Funding opportunities under Horizon 2020 2020 calls
Horizon 2020 funding for agriculture and forestry

Horizon 2020 (H2020) is the largest source of public funding for research and innovation from the European Commission. It has a budget of around €3.7 billion for the Societal Challenge 2 (SC2) on ‘Food security, sustainable agriculture and forestry, marine, maritime and inland water research and the bioeconomy’ for 2014–2020. Through the SC2, H2020 aims to create solutions for problems which farmers and foresters currently face. It funds projects in which researchers and stakeholders build solutions together, sharing knowledge and producing results that are ready to be put into practice. The projects are actively supported by the European Innovation Partnership ‘Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability’ (EIP-AGRI) network. The H2020 calls are open to all organisations and individuals, including applicants from outside the EU.

Horizon 2020 also works across different areas and themes to boost innovation. This is why relevant opportunities for agriculture also appear in other parts of the H2020 work programme as well as in SC2. This brochure should help you find your way through the different calls for 2020.

Please be aware that only the officially published Work Programme text, budget and deadlines should be taken as a reference for any proposal preparation. All applicants should consult the Funding and tenders Portal to find the latest version. This brochure is based on the official version of the Work programme published on 3 July 2019. We recommend you check for news related to the topic regularly.
The SC2 part of this last Work Programme provided €1.3 billion of funding opportunities over three years, out of which around €1 billion are of interest to agriculture, food and rural areas and €500 million are dedicated to multi-actor projects over three years. Funding opportunities still available for the last call amount to over €469 million, spread over three main calls:

- Sustainable food security (SFS)
- Rural renaissance (RUR)
- Food and natural resources (FNR)

With these calls, the EU aims to:

- improve the management of resources and ecosystems to provide healthier and more diverse food to people while safeguarding the environment and adapting to climate change;
- develop smarter, greener and more circular rural economies through modernised policies, generation renewal, more innovative value chains and enhanced uptake of digital opportunities;
- prepare the ground for future activities under Horizon Europe, the next EU research and innovation programme.

There are also opportunities for agriculture and forestry in other parts of the Horizon 2020 work programme, such as the calls on “Digitising and transforming European industry and services” (LEIT-ICT), “Building a low-carbon, climate-resilient future” (SC5), “Greening the economy in line with Sustainable development goals” (SC5) or the “European Innovation Council Pilot”.

Others have succeeded in the past. Have a look at the factsheets describing the 200 agriculture and forestry research and innovation projects already selected under Horizon 2020: your proposal should go beyond the state of the art!
Multi-actor research projects involving the agricultural community

The Horizon 2020 Work Programme 2018-2020 will invest €500 million in over 80 multi-actor projects selected from over 30 topics flagged with the multi-actor approach (MAA). MAA proposals need to demonstrate that they target the actual needs of farmers, foresters, agribusinesses or other “end-users”. In fact, the MAA requires that those who will apply the solutions help to shape them by being involved right from the start: from defining the questions to implementing activities, and then participating in demonstrations and dissemination. The cross-fertilisation of ideas and complementary knowledge between farmers, foresters, agribusinesses, farmers’ groups, advisers, enterprises, researchers and others should lead to demand-driven innovative solutions that are more likely to be applied in the field.

The resulting practical recommendations must be presented in an easily understandable and accessible way. As part of their communication activities, MAA projects will also produce short “practice abstracts” which outline their main findings. Practice abstracts will make it easier for projects to share their findings with those who will apply them.

Produced throughout the project’s life-cycle, practice abstracts will be shared at the EU level following the “EIP common format” which is made available on the EIP-AGRI website. The EIP common format for sharing practice abstracts includes a short and understandable title, a succinct summary of the issue tackled and the main outcomes and recommendations as well as further contact details to get in touch with the project. The common EIP-AGRI format will be used by both H2020 multi-actor projects and EIP-AGRI Operational Groups.

Guidance for drafting practice abstracts:

- Focus on usable results: do not summarise the project, but split it into short and concise pieces of information that can be put into practice immediately
- Choose the right topics: information which farmers/foresters or other “end-users” really need
- Use of language: put yourself in the place of the reader when writing: is this attractive to read?

More information on multi-actor projects, practice abstracts and Operational Groups:

- List of ongoing MAA projects on the EIP-AGRI website
- EIP-AGRI Brochure: Horizon 2020 Multi-Actor projects
- Common EIP-AGRI format – detailed information
- Biohorizon Webinar on Practice Abstracts
- Interactive innovation in action – Multi-Actor projects learning from each other

Connect with Operational Groups!

The number of EIP Operational Group (OG) projects across Europe is ever growing and reached quota 1000! Browse the EIP-AGRI project database to connect with them. Check also the OG assessment report 2018 that delivered a useful compilation of projects by country, sector and topic to respond to your information needs.
Thematic networks are a particular type of multi-actor project. They collect and develop existing scientific knowledge and best practices that are close to being put in practice but not yet sufficiently ready for farmers and foresters to implement. The specific themes of the projects are chosen by the project partners, focusing on needs identified by farmers, foresters, or agribusinesses. Thematic networks should:

- focus on existing best practices and applicable research results that are not well known by farmers, foresters and agribusinesses.
- translate this knowledge into easily understandable material for end users such as short, informative recommendations and solutions (practice abstracts), leaflets, guidelines and audio-visual material (photos, video clips, etc.). This material should be made available beyond the lifespan of the project, through the main existing dissemination channels that farmers and foresters commonly use, as well as through the EIP-AGRI website.

In 2020 the EU will invest in around five new thematic networks (see RUR-15-2018-2019-2020). 29 thematic networks have been selected since 2015 and around 6 are expected to start by the end of 2019.

More information on thematic networks

- Find all ongoing thematic networks on the EIP-AGRI website
- Download the EIP-AGRI brochure on thematic networks
- Example of a thematic network in progress: www.incredibleforest.net

Did you know?
The My EIP-AGRI section of the EIP-AGRI website is your single entry point to a wealth of relevant information on H2020 multi-actor projects and thematic networks. Visit it now!
Sustainable Food Security (SFS)

The call on Sustainable Food Security dedicates €685 million over three years to the challenge of using our resources more wisely and feeding people more sustainably, including €173 million in 2020.

This call focuses on how we can produce healthier and more diverse food from better-managed ecosystems. It seeks to improve resource efficiency and the environmental performance of food systems. It puts a particular emphasis on better understanding the impact of climate change and designing adequate adaptation strategies.

In continuity with previous work programmes, it invests €112 million in international cooperation between Europe and China and Africa.

Remember, only the officially published Work Programme should be taken as a reference for any proposal preparation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Focus Areas</th>
<th>Call Acronym</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Building a low-carbon, climate resilient future</td>
<td>LC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Connecting economic and environmental gains -</td>
<td>CE</td>
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<td>the Circular Economy</td>
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<td>Digitising and transforming European industry</td>
<td>DT</td>
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<td>and services</td>
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List of icons:

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<th>Icon</th>
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<th>International cooperation</th>
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<td>🌍</td>
<td>Environment &amp; Climate Change</td>
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<td>Livestock</td>
<td>Circular bioeconomy</td>
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<td>🎨</td>
<td>ICT</td>
<td>Forestry</td>
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<td>🌾</td>
<td>Crops</td>
<td>Socio-economics</td>
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<td>Knowledge exchange</td>
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Focus Areas

In this Work Programme 2018-2020, 3 focus areas have been identified which address major political priorities of interest to agriculture, and which cut across different parts of Horizon 2020. The idea is to increase impact by creating links between calls, and ensuring synergies and shared information between the future projects. The topics that are covered by these focus areas have an extra 2 letters in their call acronym:

- Building a **low-carbon, climate resilient future** (LC)
- Connecting **economic and environmental gains** - the **Circular Economy** (CE)
- **Digitising and transforming European industry and services** (DT)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Special approach</th>
<th>Topic budget 2020 Grant size (M€)</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>From functional ecosystems to healthy food</strong></td>
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<td>SFS-02-2020 (RIA)</td>
<td>Healthy terrestrial livestock microbial ecosystems for sustainable production</td>
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<td>SFS-10-2020 (RIA)</td>
<td>Epidemiology of non-EU-regulated contagious animal diseases: from integrated data collection to prioritisation</td>
<td>MAA</td>
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<td>SFS-13-2020 (RIA)</td>
<td>Genome and epigenome enabled breeding in terrestrial livestock</td>
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<td><strong>Environment and climate-smart food production and consumption</strong></td>
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<td>SFS-21-2020 (RIA)</td>
<td>Emerging challenges for soil management</td>
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<td>A. [2020]: Soil biodiversity assessment</td>
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<td>B. [2020]: Emerging challenges for soil management: use of plastic in agriculture</td>
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<tr>
<td>LC-SFS-22-2020 (RIA)</td>
<td>Forest Soils Research and Innovation Action</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>22/01/2020 (1st stage) 08/09/2020 (2nd stage)</td>
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<td>Building capacities</td>
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<td>Targeted international cooperation</td>
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<td>EU-Africa partnership on food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture</td>
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<tr>
<td>CE-SFS-36-2020 (RIA)</td>
<td>Diversifying revenue in rural Africa through bio-based solutions</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>22/01/2020 (1st stage) 08/09/2020 (2nd stage)</td>
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<td>EU-China FAB flagship initiative</td>
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<td>SFS-40-2020 (RIA)</td>
<td>Healthy soils for healthy food production MAA</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>22/01/2020 (1st stage) 08/09/2020 (2nd stage)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**More information:** EU-Africa Partnership - EU-China Flagship initiative

**More funding possibilities: ERA-NETs**

European Research Area Networks (ERA-NETs) and Joint Programming Initiatives (JPis) publish their own calls alongside the Horizon 2020 calls.

An overview of the active ERA-NETs and JPis can be found on the [ERA LEARN 2020 website](#) and on the [ERA PLATFORM](#). You can also find more information on ERA-NETs and project examples in the [EIP-AGRI brochure 'Research & Innovation across EU borders'](##).
The Rural Renaissance call offers €280 million over three years to design ways for rural territories to become smarter, greener, more circular and better connected, including €88 million in 2020.

This call focuses on how to favour generation renewal, greater resilience and public goods delivery through modernised policies. It seeks to make the promises of the digital revolution come true for farmers and rural inhabitants. The call will also invest in new, more innovative and more circular value chains to improve welfare in rural areas.

In continuity with the previous calls, it will boost innovation systems, co-creation and better use of knowledge by investing in networks, skills development and advisory systems.

<table>
<thead>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RUR-05-2020 (CSA)</td>
<td>Connecting consumers and producers in innovative agri-food supply chains</td>
<td>MAA</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>22/01/2020 (single stage)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RUR-06-2020 (IA)</td>
<td>Innovative agri-food chains: boosting sustainability-oriented competitiveness</td>
<td>MAA</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>22/01/2020 (single stage)</td>
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<tr>
<td>RUR-07-2020 (IA)</td>
<td>Reducing food losses and waste along the agri-food value chain</td>
<td>MAA</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>22/01/2020 (single stage)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

MAA: Multi-Actor Approach  RIA: Research and innovation action  IA: Innovation action  CSA: Coordination and support action
What about social aspects?

Some topics under the “inclusive societies” challenge of Horizon 2020 (deadline 12/03/2020) are relevant to rural areas, such as:

- **MIGRATION-04-2020** and **MIGRATION-10-2020** that look into inclusive and innovative practices for the integration of migrants in local communities
- **TRANSFORMATIONS-04-2019-2020** on the contribution of cultural tourism to regional development and **TRANSFORMATIONS-22-2020** on enhancing access to education to reverse inequalities
- **DT-GOVERNANCE-22-2020** on Citizen-centric public services in local and regional administrations
- The “Science with and for society” of Horizon 2020 also looks into territorial innovation ecosystems under **SwafS-14-2018-2019-2020**: Supporting the development of territorial Responsible Research and Innovation
The **Food and natural resources** call is specific to this last year of Horizon 2020. It includes activities that complement those included in other calls but serve as a bridge to the future EU research and innovation programme called **Horizon Europe** (2021-2027).

It offers €208 million to design ways to sustainably manage resources from land and sea, ensure food and nutrition security and accelerate the transition from a fossil-based linear economy to a low-emission, low-carbon circular economy.

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FNR-01-2020 (CSA)</td>
<td>Strengthening the European agro-ecological research and innovation ecosystem</td>
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<tr>
<td>FNR-02-2020 (CSA)</td>
<td>Developing long-term monitoring and evaluation frameworks for the Common Agricultural Policy</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>FNR-03-2020 (CSA)</td>
<td>A comprehensive vision for urban agriculture</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>22/01/2020 (single stage)</td>
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<tr>
<td>FNR-04-2020 (CSA)</td>
<td>Towards a European research and innovation roadmap on soils and land management</td>
<td>MAA</td>
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<td>22/01/2020 (single stage)</td>
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<tr>
<td>FNR-05-2020 (RIA)</td>
<td>Husbandry for quality and sustainability</td>
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<td>22/01/2020 (1st stage) 08/09/2020 (2nd stage)</td>
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<td>A. [2020] Husbandry for sustainability</td>
<td>MAA</td>
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<td></td>
<td>B. [2020] Husbandry for quality</td>
<td>MAA</td>
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<tr>
<td>LC-FNR-06-2020</td>
<td>Defossilising agriculture - solutions and pathways for fossil-energy-free farming</td>
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<td>22/01/2020 (single stage)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A. [2020] Pathways for a fossil-energy-free agriculture</td>
<td>MAA</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>B. [2020] Close-to-market solutions for fossil-energy-free farming</td>
<td>MAA</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>CE-FNR-07-2020 (IA)</td>
<td>FOOD 2030 - Empowering cities as agents of food system transformation</td>
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<td>22/01/2020 (single stage)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Supporting the food safety systems of the future</td>
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<td>22/01/2020 (single stage)</td>
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<tr>
<td>FNR-10-2020 (CSA)</td>
<td>Public engagement for the Bioeconomy</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>22/01/2020 (single stage)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
More funding opportunities under Horizon 2020

The European Innovation Council pilot is further enhanced

The European Innovation Council (EIC) pilot forms part of the H2020 work programme since 2018. It gathers support measures for close-to-market, bottom-up innovations. Under the EIC you will find, for example, the SME instrument (€654 million in 2020), fast-track to innovation – FTI (€100 million in 2020) as well as Horizon prizes. Horizon 2020 will also support coaching and mentoring for businesses winning an FTI or SME call.

In addition, the call “For a better innovation support to SMEs” includes interesting topics such as:

- INNOSUP-02-2019-2020 (CSA) European SME innovation Associate - pilot (4,5 M€ in 2020)
- INNOSUP-05-2018-2020 (CSA) Peer learning of innovation agencies (0.5 M€ in 2020)

- Further information on funding for SMEs can be found on the dedicated SME page in the Participant Portal and on the European Innovation Council webpage. NEW! The EIC wizard helps you find the calls that are most suitable to your innovative idea!

Did you know?
Fast-track to innovation can help projects of relevance to agriculture. RICHWATER for example has commercialised an innovative water management solution thanks to this support.

SC5: Climate action, environment, resource efficiency and raw materials

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Topic budget 2020 Grant size (M€)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Call: Building a low-carbon, climate resilient future: climate action in support of the Paris Agreement</td>
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<td>LC-CLA-14-2020 (RIA)</td>
<td>Understanding climate-water-energy-food nexus and streamlining water-related policies</td>
<td>13 4-5</td>
<td>13/02/2020 (1st stage) 03/09/2020 (2nd stage)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LC-CLA-15-2020 (RIA)</td>
<td>Forest fires risk reduction: towards an integrated fire management approach in the E.U.</td>
<td>10 10</td>
<td>13/02/2020 (1st stage) 03/09/2020 (2nd stage)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LC-CLA-16-2020 (RIA)</td>
<td>Multi-hazard risk management for risk-informed decision-making in the E.U.</td>
<td>5 3-5</td>
<td>13/02/2020 (1st stage) 03/09/2020 (2nd stage)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Call: Greening the economy in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)</td>
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<td>SC5-32-2020 (RIA)</td>
<td>Addressing wild pollinators decline and its effects on biodiversity and ecosystem services</td>
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<td>13/02/2020 (1st stage) 03/09/2020 (2nd stage)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SC5-33-2020 (CSA)</td>
<td>Monitoring ecosystems through research, innovation and technology</td>
<td>3 3</td>
<td>13/02/2020 (single stage)</td>
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</table>
Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions (MSCA)

MSCA cover all themes focusing on innovation skills. This fund supports the career development and training of researchers, by allowing them to work in other countries while also encouraging them to explore other sectors and disciplines. In 2020, MSCA will invest €530 million in Innovative Training Networks, €328 million in Individual Fellowships and €80 million in Research and Innovation Staff Exchange.

More information on Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions.

The most interesting funding opportunities can, however, be found in the calls for projects from the Bio-based industries joint undertaking. The 2019 call is open for applications until 4/09/2019.

More information: www.bbi-europe.eu
www.bbi-europe.eu/participate/call-proposals-2019

Interested in rural mobility?

Look at the topic “LC-MG-1-12-2020: Cities as climate-resilient, connected multimodal nodes for smart and clean mobility” of the Societal Challenge 4 call “mobility for growth”. It will fund a coordination and support action to mainstream innovative urban and rural mobility solutions (deadline 21/04/2020).

Interested in research about biomass, biofuels or renewable energy technologies?

Check Societal Challenge 3 “Secure, clean and efficient energy”. These topics in particular may be of interest:

Global leadership in renewables

- **LC-SC3-RES-1-2019-2020** Developing the next generation of renewable energy technologies (RIA) (Deadline 21/04/2020 2nd stage; topic budget: 45 M€)
- **LC-SC3-RES-36-2020**: International cooperation with Canada on advanced biofuels and bioenergy (Deadline 01/09/2020; topic budget 5 M€)
- **LC-SC3-RES-37-2020**: Combined clean biofuel production and phytoremediation solutions from contaminated lands worldwide (deadline 21/04/2020; topic budget 6 M€)

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- **LC-SC3-RES-37-2020**: Combined clean biofuel production and phytoremediation solutions from contaminated lands worldwide (deadline 21/04/2020; topic budget 6 M€)
The Horizon 2020 calls are open to all organisations and individuals, including applicants from outside the EU. However, for most of the topics presented in this brochure, consortia must have at least three partners from three different EU Member States or associated countries. Check the rules for the specific call you are interested in to make sure you are eligible. You can find all information on the Horizon 2020 calls, the application procedure and application forms in the Funding and tenders portal of the European Commission.

All applications must be made via the Funding and tenders portal. Please note that deadlines for the submission of proposals are specific to each call. Make sure you pick the right topic and subtopic.

- General information on how to apply can be found in the video "Horizon 2020 – How to apply".
- The Horizon 2020 online manual offers information and support to develop your proposal.
- The reference documents page gives you access to Work Programmes, legal and guidance documents.
- Within the Funding and tenders Portal you can also check out the frequently asked questions (FAQ).
- The IT Helpdesk answers your questions about the Participant Portal tools.
- Do you have a specific question? Contact your National Contact Point or the Horizon 2020 Helpdesk for guidance, practical information and assistance on all aspects of Horizon 2020.
- If you use social media, please do not forget to use #H2020 in your tweets.

Find project partners:

- **Join the EIP-AGRI Service Point LinkedIn group**

To help you find partners for multi-actor projects or thematic networks, the EIP-AGRI Service Point has set up a LinkedIn group. You can use it to introduce yourself, your organisation and your innovative project proposal to the other members. Since the launch of this discussion group, many applicants looking for Horizon 2020 opportunities have joined. Come and join this community! To stay informed on all H2020 news, connect to our LinkedIn EIP-AGRI Service Point profile and company page as well. Scan this QR code to go to our LinkedIn group directly. Talk to you soon!

- **Join the EIP-AGRI network**

By registering to the EIP-AGRI website at www.eip-agri.eu, you can search and find potential project partners, interesting projects, best practices and other funding opportunities in the EIP-AGRI Meeting Point.

You need to contact the EIP-AGRI Service Point? Contact details on our website.

**Did you know?**
All projects will now be “open data” by default. All information on how to manage data and open access in your projects is available here.
Evaluation tips and tricks

Proposals are evaluated by independent experts, who only have a limited amount of time to evaluate several proposals.

☐ Read the criteria by which your proposal will be assessed.

☐ Write clearly and concisely. Ask someone with experience in drafting proposals but from outside your consortium to proofread your proposal.

☐ Impact matters! During evaluation, impact will be evaluated 1st.

☐ Check the expected impacts and scope of the topic in detail. Make sure you read properly what is expected of you, and demonstrate how you will deliver, detailing partner assets and using quantified activities and targets whenever possible.

☐ Make sure that the chosen objectives are coherent with the foreseen project activities, the competences of the partners and the planned budget per activity.

☐ Make sure the cost/benefit ratio is sound. Keep in mind that all costs should be reasonable in the light of the foreseen outcomes.

☐ Avoid “recycling” of former projects or project partners which do not have a specific contribution to the topic.

Communicate ... and disseminate

Communication and dissemination are not just “tick boxes”! Together with ensuring the uptake of project results, these activities are key to successful project management.

- Communication and dissemination activities each have a specific scope. Check here to understand the difference.
- Together they ensure that project results are widely known and used by those interested, including policy makers.
- They also ensure that project results are aligned with the needs of users.
- Ensuring uptake of project results enhances the added value of research and innovation funding and means that the newly generated knowledge does not just stay on a dusty shelf.
- The dissemination and exploitation plan is mandatory for your project and will help evaluators assess the potential impact of the project.
- Communication and dissemination about the project and its results should start as soon as possible and be adapted throughout the project’s lifetime.
- Consider including the right skills for communication and dissemination in the project consortium from the start.

Check out the Guidelines for your dissemination and exploitation activities and the Guidelines on communicating about your project.

Other useful tools:

- Strengthen social science and humanities (SSH) in your project: SSH page of the H2020 manual, NET4SOCIETY website.
- Engage the public in your research activities: EIP-AGRI brochure on participatory approaches, Engage 2020 project.
Horizon 2020 funding possibilities for agriculture and forestry

Horizon 2020 pillars

- **Excellent science**
  - Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions

- **Industrial leadership**
  - European Innovation Council pilot
    - SME Instrument
    - Fast-track to innovation
    - Horizon Prizes

- **Societal challenges (SC)**
  - LEIT-ICT
    - Call on Information and Communication Technologies
    - Call on Digitising and transforming European industry and services
  - LEIT-Space
    - Call Space 2018-2020
    - Call EGNSS market uptake 2019-2020
  - Innovation for SMEs
    - Call on Better innovation support to SMEs

  - **SC 2 - Food, agriculture, forestry, bioeconomy**
    - Call on sustainable food security
    - Call on rural renaissance
    - Call on Food and natural resources

  - **SC 3 - Energy**
    - Call on building a low-carbon and climate resilient future: secure, clean and efficient energy

  - **SC 4 - Transport**
    - Call on mobility for growth

  - **SC 5 - Climate action and environment**
    - Call on building a low-carbon and climate resilient future: climate action
    - Call on greening the economy in line with Sustainable Development Goals

  - **SC 6 - Inclusive, innovative and reflective societies**
    - Call on migration
    - Call on socioeconomic and cultural transformations in the context of the 4th industrial revolution
    - Call on governance for the future

  - **SCS - Science with and for society (SWAFS)**

2020 calls update

- **Multi-actor approach**
- **Thematic networks**

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