

D. Types of action: specific provisions and funding rates^{1,2}

European Joint Programme (EJP) Cofund actions

Description: The European Joint Programme ('EJP') Cofund under Horizon 2020 is a programme cofund action designed to support coordinated national research and innovation programmes. The EJP Cofund aims at attracting and pooling a critical mass of national resources on objectives and challenges of Horizon 2020 and at achieving significant economies of scales by adding related Horizon 2020 resources to a joint effort.

The EJP Cofund does not promote types of activities or forms of coordination, but relies on modalities and processes agreed by the coordinated national programmes and related actors.

Eligible participants: The minimum number of participants in EJPs is five independent legal entities from different Member States or associated countries. Participating entities are typically research funders or governmental research organisations participating on the basis of their institutional funding. Their participation has to be mandated by the "owner" of the programme, the national/regional authorities in charge.

In addition to the minimum conditions, other legal entities may participate if justified by the nature of the action, in particular entities created to coordinate or integrate transnational research efforts, grouping funding from both national and private sources.

'Sole participants'³ may be eligible if the above-mentioned specific eligibility conditions for EJP Cofund partners are satisfied. A sole participant forming a sole legal entity must explicitly indicate which of its 'members' are either programme owners or programme managers in the proposed action, and indicate for these members the respective national/regional programmes which are at the disposal of the proposed EJP Cofund action.

In line with the objective of transnational integration through a critical mass of resources, the required minimum number of participants is higher than the one provided in the Horizon 2020 Rules for Participation Regulation No 1290/2012. In addition, such participants must be established in different Member States or associated countries in order to further establish an appropriate level of cooperation and integration. Finally, EJP Cofund actions support coordination and future integration of national research and innovation programmes. It is

¹ Eligible costs for all types of action are in accordance with the Financial Regulation No 966/2012 and the Horizon 2020 Rules for Participation Regulation No 1290/2013. In addition, as training researchers on gender issues serves the policy objectives of Horizon 2020 and is necessary for the implementation of R&I actions, applicants may include in their proposal such activity and the following corresponding estimated costs that may be eligible for EU funding:

- (a) Costs of delivering the training (personnel costs if the trainers are employees of the beneficiary or subcontracting if the training is outsourced);
- (b) Accessory direct costs such as travel and subsistence costs, if the training is delivered outside the beneficiary's premises;
- (c) Remuneration costs for the researchers attending the training, in proportion to the actual hours spent on the training (as personnel costs).

² Participants may ask for a lower rate.

³ See Article 199 of the Financial Regulation No 966/2012.

appropriate that core participation in these actions is limited to entities that can fully participate through their contribution of national and regional programmes.

Funded activities: The main activity of the action is the implementation of a joint programme of activities to attain objectives common to Horizon 2020, ranging from research to coordination and networking activities, including training activities, demonstration and dissemination activities, support to third parties etc.

The Horizon 2020 funding can be used to enhance and expand the activities of existing coordinated programmes or create new ones, provided they aim at attaining the objectives of a European transnational joint-programme established by the EJP Cofund consortium.

The EJP Cofund will identify the objectives, work and the schedules of activities to be carried out in this context. It will be necessary to provide a detailed description of these activities for the initial and each successive twelve-month periods of the EJP Cofund, as the joint programme develops in line with the initial objectives. An ‘annual work programme’, combined with a progress report on previous achievements will be a key deliverable for the implementation of the EJP Cofund action on a rolling basis. It will be submitted and approved by the Commission before the beginning of activities for each reporting period:

- at proposal submission: a description of the overall objectives and schedule of proposed activities, together with the 1st annual work programme;
- before the periodic reports: an update to the annual work programme must be submitted three months before the end of the each reporting period (and – after evaluation and possible revision further to Commission comments – the annual work programme will be agreed before the start of the next reporting period).

The Horizon 2020 contribution takes the form of a grant consisting of a reimbursement of the eligible costs related to the action, in accordance with the conditions set out in the grant agreement and relevant Commission decisions, including reimbursement of actually incurred costs, lump sums, unit costs or flat rates. Financial support provided to third parties as part of the joint programme implementation, for example through calls for proposals or under otherwise defined conditions (cascade grants), is also eligible for reimbursement.

In accordance with the H2020 Rules for Participation Regulation No 1290/2013, Article 137(1)(c) of the Financial Regulation No 966/2012 and Article 210a of the Rules of Application Regulation No 1268/2012 do not apply to financial support provided by the participants in the EJP Cofund actions to third parties, when the financial support to third parties is a primary aim of the action or necessary to achieve its objectives.

Funding rate: The Horizon 2020 contribution will be limited to 70% of the total eligible costs of the action, unless otherwise specified in the call conditions, in line with the objective of achieving a balanced funding of the EJP Cofund from Horizon 2020 and participating public programmes.