fast Track to Innovation.

In addition, the [Horizon 2020 Rules for Participation](#) (Art. 7) lists two more potential restrictions. Particular work programmes may restrict the participation of third country entities if

- these entities are unable to provide satisfactory security guarantees or if justified by other security reasons
- the participation of legal entities from Member States or their affiliated entities is considered prejudicial in a certain third country's research and innovation programme

May researchers from third countries apply for a grant of the European Research Council?

ERC grants are open to researchers of any nationality. Therefore individual researchers from third countries are eligible to apply for an ERC grant, however, they have to be hosted by a legal entity located in an EU or associated country. Researchers from third countries may become Principal Investigators for ERC Starting, Consolidator and Advanced Grants but they must undertake a significant portion of their research in an EU member state or associated country during the duration of this grant, i.e. at least 50% of their total working time, however, the time spent on the ERC project could even be less (at least 50% for Starting, 40% for Consolidator and 30% for Advanced Grants of their total working time).

Are there other opportunities for non-European scientists regarding the European Research Council?

The European Research Council launched over the last years new initiatives in the form of "[Implementing Arrangements](#)". These arrangements provide opportunities in Europe for early-career scientists supported by non-European funding agencies to temporarily join a research team run by an ERC grantee. The purpose of the arrangements is to encourage, develop and facilitate such opportunities. Currently, the ERC has arrangements in place with the following countries: Argentina, China, Japan, Korea, South Africa and the United States.

Can researchers and entities from third countries participate in European Fellowships - funding scheme in Individual Fellowships within Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA)?

MSCA European Fellowships target experienced researchers moving to an EU Member States or Associated country. Entities from third countries are therefore not eligible to be host organisation. Researchers from third countries, however, may be eligible for a MSCA European Fellowship if their host organization for the research project is established and located in an EU Member State or Associated country. In liaison with their planned host institution, individual researchers submit proposals for a European Fellowship which usually covers a salary for up to two years, a mobility allowance, research costs, and overheads for the host institution.

Can researchers and entities from third countries participate in Global Fellowships - funding scheme in Individual Fellowships within Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA)?

Global Fellowships include an 'outgoing phase' to a third country with a mandatory 'return phase' to an EU member state or associated country. The total duration may be up to three years. As the MSCA Global Fellowships are restricted to nationals or long-term residents of EU Member States or Associated countries, researchers from third countries are not eligible. However, entities from third countries may be a partner organization in a Global Fellowship. The EU contribution is provided to a host organization which is located in an EU Member State or Associated country and can transfer a certain amount to the partner organization in a third country covering the costs of hosting the researcher during the 'outgoing phase'.

Can entities from third countries participate in Innovative Training Networks (ITN) - funding scheme within Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA)?

ITN offer early-stage researchers the opportunity to improve their research skills, join established research teams and enhance their career prospects. Entities from third countries may participate in a multi-partner ITN project if three EU Member States or Associated countries also take part (minimum requirement). As in collaborative projects, entities from industrialised and emerging economies would only be funded from the EU in exceptional cases. However, their costs associated to the project activities (for instance trainings, hosting internships, etc.) could be reimbursed by the project beneficiaries.

Can entities from third countries participate in a Research and Innovation Staff Exchange (RISE) - funding scheme within Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA)?

RISE promotes international and inter-sector collaboration through research and innovation staff exchanges, and through sharing of knowledge and ideas from research to market (and vice-versa) or the advancement of science and the development of innovation. For RISE, the minimum requirement is to include two organisations located in two different Member States or Associated Countries and one organisation from a third country. Legal entities from all third countries are encouraged to participate. While the third countries listed in [Annex A to the Work Programme](#) are in general eligible for funding, legal entities established in industrialized and emerging economies have to be *deemed essential for carrying out the action*.

Can SMEs from third countries participate under the Horizon 2020 SME instrument?

Only SMEs established in EU Member States or [Associated Countries](#) are eligible to apply for funding under the SME Instrument. The SME has to fulfil the requirements of the [EU SME definition](#) and have the ambition to expand its activities to other countries – in Europe and beyond. However, entities from third countries, such as SMEs, businesses or research organisations, can be involved as third partners through sub-contracting. However, this needs to be justified in the evaluation taken into account the ‘best-value-for-money’ principle and potential conflicts of interests. High levels of sub-contracting might leave doubts with regard to the suitability for the SME established in an EU Member States or Associated country to carry out the actions.

Are there any specific rules with regard to entities from Crimea and the city of Sevastopol?

The EU does not recognise the annexation of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol by the Russian Federation. Therefore, legal persons from Crimea and Sevastopol are excluded from participation and from funding from the Research Framework Programmes actions. With a limited number of exceptions (e.g. natural persons with a habitual place of residence in Crimea or the City of Sevastopol, "people to people" projects), this policy line applies to all

actions/projects under Horizon 2020. This decision is reflected in the footnote 8 of the [general annexes of the Main Work Programme](#).

Is it possible for a participant from a third country to coordinate a project under Horizon 2020?

Yes, in principle, entities from third countries can become project coordinators in Horizon 2020. There are no limitations regarding the coordinator's place of establishment. However, participants from industrialised countries and emerging economies would nevertheless not be automatically eligible for funding. Therefore they also would not be reimbursed for the costs related to the specific tasks of coordination. It should be taken into account that being coordinator involves an additional effort in comparison to being a normal project participant. The coordinating institution has to convince the evaluators that it has the operational capacity, the experience and the networking background to ensure the success of the project, including impact on European science and society. In general, the coordinator must sign the Grant Agreement and cannot take part as third party or sub-contractor. For more information consult the [Annotated Grant Agreement](#)

What is the rationale behind the questions on the participation of non-European partner in the Ethics Self-Assessment in part B of the proposal template?

The participation of non-EU Member States has to be dealt with in the Ethics Self-Assessment if parts of the research activities are carried out in a third country, participants or resources come from a third country or material is imported/exported from/to a third country. For more information consult the [European Commission factsheet 'How to complete your ethics self-assessment'](#)

May third country national become independent experts under Horizon 2020?

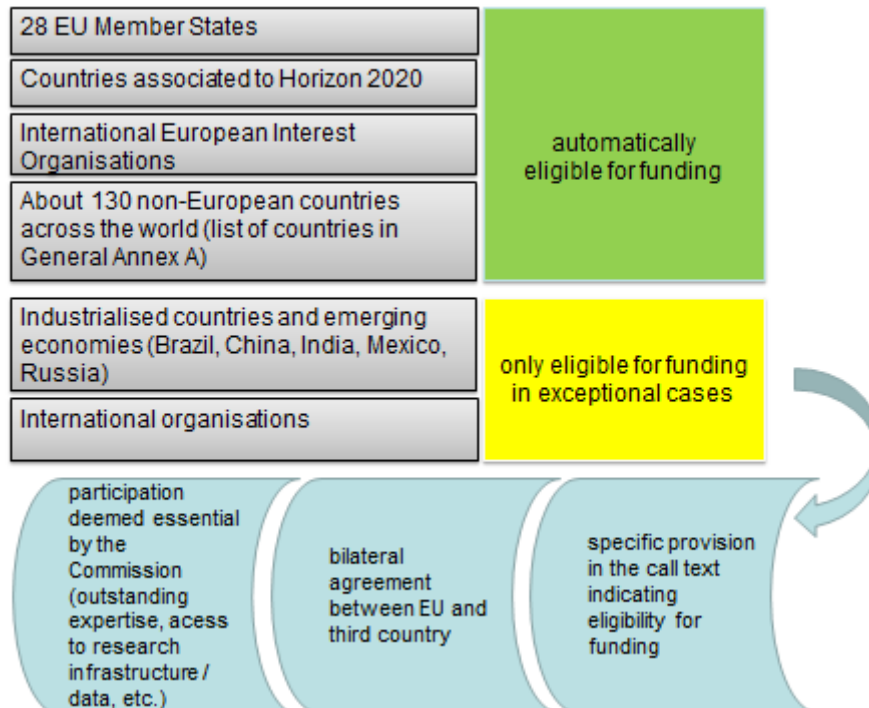
Yes, experts from third countries are also encouraged to register as potential independent experts for Horizon 2020. Seeking experts from all over the world, the EU tries to ensure that there is the most appropriate expertise. However, the Commission expects that most of the experts will come from Member States of the European Union and Associated Countries. Independent experts appointed by the EU assist in the evaluation of proposals, monitoring of projects, evaluation of programmes and design of policy. They are required to have a high-level of expertise in relevant fields of research and innovation. It is not necessary to hold a tenured position, postdoctoral and retired experts are eligible to apply. They should be available for occasional, short-term assignments.

Becoming an independent expert for the Horizon 2020 evaluation process provides personal benefits, such as getting to know cutting edge research proposals, networking and receiving insights which may be helpful for an own participation in a future Horizon 2020 call. Being an expert for evaluating Horizon 2020 proposals involves about two working weeks of time. Experts receive approximately €450 per day plus all associated costs. Further information can be found in the [FAQs](#). Registration as an expert is done through the [Participant's Portal](#).

Eligibility for funding

Who is eligible for funding in Horizon 2020?

This chart explains in short the eligibility for funding in Horizon 2020. Additional information on these groups is presented in the following paragraphs.



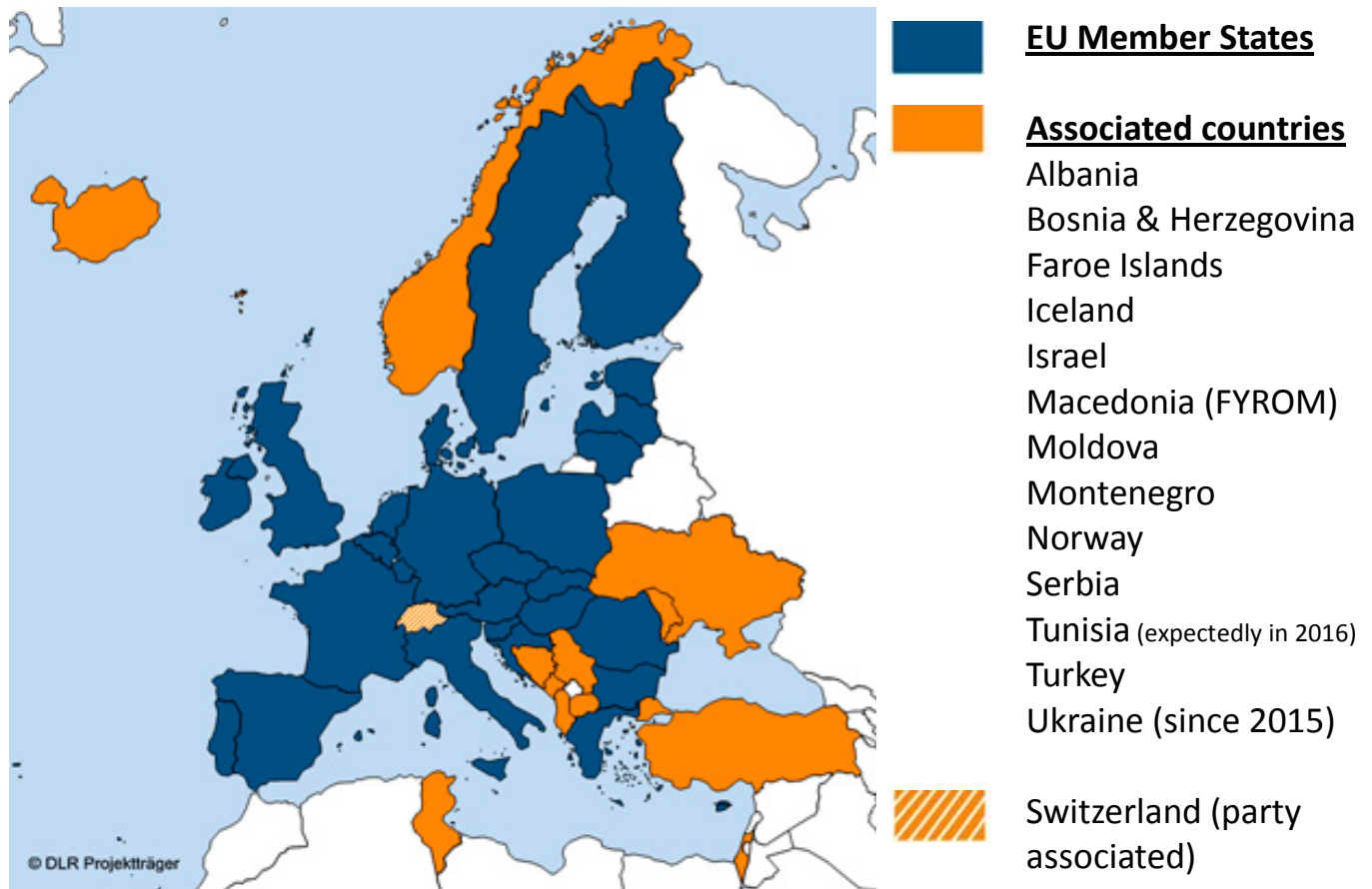
Source: DLR Project Management Agency

What is the difference between EU Member States and countries associated to Horizon 2020 with regard to funding?

Legal entities from Member States of the European Union (and their overseas departments) are generally eligible to receive funding through Horizon 2020. The same holds for Associated countries. The legal basis for association is Article 7 of the [Horizon 2020 Regulation](#). It is open to (potential) candidate countries and selected third countries which are EFTA Members or countries of the European Neighbourhood Policy.

Association to Horizon 2020 is pursued by concluding a specific international agreement with the EU and by contributing financially to the Framework Programme (based on the GDP of the associating country). Entities from associated countries can participate under the same conditions than entities from the EU Member States. Currently, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Faroe Islands, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland, Israel, Moldova, Montenegro, Norway, Serbia, Turkey and Ukraine are associated to Horizon 2020. [Switzerland](#) is currently only partly associated (to the Excellent Science pillar and Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation) - retroactively since 15.09.2014 until end of 2016.

The Association Agreement with Tunisia was signed on 1 December 2015, however, it will only enter into force once Tunisia has ratified it and notified the Commission. The Agreement does not provide for provisional/retroactive application. Tunisian entities are encouraged to apply under 2016 calls, however, grant agreements with the Tunisian entities having the status of entities from a country associated to Horizon 2020 will only be signed when the proper legal framework is in place (i.e. when the Association Agreement enters into force).



Source: DLR Project Management Agency

For more information consult the [European Commission Factsheet on Associated countries](#)

Is Switzerland an Associated Country?

Switzerland is associated to certain parts of Horizon 2020. The EU and Switzerland have signed an association agreement allowing for Swiss researchers and organisations to participate from 15 September 2014 onwards with an associated country status in actions under:

- the "Excellent Science" pillar (the 1st pillar), containing the European Research Council, the Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions, Future and Emerging Technologies, Research Infrastructures
- actions under the specific objective "Spreading excellence and widening participation"

The participation of Switzerland to these areas is effective from 15 September 2014 until 31 December 2016. This means that Swiss entities can participate here as other entities from associated countries. In all other parts of the Horizon 2020 programme, Switzerland will

remain a participant from an industrialised third country. For more information consult the [European Commission Factsheet on the Swiss participation in Horizon 2020](#)

Are participants from international organisations eligible for funding?

In general, international organisations are only eligible for funding in exceptional cases (comparable to industrialised countries and emerging economies):

- Funding is provided for in a bilateral scientific/technological agreement or similar arrangement between the EU and the organisation.
- Their participation is deemed essential for carrying out the action, for instance due to outstanding competence/expertise, access to research infrastructure/ particular geographical environments/ access to data.

One exception from this rule concerns International European interest organisations which are automatically eligible for funding. They are mainly composed EU Member States or Associated countries and their principal objective is to promote scientific and technological cooperation in Europe.

For more information also consult the Commission factsheet on [Funding of applicants from non-EU countries & international organisations](#).

Are researchers from international partners/third countries eligible for funding?

With regard to international partners, there is a list in the [Annex A to the Work Programme](#) indicating the countries which automatically receive funding in Horizon 2020. In general, there is a distinction between

- Countries of the European Neighbourhood Policy and developing countries which are in general eligible for funding
- Industrialised countries (for instance USA, Australia, Singapore, etc.) and emerging economies (Brazil, China, India, Mexico, Russia) which are not automatically eligible for funding

However, participants from industrialised countries and emerging economies are eligible for EU funding if

- provided for under a bilateral scientific and technological agreement or any other arrangement (*e.g. [US researchers eligible for funding in most of the health calls](#)*)
- Specific provision in the call text indicating eligibility for funding
- the participation is deemed essential for carrying out the action (case by case assessment of the Commission based on an initial assessment by the independent experts in the evaluation), for instance due to outstanding competence/expertise, access to research infrastructure/ particular geographical environments/ access to data

For more information also consult the Commission factsheet on [Funding of applicants from non-EU countries & international organisations](#).

Are there any specific rules regarding the eligibility for funding for US researchers?

Participants from the US are not automatically eligible for funding in Horizon 2020, due to its status as an industrialised country. However, there is one major exception for the Societal

Challenge ‘Health, demographic change and well-being’ provided for under a bilateral arrangement between the US National Institutes of Health and the European Commission. In recognition of the opening of the US National Institutes of Health’s programmes to European researchers, any legal entity established in the US is eligible to receive EU funding for its participation for most of the topics in calls under the [Societal Challenge ‘Health, demographic change and well-being’](#).

Are researchers/organisations from third countries automatically eligible for funding if the call encourages the inclusion from this particular country or region?

There are [many topics which have been flagged as being particularly suitable for international cooperation or encourage the inclusion of partners from certain third countries or regions](#). However, this explicit mentioning of third countries in the call texts does not presuppose automatic funding for partners from industrialised and emerging economies. There would have to a specific indication that partners from these countries are exceptionally eligible for funding in this call. Another possibility for partners from industrialised and emerging economies to receive EU funding would be to be [deemed essential for carrying out the action](#).

Could a researcher from an industrialised or emerging economy outside of Europe be funded as a subcontractor?

In principle, the subcontractor can come from anywhere in world. It should be kept in mind that subcontracting is only possible for a particular defined task/service identified in the proposal and not for core parts of the project. Furthermore, it must ensure that the best value for money is achieved, therefore, for instance an organisation cannot simply sub-contact a task to a subsidiary. For more information consult the [Annotated Model Grant Agreement](#) (Art.13 – Implementation of action tasks by subcontractors)

A researcher from an industrialised or emerging economy outside the EU can participate with an own or a national contribution. Which implications does this have for the proposal/grant agreement?

Horizon 2020 foresees that beneficiaries can participate without receiving EU funding. An entity from an industrialised or emerging economy may decide to cover its own participation costs or receive funding from another source, for example national funding. In general, all eligible costs of the project should be included in the proposal. This allows for a more transparent situation about the costs of the project and the EU funding requested in the evaluation process. Furthermore, the evaluators can access better the adequacy of the budget vis-à-vis the project tasks. In order to integrate these financial details in the proposal template, these costs of the partner not receiving EU funding are included in the budget table, also the ‘Max. grant’, however, for the ‘Requested grant’ (to the EC) a 0 should be indicated. Moreover, the proposal templates for Research and Innovation Actions and Coordination and support Actions include a part under section 4.2 in which the participant has to indicate if the use of [contributions in-kind provided by third parties](#) is envisaged. These costs are then also

indicated in Annex 2 of the Grant Agreement, however, they are not included in the total eligible costs and do not count for the maximum amount of the grant.

How is dealt with the case in which beneficiaries not receiving funding provide in-kind contributions to another beneficiary?

In general, the beneficiaries must have the technical and financial resources needed to carry out the action. In certain cases, it may be necessary for implementation of the action to use resources made available by third parties by means of contributions in kind (according to the conditions set out in the grant agreement). Beneficiaries not receiving funding are allowed to provide in-kind contributions to another beneficiary against payment or free of charge [Grant Agreement \(Art. 9\)](#). This is possible when the other beneficiary needs the in-kind contributions from the beneficiary not receiving EU funding to implement its own tasks. The in-kind contributions provided to a beneficiary by a beneficiary not receiving funding and the estimation of the costs budgeted for the in-kind contributions must be mentioned in Annex 1 to the Grant Agreement. This rule, however, may not be used to circumvent the rules on eligibility for funding applicable to participants, which are set out in the [Horizon 2020 Rules for Participation](#) (Article 10). The tasks of each beneficiary should be clearly stated in Annex 1.

Do the Horizon 2020 intellectual property rules also apply to beneficiaries located in a third country?

Beneficiaries of Horizon 2020 projects have to sign the Grant Agreement with the European Commission regardless of their origin (EU Member States, Associated countries, third countries). The rights and obligation outlined in the Grant Agreement – for instance background and project results - apply to all of them. There is only a distinction with regard to beneficiaries which receive EU funding and others which do not. For the latter, some obligations included in the model grant agreement do not apply, for instance, these beneficiaries are not subject to financial checks, reviews and audits. Neither do they have to submit an individual financial statement. For more information consult the [Annotated Model Grant Agreement](#) (Art. 9 - Implementation of action tasks by beneficiaries not receiving EU funding).

Are there any local programmes or funds that could provide support to Horizon 2020 participants from third countries?

There is no exhaustive list of these local funds or programmes (regional, national) supporting participation of entities from third countries in Horizon 2020. This information should be provided by the relevant authorities in a certain third country. The Commission has published [short country pages](#) containing short descriptions on available local programmes or funds in some international partner countries. Furthermore, these documents provide information on the current priorities listed in the roadmaps for international cooperation, links to additional brochures for information on Horizon 2020, contact details of national NCPs and relevant websites. The Commission differentiates between the following categories

- Countries with jointly agreed co-funding mechanism covering all thematic areas
- Countries with jointly agreed co-funding mechanism covering selected thematic areas

- Countries with co-funding by a region
- Countries without jointly agreed co-funding mechanism

Currently, country pages exist for Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, India, Japan, Korea, Mexico, New Zealand, Russia, Taiwan and USA.

Additional Advice

What is role of National Contact Persons (NCPs)?

The network of National Contact Points ([NCPs](#)) is the main structure to provide guidance, practical information and assistance on all aspects of participation in Horizon 2020. NCPs are national structures established and financed by governments of the 28 EU Member States and Associated countries. NCPs give personalised support on the spot and in applicants' own languages. The NCP systems can vary from one country to another from highly centralised to decentralised networks, and a number of very different actors, from ministries to universities, research centres and special agencies to private consulting companies. The document “Minimum standards and guiding principles for setting up NCP systems under Horizon 2020” provides a common reference for all participating countries in order to promote equal and consistent support. With regard to international cooperation, it contains

- the invitation to third countries to nominate NCPs in line with the common structure
- the confirmation that NCPs in third will receive aggregated evaluation data and selected data on proposals
- the announcement that NCPs in third countries will be invited to participate in the activities and events

Which are the most important webpages on international cooperation in Horizon 2020?

[DG Research and Innovation page on international cooperation](#) – background information on international cooperation in Horizon 2020, the policy framework, specific pages on important partner countries and regions, publications, news and events

[European Commission page on Horizon 2020](#) – information on Horizon 2020, the programme areas and funding opportunities

[Research Participant Portal](#) – main gate to the funding opportunities of Horizon 2020 and tool for submission and management of the proposals

[Incontact 2020](#) – EU project (2014-2015) promoting the international dimension of Horizon 2020 and supporting the work of national experts on international cooperation through yearly conferences, awareness activities around the world, trainings and tools for capacity building and directly supporting the work of the national experts

[Topics for international cooperation on the Research Participant Portal](#) - overview on topics which have been flagged as being particularly suitable for international cooperation

[Online Manual](#) - instructions on the preparation and submission of proposals, registration of organisations as well as preparation and management of the grants

[Specific information on international cooperation in the Online Manual](#) – with details on participation opportunities, eligibility for funding, reference documents and related links

[Horizon 2020 reference documents](#) – list of legal documents, guidelines and templates

[Research Enquiry Service](#) - General questions are answered quickly by Europe Direct while more specialised questions are forwarded to the relevant people in the European Commission

[IPR Helpdesk](#) - free-of-charge IPR service to inform and advise on Intellectual and Industrial Property Rights

[Euraxess](#) – portal with information and support services for researchers wishing to pursue a career in Europe

Which are the most important documents on international cooperation in Horizon 2020?

European Commission flyer '[Horizon 2020 – Open to the world! – How to participate in Horizon 2020](#)'

European Commission flyer '[Horizon 2020 – Open to the world! – Why participate in Horizon 2020?](#)'

European Commission presentation on international cooperation in Horizon 2020 '[Open to the world](#)'

European Commission factsheet '[Guide to participation by non-EU countries](#)'

Horizon 2020 Work Programme - [Annex A with the list of countries and applicable rules for funding](#)

European Commission factsheet on [countries associated to Horizon 2020](#)

European Commission factsheet on [Swiss participation in Horizon 2020](#)

Table on [bilateral S&T agreement of the EU](#)