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H2020 Future Internet Call 1 Info Day - FAQ

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Answers to the questions posted during the H2020 Future Internet Call 1 Info Day organised on the 31st January 2014. This page will be updated regularly with more answers.

Q1: Is there an official EC definition of Innovation? (motivation: this is a word that is used by many people and with several different meanings). Thanks.

A: Horizon 2020 will support all forms of innovation, including innovation that results from research and development (R&D) activities or from other activities, such as finding new uses or combinations of existing technologies or developing new business models or new ways of interacting with users. While innovation is generally understood as the commercial introduction of a new or significantly improved process, product or service, innovations can also be for non-commercial applications such as for better public services or for addressing societal needs.

Q2: Does Large Contribution programs mean that all the bullets in the work program should be addressed? Now it says that proposals can meet one or more of the following points (Bullets).

A: No. Large contribution refers to the budget we expect a project might ask. The need for covering of one or more bullets in a (sub-)topic is explained at the beginning of the scope section for each topic where relevant.

Q3: Regarding the SME instrument: - can a single SME submit more than one proposal for the SME instrument? - if two SMEs would like to work together on an innovative idea - would it be better to apply for the SME instrument as a consortium or to handle collaboration via subcontracting?

A: Only one application from the same company is allowed per cut-off date. So one SME cannot apply for phase 1 and phase 2 at the same time, nor it can apply for two or more different projects in phase 1 or in phase 2 at the same time.

If the knowledge of two or more SMEs is required for the achievement of the project they can form a consortia as in any collaborative EC project and share the work/cost as well as share the allocated grant.

Q4: "The COMMUNITY FRAMEWORK FOR STATE AID FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AND INNOVATION (2006/C 323/01) defines "Industrial Research" and "Experimental Development. Can we consider that "Research and Innovation Actions" Industrial Research and "Experimental Development" Innovation Actions? "

A: The definitions of R&I actions and Innovation actions are given in the Annex D to the WP. Please refer to those in this context.

Q5: I think that I heard the pre-proposal check form is no longer being done by the Commission, instead carried out by NCPs? Is my understanding correct?

A: At the moment the Pre-proposal check service is not centrally available, and Commission Officers are not supposed to discuss details of proposals with potential beneficiaries. NCP are available to discuss details with the proposers. To set up a full pre-proposal check service is left to their initiative.

Q6: For Innovation Actions evaluation, Impact criterion has a weight of 1,5. Does this mean that the total scores will be on a scale from 0 to 17,5 (max)? How then to interpret the overall threshold of 10 ?

A: The weight comes into play at ranking time. Thresholds are not affected - see WP Annex H, section Award criteria, note b).

Q7: 1. Mrs Bogliolo said that it is expected more support from NCP for proposal checking. This means the pre-evaluation check previously sent to the EC won't be possible anymore? 2. If I understood correctly Mrs Koepman reported that the third step of the SME instrument shall provide coaching, or networking with private equity, not funds. This means that coaching/networking will be done directly from the EC? Or in voucher form? Or simply networking events with entrepreneurs/SMEs? Thanks

A: 1. At the moment the Pre-proposal check service is not centrally available, and Commission Officers are not supposed to discuss details of proposals with potential beneficiaries. NCP are available to discuss details with the proposers. To set up a full pre-proposal check service is left to their initiative.
2. For phase 3, no direct funding for SME is proposed. EC support activities related to Phase 3 can include; Promotion of the instrument and successful projects through quality label, facilitating access to private finance, support via networking , training and information, addressing i.a. IP management, knowledge sharing, dissemination. Enterprise Europe Network members are tasked to provide information on EU programmes and actions, such as the H2020 and notably on the SME instrument. Contact your closest regional EEN from EEN site <http://een.ec.europa.eu/> [1]. For the full range of EEN services, please refer to the respective information on the EEN website as well as services to be developed under Phase 3.

Q8: Is the FET implementation as before, i.e. 2 phase with a short proposal evaluated upon submission and a full proposal by the cut-off date if proposal passed phase 1?

A: No, FET Open is in one stage only. Short proposals are expected and the call is continuously open, with cut-off dates for evaluation.

Q9: Does PPI/PCP within an R&I or innovation project corresponds to having an open call for additional partners/expertise within the project itself?

A: A PCP and or a PPI could be implemented in the framework of the H2020 PCP/PPI Cofund actions calls. In addition, a PCP and or PPI could also be executed in the framework of any other H2020 project (not a PCP/PPI Cofund action) as they both can be used as tools to achieve the goals set by every specific project. In the latter case the PCP should be executed according to the PCP communication COM/2007/799 and the associated staff working document SEC/2007/1668. A separate but complementary PPI may follow but the implementation of the PCP/PPI will not fall under the provisions of the PCP/PPI Cofund actions calls. Their implementation shall respect the conditions set by the call according to which the project is realized and co-financed.

Q10: *Where does the standardization supporting actions (CSA) fits in these calls?*

A: There is no specific standardisation topic. Standardisation activities are included in technical topics as relevant.

Q11: *Innovation can happen in an enterprise completely independently of any research activity. Is such innovation disconnected to research also eligible for Innovation Actions?*

A: Yes, innovation actions aim to bridge the gap between RTD and the market. Innovation action does not however require prior research but can originate from industrial activity. They cover a range of activities that are necessary to assess and establish technical feasibility at industrial scale or in operational environments and/or to establish commercial viability of new or improved products, processes, services, and systems. Innovation activities can include e.g. prototyping, demonstrating, testing and piloting. They may also include (ev. large scale) product validation and market replication where specific market contexts do not allow for sufficiently broad and rapid commercial deployment and where this would facilitate the achievement of EU policies.

Q12: *About the DOW if the submitted DOW is consider as final, this implies that usually no budget cut is expected for an accepted project as this is also an element in the evaluation process? thanks*

A: The proposal, including the DoW, will be evaluated as such and no counter proposals with reduced amounts will be done. The various elements of the proposal (technical, financial, ...) will be reflected in the scoring of the evaluation.

Q13: *Regarding minimum legal entities, presentation says for standard collaborative actions, at least 3 legal entities and Support actions require 1. Question: Does Coordination action require 3 legal entities, or 1?*

A: For Coordination and support actions only 1 LE is required

Q14: *Additional Remuneration, up to 8 kE, shall be calculated on top of total foreseen project financing, or within the PGA established financing?*

A: All funding is within the amount of the awarded Grant. The 8K per person per year could be eligible on top of the usual salary of this person (see specific conditions in the Annotated GA)

Q15: *The closing date mentioned by Ioannis Malekos for the 5G call was 23 September 2014, but the previously published date was 25 November as it reads in the Participants Portal. Has it been changed?*

A: The deadline is 25 November 2014 (ref WP 2014-15 LEIT ICT)

Q16: *During the meeting it is identified the consortium cannot be changed (except in some special cases). What happens if an SME is spinned off from one company to focus on the specific topic of the project, attracting external funding (towards exploitation). Can the new entity replace the consortium member (original company from which the new company spinned off) ?*

A: In principle this could be implemented via an amendment and the new beneficiary will be assessed also on operational capacity. However please note that the amendments to the grant cannot implement changes that put in question the results of the evaluation.

Q17: *For EU Japan (EUJ1) call, what are the minimum consortium size? Is this min 3 European partners, or 3 min partners, including European and Japanese?*

A: There should be 3 European participants just like in every other topic plus any Japanese participants

Contact

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