

Mexico – Country page

1. Available local programs or funds that could provide support to Mexican Horizon 2020 participants

Horizon 2020 is open to participation from across the world. European researchers can include partners from anywhere in the world when preparing H2020 proposals. This means that Mexican researchers, enterprises and institutions can team up with their European partners to participate in projects under H2020. Through participation in Horizon 2020, beneficiaries can gain great benefits from access to excellent talent, knowledge, data and infrastructures and connection to world-leading teams, networks and value chains.

EU-Mexico Co-funding Mechanism for Research and Innovation projects

To support the participation of entities established in Mexico in Horizon 2020 projects, the National Council for Science and Technology of Mexico (CONACYT) has established the so-called **Conacyt-H2020 co-funding mechanism**, in place since 2014. This co-funding mechanism has been the first support scheme put in place by EU international partner countries providing a source of financing "project-by-project participation" to Mexican partners in successful Horizon 2020 projects. This complementary funding mechanism has the objective of reinforcing EU-Mexico STI cooperation by increasing the participation of Mexican research institutions and companies in Horizon 2020 to work closely with European partners. The fourth call under the co-funding mechanism was published in March 2016. Due to financial adjustments in the implementation of the co-financing mechanism in 2017, Conacyt will priorities only few thematic areas of research of common interest for the WP 2018-2020. As a result, even at a time of economic crisis and scarcity of financial resources in Mexico and in the EU, both parties will continue to enhance cooperation in Research and Innovation with the EU in line with the commitment expressed by the Mexican government.

Key principles of the co-funding mechanism

The key principles of the co-funding mechanism are as follows (this is indicative, beyond EC responsibility): When a proposal with a Mexican participant is submitted to an H2020 call, the Mexican partner has to submit the application to CONACYT within 30 days after the closure of the call in Europe, in accordance to the Terms and Conditions of the CONACYT call. When the proposal is selected for funding by the EC, the Mexican participant has to notify the approval to CONACYT in order to start the process of the grant agreement and receive the funding. CONACYT will finance up to an 85% of the total amount requested and approved in the case of public entities (Institutions of Higher Education (IHE), Technologic and Research Centres) and private IHE; and up to 70% of the total amount requested and approved for private entities, except IHE. The complementary amount must be provided by the Mexican entity¹.

An additional effort will be dedicated for the next WP 2018-2020 to support efforts of multipliers, notably National Contact Points, for facilitating access to information and partnering of R&I stakeholders. Moreover, the organisation of R&I Days and other matchmaking events to facilitate partnering with both academia and industry will be organised with the support of the service facility in place.

For more information, please consult this website in view of submitting applications: <http://www.conacyt.mx/index.php/el-conacyt/convocatorias-y-resultados-conacyt/convocatoria-conacyt-horizon2020>

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2. Current priorities / roadmap for EU-Mexico R&I cooperation

Mexican participation is welcomed in all Calls for Proposals of Horizon 2020.

The 2016 EU-Mexico Joint Science and Technology Cooperation Committee (JSTCC) meeting was a further testimony of the breadth and dynamism of the partnership that continues to develop very rapidly and favourably. The successful cooperation on science & technology reflects the EU's and Mexico's increasing international engagement and shows that they face similar challenges and share many of the same values and concerns. To provide solutions to these challenges, the EU and Mexico are designing comparable policies, instruments and actions to tackle them. They are improving the framework conditions for their scientists and innovators to work together and they are joining forces in a number of strategic focus areas of mutual benefit.

These areas include a joint call on Geothermal energy (10 Million Euro have been earmarked for the call on both sides for a total of 20 Million Euro). Furthermore, both parties agreed to explore other areas of possible cooperation including smart grids, solar energy and energy storage. On ICT, both parties have intensified their collaboration on FIWARE technologies and the EC have earmarked funds aimed at supporting collaboration with Mexico in the area of High-Performance Computing in the Work Programme 2018-2020 in the areas for energy (including various sub-fields like oil, renewables, wind, etc.), life sciences, earth sciences, air pollution and natural disasters. Mexico is also fully committed with international group of funding agencies and scientific organisations cooperation through multilateral initiatives on global environmental change research (Belmont Forum), International manufacturing systems and on infectious disease preparedness and chronic diseases.

In addition, an Implementing Arrangement between the European Research Council (ERC) and CONACYT will stimulate collaboration in frontier research by facilitating excellence-based and bottom-up research cooperation among high-calibre Mexican and European scientists.

3. Brochures or other local communication materials to support Mexican participation in Horizon 2020

Horizon 2020 in Brief: <http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en/news/horizon-2020-brief-eu-framework-programme-research-innovation>

4. Website of EU Delegation to Mexico

Additional information on Horizon 2020 can be found on the website of the EU Delegation:
http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/mexico/index_en.htm

5. Local National Contact Points for H2020 and other assistance services

The network of **National Contact Points (NCPs)** is the main source of guidance, practical information and assistance on all aspects of participation in Horizon 2020:

http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/support/national_contact_points.html

Mexican NCP Coordinator for Horizon 2020:

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