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The European Commission has today for the first time presented calls for projects under Horizon 2020. Worth more than €15 billion over the first two years, the funding is intended to help boost Europe's knowledge-driven economy, and tackle issues that will make a difference in people's lives.

For the first time, the Commission has indicated funding priorities over two years, providing researchers and businesses with more certainty than ever before on the direction of EU research policy. Most calls from the 2014 budget are already open for submissions as of today, with more to follow over the course of the year. Calls in the 2014 budget alone are worth around €7.8 billion, with funding focused on the three key pillars of Horizon 2020:

- Excellent Science: Around €3 billion, including €1.7 billion for grants from the [European Research Council](#) [2] for top scientists and €800 million for Marie Skłodowska-Curie fellowships for younger researchers (see [MEMO/13/1123](#) [3]).
- Industrial Leadership: €1.8 billion to support Europe's industrial leadership in areas like ICT, nanotechnologies, advanced manufacturing, robotics, biotechnologies and space.
- Societal challenges: €2.8 billion for innovative projects addressing Horizon 2020's seven societal challenges, broadly: health; agriculture, maritime and bioeconomy; energy; transport; climate action, environment, resource efficiency and raw materials; reflective societies; and security.

Learn more about today's calls:

- Press Release: [IP/13/1232](#) [4]
- Summary of Horizon 2020 first calls: [MEMO/13/1122](#) [5]
- Horizon 2020 [Factsheets and presentation materials](#) [6]

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[2] <http://erc.europa.eu/>

[3] http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-13-1123_en.htm

[4] http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-13-1232_en.htm

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[6] <https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/node/119>