



#InvestEUresearch

Horizon 2020 Work Programme for Research & Innovation 2018-2020

Key facts on **Societal Challenge 2** calls
and guidance on successful proposal
preparation

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Research and
Innovation

Commission services involved in Societal Challenge 2

Policy: European Commission – Directorates General for Agriculture and Rural Development (DG AGRI) and Research & Innovation (DG RTD)

**Sustainable
food security**



Blue Growth



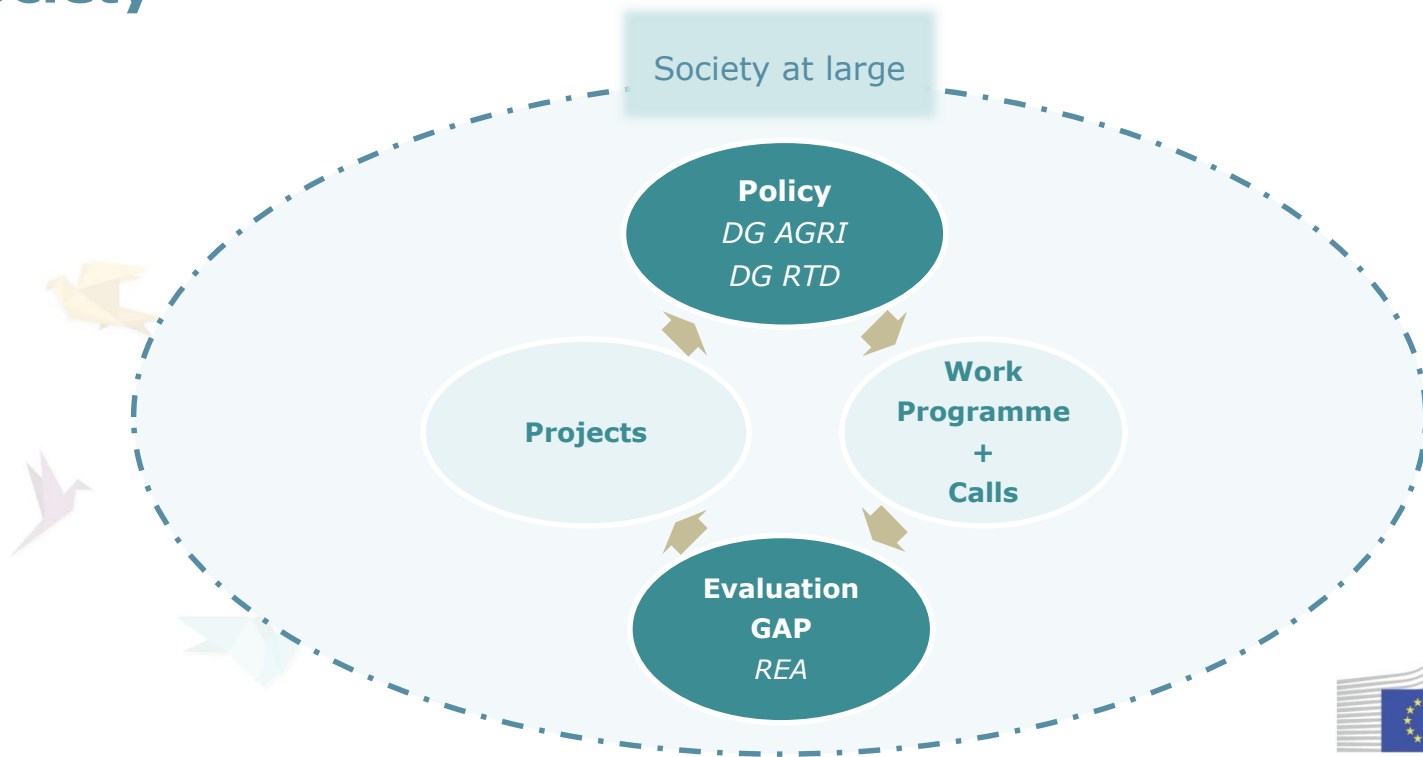
**Rural
Renaissance**



Evaluation and Grant management:
Research Executive Agency (REA)

Societal Challenge 2

A concerted effort: from policy to project to policy, for the society



Societal Challenge 2

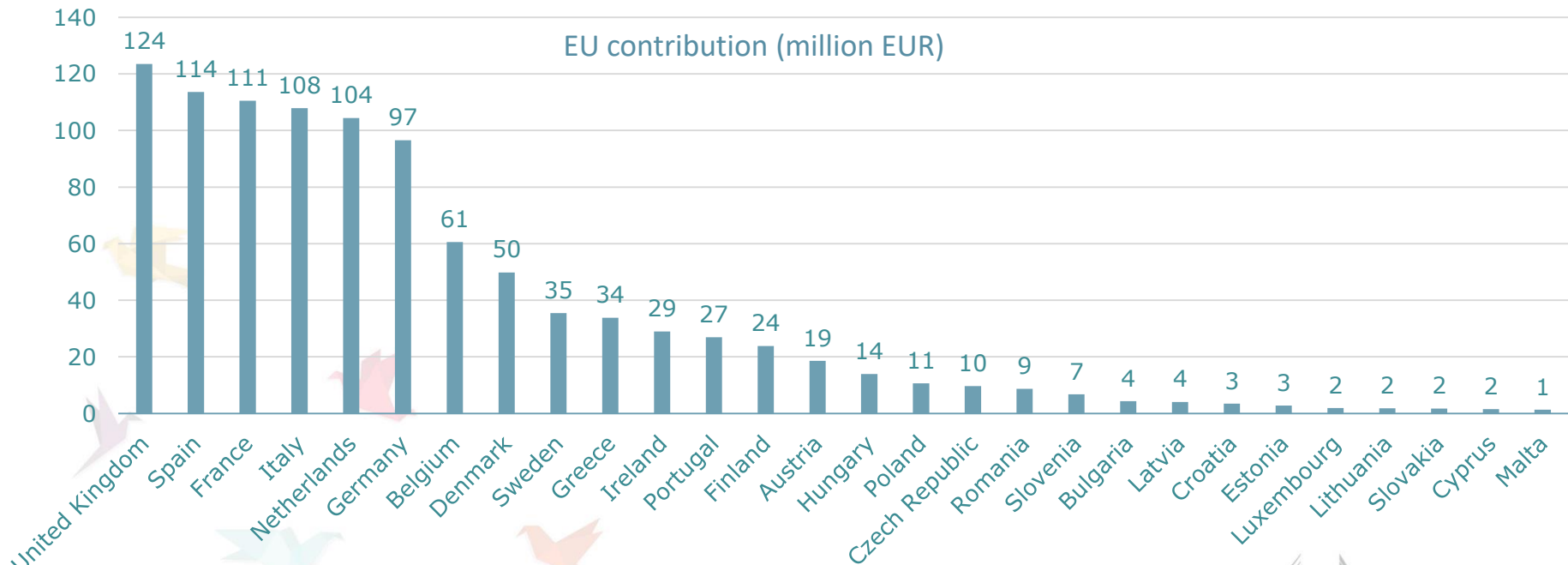
Horizon 2020 evaluation: a peer review process

	Topics	Budget (millions)	Eligible Proposals	Retained Proposals	Success Rate
2014	38	293	608	60	10%
2015	23	190	231	36	15%
2016	43	341	177	63	36%
2017	51	416	381	75	19%
2018*	34	404	111	28	25%
2019	34	462	-	-	-

Red = single stage only

Societal Challenge 2

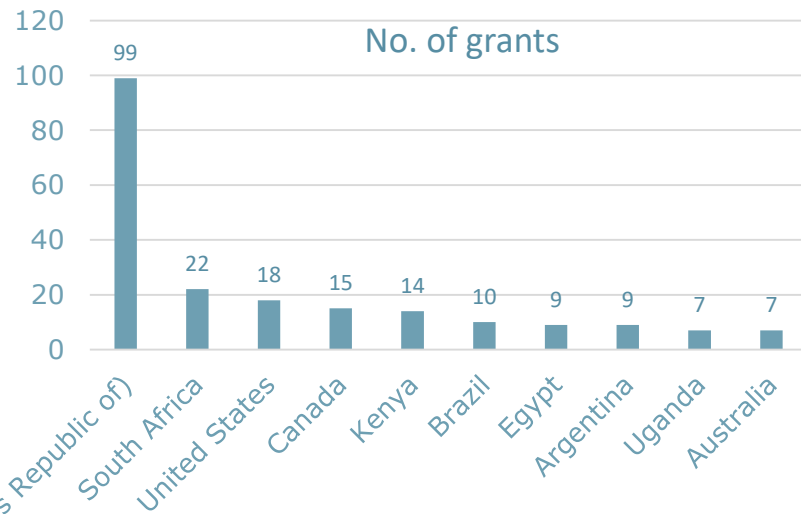
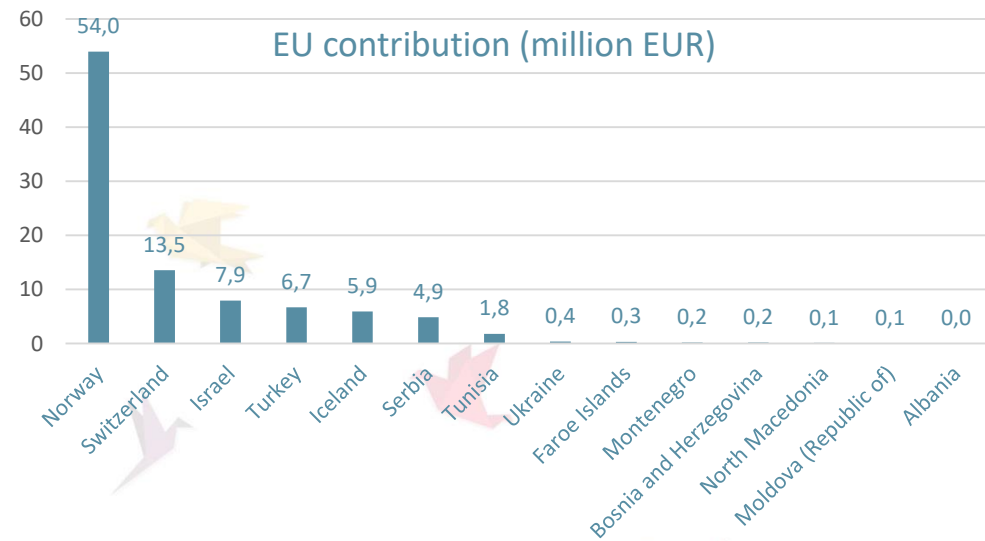
EU contribution/Member State



* Cumulative data 2014-2018 (for 2018 only single stage grants)

Societal Challenge 2

EU contribution/Associated Country International dimension



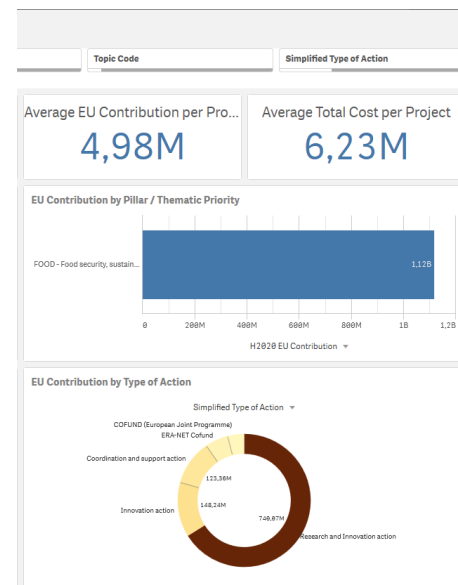
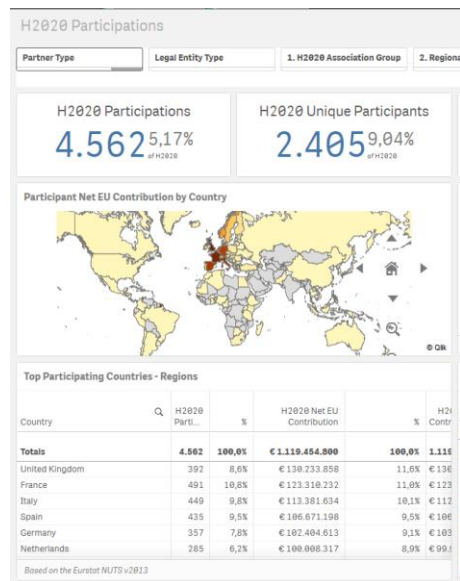
Associated countries and Third countries beneficiaries - Cumulative data 2014-2018 (for 2018 only single stage grants)

Societal Challenge 2

Explore interactive data on H2020 proposals and projects

Horizon 2020 Dashboard

- Aggregated data on participation in proposals (individual calls, topics, countries, organisation types success rates, etc.)
- Aggregated and detailed data on funded projects
- Accessible via the new [Projects & Results page](#) on the Horizon 2020 Participant Portal





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Horizon 2020 Work Programme for Research & Innovation 2018-2020

Evaluation procedure

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Research and
Innovation

Timeline

"Time to Grant" (8 months max)

Evaluation
(5 months max.)

Grant Agreement
Preparation

Call
deadline

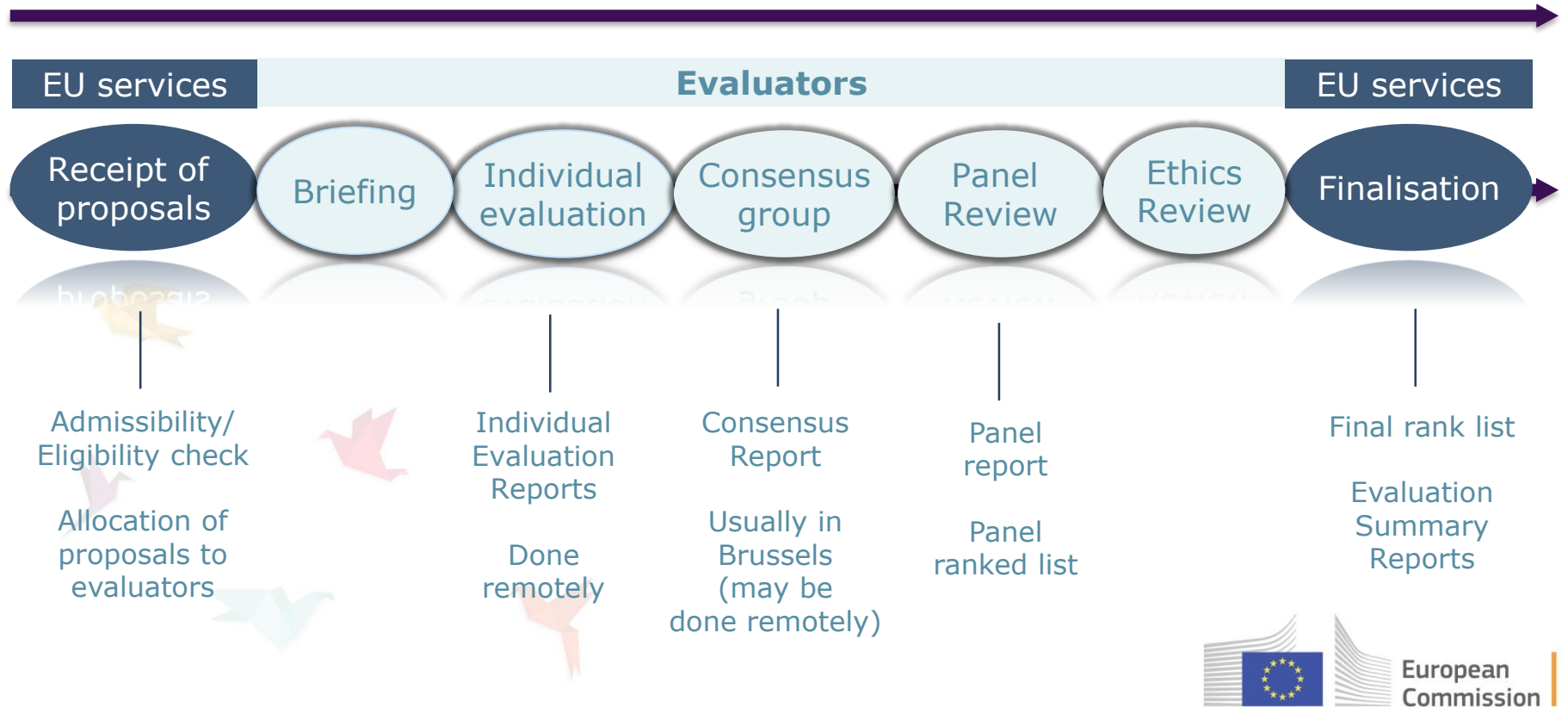
Applicants
informed

No negotiation

Grant
signature

Evaluation steps

Max. 5 months



Action types

Type of action	Funding	Aim of action	Evaluation
Research and Innovation Action (RIA)	100%	To establish new knowledge or explore the feasibility of a new technology, product, process, service or solution	Two stages
Innovation Actions (IA)	70% (100% for non-profit entities)	To produce plans and arrangements or designs for new, altered or improved products, processes or services	Single stage
Coordination and Support Actions (CSA)	100%	Accompanying measures	
ERA-NET Cofund	up to 33%	To support public-public partnerships, including joint programming initiatives between Member States	
European Joint Programme (EJP) Cofund	70%	To support coordinated national research and innovation programmes	

Schedule 2019

Timeline

2019 2020

Jan Feb Mar Apr May June // September Oct Nov Dec // Apr May

23

04

Single stage

- 21 topics
- EUR 264,5 million
- IA, CSA, ERA-NET, EJP

deadline

Remote IE

On-site CG

Applicants informed

GA signed

Two stages

- 13 topics
- EUR 182 million
- RIA

deadline

1st stage Remote IE+CG

Applicants informed

deadline

2nd stage Remote IE

On-site CG

Applicants informed

GA signed

< 3 months >

General feedback to successful applicants



IE = Individual Evaluation; CG = Consensus Group; GA = Grant Agreement

Evaluation principles

- Fair and equal treatment of all proposals
- Based on criteria announced in the Work Programme
- Independent external experts
- Confidentiality and absence of conflict of interests



Award criteria

- Excellence
- Impact
- Quality and efficiency of the implementation

Each criterion includes sub-criteria, which slightly differ depending on the type of Action

Cross-cutting issues

- Social Sciences and Humanities
- Gender dimension
- Responsible Research and Innovation

Specific requirements

- Multi-actor approach
- Coordination between projects

Multi-actor approach



Target **real-life needs, problems or opportunities**



Choose consortium partners with **complementary types of knowledge and skills** (for "cross-fertilisation")



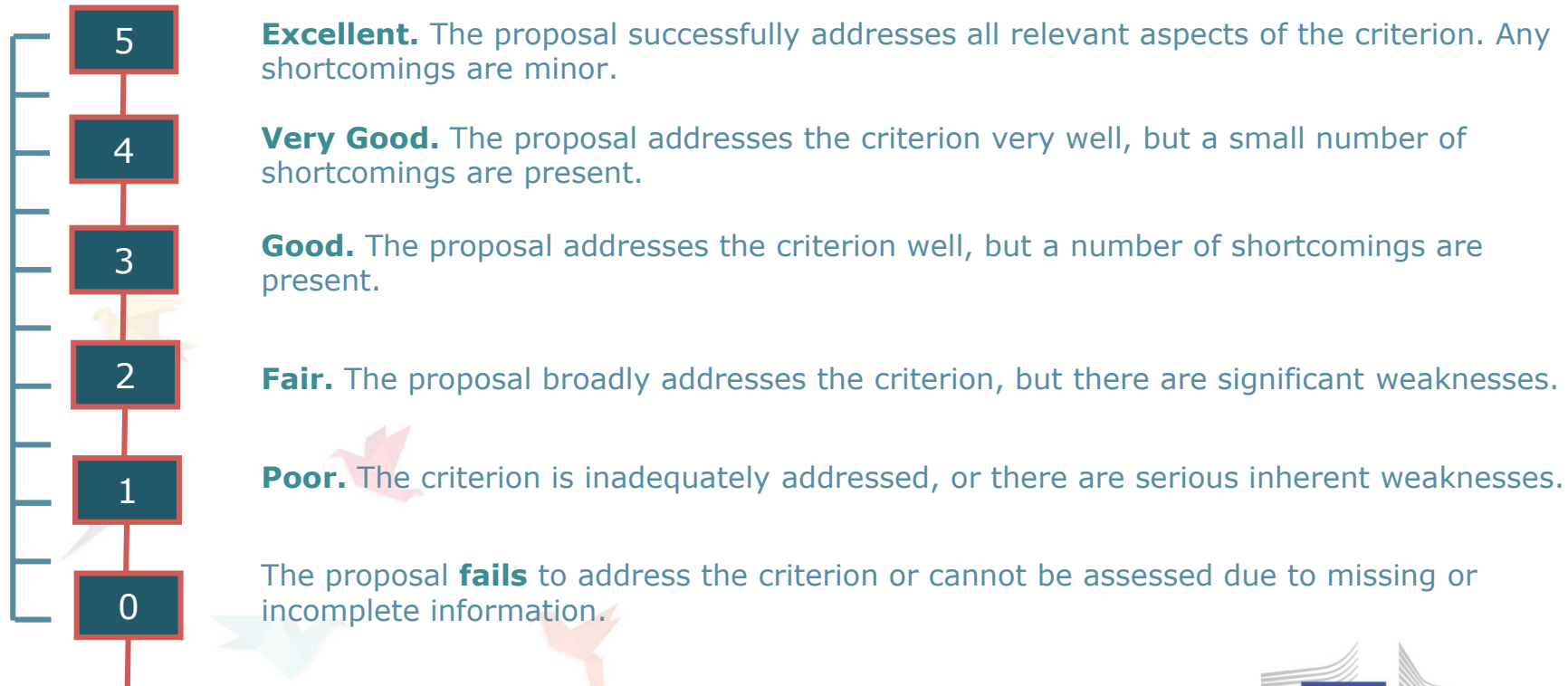
including **farmers, foresters or other end-users** to benefit from their entrepreneurial skills

- To make innovation more demand-driven innovation
- Genuine involvement of actors all along the project; co-creation / co-ownership
- Practical knowledge through existing dissemination channels + practice abstracts

Workshop on Multi-actor projects, Brussels, 08/03/2018:

<https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en/news/interactive-innovation-action-%E2%80%93-multi-actor-projects-learning-each-other>

Scoring scale



Half scores given

Scoring thresholds

Single/
2nd stage

Criteria	Threshold	IA factor (ranking)
Excellence	3/5	n/a
Impact	3/5	x 1,5
Implementation	3/5	n/a
TOTAL	10/15	n/a

1st stage

Criteria	Threshold
Excellence	4/5
Impact	4/5
Implementation	n/a
TOTAL	<i>dynamic</i>

As close as possible to 3 times (and not less than 2,5 times) the available budget

No negotiation

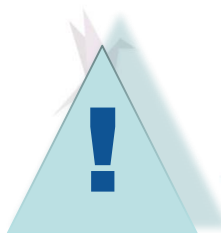
- Proposals evaluated as submitted, not on their potential if certain changes were to be made
- Shortcomings reflected in lower scores

Operational capacity

- Experts will indicate whether each individual participant has, or will have in due time, a sufficient operational capacity to successfully carry out its tasks in the proposed work plan.
- Assessment based on the competence and experience of the applicant, including its operational resources (human, technical and other).
- If lacking, participant's contribution disregarded

Exceptional funding (3rd country applicants / international organisations)

- Participants from +120 countries are automatically eligible for funding (list in general annex A)
- International organisations & organisations from some 3rd countries (industrialised countries and emerging economies) are **not** automatically eligible for funding
- Evaluators assess if participation is essential
- If participation is NOT deemed essential, the participant will not receive EU funding.



***Be prepared for a plan B!** be aware of that and already look for other sources of funds. If NO exceptional funding is granted, budget will be reduced but tasks should be carried anyway.*



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Useful tips & resources

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Research and
Innovation

Read Carefully

- **Participant Portal** (PP): all the information is there!
- **Work Programme** (+ annexes), admissibility & eligibility conditions, topic description
- Check relevant **projects** already funded ([CORDIS](#))
- Contact your **National Contact Point** for guidance / assistance



Test your idea

- Define objectives and target groups
- "Reality check" (internal / external) before investing time



Proposal building

- **Start in time!**
- **Excellent science** is not enough. Consider carefully all (sub-)criteria
- Be **coherent**. There must be a match between objectives, expected impacts, planned activities, competence of partners and the assigned resources.
- Plan your **budget** carefully, with a bottom-up approach. Include costs for project review meetings, open access & open research data.
- Write clearly and **concisely**. Less can be more!
- Respect the **page limits**. Excess pages will be invisible (RIA = 70 p. (10 p. for 1st stage); CSA, ERA-NET = 50 p.; EJP = 100 p.)



Coordinate

- Chose your **partners** carefully (e.g. brokerage, PP 'search' section); clarify their **roles** (e.g. beneficiaries vs. third parties)
- **Involve** them meaningfully and plan their contributions
- **Consortium agreement**: think about it at proposal stage

Final considerations

- Ask someone impartial to proof-read your proposal (self-evaluation form available)
- Put yourself in the shoes of an expert evaluator
- Avoid last minute submission. Submit drafts (overwriting)

Communication, Dissemination, Exploitation

Communication	Dissemination	Exploitation
Promote the project and results / success	Focus on results only	Make concrete use of research results
Reach out to society , show the impact and benefits of EU-funded research.	Transfer knowledge and results to enable others to use them.	Effective use of results to deliver concrete value and impact for society.
Multiple audiences beyond the project's own community incl. media and the broad public.	Audiences that <i>may</i> use the results (e.g. scientific community, industrial partner, policymakers).	People / organisations incl. project partners that make concrete use of the results.
Since the start of the project	When results are available	When results are available
Art. 38.1	Art. 29	Art. 28

Admissibility: full proposals must include a draft plan for the exploitation and dissemination of the results. Guidance on www.iprhelppdesk.eu

Open Access

Open access: on-line access to scientific information free of charge and in reusable format

Peer-reviewed
scientific publications

Mandatory

Research data

*Default opt-in (possible opt-out)
As open as possible, as closed as necessary*

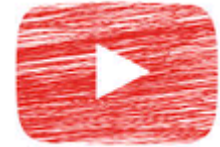
- Plan at proposal stage the resources required to manage open access to scientific publications and/or research data

Horizon 2020 Online Manual on Open Access: http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/docs/h2020-funding-guide/cross-cutting-issues/open-access-data-management/open-access_en.htm

- Applicants fill in the Ethics Self-Assessment when preparing a full proposal
 - Ethics Issues Table in Part A ([How to complete your ethics self-assessment](#) guide.)
 - Ethics section (5.1) in Part B
- Each proposal considered for funding is subject to an ethics review by ethics experts prior to the signature of the Grant Agreement
- If information is missing or incomplete on ethics issues' handling, it will slow down the grant preparation and additional ethics requirements may have to be fulfilled before the research activity can start.
- If your proposal is not given ethics (conditional) clearance, it is not eligible for funding and will be rejected.

Register as expert evaluator

- Get hands-on experience with the evaluation process
- Check research trends
- Enjoy a networking opportunity
- Serve the EU research community



Video on Horizon 2020 Experts:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=awMvFlug_mw

The screenshot shows the 'RESEARCH & INNOVATION Participant Portal' website. The header includes the European Commission logo and a search bar. The main navigation bar has links for HOME, FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES, HOW TO PARTICIPATE, PROJECTS & RESULTS, EXPERTS (which is highlighted), and SUPPORT. There are also LOGIN and REGISTER buttons. The main content area features a 'News' section on the left with two entries: '[05/06/2018] Expert evaluators needed: help us select high-potential (social) innovators. More...' and '[15/06/2017] Expert evaluators needed: help us select high-potential innovators. More...'. In the center, there is a graphic of a green brain with gears and a profile of a head. To the right, there is a blue box titled 'Experts' with a sub-link 'H2020 ONLINE MANUAL'. Below this, there is a section titled 'New experts' with two input fields: 'Want to become an expert?' and 'What do expert assignments involve?'.

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/experts/index.html>

Useful pages and documents

- [Participant Portal](#)
- Horizon 2020 [online manual](#)
- [Reference documents](#) : work programmes, legal and guidance documents
- [Annotated Grant Agreement](#)
- [Frequently asked questions](#) (FAQ) on participant portal
- [IT Helpdesk](#) for questions about the Participant Portal tools / processes.

Any specific question?

- Contact your [National Contact Point](#)
- Horizon 2020 [Research Enquiry Service](#)

Best wishes!
Any question?

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#H2020SC2

www.ec.europa.eu/research/bioeconomy

www.ec.europa.eu/agriculture/research-innovation_en

https://ec.europa.eu/info/departments/research-executive-agency_en

Participant Portal

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/home.html>