How to get funding?

Interested in learning more about EU funding opportunities for your research or innovation project? Then the European Commission’s Participant Portal is the place you need to go.

Participant Portal [1]

Two year work programmes announce the specific areas that will be funded by Horizon 2020. Look out for them on the online Participant Portal [1] as they can be used as a calendar for the calls for proposals ('calls'), to be published during the year. The Participant Portal is your entry point for electronic administration of EU-funded research and innovation projects, and hosts the services for managing your proposals and projects throughout their lifecycle.

Each call gives more precise information on the questions that the Commission would like you to address in your proposals. All calls can be found in the EU’s Official Journal [2] – the official source for all EU documents – as well as on the Participant Portal

The application process

Submit your proposal

If you wish to respond to a call, you must submit a proposal before the deadline. The Participant Portal has clear instructions to guide you through the process. The system is simpler than ever – no more paper! All proposals are submitted online.

Find your partners

Many calls require a team of at least three partners. If you need help to identify a potential partner with particular competences, facilities or experience, use the partner search options.

Evaluation by experts

Once the deadline has passed, all proposals are evaluated by a panel of independent specialists in their fields. The panel checks each proposal against a list of criteria to see if it should receive funding.

Grant agreement

Once a proposal passes the evaluation stage (five months’ duration), applicants are informed about the outcome. The European Commission then draws up a grant agreement with each participant. The grant agreement confirms what research & innovation activities will be undertaken, the project
duration, budget, rates and costs, the European Commission's contribution, all rights and obligations and more. The time limit for signing the grant agreements is generally three months.

Want to know more? See how to participate [3].


Links