1. Available national programmes or funds that could provide support to Horizon Europe participants from the People’s Republic of China

- Flagship initiatives and priority areas for EU-China S&T cooperation

EU-China STI cooperation is carried out through joint research projects under specific flagship initiatives that address thematic priorities agreed in the Joint EU-China Roadmap for future STI cooperation. The EU and China intend to bring forth two flagship initiatives under Horizon Europe, namely:

- Food, Agriculture and Biotechnology;
- Climate Change and Biodiversity.

Through the future Co-Funding Mechanism (CFM), the Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) will provide financial support to Chinese mainland participants in Horizon Europe projects under the flagship initiatives and potentially other priorities to be jointly defined. The exact terms and conditions of MOST CFM calls will be published by the Ministry of Science and Technology of the People’s Republic of China on its website when the specific details are finalized.

- Food, Agriculture and Biotechnologies (FAB)

The EU China research and innovation flagship initiative on food, agriculture and biotechnologies (FAB) is a comprehensive research and innovation cooperation programme launched in 2013 to tackle sustainable agriculture, food security and safety in the EU and China. Common priorities and WP topics have been jointly identified and co-funded by the EC with CAAS and MOST. This has been translated into 16 Horizon 2020 topics dedicated to cooperation with China with a total EU budget of €122 M. As a result 21 joint projects have been launched involving 125 Chinese organizations.

Given the good results achieved under H2020, it was agreed to continue the FAB flagship under Horizon Europe. Work Programme 2021-2022 included four topics targeting Chinese participation, for a total EU contribution of €32 M:

- EU-China international cooperation on integrated pest management in agriculture (opening date 22 June 2021; deadline date 06 October 2021)
- EU-China international cooperation on unlocking the potential of agricultural residues and wastes for circular and sustainable bio-based solutions (opening date 28 October 2021; deadline date 15 February 2022)
- EU-China international cooperation on nature-based solutions for nutrient management in agriculture (opening date 28 October 2021; deadline date 15 February 2022)
- EU-China international cooperation on increasing the resilience of forests (opening date 22 June 2021; deadline date 06 October 2021)

Discussion are currently underway to include additional FAB topics in Horizon Europe WPs 2023-24.
Climate Change and Biodiversity (CCB)

The Climate Change and Biodiversity flagship with China was agreed by the European Commissioner for Innovation & Research, Mariya Gabriel, and the Chinese Minister of Science and Technology, Wang Zhigang, during the High Level Dialogue on Research and Innovation in January 2021. Discussions between the two sides on the formulation of the flagship are expected to be launched at the beginning of 2022.

Other areas eligible for MOST Co-Funding Mechanism

MOST Co-funding mechanism can also be used to promote Chinese participation in other topics, targeting low TRL projects (up to TRL4 = Technology validated in lab) and linked to the domains covered by the two flagship initiatives agreed, although not labelled as topics of the two flagship initiatives.

Contacts:

MOST:
Ms. WANG Yingshi, Email: wangys@most.cn Tel. +86.10.58881357
Ms. ZHANG Lengyang Email: lyzhang@most.cn Tel. +86.10.58881352

China Science and Technology Exchange Centre (CSTEC)
Mr. XIN Bingqing E-mail: xinbq@cstec.org.cn Tel: +86.10. 68598010
Ms. LIN Xiyan Email: linxy@cstec.org.cn Tel: +86.10.68573441

ERC-NSFC Implementing arrangement

In line with what already done for Horizon 2020, the European Research Council (ERC) and the National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC) will continue the cooperation to boost excellence-based and bottom-up collaboration in frontier research based on the Implementing Arrangement signed in June 2015 between the European Commission and the NSFC to facilitate the use of the ERC-funded projects to host Chinese researchers, and holders of NSFC grants.

Selected Chinese researchers will be incorporated in the research teams of the European Principal Investigators who are already supported through the ERC grants and who have expressed an interest in hosting Chinese researchers in their research teams. Potential Chinese participants are encouraged to contact NSFC to seek support for their participation in Horizon Europe.

NSFC
Ms. FAN Yingjie, Email: fanyj@nsfc.gov.cn, Tel: +86.10.62325309
Ms. SHEN Jie, Email: shenjie@nsfc.gov.cn, Tel: +86.10.62327017

European Research Council
For any general questions related to the ERC and about the implementation of these programmes, please send your email to:

ERC-IMPLEMENTING-ARRANGEMENTS@ec.europa.eu

Or check the ERC website: https://erc.europa.eu/funding/additional-
2. Useful links

- **Ministry of Science and Technology of the People’s Republic of China**
  中华人民共和国科学技术部 (most.gov.cn)

- **Delegation of the European Union to China**
  About the EU Delegation in China - European External Action Service (europa.eu)
  Science Counselor, Research & Innovation: To be updated once official
  Vojko Bratina, Policy Officer, Chargé de mission, Delegation of the European Union to China. Vojko.BRATINA@eeas.europa.eu