



Excerpt from HORIZON 2020 WORK PROGRAMME 2014 – 2015

*16 Science with and for Society
Revised*

This Work Programme was adopted on 10 December 2013. The parts that relate to 2015 (topics, dates, budget) have, with this revised version, been updated. The changes relating to this revised part are explained on the Participant Portal.

Consolidated version following
(European Commission Decision C (2014)9294 of 10 December 2014)

Excerpt page 51 until 53

15.2015 - EU Prize for Women Innovators 2016

Europe urgently needs more innovators to stay competitive in the coming decades and to spur economic growth. The large number of well-educated women researchers who, for various reasons, including lack of awareness, do not consider entrepreneurship as an option, represents a tremendous untapped pool of innovation.

Awards have a strong potential to drive innovation through the recognition of achievements and the promotion of role models. Therefore, the European Commission created in 2011 a Prize for Women Innovators to increase public awareness of this issue and to encourage women to exploit the commercial and business opportunities offered by their research projects and become entrepreneurs. After the success of the forerunners of the competition in 2011 and 2014, the Commission intends to continue its drive to spotlight women researchers who have brought outstanding innovations to the market. The Commission plans to award up to three "EU Prize for Women Innovators 2016" following a European-wide contest. The prizes are addressed to women who have founded or co-founded a company and who themselves or their company have benefitted from EU funding related to Research and Innovation. The prizes will not reward research or innovation proposed for the future, but only achievements that have been already obtained by the candidate.

Implementation and management:

The rules of the contest are established and published by the Commission, which will launch and manage the contest and award the prizes. Entries have to be submitted by the contestant (natural person) via the web-based submission forms on www.ec.europa.eu/women-innovators.

The candidates will have to provide proof of eligibility and a written presentation of their achievements, which will be presented to a High Level Jury for evaluation.

The High Level Jury will consist of a group of independent experts from business and academia appointed by the Commission. They will appraise the quality of the entries and submit to the Commission the final list of up to 3 selected women to be awarded.

Expected results:

The contest will target women who have benefited from EU research and innovation programmes and who have combined their scientific excellence with an aptitude for business in setting up innovative enterprises.

Entries will have to clearly state the involvement of the contestants in the research and innovation activities and the potential of their product or service to access the market, also highlighting the relevant economic and societal impact.

Expected impact:

The prizes will boost the public awareness of the, potential, importance and contribution of women researchers to entrepreneurship and will encourage entrepreneurial women to become innovators. Although women are more and more active in research, there are still too few women creating innovative enterprises. This represents an untapped potential for Europe which needs all resources to remain competitive and find solutions to our societal challenges. The prizes will therefore help to achieve the objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy.

Eligibility criteria:

Contestants for the "EU Prize for Women Innovators 2016" shall comply with the following eligibility criteria to participate:

1. The contestant must be a woman.
2. The contestant must be an ordinary resident in an EU Member State or a country associated to Horizon 2020.
3. The contestant must be the founder or co-founder of an existing and active company.
4. The company was registered before 1 January 2013.
5. The annual turnover of the company was at least EUR 0.10 million in 2013 or 2014.
6. Either the contestant as a natural person or the company founded/co-founded by the candidate have received or is receiving funding from Horizon 2020, the European Research Framework Programmes, the EURATOM Framework Programme, the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP) or actions relating to research and innovation under the European Structural and Investment Funds (prior to 2014 known as the Structural Funds).

Award criteria:

The winners of the "EU Prize for Women Innovators 2016" will be selected according to the following award criteria, which will be assessed by an independent High Level Jury:

1. The originality and marketability of the developed product or service provided by the company of the candidate.
2. The economic impact - The economic impact of a product or service of the company for Europe is measured by the number of countries (inside and outside the EU) where the product or service is sold, and by the size of the turnover achieved with this service or product in 2013 and 2014.
3. The high scientific content of the innovation - the contestant must have been involved in the research and innovation activities connected to the origin of the product or service provided by the company she has founded or co-founded. Entries

will be compared according to the number of patents/co-patents, scientific publications (or co-publications) and trademarks.

4. The societal impact - the societal impact of a product or service of the company for Europe is defined by the potential of the service or product to help Europe address a grand societal challenges e.g. the ageing of the European population, global warming, clean water, renewable energy and resource efficiency.

Type of action: Prizes. First prize EUR 0.1 million, Second prize EUR 0,05 million, Third prize EUR 0,03 million. Date of opening of the contest: 9 March 2015 at 12:00:00 Brussels local time. Deadline to submit entries: 20 October 2015 at 12:00:00 Brussels local time.

Indicative budget: EUR 0.2 million from the 2015 budget, including 0.18 for the prizes and 0,02 million for the High Level Jury of external experts evaluating the proposals.