



The EU Framework Programme
for Research and Innovation

HORIZON 2020



EJP – Specific Provisions and Funding Rates

Extract from part D of Annex 1 of the Euratom Work Programme

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*Research and
Innovation*

European Joint Programme (EJP) Co-fund Action

The “programme co-fund action” aims at supplementing individual calls or programmes funded by entities, other than Union bodies, managing research and innovation programmes. The following types of programme co-fund actions are supported in the Euratom Work Programme 2014-15:

- European Joint Programme ('EJP'): co-funding of coordinated national research and innovation programmes.

The specific features applicable to the EJP are described below.

European Joint Programme

The European Joint Programme ('EJP') under Horizon 2020 is a co-fund action designed to support coordinated national research and innovation programmes. The EJP 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 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.

Eligibility

The minimum number of participants in EJPs is five independent legal entities from different Member States or associated countries owning or managing national research and innovation programmes:

- a) Programme owners, typically national ministries/regional authorities responsible for defining, financing or managing programmes carried out at national or regional level.
- b) Programme 'managers' (such as research councils or funding agencies) or other entities that implement national or regional research and innovation programmes under the supervision of the programme owners.

The participation of programme managers has to be mandated by 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 may be eligible if the above-mentioned specific conditions for eligible EJP partners are satisfied. A sole participant forming a sole legal entity shall 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 action.

Justification for additional eligibility criteria: In line of 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. 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 actions support coordination and future integration of national research and innovation programmes. It is appropriate that core participation in these actions is limited to entities that can fully participate through their contribution of national and regional programmes.

Activities funded

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 Euratom 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 consortium.

The EJP 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, 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 on a rolling basis. It will be submitted and approved by the Commission prior to commencement of activities for each reporting period:

- Initial Proposal Submission: Description of overall objectives and schedule of proposed activities, together with 1st Annual Work Programme;
- Periodic Reporting: an update to the Annual Work Programme will be submitted three months before the end of the relevant reporting period – after evaluation and possible revision further to Commission comments, the Annual Work Programme will be agreed prior to the start of the next reporting period.

The Euratom 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 rates¹. 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 Decisions concerning Horizon 2020 and the Regulation laying down the rules for the participation and dissemination in Horizon 2020, the provisions of Article 137(1 (c)) of the Regulation no 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union and Article 210a of the Commission Delegated Regulation no. 1268/2012, shall not be applicable with regard to the financial support provided by the participants in the EJP to third parties participating in actions selected following calls for proposals launched under the EJP when the financial support to third parties is a primary aim of the action or necessary to achieve its objectives.

The Euratom contribution will be limited to 70% of the total eligible costs of the action, unless otherwise specified in the work programme, in line with the objective of achieving a balanced funding of the EJP from the Euratom and participating public programmes.

Evaluation

¹ Commission Decision (C(2013)8201) for authorising the reimbursement of unit costs for the Fusion Programme Co-Fund Action under the Research and Training Programme of Euratom (2014-2018) complementing Horizon 2020.

The standard evaluation criteria of excellence, impact, and quality and efficiency of the implementation apply, as set out in the Horizon 2020 Rules for Participation and indicated in Annex 1.G to this work programme.

The level of ambition in the collaboration and commitment of the participants in the proposed action to pool national resources and coordinate their national/regional research programmes will be assessed under the excellence criterion.

Critical mass in terms of proposed overall budget, maturity and degree of integration in the proposed research area as well as consistency of activities with the development of the European Joint Programme towards a joint undertaking or other permanent structure in the proposed research area will be evaluated under the impact criterion.

Duration of the action

The total duration of the action should normally not exceed 5 years.