eip-agri
AGRICULTURE & INNOVATION

Funding opportunities under Horizon 2020
2018 calls

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# 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 H2020 work programme as well as SC2. This brochure should help you find your way through the different calls for 2018.

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 Participant Portal to find the latest version.
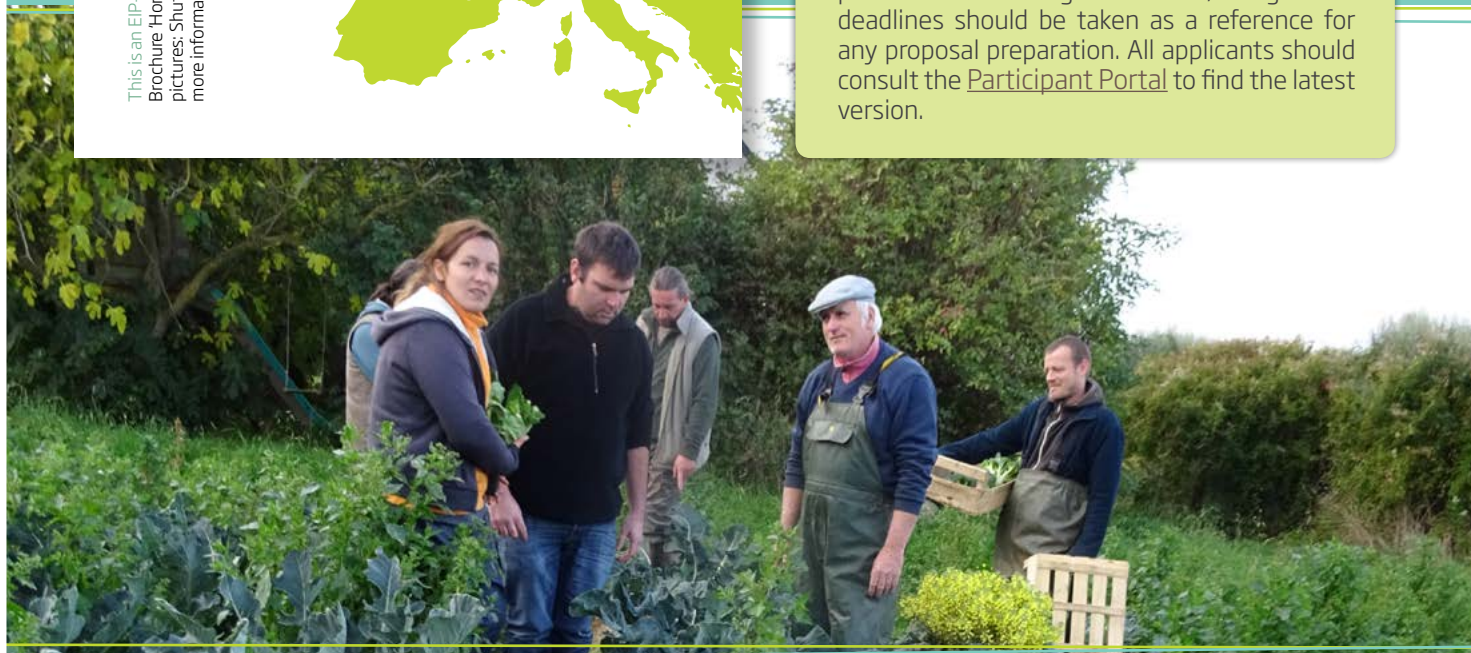
The 2018-2020 Work Programme at a glance

With this new and final Work Programme, the EU is investing €30 billion in research and innovation. The SC2 part of this Work Programme provides €1.3 billion of new funding opportunities, 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.

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

- Sustainable Food Security (SFS)
- Rural Renaissance (RUR)

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.**

There are also opportunities for agriculture and forestry in other parts of 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" (SC3), "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 agriculture and forestry projects that have already been funded through Horizon 2020 and also through previous Framework Programmes.
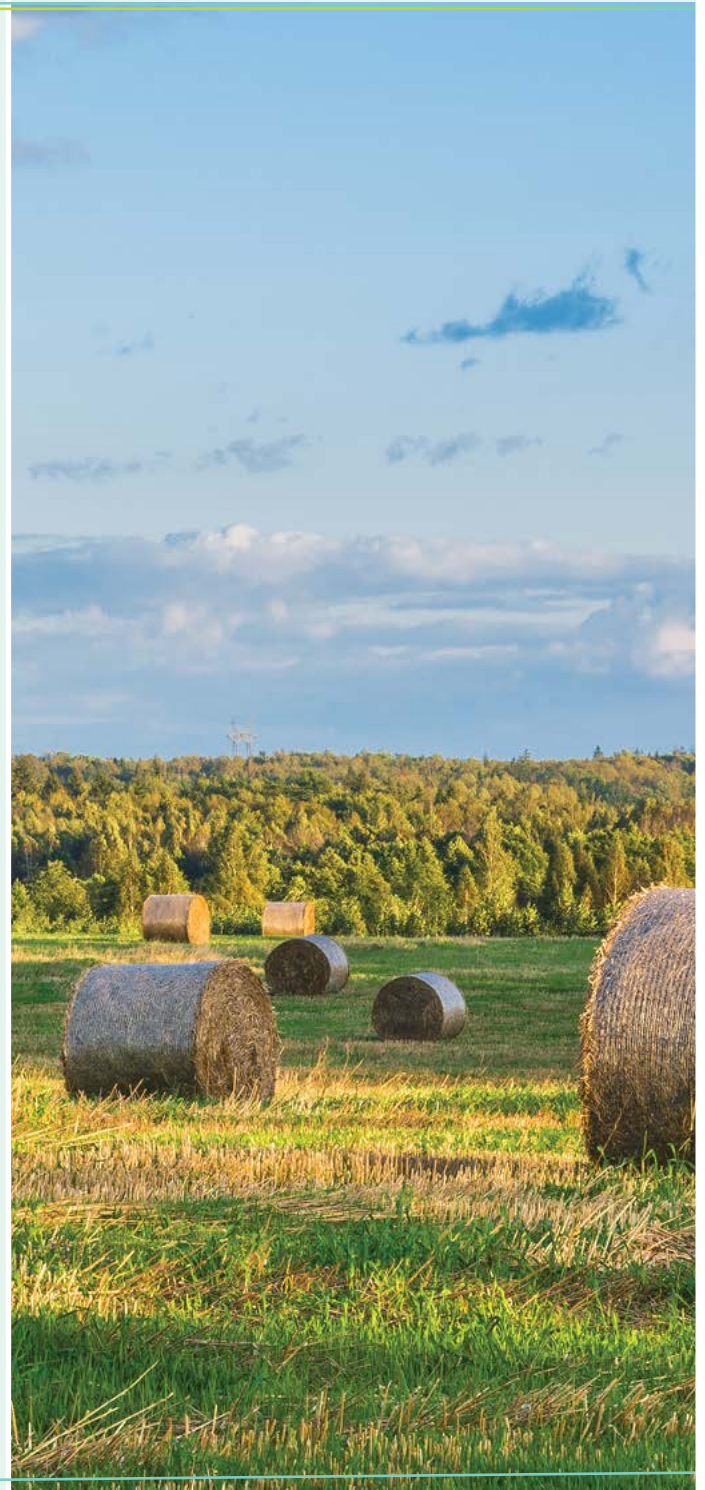
Multi-actor research projects involving the agricultural community

The Horizon 2020 Work Programme 2018-2020 will invest €500 million in over 80 multi-actor projects selected from 31 topics flagged with the **multi-actor approach** (MAA). MAA proposals need to demonstrate that they target the actual needs of farmers, foresters, agribusinesses or others ("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 and Practice Abstracts:
- 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

Thematic networks - compiling knowledge ready for practice

Thematic networks are a particular type of multi-actor project. They collect and develop existing scientific knowledge and best practices which 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 and working with them if necessary. 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 which farmers and foresters commonly use, as well as using the EIP-AGRI website.

Between 2018 and 2020 the EU will invest in around five new thematic networks per year (€10 million) (see RUR-15-2018-2019-2020). 23 thematic networks have been selected since 2015.

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: http://eurodairy.eu/
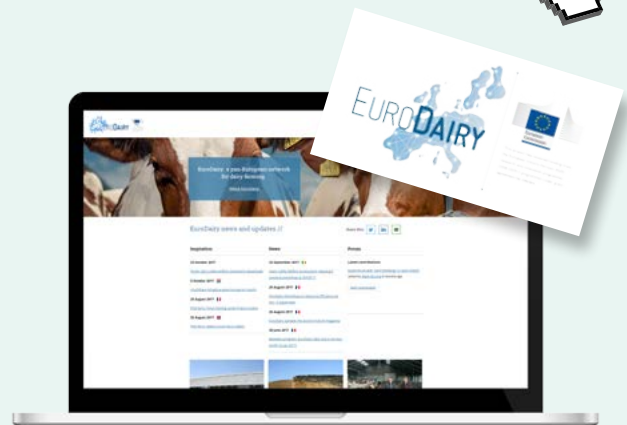
Did you know?
The My EIP-AGRI section of the EIP-AGRI website is your single entry point to a wealth of relevant information on H2020 multi-actor projects and thematic networks. Visit it now!

Sustainable Food Security (SFS)

The call on Sustainable Food Security dedicates €753 million to the challenge of using our resources more wisely and feeding people more sustainably.

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.

List of icons:			
🏠	Horizontal	👪	International cooperation
🌱	Organic	🍞	Food
🌻	Environment & Climate Change	♻	Circular bioeconomy
🐄	Livestock	🔥	Bioenergy
💻	ICT	🌱	Crops

Focus Areas

In the new Work Programme, 3 focus areas have been identified which address major political priorities of interest to agriculture and which cut across the various 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 which 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)

Acronym	Topic	Special approach	Topic budget 2018 Grant size (M€)	Deadline
From functional ecosystems to healthy food				
SFS-01-2018-2019-2020 (RIA)	Biodiversity in action: across farmland and the value chain - A- Small organisms, big effects for plants – Belowground biodiversity interaction with plants	MAA	14 / 7	13/02/2018 First stage
LC-SFS-03-2018 (IA)	Microbiome applications for sustainable food systems		42 / 8	13/02/2018
SFS-05-2018-2019-2020 (RIA)	New and emerging risks to plant health	MAA	7 / 7	13/02/2018 First stage
SFS-06-2018-2020 (RIA)	Stepping up integrated pest management - A- Decision support systems	MAA	5 / 5	13/02/2018 First stage
SFS-07-2018 (RIA)	Making European beekeeping healthy and sustainable	MAA	8 / 8	13/02/2018 First stage
SFS-08-2018-2019 (RIA)	Improving animal welfare - A- Organic and low-input farming	MAA	10 / 10	13/02/2018 First stage
SFS-11-2018-2019 (RIA)	Anti-microbials and animal production A- Rethinking management of health of farmed animals	MAA	12 / 6	13/02/2018 First stage
DT-SFS-14-2018 (IA)	Personalised nutrition		28 / 7	13/02/2018
LC-SFS-15-2018	Future proofing our plants		3 / 3	13/02/2018
SFS-16-2018 (RIA)	Towards healthier and sustainable food	MAA	14 / 7	13/02/2018 First stage

MAA: Multi-Actor Approach   RIA: research and innovation action   IA: Innovation action   CSA: Coordination and support action

Environment and climate-smart food production and consumption				
LC-SFS-19-2018-2019 (RIA)	Climate-smart and resilient farming - A- Microclimate management: from field to landscape	MAA	7 7	13/02/2018 First stage
CE-SFS-25-2018 (IA)	Integrated system innovation in valorising urban biowaste		20 10	13/02/2018
Building capacities				
SFS-27-2018 (RIA)	Monitoring food R&I investments and impacts		7 7	13/02/2018 First stage
SFS-28-2018-2019-2020 (CSA)	Genetic resources and pre-breeding communities A – Joining forces for GenRes and biodiversity management		3 3	13/02/2018
SFS-29-2018 (RIA)	Innovations in plant variety testing		8 8	13/02/2018 First stage
SFS-30-2018-2019-2020 (RIA)	Agri-Aqua Labs - A- Understanding the genome of farmed animals, its expression and translation into traits		18 6	13/02/2018 First stage
Targeted international cooperation				
SFS-32-2018 (CSA)	Supporting microbiome coordination and the International Bioeconomy Forum		2,75 3	13/02/2018
SFS-33-2018 (CSA)	Support to the implementation of the EU-Africa Research and Innovation Partnership on Food and Nutrition Security &Sustainable Agriculture (FNSSA)		5 5	13/02/2018
SFS-38-2018 (RIA)	EU-China FAB Flagship initiative : Highly efficient management of soil quality and land resources		5 5	13/02/2018 First stage

MAA: Multi-Actor Approach	RIA: research and innovation action	IA: Innovation action	CSA: Coordination and support action

▶ More information on the EU-Africa Partnership.

▶ More information on the EU-China Flagship initiative.

More possibilities: ERA-NETs

As well as the calls that are published in the Horizon 2020 Work Programme 2018-2020, **European Research Area Networks (ERA-NETs) and Joint Programming Initiatives (JPIs) publish their own calls**.

❯ An overview on 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 and Innovation across EU borders'.

New in WP 2018-2020: the "Circular bioeconomy thematic investment platform"

This new platform is a risk-sharing financial instrument which will provide **access to finance to innovative bioeconomy projects**, including in the agricultural sector. It focuses in priority, but not exclusively, on circular approaches.

These projects should use terrestrial or aquatic biomass for innovative bio-based products or processes, or to valorise it for other innovative purposes such as food, feed, fertilisers or soil improvers. Projects focussing mainly on renewable energy generation are excluded.

The thematic investment platform will be set up under the InnovFin Holding Fund, managed by the European Investment Bank, during the second half of 2018 (budget: 100M€).

More information about INNOVFIN.
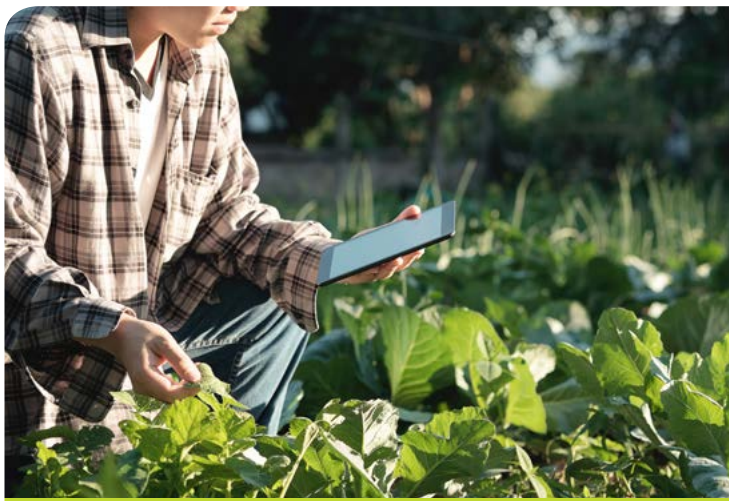
Rural Renaissance (RUR)

The Rural Renaissance call offers €263 million to design ways for rural territories to become smarter, greener, more circular and better connected.

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.

Acronym	Topic	Special approach	Topic budget 2018 Grant size (M€)	Deadline
From farm to society: understanding dynamics and modernising policies				
RUR-01-2018-2019 (CSA)	Building modern rural policies on long-term visions and societal engagement A- Rural society-science-policy hub	MAA	5 5	13/02/2018
RUR-01-2018-2019 (RIA)	Building modern rural policies on long-term visions and societal engagement B- Renewing rural generations, jobs and farms	MAA	12 6	13/02/2018 First stage
RUR-02-2018 (RIA)	Socio-economic impacts of digitisation of agriculture and rural areas	MAA	5 5	13/02/2018 First stage
RUR-03-2018	Contracts for effective and lasting delivery of agri-environmental public goods	MAA	15 5	13/02/2018 First stage
RUR-04-2018-2019 (RIA)	Analytical tools and models to support policies related to agriculture and food A- Developing new models supporting policies related to agriculture		12 4	13/02/2018 First stage

MAA: Multi-Actor Approach	RIA: research and innovation action	IA: Innovation action	CSA: Coordination and support action

Organising sustainable food and non-food value chains under changing conditions				
CE-RUR-08-2018-2019-2020 (RUR)	Closing nutrient cycles A- Understanding properties and impacts of bio-based fertilisers		6 6	13/02/2018 First stage
RUR-09-2018 (CSA)	Realising the potential of regional and local bio-based economies		3 3	13/02/2018
Taking advantage of the digital revolution				
DT-RUR-12-2018 (IA)	ICT Innovation of agriculture – Digital Innovation Hubs for Agriculture	MAA	20 10	13/02/2018
RUR-13-2018 (CSA)	Enabling the farm advisor community to prepare farmers for the digital age	MAA	7 7	13/02/2018
RUR-14-2018 (IA)	Digital solutions and e-tools to modernise the CAP	MAA	10 10	13/02/2018
RUR-15-2018-2019-2020 (CSA)	Thematic networks (TN) compiling knowledge ready for practice	TN / MAA	12,43 2	13/02/2018

MAA: Multi-Actor Approach	RIA: research and innovation action	IA: Innovation action	CSA: Coordination and support action

Interested in digitisation?
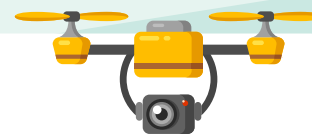
If you are interested in technologies, have a look at the Work Programme chapter on Information and Communication Technologies (Deadline 17/04/2018):
- ICT-11-2018-2019 (IA) - HPC and Big Data enabled Large-scale Test-beds and Applications
- DT-ICT-02-2018 (CSA) - Robotics - Digital Innovation Hubs (DIH)

Also look right away at the 30M€ DT-ICT-08-2019 on agricultural digital integration platforms which closes on 14/11/2018 (grant size 15M€).

If you are interested in the impact of digitisation, look at the call on "Socioeconomic and cultural transformations in the context of the fourth industrial revolution" within the Societal Challenge 6.

Interested in sustainable aquaculture?

Two topics in the SC2 call "Blue-growth" may be of interest (deadline 13/02/2018):
- DT-BG-04-2018-2019 (IA) – Sustainable European aquaculture 4.0: nutrition and breeding.
- BG-08-2018-2019 (RIA) – All Atlantic research alliance Flagship: A. "New value chains for aquaculture production"

More funding opportunities under Horizon 2020

New! The European Innovation Council Pilot

The European Innovation Council (EIC) pilot is a newcomer to the H2020 work programme. It gathers support measures for close to market, bottom-up innovations. Under the EIC you will find, for example, the SME instrument (€1,6bn), fast-track to innovation - FTI (300M€) as well as Horizon prizes. Horizon 2020 will also support coaching and mentoring for businesses winning a FTI or SME call.

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

- INNOSUP-01-2018-2020: Cluster facilitated projects for new industrial value chains (20M€ in 2018)
- INNOSUP-03-2018: Blockchain and distributed ledger technologies for SMEs (1.5 M€ in 2018)
- INNOSUP-05-2018-2020: Peer learning of innovation agencies (0.5 M€ in 2018)
- Intellectual Property Helpdesk (3 M€ in 2018)

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.

> **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

Acronym	Topic	Topic budget 2018 Grant size (M€)	Deadline
Call: Building a low-carbon, climate resilient future: climate action in support of the Paris Agreement			
Decarbonisation			
LC-CLA-01-2018 (RIA)	Supporting the development of climate policies to deliver on the Paris Agreement, through Integrated Assessment Models (IAMs)	25 5-7	27/02/2018 First stage
Climate adaption, impacts and services			
LC-CLA-03-2018 (RIA)	Climate change impacts in Europe	20 5-7	27/02/2018 First stage
LC-CLA-04-2018 (RIA)	Resilience and sustainable reconstruction of historic areas* to cope with climate change and hazard events *includes rural settlements	18 5-6	27/02/2018 First stage

Call: Greening our economy in line with Sustainable development goals			
Water for our environment, economy and society			
SC5-11-2018 (IA)	Digital solutions for water: linking the physical and digital world for water solutions	14 5	27/02/2018 First stage
Innovating cities for sustainability and resilience			
SC5-13-2018-2019 (RIA)	Strengthening international cooperation on sustainable urbanisation: nature-based solutions for restoration and rehabilitation of urban ecosystems	14 5	27/02/2018 First stage
Protecting and leveraging the value of our natural and cultural assets: Nature-based solutions, disaster risk reduction and natural capital accounting			
SC5-18-2018 (CSA)	Valuing nature: mainstreaming natural capital in policies and in business decision-making	2-3	27/02/2018

Interested in research about biomass, biofuels or renewable technologies?

The following topics under the calls of Societal Challenge 3 "Secure, clean and efficient energy" may be of interest:

Global leadership in renewables
- LC-SC3-RES-12-2018 (IA) Demonstrate highly performant renewable technologies for combined heat and power (CHP) generation and their integration in the EU's energy system (Deadline 13/02/2018)
- LC-SC3-RES-22-2018 (IA): Demonstration of cost effective advanced biofuel pathways in retrofitted existing industrial installations (Deadline 05/04/2018)

Smart citizen-centred energy system
- LC-SC3-ES-3-2018-2020 (IA): Integrated local energy systems (Energy islands) (Deadline 05/04/2018)
- LC-SC3-ES-4-2018-2020 (IA): Decarbonising energy systems of geographical Islands (Deadline 05/04/2018)

SC3 also foresees under "Other actions" an analysis of actual land availability in the EU, including trends in changes (abandoned land, low fertility land, saline land etc.) and options for energy crop utilisation.

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 2018, MSCA will invest €442 million in Innovative Training Networks, €273 million in Individual Fellowships and €80 million in Research and Innovation Staff Exchange.

More information on Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions.

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 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 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. Make sure you pick the right topic and sub-topic.

- 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 Participant Portal you can also check out the frequently asked questions (FAQ).
- The IT Helpdesk answers to 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.

You need to contact the EIP-AGRI service point? Contact details on our website

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.

> **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.
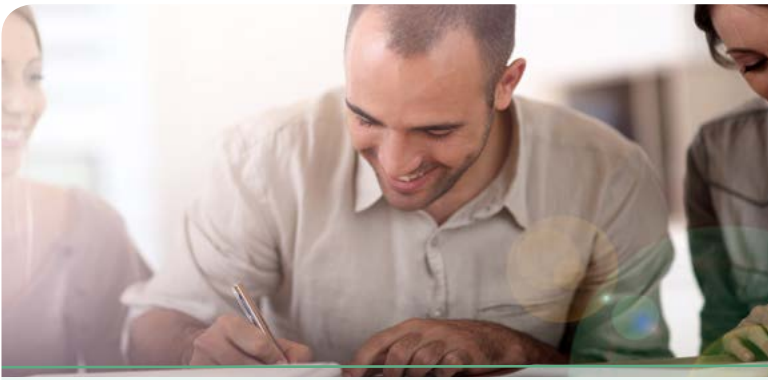
Evaluation tips and tricks

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 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.

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 & 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**
- **Industrial leadership**
- **Societal challenges (SC)**

Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions

European Innovation Council pilot

- SME Instrument
- Fast-track to innovation
- Horizon Prizes

LEIT-ICT

Call on Information and communication technologies

Call on Digitising and transforming European industries and services

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 Blue Growth

SC 3 - Energy

Call on building a low-carbon and resilient future: secure, clean and efficient energy

SC5 - Climate action and environment

Call on building a low-carbon and resilient future: climate action

Call on greening the economy in line with sustainable development goals

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Multi-actor approach   Thematic networks

2018 calls update