



Results of Horizon 2020 Stakeholder Consultation

Interim Evaluation
of Horizon 2020

European Economic and
Social Committee
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Research and
Innovation

Structure of the presentation

1. Overview
2. Stakeholder assessment according to five evaluation criteria
 - a. Relevance
 - b. Effectiveness
 - c. Efficiency
 - d. Coherence
 - e. EU Added Value
3. 10 key takeaways

TIME

From October 2016 until January 2017

AIM

To contextualise and enrich the interim evaluation of Horizon 2020

STRUCTURE

Online questionnaire (open and closed questions) + position papers

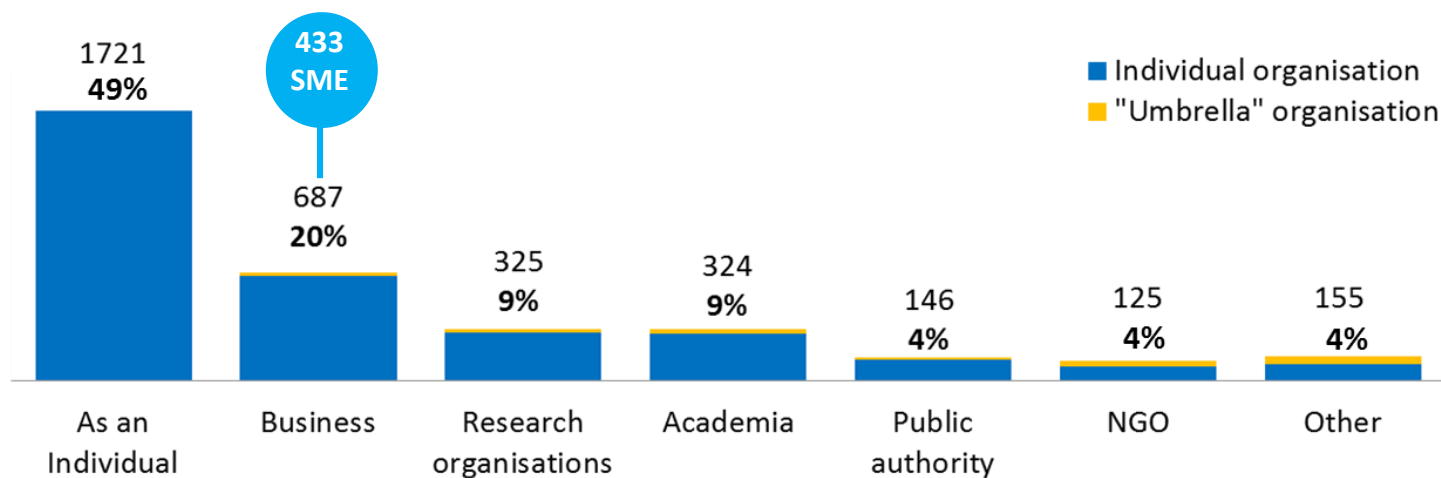
▶ RESULT



3483 responses and over
300 position papers

Who responded?

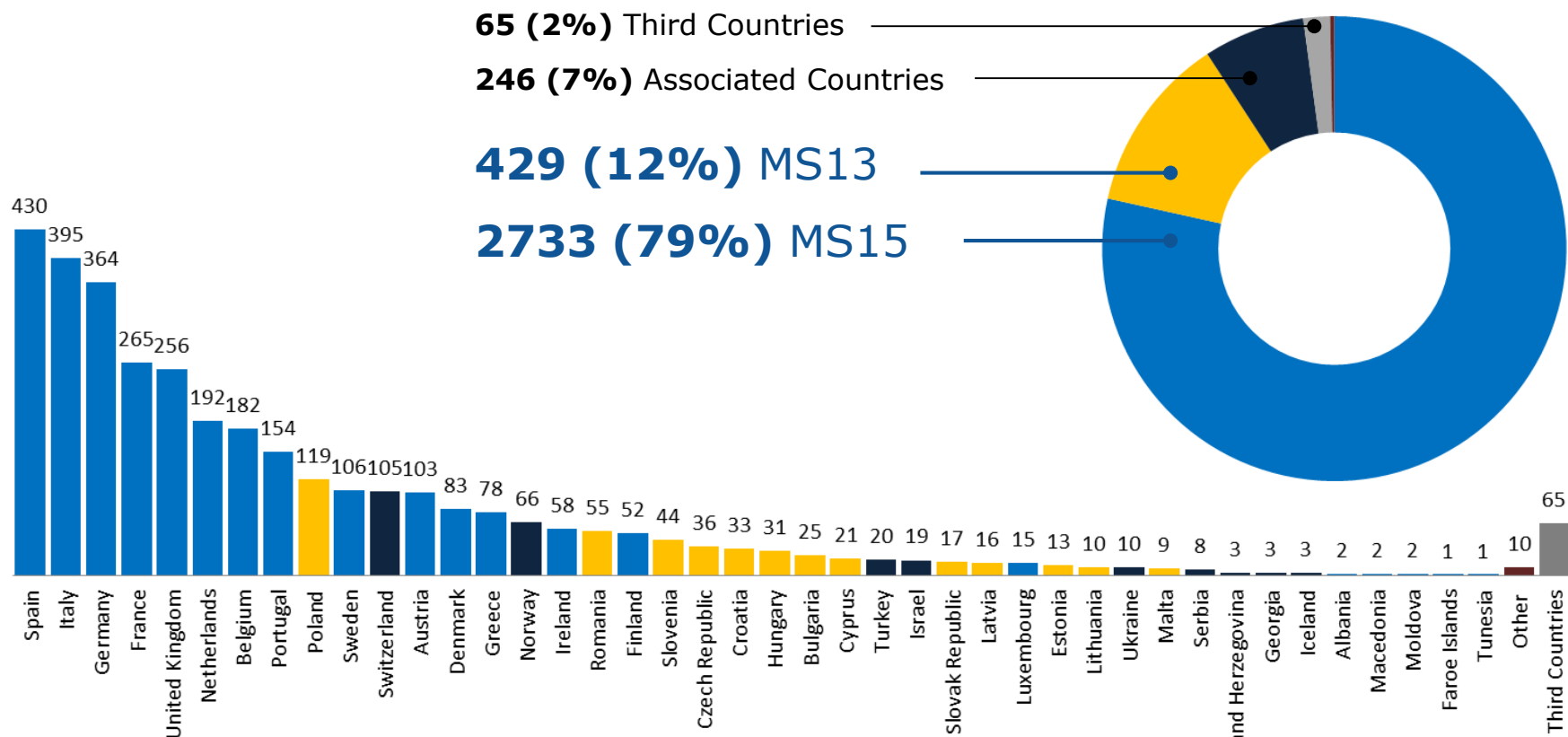
- A variety of stakeholders



- **23% newcomers** to the programme **24% non-beneficiaries** Horizon 2020



- From **69 different countries**



Is Horizon 2020 still relevant?

- ✓ More than 90% agree that Horizon 2020 priorities address the current challenges confronted by the EU.
- ✓ Grants for collaborative projects are the most relevant forms of funding,
- ✓ Main reasons for participation:
 - financial support
 - access to new knowledge and know-how
 - unique collaboration opportunities

87% are collaborating with new partners;
11% did so in order to involve potential users in the results

✓ What does Horizon 2020 mean to you?



- ✓ The complexity of the funding process is an area for improvement

How efficient is the programme management and application process?

- ✓ The majority **73% satisfied with the support provided** by the new management modes).
- ✓ More than **80% satisfied with the time taken to sign a grant** agreement and to evaluate the proposal
- ✓ The **cost of participation is lower than in FP7** and similar to international R&I programmes

But ...

- Some aspects of **evaluation feedback** could improve
- Further simplification is needed
- Decrease in **international cooperation** is worrying

Is Horizon 2020 budget adequate?

- ✓ **Oversubscription** one of the most commonly quoted issues of Horizon 2020
- ✓ A variety of solutions proposed on how to reduce oversubscription rates:
 - Improve and expand the two-stage proposal procedure
 - Reduce scope of calls
 - Increase budget

The majority of the respondents (**89%**) **strongly agree or agree that an increased budget** is needed for financing research and innovation at EU level.

Is the programme on track to achieve intended impacts?

SCIENTIFIC IMPACT

- ✓ **More than 90% agree**, at least to some extent, that Horizon 2020:
 - helps to foster excellent science
 - supported latest developments in research and innovation

INNOVATION/ ECONOMIC IMPACT

- ✓ 84% agree, at least to some extent, that Horizon 2020 helps foster European industrial partnerships
- ✓ Overall stakeholders agree that Horizon 2020 is stimulating **disruptive and market-creating innovation** but a large share agree only to some extent (37%).

SOCIETAL IMPACT

- ✓ 79% agree fully or to a large extent that Horizon 2020 priorities address major societal challenges

How does Horizon 2020 work internally and with other initiatives?

- ✓ **71% agree** that combining research and innovation under one single programme better addressed stakeholder needs.

But ...

- The programme needs to ensure a good balance between research and innovation (TRLs)
- EU funding landscape is still too **complex and needs to be rationalised**
- Most of the respondents were **unable to assess the linkages with other EU funding programmes** (not familiar)



What is the EU Added Value of Horizon 2020?

- ✓ For **63%** the added value of Horizon 2020 is **higher** when compared to national and/or regional programmes for research and innovation (businesses and research organisations even more positive)
- ✓ **The main added value** compared to national and regional programmes:
 - cooperation with partners from other countries
 - improved international visibility
 - financing of the projects which otherwise would not be supported
- ✓ The discontinuation would be judged **“catastrophic”**, **“devastating”**, **“a nightmare”**.



I believe that the EU has to maintain programmes such as Horizon 2020, since Horizon 2020 sets criteria for excellent science very high, increases cooperation on international level and can also increase competitiveness of the institution participating.

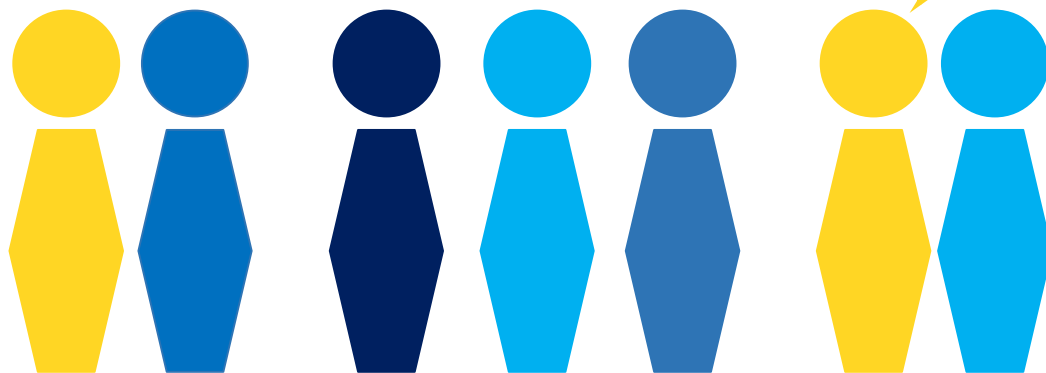
Public Authority, Croatia

The answer to this is being very closely examined in the wake of Brexit. The loss of ERC would be particularly detrimental, no national equivalent exists, along with the huge negative effect on the breadth and impact of our international collaborations.

Academia, UK

It provides the opportunity to small/medium companies to enter smoothly into international projects and cooperation schemes. It is a good school to benchmark the abilities/competencies of our organisation against other SME or partners. It teaches cross cultural management and risks. It is a great opportunity to open the mind or wider the mind of our staff.

Business, France





High satisfaction with the programme



Increased budget is needed and programme oversubscription is an urgent issue.



Fosters **excellence** and should continue to be excellence based.



Should better address citizens needs



Should further support market-creating innovation but at the same time there should be balance between research and innovation.

— **Simplified**, cost of participation is lower than in previous programmes but further simplification is needed.



Combined research and innovation programme better addresses stakeholder needs. But funding landscape remains **complex** to understand and needs to be rationalised.



Collaborative projects are the key and most relevant feature of the programme



Some aspects of the **evaluation process** could be further improved.



Brings **EU Added Value** through unique opportunities to collaborate, access new knowledge and know-how and financing of projects which otherwise would not be supported.

**Thank you for your attention and
your enthusiasm!**

Nothing *great* was ever achieved
without *enthusiasm.*

~Ralph Waldo Emerson