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AGRICULTURE & INNOVATION

# Funding opportunities under Horizon 2020 2017 calls



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# Horizon 2020 funding for innovative actions

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 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, share knowledge and produce 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 different parts other than SC2. This brochure should help you find your way through the different calls for 2017.



Please be aware that only the officially published Work Programme (WP) text, budget and deadlines should be taken as a reference for any proposal preparation. All applicants should consult the [Participant Portal](#) to find the latest version.





## The 2016-2017 Work Programme at a glance

The [Societal Challenge 2](#) part of Horizon 2020 offers for [2016-2017](#) offers a budget of around €877 million, out of which €560 million are of direct interest to agriculture and forestry.

The main opportunities for agriculture and forestry can be found in three main calls:

- [Sustainable Food Security \(SFS\)](#)
- [Rural Renaissance \(RUR\)](#)
- [Bio-based innovation \(BB\)](#)

With these calls, the EU aims to:

- **improve the capacity of farming and food systems** to provide sufficient and healthy food for all, while safeguarding natural resources;
- **raise the sustainable growth potential of rural areas** through new territorial approaches and business models;
- **re-industrialise Europe** through new bio-based value-chains, securing a sustainable supply of biomass.

There are also opportunities for agriculture and forestry in other parts of Horizon 2020, such as [SME Instrument](#), [Cross-cutting activities - Circular Economy](#), [Bioenergy](#), [SC5 call - Greening the economy](#), [Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions](#) and the joint initiative [InnovFin](#).

Others have succeeded in the past. Have a look at [agriculture and forestry projects](#) that have already been funded through Horizon 2020 and also through previous Framework Programmes.





## Multi-actor research projects involving the agricultural community



The Horizon 2020 Work Programme 2016-2017 dedicates in its section relating to agriculture, food and forestry €343 million to 37 topics flagged with the **multi-actor approach** (MAA). MAA proposals need to demonstrate that they target the actual needs of farmers, foresters and agribusinesses. In fact, the MAA requires that the people 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 from 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 this, projects fill in an online form using the common EIP-AGRI format to produce "**Practice Abstracts**" on the EIP-AGRI website.

### How to write practical recommendations

- **Purpose:** to facilitate the sharing of practice-oriented information and contacts.
- **Format:**  
Title: short and clear (max 150 characters) Contact data: email, telephone, location, project dates, link to website.  
Easy to read summaries (**Practice Abstracts**): explaining the problem, the solution and benefits, and main recommendations (max 1500 characters). Links to photos and videos recommended.
- **Tips:** the summaries should present **practical recommendations** and other **useful results** which farmers and foresters can **immediately use**. Use the right language: put yourself in the place of the reader when writing.

#### More information on multi-actor projects and Practice Abstracts:

- [Common EIP-AGRI format](#) - detailed information
- [Biohorizon Webinar](#) on Practice Abstracts
- EU Commission workshop on Multi-actor approach and Thematic Networks under Horizon 2020, November 2015. [Watch the presentation](#) (from 0:53:00 onwards).





## Thematic networks - collecting knowledge and summarising solutions for practice



**Thematic networks** are a particular type of multi-actor project. They collect and develop existing, but insufficiently used, scientific knowledge and best practices. The specific themes of the projects may be chosen by the project partners, but must address the urgent needs of agriculture and forestry production. Thematic networks should:

- focus on existing best practices and applicable research results that are not well known by farmers, foresters and agribusinesses.
- collect this knowledge and make it ready to use by producing Practice Abstracts, videos and online tools. This material should be easily accessible and understandable. It should be made available beyond the lifespan of the project through the main existing dissemination channels commonly used by farmers and foresters, including the EIP-AGRI website.

In 2017, around €10 million will be dedicated to thematic networks focusing on a more competitive and sustainable agriculture (see [RUR-10-2016-2017](#)). Eleven networks have started since 2015 and five more projects are expected by Autumn 2016. Together with the outputs from the networks funded by the 2017 calls, the thematic networks will enrich the EIP-AGRI website with concrete solutions that farmers and foresters can directly implement.

### More information on thematic networks

- Download the [EIP-AGRI brochure on Thematic Networks](#).
- Example of a thematic network in progress: [Winetwork](http://www.winetwork.eu/)  
<http://www.winetwork.eu/>





## Sustainable Food Security (SFS) Resilient and resource efficient value chains

The call on Sustainable Food Security dedicates €461 million to ensure sufficient, safe and nutritious food for all, while safeguarding natural resources.

Tackling the challenge of how to feed 9 billion people in a sustainable way by 2050, this call puts approaches that aim at a better use of nature and resources at the heart of research investments. It focuses on climate-smart and environment-smart production systems. It also wants to improve the nutritional added value and safety of food. Considering the global scale of the challenge, it invests €54.5 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.

### List of icons:

	Horizontal		International cooperation
	Organic		Food
	Environment & Climate Change		Forestry
	Livestock		Bioenergy
	Crops		Bioeconomy
	Socio-economics		Knowledge exchange



Acronym	Topic	Special approach	Topic budget Grant size (M€)	Deadline
More resilient and resource efficient value chains				
<b>SFS-04-2017</b> 	New partnerships and tools to enhance European capacities for in-situ conservation	MAA	2 2	14/02/2017
<b>SFS-05-2017</b> 	Robotics Advances for Precision Farming		7 2-4	14/02/2017
<b>SFS-07-2016-2017</b> 	Organic Breeding - Increasing the competitiveness of the organic breeding and farming sector	MAA	12 6	14/02/2017*
<b>SFS-08-2017</b> 	Organic Inputs - Contentious inputs in organic farming	MAA	8 4	
<b>SFS-10-2017</b> 	Research and approaches for emerging diseases and pests in plants and terrestrial livestock	MAA	15 5	
<b>SFS-13-2017</b> 	Validation of diagnostic tools for animal and plant health		6 3	14/02/2017
<b>SFS-15-2016-2017</b> 	Breeding livestock for resilience and efficiency	MAA	7 7	14/02/2017*
<b>SFS-16-2017</b> 	Bee health and sustainable pollination	MAA	9 9	
<b>SFS-17-2017</b> 	Innovations in plant protection	MAA	10 3	
<b>New! SFS-18-2017</b> 	Support to the development and implementation of the Food 2030: Food Research and Innovation Area Strategy - a European research and innovation policy framework for food and nutrition security		4 4	14/02/2017*
Environment-smart and climate-smart primary production				
<b>SFS-27-2017</b> 	Permanent grassland - farming systems and policies	MAA	10 10	14/02/2017*
<b>SFS-28-2017</b> 	Functional Biodiversity - Productivity gains through functional biodiversity - effective interplay of crop pollinators and pest predators	MAA	10 10	

MAA: Multi-Actor Approach

\* The date refers to the first stage of the project proposal

<b>SFS-29-2017</b> 	Socio-eco-economics - Socio-economics in ecological approaches		5 5	14/02/2017*
<b>SFS-30-2017</b> 	Closing loops at farm and regional levels to mitigate climate GHG emissions and environmental contamination: focus on carbon, nitrogen and phosphorus cycling in agro ecosystems	MAA	14 7	
<b>New! SFS-49-2017</b> 	Better understanding the challenges facing agriculture and the impacts of policies - A European platform to support modelling in agriculture		1 1	14/02/2017
<b>New! SFS-50-2017</b> 	Supporting international cooperation activities on agriculture soil contribution to climate change mitigation and adaptation		2.5 2.5	14/02/2017
<b>A competitive food industry</b>				
<b>SFS-34-2017</b> 	Innovative agro-food chains: unlocking the potential for competitiveness and sustainability	MAA	6 6	14/02/2017*
<b>SFS-35-2017</b> 	Innovative solutions for sustainable food packaging		12 6	14/02/2017
<b>Healthy and safe food and diets for all</b>				
<b>SFS-36-2017</b> 	Co-fund on "One Health" (zoonoses - emerging threats)		45 45	14/02/2017
<b>SFS-39-2017</b> 	How to tackle the childhood obesity epidemic?	MAA	20 10	14/02/2017*
<b>SFS-40-2017</b> 	Sweeteners and sweetness enhancers		9 9	
<b>Support to the Implementation of the EU-Africa Partnership on Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture</b>				
<b>SFS-43-2017</b> 	Earth observation services for the monitoring of agricultural production in Africa		10 10	14/02/2017
<b>Implementation of the EU-China FAB Flagship initiative</b>				
<b>SFS-46-2017</b> 	Alternative production system to address anti-microbial drug usage, animal welfare and the impact on health		5 5	14/02/2017*
<b>SFS-47-2017</b> 	Management of soil water resources in the EU and China and its impact on agro-ecosystem functions		5 5	
<b>SFS-48-2017</b> 	Resource-efficient urban agriculture for multiple benefits - Contribution to the EU-China Urbanisation Partnership	MAA	7 7	14/02/2017

MAA: Multi-Actor Approach

\* The date refers to the first stage of the project proposal

- > More information on the [EU-Africa Partnership](#).
- > More information on the [EU-China Flagship initiative](#).





## More possibilities: ERA-NETs

The Work Programme 2017 will support the creation of two new **European Research Area Networks** (ERA-NETs) on public-public partnerships in the bioeconomy (SFS-19-2017), one on sustainable crop production and one on innovative forest-based bioeconomy.

Beside the calls that are published in the 2016-2017 Work Programme, ERA-NETs and Joint Programming Initiatives (JPIs) - which have emerged from former Work Programmes - publish their own calls.

- An overview on the active ERA-NETs and JPIs can be found on the [ERA LEARN 2020 website](#).
- You can also find more information on ERA-NETs and project examples in the [EIP-AGRI brochure 'Research and Innovation across EU borders'](#).



### Interested in seeing more topics on international cooperation?

Have a look at the Societal Challenge 6 call 'Engaging together globally' and in particular the topic [ENG-GLOBALLY-03-2017](#): 'The European Union and the global challenge of migration' which refers to agricultural policy (deadline 02/02/2017).





## Rural Renaissance (RUR) Fostering innovation and business opportunities

Rural areas are Europe’s primary source of food and natural resources. At the same time they are affected by a range of demographic, economic and societal developments. The [Rural Renaissance call](#) offers €127 million to investigate opportunities for sustainable rural growth boosting economic development, environmental services and entrepreneurial innovation. Its ambition is to modernise policies and governance, foster the development of new value chains and business models and enhance social and human capital through improved skills and innovation systems. With the solutions that will be created and shared through the projects funded under Rural Renaissance, rural areas will offer better jobs, environment and social and territorial cohesion.

Acronym	Topic	Special approach	Topic budget Grant size (M€)	Deadline
New approaches towards policies and governance				
RUR-02-2017 	Coastal-rural interactions: enhancing synergies between land and sea-based activities	MAA	5 5	14/02/2017*
RUR-03-2017 	Towards 2030: policies and decision-support tools for an integrated approach to the management of land as a resource		7 7	14/02/2017*
RUR-05-2017 	Novel public policies, business models and mechanisms for the sustainable supply of and payment for forest ecosystem services	MAA	8 4	14/02/2017
New value chains and business models				
RUR-09-2017 	Business models for modern rural economies	MAA	9 4.5	14/02/2017*

MAA: Multi-Actor Approach

\* The date refers to the first stage of the project proposal

### Interested in territorial research and social and cultural innovation?

You can also have a look at the Societal Challenge 6 call ‘Understanding Europe - Promoting the European public and cultural space’: [CULT-COOP-06-2017](#) - Participatory approaches and social innovation in culture (deadline 02/02/2017) and [CULT-COOP-07-2017](#) - Cultural heritage of European coastal and maritime regions (deadline 02/02/2017).

Innovation and skill development				
<b>RUR-10-2016-2017</b> 	Thematic networks compiling knowledge ready for practice	MAA TN	10 2	14/02/2017
<b>RUR-12-2017</b> 	Networking European farms to boost thematic knowledge exchanges and close the innovation gap	MAA	7 7	14/02/2017
<b>RUR-13-2017</b> 	Building a future science and education system fit to deliver to practice	MAA	7 7	14/02/2017*
<b>RUR-15-2017</b> 	The benefits of working with others - fostering social capital in the farming sector	MAA	3 3	14/02/2017
<b>RUR-16-2017</b> 	Optimising interactive innovation project approaches and the delivery of EU policies to speed up innovation in rural areas	MAA	5 5	14/02/2017*



### Interested in research about open innovation, education and innovation systems?

You can also look at the Societal Challenge 6 call 'Co-creation for growth and inclusion': [CO-CREATION-02-2016](#) - User-driven innovation: value creation through design-enabled innovation and [CO-CREATION-03-2016](#) - Piloting demand-driven collaborative innovation models in Europe (two topics postponed from 2016 with new deadline 15/11/2016). In 2017: [CO-CREATION-01-2017](#) - Education and skills: empowering Europe's young innovators (deadline 02/02/2017) and [CO-CREATION-04-2017](#): Applied co-creation to deliver public services (deadline 02/02/2017).

## Bio-based innovation (BB) for sustainable goods and services Supporting the development of a European bioeconomy

This €38.5 million [call](#) will help to secure a sustainable biomass supply for bio-based goods and services and will support the future development of bio-based markets.

Acronym	Topic	Topic budget Grant size (M€)	Deadline
Securing sustainable biomass supply for bio-based goods and services			
<b>BB-02-2017</b> €	Towards a method for the collection of statistical data on bio-based industries and bio-based products	6 6	14/02/2017*
<b>BB-03-2017</b> € 	Adaptive tree breeding strategies and tools for forest production systems resilient to climate change and natural disturbances	6 6	14/02/2017*
Building the "bio-based markets of the future" - mobilising stakeholders engagement			
<b>BB-05-2017</b> €	Bio-based products: mobilisation and mutual learning action plan	3 3	14/02/2017

TN: Thematic Network

MAA: Multi-Actor Approach

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## More funding opportunities under Horizon 2020

### SME Instrument: Funding for small and medium sized businesses

Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs) can get EU funding and support for innovative projects via Horizon 2020 that will help them develop and expand into other countries – in Europe and beyond.

**New!** All SME Instrument topics are now grouped under the same SME call, see in particular:

- [SMEInst-07-2016-2017](#): Stimulating the innovation potential of SMEs for sustainable and competitive agriculture, forestry, agri-food and bio-based sectors (25.5M€ in 2016 and 38M€ in 2017)
- [SMEInst-11-2016-2017](#): Boosting the potential of small businesses in the areas of climate action, environment, resource efficiency and raw materials (25M€ in 2016 and 36M€ in 2017)

**Further information on funding for SMEs** can be found on the [dedicated SME page](#) in the Participant Portal.

### Cross-cutting activities: Circular economy call

Acronym	Topic	Topic budget Grant size (M€)	Deadline
Circular economy			
<a href="#">CIRC-01-2016-2017</a>	Systemic, eco-innovative approaches for the circular economy: large-scale demonstration projects	44 4-7	07/03/2017*
<a href="#">CIRC-02-2016-2017</a>	Water in the context of the circular economy	30 10	07/03/2017*

\* The date refers to the first stage of the project proposal



### Interested in bioenergy?

See the Societal Challenge 3 call 'Competitive low-carbon energy' topics [LCE-08-2016-2017](#) on next generation biofuel technologies (deadline 05/01/2017), [LCE-19-2016-2017](#) on demonstrating advanced biofuel pathways (deadline 07/09/2017), [LCE-21-2017](#) on market uptake of renewable energy technologies (deadline 05/01/2017) and [LCE-7-2016-2017](#) on developing the next generation technologies of renewable electricity and heating/cooling and in particular the topic on Combined Heat and Power (deadline 29/11/2016).



## SC5 call: Greening the economy

Acronym	Topic	Grant size (M€)	Deadline
Towards a low-carbon Europe			
<b>SC5-06-2016-2017</b> 	Pathways towards the decarbonisation and resilience of the European economy in the timeframe 2030-2050 and beyond c) the risks and costs of climate change for Europe	4-5	07/03/2017
Nature-based solutions for territorial resilience			
<b>SC5-08-2017</b> 	Large-scale demonstrators on nature-based solutions for hydro-meteorological risk reduction	12	07/03/2017*
Raw materials			
<b>SC5-15-2016-2017</b> 	Raw materials policy support actions f) EU network of regions on sustainable wood mobilisation (wood supply)	1.5	07/03/2017
Earth Observation			
<b>SC5-18-2017</b> 	Novel in-situ observation systems	4-5	07/03/2017
<b>SC5-19-2017</b> 	Coordination of citizens' observatories initiatives	1	07/03/2017
Cultural heritage for sustainable growth			
<b>SC5-21-2016-2017</b> 	Cultural heritage as a driver for sustainable growth b) Heritage-led rural regeneration	10	07/03/2017*
<b>SC5-22-2017</b> 	Innovative financing, business and governance models for adaptive re-use of cultural heritage	5	07/03/2017

\* The date refers to the first stage of the project proposal

## 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 2017, MSCA will invest €430 million in [Innovative Training Networks](#), €248 million in [Individual Fellowships](#) and €80 million in [Research and Innovation Staff Exchange](#). More information on [Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions](#).

## InnovFin

The joint initiative InnovFin offers innovative companies and research institutions access to financing tools and advisory services. InnovFin covers the whole value chain of research and innovation and is available in all EU Member States and associated countries. In 2017 InnovFin will invest more than €10 million in research and innovation (R&I) driven companies, research institutions and ambitious R&I projects. More information on [InnovFin](#).



## Practical information

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 applying to the call to make sure you are eligible. You can find all information on the Horizon 2020 calls, the application procedure and application forms on the Participant Portal set up by the European Commission.



All applications must be made via the [Participant Portal](#). Please note that deadlines for the submission of proposals are specific to each call.

- 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 Participant 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](#), the [Research Enquiry Service](#) 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](http://www.eip-agri.eu), you can search and find potential project partners, interesting projects, best practices and other funding opportunities at the [EIP-AGRI Meeting Point](#).



## Evaluation tips and tricks

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

## Toolbox

Several tools can help you find the resources to build a partnership and write a proposal.

- **Communication and dissemination** are now even more important: to understand the difference between communication and dissemination and build a good plan [have a look here](#).
- Are you applying to a topic with a strong **social science and humanities (SSH)** dimension? Consult the [SSH page](#) of the H2020 Manual and look for tips on the [NET4SOCIETY](#) website and find partners in their [directory](#).
- To browse methods on how to **engage the public in your research activities**: have a look at the [EIP-AGRI brochure on participatory approaches](#) and at tools developed by the [Engage 2020 project](#).
- For more information on **Horizon 2020** thematic networks, see the [EIP-AGRI brochure on thematic networks](#).

You can also contact the EIP-AGRI Service Point:

EIP-AGRI Service Point - Avenue de la Toison d'Or 72 - 1060 Brussels - Belgium

By telephone: +32 2 543 73 48

By e-mail: [servicepoint@eip-agri.eu](mailto:servicepoint@eip-agri.eu)

Through our website: [www.eip-agri.eu](http://www.eip-agri.eu)

Through social media: Twitter: [@EIPAGRI\\_SP](https://twitter.com/EIPAGRI_SP)

On LinkedIn: [be.linkedin.com/in/eipagriservicepoint/](https://be.linkedin.com/in/eipagriservicepoint/)



## Horizon 2020 pillars



Excellent science

Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions



Industrial leadership

Cross-cutting activities  
• Industry 2020 in the circular economy



Societal challenges (SC)

SME Instrument

InnovFin

### SC 2 - Food, agriculture, forestry, bioeconomy

Call on sustainable food security

Call on rural renaissance

Call on bio-based innovation for sustainable goods and services

### SC 3 - Energy

Call on competitive low carbon energy

### SC 5 - Climate action

Call on greening the economy

### SC 6 - Inclusive societies

Call on co-creation for growth and inclusion

Call on understanding EUROPE - promoting the European public and cultural space

Engaging together globally