

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

CHALLENGE 6 - EUROPE IN A CHANGING WORLD: INCLUSIVE, INNOVATIVE AND REFLECTIVE SOCIETIES” *

Please, note that general FAQs can be found in the Participant Portal at <http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/support/faq.html>.

GENERAL QUERIES

Q: Where can we find the documents and information on the Horizon 2020 calls and specifically on those of Challenge 6?

A: All the call conditions for the Horizon 2020 calls 2014-2015 are described in the relevant Work Programmes, out of which the one for Challenge 6 “Europe in a changing world: inclusive, innovative and reflective societies” is available at http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/doc/call/h2020/common/1597694-part_13_inclusive_societies_v1.1_en.pdf . All calls information can be further found under the “Funding Opportunities” section of the Research Participant Portal at <http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/index.html>. In there, it is possible to either use the key words in the “search topics” tool or to go directly to the list of topics through the “calls” section.

Q: We are interested in submitting a proposal to the Societal Challenge 6 call and we are wondering whether there are links to possible sample applications - those already successfully prepared. We would like to get an idea on how a well-written proposal should look like.

A: Although no examples of successful applications are provided, applicants may consult a proposal reference template which also gives good hints on what to pay attention to when preparing a proposal. This reference template can be found on the Research Participant Portal in the section “How to Participate”, Reference Documents, Calls - proposal templates and evaluation forms. It is directly available at http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/call_ptef/pt/h2020-call-pt-ria-ia_en.pdf .

Q: Is it necessary for a proposal for Societal Challenge 6 "SOCIETY" topics* to cover all aspects and dimensions listed in the scope part of the topic description?

A: The call texts for the H2020 programme stimulate bottom-up dynamics and thus the creativity of the research community. The scope part of the Societal Challenge 6 calls mentions a number of issues that the Commission believes are relevant for the topic, but the list is neither exhaustive nor does every possible dimension mentioned in it need to be covered. Applicants should prepare a well-argued proposal including those dimensions and aspects which in their opinion best answer to the call and which their research team regards as providing the largest potential for impact.

* Please, note that for the purposes of the electronic publication of the Horizon 2020 calls on the Participant Portal (<http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/index.html>) the below listed topics for the calls H2020-EURO-2014/2015, H2020-YOUNG-2014/2015, H2020-REFLECTIVE-2014/2015 and H2020-INT-2015 always have a denomination “SOCIETY”.

Q: Is there the minimum and/or maximum duration for the projects set in your calls?

A: There are no minima/maxima set for the projects duration under the Challenge 6, unless specifically published in the topic description.

Q: I would like to have the Commission opinion on the quality of our consortium; may I call you or send you some information about it?

A: The composition of the consortium should be planned taking into account the Rules for Participation in the Horizon 2020, namely Articles 7-10, (http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/doc/call/h2020/common/1595113-h2020-rules-participation_oj_en.pdf). Further clarification is available from, e.g., Annex A. of General Annexes to the Work Programme (List of countries, and applicable rules for funding to the Work Programme - http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/wp/2014_2015/annexes/h2020-wp1415-annex-a-countries-rules_en.pdf), Annex B. - Standard admissibility conditions for grant proposals, and related requirements (http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/wp/2014_2015/annexes/h2020-wp1415-annex-b-adm_en.pdf), Annex C. - Standard eligibility criteria (http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/wp/2014_2015/annexes/h2020-wp1415-annex-c-elig_en.pdf) as well as from the Guide to the submission and evaluation process (http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants_manual/pse/h2020-guide-pse_en.pdf).

Commission services cannot give opinion on the very content or idea of the proposal, including the one for the composition and quality of the planned consortium. All such aspects are to be assessed by external experts against the award criteria identified for actions under the Horizon 2020. Please, see Annex H (Evaluation) of the General Annexes to the Work Programme (http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/wp/2014_2015/annexes/h2020-wp1415-annex-h-esacrit_en.pdf).

Q. What kind of budget the EC is expecting to be foreseen for 'dissemination' and for 'general management'?

A: Coherence and effectiveness of the work plan, including appropriateness of the allocation of tasks and resources, are assessed and scored by external experts evaluating the proposals according to award criterion 3 "Quality and efficiency of the implementation". Therefore, the Commission services cannot give opinion on the appropriateness of budget allocations. In order to get an idea what the experts are looking for, applicants can consult award criteria in Part H of General Annexes to the Work Programme (http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/wp/2014_2015/annexes/h2020-wp1415-annex-h-esacrit_en.pdf).

Q: Which are the rules and processes for including partners with a zero EU contribution?

A: In addition to participation from the EU Member States and from the Horizon 2020 Associated countries, the Programme is open to participation from third countries across the world. This, however, does not automatically imply that entities from all third countries are eligible for funding from the EU budget. The third countries eligible for funding are listed in the Annex A of General Annexes to the Work Programme and also in the Online Manual under the "Find Partners" section (<http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/funding/guide.html>). Legal entities from countries which are not listed thereby can be proposed as partners but without the EU contribution. It should be made clear in the proposal how the participation of these partners would be financed.

Detailed information on how to treat partners from third countries that are not automatically eligible for the EU funding is also further given in Grants Manual, section on the “Funding of applicants from non-EU countries & international organisations” - see http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants_manual/hi/3cpart/h2020-hi-3cpart_en.pdf

Q: Must all partners provide evidence that they have agreed to become partners in the proposed project and where can we find the specific rules on this?

A: The partners themselves do not provide any evidence. The confirmation is given by the proposal coordinator who signs a “Declaration” (part of the application form) stating among others that “The coordinator declares to have the explicit consent of all applicants on their participation and on the content of this proposal”.

Q: In relation to partners in the proposal do we need to provide declarations from them stating that they are financially capable/trustworthy?

A: When evaluating a proposal, experts will also be asked to check the operational capacity of all partners of the consortium based on the information given in the Application form, i.e. on CVs of participating members of the team, relevant publications and/or achievements, relevant previous projects or activities, descriptions of participating institutions including info on significant infrastructure or any major items of technical equipment. Please, note that this partnership description does not count to the page limit.

See detailed information in Annex B (Standard admissibility conditions for grant proposals, and related requirements) of General Annexes to the Work Programme (http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/doc/call/h2020/common/1597678-part_18_general_annexes_incl_corr_en.pdf)

Q: We would like to know if it is possible to insert, among the project partners, a university spin-off founded recently and, at the time, without financial statements.

A: If the spin-off belongs to one of the other applicants, the proposal should consider the Rules of participations (http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/doc/call/h2020/common/1595113-h2020-rules-participation_oj_en.pdf), according to which "Only "legal entity" can apply for the grant. Article 2, para 13 gives the following definition of the "legal entity": 'legal entity' means any natural person, or any legal person created and recognised as such under national law, Union law or international law, which has legal personality and which may, acting in its own name, exercise rights and be subject to obligations.

Before a proposal can be submitted, all participants should register their organisational details in the URF (Unique Registration Facility) in the Research Participant Portal (PP), where they will be assigned a temporary Participant Identification Code (PIC) (entities validated under FP7 can keep their valid status and PIC). The validation of a participant is unique and valid throughout the entire H2020 programme. During the validation of a legal entity, the validation services verify the (i) legal existence and (ii) the status of an applicant against H2020 Rules for Participation.

Financial information is required if the total amount of the project exceeds 500.000 EUR.

CALL H2020-EURO-2014/2015 “OVERCOMING THE CRISIS: NEW IDEAS, STRATEGIES AND GOVERNANCE STRUCTURES FOR EUROPE

- **Topic EURO-1-2014 “Resilient and sustainable economic and monetary union in Europe”**

Q: Are there any formal rules regarding participation in more than one bid in terms of bidding for different projects? Is it possible to submit to this topic 2 different proposals covering different dimensions of the call?

A: There are no limits as concerns the number of proposals the legal entity can submit (or be partner in) to the Horizon 2020 calls. There are also no formal obstacles to participating in proposals addressing less than all of the topic’s dimensions. Applicants must keep in mind that the proposals will be evaluated by external experts who will consider them vis-à-vis all those other proposals submitted within the same topic.

Note, however, that if the coordinator submits a number of similar proposals, the Commission may ask him to choose one or more of them to be withdrawn (see “Grants Manual” section on proposal submission and evaluation at Participant Portal -

http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants_manual/pse/h2020-guide-pse_en.pdf

- **Topic EURO-3-2014 European societies after the crisis**

Q: In the section on expected impacts for the Challenge 6 topic EURO-3-2014 the call states that “The envisaged research is expected to contribute to the effective implementation of the Social Investment Package’s priorities in general and to the building of the future knowledge bank on social policies in particular”. Please, clarify what is meant by the future knowledge bank on social policies? Are there any documents available, is there information on how this knowledge bank should operate and function?

A: This requirement of the topic EURO-3-2014 refers to the commitment in the Social Investment Package which envisages the establishment of a knowledge bank to facilitate the exchange of good practice. More detailed information can be found on the website <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1065&langId=en>, as well as in the “Tender specification” document under the last year’s Call for Tenders VT/2013/069 on the Establishment and management of a Social Policy Network, which is available from the tender publication website at <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1065&langId=en&callId=393&furtherCalls=yes>.

CALL H2020-YOUNG-2014/2015 “THE YOUNG GENERATION IN AN INNOVATIVE, INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE EUROPE”

Q: Please provide guidance on the ambit of the innovation actions for the purposes of the call on “Young generation in an Innovative, Inclusive and Sustainable Europe”.

A: There are two types of actions (funding schemes) to be funded under the call H2020-YOUNG-2014/2015:

“Research and Innovation Actions (RIA)”, which consist of “Activities aiming to establish new knowledge or explore the feasibility of a new technology, product, process, service or solution. For this purpose they may include basic and applied research, technology development and integration, testing and validation on a small-scale prototype in a laboratory or simulated environment.”

“Innovation Actions (IA)” which are directly aiming at producing plans and arrangements or designs for new, altered or improved products, processes or services. For this purpose they may include prototyping, testing, demonstrating, piloting, large-scale product validation and market replication.”

Proposals to be submitted to the Horizon2020 calls must always correspond to the particular "Type of action" as given in the Work Programme – description of the topic.

Further clarification of types of actions to be funded under the Horizon 2020 can also be found in the H2020 On-line Manual - Glossary at http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/support/reference_terms.html

- **Topic YOUNG-3-2015 "Lifelong learning for young adults: better policies for growth and inclusion in Europe"**

Q: Under this topic, an "Intelligent Decision Support System" is to be developed. Can this be understood as a system in the general sense as explained at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Intelligent_decision_support_system, or is something else, or something more specific, envisaged for this topic?

A: This definition is correct. "Intelligent Decision Support Systems" refer to the application of ICT and computer sciences for simplifying the access to information relevant to the different phases of the policy making process. Applicants interested in this topic may wish to look at the Commission's publication "Adult and continuing education in Europe: Using public policy to secure a growth in skills" (2013) available at <http://ec.europa.eu/research/social-sciences/pdf/kina25943enc.pdf>. This publication gives a clarification on Intelligent Decision Support Systems in chapter 5.6 "Policies according to results" (pages 77-82).

- **Topic YOUNG-4-2015 "The young as a driver of social change"**

Q: In relation to the topic YOUNG-4-2015 "The young as a driver of social change" please, specify: 1/ what is meant in the scope section by "socio-ecological transition"? 2/ What age group you mean under "young people"?

A: As regards a clarification of the "socio-ecological transition", you may wish to consult the publication "Global Europe 2050" (http://ec.europa.eu/research/social-sciences/pdf/policy_reviews/global-europe-2050-report_en.pdf#view=fit&pagemode=none) and the publication "The world in 2025 - Rising Asia and socio-ecological transition" http://ec.europa.eu/research/social-sciences/pdf/policy_reviews/the-world-in-2025-report_en.pdf#view=fit&pagemode=none. In addition, consultation of websites of two FP7 projects - NEUJOBS (<http://www.neujobs.eu/>) and WWWfor Europe (<http://www.foreurope.eu>) might also be of help. 2/ Finally, as concerns the age of "young people" - if the call does not give a definition in the text of the topic it is up to the proposers to define and argue the group as most appropriate, in their opinion, for the specific research questions they intend to pose in their proposal.

CALL H2020-REFLECTIVE-2014/2015 "REFLECTIVE SOCIETIES: CULTURAL HERITAGE AND EUROPEAN IDENTITIES"

- **Topic REFLECTIVE-2-2015 "Emergence and transmission of European cultural heritage and Europeanisation"**

Q: Under this topic a concept of "living arts" is included. Is there an official definition or a glossary we should refer to? In particular, we would like to know if the definition includes cinema as a form of living art.

A: It is the precise nature of arts and creativity that they seek the borderlines and twist meanings and practices beyond their traditional limits. While living arts may be commonly understood to be those arts on scene such as dance and theatre, these might (for example) be recorded and used in cinematographic forms or in installations or performances; we would not like to exclude such practices, or other forms of

artistic expression. In the absence of an official/specific definition, the living arts can be understood as referring to a general understanding based in the cultural practice and scientific literature.

- **Topic REFLECTIVE-4-2015 "Cultural opposition in the former socialist countries"**

Q: *The first version of the call implied that the research should deal only with "the former socialist countries" but the new formulation revised in December 2013 included also cultural oppositions "in exile". This is a huge extension and we would like to know what really is meant by "in exile" here.*

A: In this case the "exile" term is limited - as clarified in the first sentence under the "scope" – to the "exile supporting [these cultural] opposition movements" in former socialist countries . Therefore, it by no means represents any kind of groups in exile in general, originating from the current post-socialist EU [potential] Member States, but should be understood exclusively as exile groups closely cooperating with/supporting the cultural opposition in these countries.

Q: *The REFLECTIVE-4 topic seems to place an emphasis on working with existing collections which record cultural opposition, which does not seem to be in correspondence with the call's emphasis on 'the widest possible spectrum of the cultural opposition movements and activities in former socialist countries'.*

A: There is no mentioning in the call that the topic REFLECTIVE-4 should be about "existing" collections. On contrary, the text speaks about "various" ..., collections which "should be identified". This suggest the intention of the topic to go further than just for already acknowledged, explored, official/known collections, intention to put together any possible information on those which are "widely dispersed and fragmented", including those which are not yet recorded and/or even known.

- **Topic INT-12-2015 "The cultural, scientific and social dimension of EU-LAC relations"**

Q: *This topic explicitly asks for LAC participation but does not state explicitly that these countries will be eligible to receive funding from the Union budget; what is the Commission position on eligibility of funding for Mexico and Brazil?*

A: Mexico and Brazil are not explicitly listed in the call as countries which can obtain the funding from the EU. They are neither listed in the Part A of General Annexes to the Work Programme (http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/doc/call/h2020/common/1617621-part_19_general_annexes_v.2.0_en.pdf) as countries which would be eligible for such funding. Mexico and Brazil are thus welcomed to be partners in the consortium, however they have to secure their funding from other than the EU resources.