

# PARTICIPATION IN HORIZON EUROPE: KEEPING IT SIMPLE

## competitive, fair and transparent, easy to access

Horizon Europe is the new EU programme for research and innovation, running from 2021 to 2027. To achieve its ambitious scientific, societal and economic objectives, and to maximize the impact of the financial investment, the programme must attract the best researchers and the most innovative companies. In a highly competitive environment, this needs easy access, fair and transparent selection processes, and smooth grant management. To this end the Commission has cut unnecessary red tape, building on simplifications in the current programme, so that taking part in EU research and innovation will become easier than ever before.

Tens of thousands of applicants from individual scientists and SMEs to big companies and international organisations have received funding for their projects under the past and current Framework Programmes. Fully electronic paperless administration of the grants was a novelty introduced with the launch of Horizon 2020 in 2014, considerably simplifying and speeding up the participation and implementation process. The new Horizon Europe will continue in this direction, offering:



A stable legal framework with simplified rules and procedures



Digital administration



A fair, transparent and objective evaluation of proposals



Data reporting, dissemination and exploitation for value creation



Outreach, guidance and support to participants

### A stable legal framework with simplified rules and procedures

The implementation strategy of Horizon Europe is organised around:

- ✓ **Rules for Participation** aligned with the EU Financial Regulation. For all aspects not requiring specific rules, related to the nature of R&I, the rules of the general EU Financial Regulation apply – providing simpler opportunities for synergies between programmes.
- ✓ A **corporate model grant agreement**, used across all EU funding programmes, with further simplification of the rules, facilitating synergies at project level and further reducing error rates.
- ✓ **Simplified forms of funding** (flat rates, unit costs, lump sums, prizes), based on the experience in Horizon 2020, including the ongoing pilots on lump sum project funding.
- ✓ **Simpler rules for personnel costs**. The complex and error-prone rules of Horizon 2020 will be replaced by a simple rule, based on daily rates. This approach will be applied to all (centrally managed) EU grants.
- ✓ A **control strategy** aiming at better control rather than more control. Further simplification in project implementation reduces the level of error while allowing for risk-based controls, including enhanced fraud prevention and detection.

Digital transformation of administrative processes in the Commission's interaction with stakeholders offers great opportunities:



### In numbers...

#### Evolution in participation between FP7 and Horizon 2020:

More than **68%** of participants in Horizon 2020 are "newcomers".

\*Source: Horizon Dashboard - September 2020

### The Funding & Tenders Portal

The Funding & Tenders Portal is the Commission's tool for achieving this digital transformation. Initially served as a portal for R&I funding with H2020, it now evolves to become the one-stop shop for all managed EU programmes.

### Are you looking to finance a project or do business with the EU?

Here's how to participate in 5 simple steps

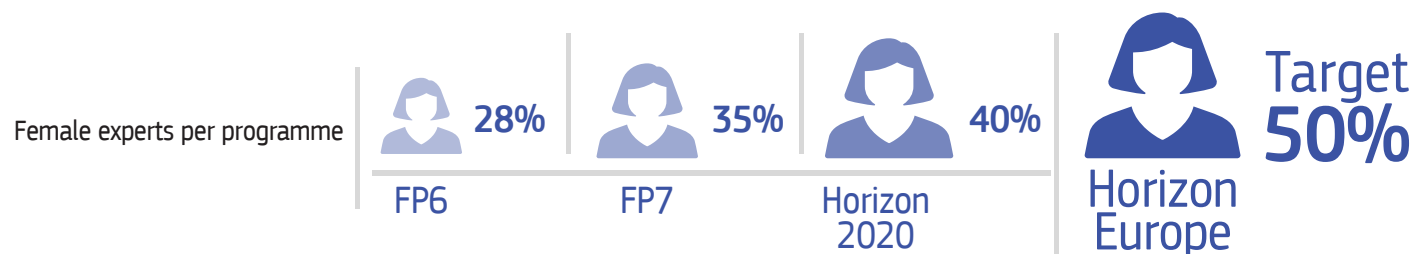


## Evaluation Process in Horizon Europe - fair, transparent and objective

Applying for EU R&I funding is highly competitive. Selecting the best projects to be funded, with the highest potential for creating the intended impact, is decisive for the success of the programme. The European Commission has developed a system for proposal evaluation over successive framework programmes. It is a solid and recognised process based on an evaluation made by external experts with a final decision taken by the Commission, fully and transparently justified. It aims to ensure that the process is as fair, trusted and as transparent as possible.

- ✓ **Three evaluation criteria:** Excellence, Impact and Quality of Implementation.
- ✓ **Careful choice of expert evaluators:** Experts are selected based on their expertise, but also on geographical and gender considerations. In addition, we apply rotation rules to incentivize the participation of new experts and to encourage participation of experts from all Member States in particular from widening countries, and to avoid closed clubs in our evaluation process.
- ✓ **Adapted to new features:** for missions and EIC (e.g. portfolio considerations when making the ranking).

### Experts for evaluation - expertise first but also geographical, gender and industry academia diversity



## What are the novelties in the evaluation process in Horizon Europe?



### **Adjusted evaluation criteria:**

Easier to understand, clearer definitions and consistent use of the terminology. In particular the impact criterion has been revised following a clearer logic linking the project results to the expected outcomes over the medium term, and to the wider long term impacts, as specified in the work programme. Applicants must describe a plausible pathway to impact over time, including beyond the lifetime of a project.



### **A pilot for anonymous evaluations:**

Experts will evaluate an outline of the proposed work without knowing who is behind. This pilot addresses concerns about a possible unconscious partiality that evaluation experts may have in favour of proposals from well-known organisations in countries with better performing R&I systems.



### **A 'Right to react' (rebuttal) evaluation:**

Applicants will be actively involved in the evaluation process by reacting to experts' individual comments. The experts will take applicants' reaction into account before finalising their final assessment. This new feature addresses concerns on the quality of the feedback to applicants and has the potential to increase the transparency of the evaluation system. A pilot will run at the early phase of Horizon Europe to fine tune the implementation modalities.



### **A portfolio approach:**

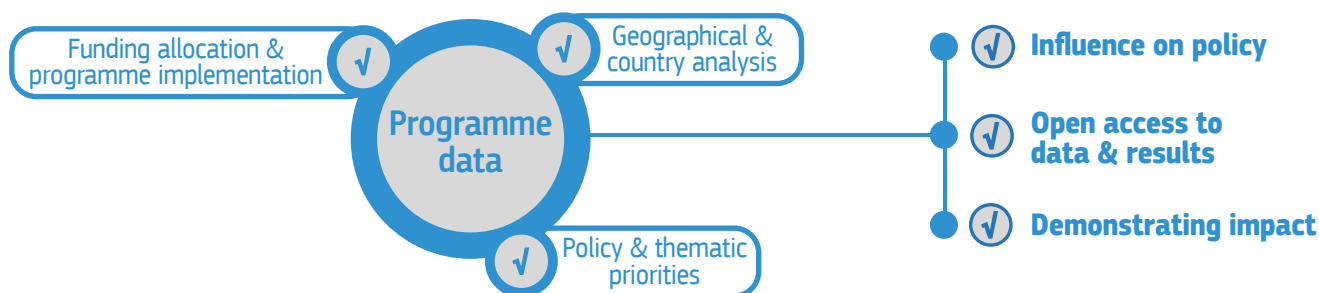
For calls with a portfolio approach, aiming to fund a group of actions that are intended to achieve all together a measurable common goal, the evaluation will be done in a two-phase approach. Firstly, each proposal is evaluated independently on its own merits based on the standard criteria. Secondly, the best proposals would be assessed with a view to considerations relevant to the creation of a portfolio, as announced in the Work Programme.

## Transparency on Programme implementation and promoting research results uptake

To promote transparency on the allocation of Horizon 2020 funding, as well as to create value of the research results, dedicated instruments have been developed under and will be further enhanced in Horizon Europe.

### **Horizon Dashboard**

The one-stop-shop for data and statistics on EU Research and Innovation. This intuitive and interactive knowledge platform allows you to explore and visualise data on various research topics, to prepare statistics on funding implementation and research results, whether it is for reporting, analysis, monitoring or decision-making purposes. You can sort by topics, countries, organisations, sectors, as well as individual projects and beneficiaries! The Horizon Dashboard covers FP7 and Horizon 2020 programme data.



Horizon Europe will also foster maximum openness by providing tools and means for the dissemination and exploitation of the results of projects. Beneficiaries are able to showcase their most promising results and attract potential partners (companies, investors, policy makers) and maximize value creation.

### **Horizon Results Platform**

An online platform and matchmaking tool that allows beneficiaries to advertise their research results to targeted audiences such as policy makers, investors, entrepreneurs, national and regional authorities, research and technology organisations, industry or academia; and express their specific needs in terms of bringing their results to the next level. Visitors to the platform can enjoy the rich presentations of each 'result profile', often including videos, and find out the most up-to-date information on the results' maturity, their unique value proposition, policy influence and collaboration opportunities.



## Horizon Results Booster

Free consulting services –portfolio strategy, business plan development, go-to-market support- steering research towards strong societal impact and concretising the value of R&I activity for societal challenges. The expert services are available to ongoing or completed FP7/H2020 projects who can apply either as an individual project or as a part of a project group, depending on the services. The aim of these services is to support the beneficiaries and to help bringing a continual stream of innovation to the market and beyond. The services are available from July 2020 to June 2024.



### Portfolio Dissemination & Exploitation Strategy



### Business Plan Development

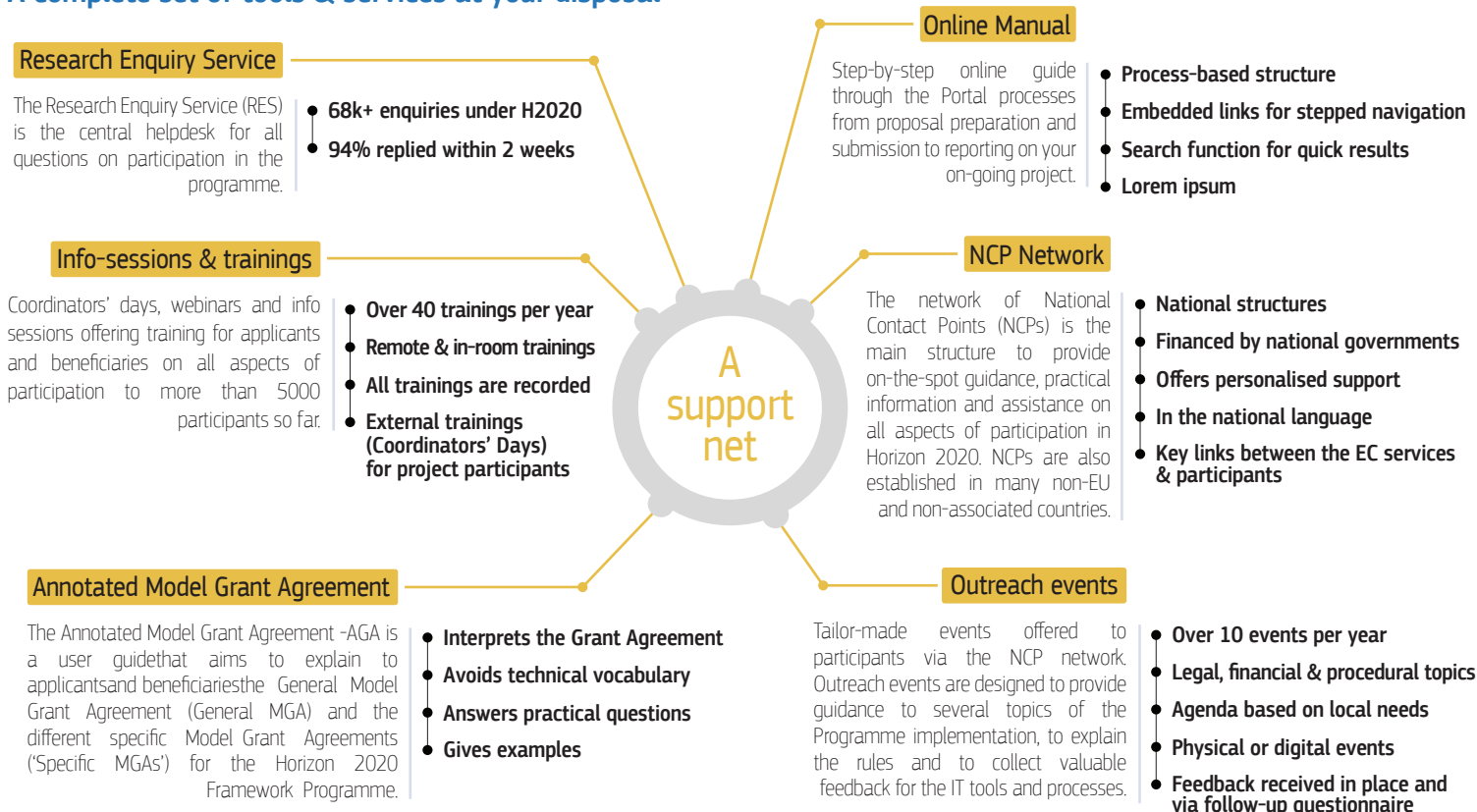


### Go-to-market support

## Effective help through a wide set of tools and services

Outreach to applicants and beneficiaries is a key part of the implementation of the new Horizon Europe. The outreach strategy in Horizon Europe aims at providing clear and timely guidance and support, adapted to the needs and circumstances of all types of stakeholders, while at the same time gathering feedback for further simplification and improvements. It will offer a wide set of activities in order to inform, involve and interact with the programme stakeholders.

## A complete set of tools & services at your disposal



## Discover more at:

[Funding & Tenders Portal](#)  
[Horizon Results Platform](#)  
[Horizon Dashboard](#)  
[Horizon Results Booster](#)



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