

## Frequently Asked Questions

*The list of questions/answers below has been compiled on the basis of actual questions asked during the event "FOSTERING INNOVATION FOR CYBER-PHYSICAL SYSTEMS, ADVANCED COMPUTING AND MANUFACTURING: OPPORTUNITIES UNDER HORIZON 2020 LEIT-ICT WORK PROGRAMME 2014/15" held in Brussels in February 2014 together with questions received by Unit A3 "Complex Systems and Advanced Computing" since the launch of H2020.*

*Disclaimer: this document is meant only as an help for proposers to navigate in the relevant official documentation. It only serves for explanation purposes and is not to be considered an official legal document. Legal basis for the Calls are the respective Work Programmes, the official Call texts, etc.*

**Link to the reference documents on the participants portal:**

**[http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/funding/reference\\_docs.html](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/funding/reference_docs.html)**

**For more info, see the general H2020 FAQs <http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en/faq>**

## Questions on new rules in H2020

**Question 1: Where can I find the rules for participation in Horizon 2020?**

Background document to be consulted: H2020 Rules for participation

[http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/legal\\_basis/rules\\_participation/h2020-rules-participation\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/legal_basis/rules_participation/h2020-rules-participation_en.pdf)

**Question 2: What is new in the rules about Time to Evaluation and Time to Contract?**

In H2020 the "5+3 rule" has been introduced, which sets a limit of 5 months from call deadline to official information from European Commission of evaluation result, and 3 months for grant preparation and signature. These are upper limits. The implication is that there is less "negotiation" time and hence no time to correct major shortcomings in the proposals. Proposers should submit mature proposals which do not require major rework, because the proposal will become the Description of Work of the project with less changes than during negotiations under FP7.

**Question 3: Should third party costs apply same funding scheme as other beneficiaries?**

The exact way to provide financial support to third parties has to be elaborated in the proposal. One possible way would be to apply the same funding principles as for other beneficiaries.

Reference: WP Annex K: Financial support to third parties; General annexes p.34:

[http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/wp/2014\\_2015/annexes/h2020-wp1415-annex-ga\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/wp/2014_2015/annexes/h2020-wp1415-annex-ga_en.pdf)

**Question 4: How are direct and indirect costs computed for innovation actions?**

The applicable rate is defined in the Work Programme. For innovation actions it can be up to 100% for non-profit organisations, and up to 70% for other participants. The overhead flat rate is up to 25% of total direct eligible costs, defined as personnel costs + other direct costs. Please note that Subcontracting, costs of third parties and financial support to third parties are excluded.

Legally binding texts:

WP Annex D: Types of action: specific provisions and funding rates; General annexes pp.8-9:

[http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/wp/2014\\_2015/annexes/h2020-wp1415-annex-ga\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/wp/2014_2015/annexes/h2020-wp1415-annex-ga_en.pdf)

Standard proposal template RIA, IA, version 1.1, 27 February 2014, p.7:

[http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/call\\_ptef/pt/h2020-call-pt-ria-ia\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/call_ptef/pt/h2020-call-pt-ria-ia_en.pdf)

**Question 5: How can Amortization or Depreciation costs for big infrastructures be taken into account in H2020?**

According to the Multi-beneficiary General Model Grant Agreement - Version 1.0 - 11 December 2013, p.20: "The depreciation costs of equipment, infrastructure or other assets (new or second-hand) as recorded in the beneficiary's accounts are eligible, if they were purchased in accordance with Article 10 and written off in accordance with international accounting standards and the beneficiary's usual accounting practices."

Reference: [http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/mga/gga/h2020-mga-gga-multi\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/mga/gga/h2020-mga-gga-multi_en.pdf)

**Question 6: In FP7 there was the so called "IP effect" that made that in practice Integrated Projects were coordinated most of the times by a big partner. Is it the same in H2020?**

The role and financial exposure of each partner in a project, including the coordinator, should be proportionate to their operational and financial capacity. If a SME has the capacity to coordinate a large project, it can do it.

Reference: see "Evaluation of proposals and operational capacity check" in [http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants\\_manual/pse/h2020-guide-pse\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants_manual/pse/h2020-guide-pse_en.pdf)

**Question 7: How do competitive calls work?**

In H2020, competitive calls can be implemented through "Financial support to third parties". A specific set of rules which are detailed in the annex K of the WP is applied.

Reference: WP Annex K: Financial support to third parties; General annexes p.34:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/wp/2014\\_2015/annexes/h2020-wp1415-annex-ga\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/wp/2014_2015/annexes/h2020-wp1415-annex-ga_en.pdf)

**Question 8: Can partners from non-EU countries participate in H2020?**

According to the Funding of applicants from non-EU countries & international organisations document – version 1.0 - 14 February 2014, p.2: "Applicants from non-EU countries (you may also encounter the term "third country" to describe these countries) are always free to take part in Horizon 2020 programmes – even if the call for proposals or topic text do not state this explicitly. They are not always automatically entitled to funding. All applications must meet the minimum conditions in the Rules for Participation."

References:

Funding of applicants from non-EU countries & international organisations document – version 1.0 - 14 February 2014:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants\\_manual/hi/3cpart/h2020-hi-3cpart\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants_manual/hi/3cpart/h2020-hi-3cpart_en.pdf)

WP Annex A: List of countries, and applicable rules for funding; General annexes pp.3-4:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/wp/2014\\_2015/annexes/h2020-wp1415-annex-ga\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/wp/2014_2015/annexes/h2020-wp1415-annex-ga_en.pdf)

International Cooperation; participant portal H2020 online manual:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/docs/h2020-funding-guide/cross-cutting-issues/international-cooperation\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/docs/h2020-funding-guide/cross-cutting-issues/international-cooperation_en.htm)

**Question 9: Can partners from Switzerland participate in H2020?**

As stated in the reference document on the Swiss participation in H2020, the situation on 26 February 2014 is: "As the negotiations on Switzerland's association to Horizon 2020 could not be completed, Switzerland has to be considered a non-associated country. This means that for the 2014 calls for proposals the participation of Swiss entities will be in accordance with Horizon 2020

provisions governing the participation of third country entities." Note however that this provision can change.

Reference: [http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/other/hi/h2020-hi-swiss-part\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/other/hi/h2020-hi-swiss-part_en.pdf)

## **Questions on Smart Cyber-Physical systems**

### **Question 10: What is "small" and "large" project respective size?**

According to the Work Programme 2014-15, p.83: "If indicated in the specific challenge description, the Commission considers that proposals requesting a contribution in the brackets indicated below for Small or Large would allow the specific challenge to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of proposals requesting other amounts:

- Small contribution: Contribution from the EU of between EUR 2 million and EUR 4 million
- Large contribution: Contribution from the EU of between EUR 5 million and EUR 8 million

Reference: H2020 WP 2014-15, page 83

[http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/wp/2014\\_2015/main/h2020-wp1415-leit-ict\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/wp/2014_2015/main/h2020-wp1415-leit-ict_en.pdf)

### **Question 11: Why is there mention of a mix of small and big projects in the Work Programme ICT1 Types of action?**

Small projects are intended for platform building and ecosystems (Innovation Actions bullet 1), while big projects are for the establishment of European networks of Embedded Systems design centres (Innovation Actions bullet 2). Please, note that this is not binding.

Reference: LEIT ICT WP 2014/15; pp.6-7:

[http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/wp/2014\\_2015/main/h2020-wp1415-leit-ict\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/wp/2014_2015/main/h2020-wp1415-leit-ict_en.pdf)

### **Question 12: While preparing a proposal, should we mention all the instruments including support to 3<sup>rd</sup> parties following a selection process or can we define them later?**

Please provide details at proposal stage.

Reference: WP Annex K: Financial support to third parties; General annexes p.34:

[http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/wp/2014\\_2015/annexes/h2020-wp1415-annex-ga\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/wp/2014_2015/annexes/h2020-wp1415-annex-ga_en.pdf)

**Question 13: Does the EC require specific rules of selection and prioritisation rules for experiments?**

The key principles are found in the WP Annex K. If in line with these, proposers could learn from FP7 experience (e.g. guidance note below used a.o. in I4MS under FP7). Note that the guidance note is not valid for H2020 as is and can only be used for inspiration purposes.

Reference:

WP Annex K: Financial support to third parties; General annexes p.34:

[http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/wp/2014\\_2015/annexes/h2020-wp1415-annex-ga\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/wp/2014_2015/annexes/h2020-wp1415-annex-ga_en.pdf)

GUIDANCE NOTE for project coordinators planning a competitive call for additional beneficiaries in an ICT Integrated Project or Network of excellence (Feb, 2013) :

<http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ict/netinnovation/docs/guidance-notes-project-coordinators.doc>

**Question 14: How will EC divide the funding between Platform building or ecosystems and Competence centres?**

Selection will strictly follow the rules as provided in the Work Programme.

Reference:

[http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/wp/2014\\_2015/annexes/h2020-wp1415-annex-ga\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/wp/2014_2015/annexes/h2020-wp1415-annex-ga_en.pdf)

**Question 15: Which legal entities can apply for networks of design centers?**

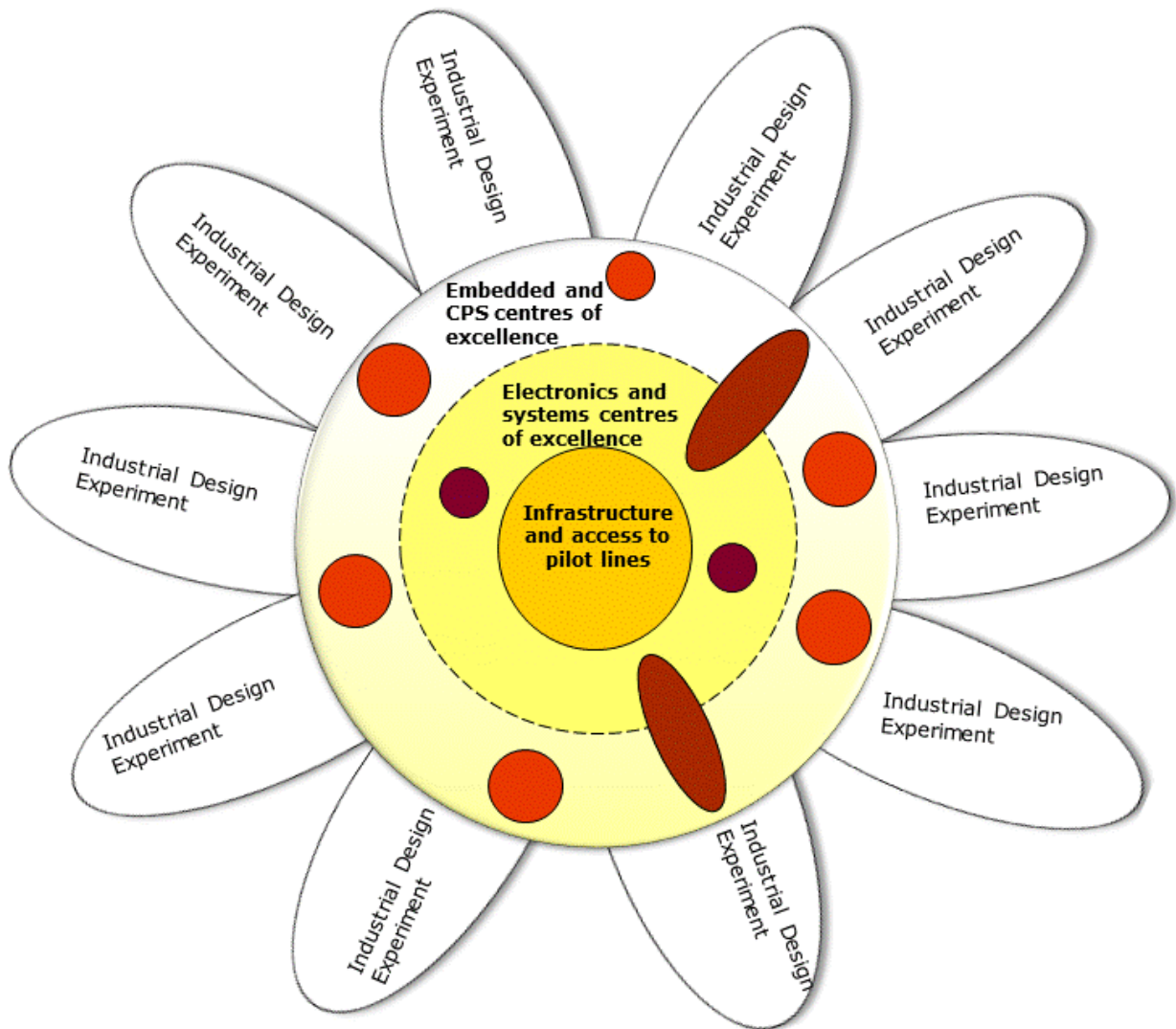
This is detailed in the rules for participation and dissemination in H2020 regulation.

Reference:

[http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/legal\\_basis/rules\\_participation/h2020-rules-participation\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/legal_basis/rules_participation/h2020-rules-participation_en.pdf)

**Question 16: Should Design centers follow the approach of I4MS?**

I4MS is a good example under FP7. Note that rules under H2020 are different. The picture below is illustrating a potential structure of how projects could be set-up. Note that only the Work Programme text is binding.



**Question 17: What is meant for “Pre-normative activities and measures” in ICT1 innovation actions?**

Pre-normative activities and measures could include cross-organisational consensus building, steps towards Standardization or use, support of existing standards, quasi-standardisation, ...

**Question 18: What should be the number of use cases for sub-topic a) Research and Innovation Actions "Modelling and integration frameworks" ?**

The number is not specified.

**Question 19: Support Actions in sub-topic c) What is the expected size of projects and how many projects are expected?**

It is left to proposers to decide on the scope of their proposal and in particular which ones of the listed items they address.

## **Questions on customised and low-power computing**

**Question 20: How should impact be measured in ICT 4 proposals?**

The proposal could for example include a methodology and metrics to measure the status quo and the improvement introduced by the proposed activities, along the expected impact items listed in the WP.

## **Questions on ICT Innovation for Manufacturing SMEs**

**Question 21: How can a legal entity apply for I4MS under FoF 9 - ICT FOR MANUFACTURING?**

The key principles are found in the WP Annex K. If in line with these, proposers could learn from FP7 experience (e.g. guidance note below used a.o. in I4MS under FP7). Note that the guidance note is not valid for H2020 as is and can only be used for inspiration purposes.

Reference:

WP Annex K: Financial support to third parties; General annexes p.34:

[http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/wp/2014\\_2015/annexes/h2020-wp1415-annex-ga\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/wp/2014_2015/annexes/h2020-wp1415-annex-ga_en.pdf)

GUIDANCE NOTE for project coordinators planning a competitive call for additional beneficiaries in an ICT Integrated Project or Network of excellence (Feb, 2013) :

<http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ict/netinnovation/docs/guidance-notes-project-coordinators.doc>

**Question 22: How is the impact award criterion weighted in FoF-9-2014 call?**

Please refer to the Work Programme, page 89.

Reference: WP LEIT 5.ii. Nanotechnologies, Advanced Materials, Biotechnology and Advanced Manufacturing and Processing, p.89:

[http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/doc/call/h2020/common/1597688-part\\_05ii\\_nmpb\\_v1.1\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/doc/call/h2020/common/1597688-part_05ii_nmpb_v1.1_en.pdf)

**Questions on combining funding from H2020 and ESIF**

Please refer to the official documents on regional policy:

[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/index\\_en.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/index_en.cfm)

[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/sources/docgener/presenta/smart\\_specialisation/smart\\_ris3\\_2012.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docgener/presenta/smart_specialisation/smart_ris3_2012.pdf)