



## KEY HIGHLIGHTS

At the national level the emphasis on international partnerships has focused on areas such as the blue economy, and geothermal and hydropower energy. Out of the 13 partnerships Iceland has actively participated in 6 are in these fields, which is clearly reflected in the country's thematic success in Horizon 2020. And this success has, in return, been a boost to national research and innovation activities in these fields – a clear synergy between international and national interests.

**13** H2020  
public  
partnerships (\*)

Or  
**13.13%**  
of total  
(99 partnerships)

**15** H2020  
public  
partnerships (\*)  
participations

Or  
**0.7%**  
of total

**1** H2020  
public  
partnerships (\*)  
coordinations

Or  
**1.01%**  
of total

Source: ERA-LEARN database (cut-off date June 2021), H2020 period (2014-2020) Excluding EIT-KICs, EuroHPC and ECSEL

(\*) Horizon 2020 public-public partnerships include ERA-NET Cofund, EJPs, Art 185 initiatives and JPIs. Partnership participations: number of partnerships a specific country takes part as participant – for certain countries more than one national organisation may take part. Thus the participations may be more than the number of partnerships a country is part of. Total partnership participations: number of partners from a specific country participating with any role (i.e. coordinator, participant, observer, other) in partnerships. Partnership coordinations: number of partnerships a specific country coordinates.

**€10 million**

in actual national contributions in public partnerships  
during H2020 (2014-2020)

Or **0.45%** of total

**€4848**

per researcher FTE (average between 2014-2019 based  
on EUROSTAT data)

Source: ERA-LEARN database (cut-off date June 2021), H2020 period (2014-2020)

Actual national contributions is the funding given by each country to cover the participation of national science and technology groups in the funded projects of the joint transnational calls launched by the public partnerships. Actual contributions for each researcher are the total actual contributions by a country divided by the number of researchers in the country estimated in full-time equivalents (FTE) average between 2014-2019 based on EUROSTAT data.

## KEY INTENTIONS FOR THE FUTURE

For Horizon Europe, Iceland will continue to participate in partnerships in the focus areas it has previously participated in but will also expand this to include partnerships under Cluster 1 Health in particular.

Iceland will be more active in other co-funded partnerships. Out of the nine co-funded partnerships that started in 2021, Iceland has decided to participate in eight.

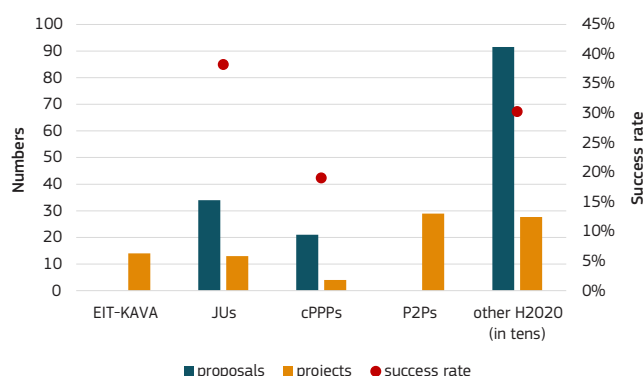


**TABLE 1: Distribution of funding under the different H2020 instruments (P2Ps, JUs, cPPPs and other H2020 projects, i.e. CSAs, RIAs, IAs, etc.) across thematic priorities**

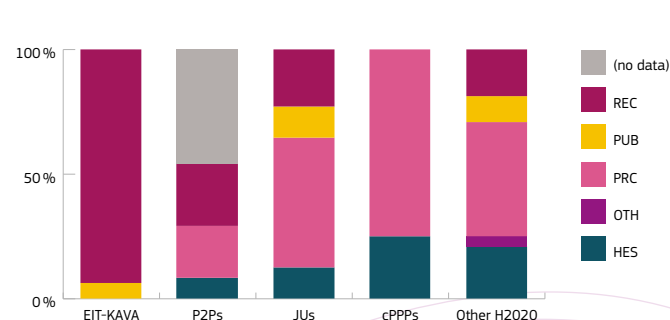
THEMATIC PRIORITIES	P2Ps PROJECTS	JUs PROJECTS	cPPPs PROJECTS	OTHER H2020 PROJECTS
Nanotechnologies, Advanced Materials, Advanced Manufacturing and Processing, Biotechnology	9.42 %	0.00 %	0.00 %	6.05 %
Climate action, environment, resource efficiency and raw materials	9.42 %	0.00 %	0.00 %	6.93 %
Europe in a changing world - inclusive, innovative and reflective Societies	2.75 %		0.00 %	2.85 %
Food security, sustainable agriculture and forestry, marine and maritime and inland water research	29.48 %	49.73 %		17.59 %
Future and Emerging Technologies	0.00 %		25.63 %	0.53 %
Health, demographic change and wellbeing	0.00 %	1.99 %		14.90 %
Information and Communication Technologies		15.59 %	74.37 %	6.15 %
Secure, clean and efficient energy	48.94 %	9.09 %	0.00 %	43.37 %
Smart, green and integrated transport	0.00 %	23.60 %		1.65 %
	100,00 %	100,00 %	100,00 %	100,00 %

Source: ERA-LEARN database (cut-off date June 2021) based on actual national contributions for P2Ps; eCORDA based on net EU contribution; values are calculated as the share of investments of the specific instrument in the specific theme in the total investments under the specific instrument

**FIGURE 1: Eligible proposals, projects and success rates**



**FIGURE 2: Types of project beneficiaries (%)**



Source: ERA-LEARN database for P2Ps (cut-off date June 2021); eCORDA for EIT-KAVA, JUs, cPPPs, other H2020 projects (RIAs, CSAs, etc.)

No proposal data for P2Ps, EIT-KICs (Figure 1). EIT-KAVA: KIC Added Value Activities; HES: higher education; OTH: other; PRC: private for-profit companies; PUB: public bodies; REC: research organisations (Figure 2)



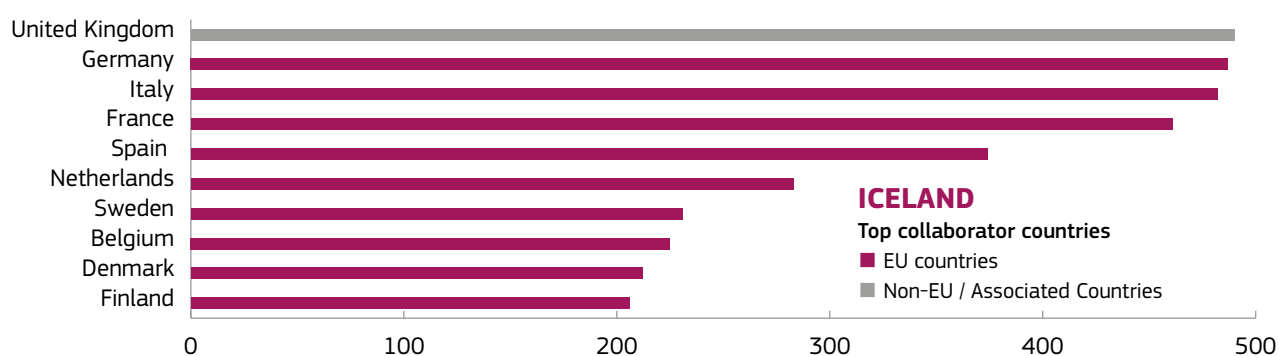
### ADDITIONAL INVESTMENTS TRIGGERED

Strong participation by SMEs in partnerships has been facilitated by increased national support through tax incentive schemes. This in turn provides further justification for maintaining a generous tax incentive scheme in Iceland.

### COMPLEMENTARY AND CUMULATIVE FUNDING

Business expenditure on research and innovation has grown quite significantly since 2014. This has been helped by an active participation in European cooperation both through partnerships and research actions under Horizon 2020 and improved tax incentives for companies. National funding was increased significantly in response to the pandemic and this should provide a good basis for Icelandic companies to continue their strong participation in future partnerships.

**FIGURE 3: Top collaborators of Icelandic researchers under Horizon 2020 projects (including JUs, cPPPs, P2Ps and other H2020 projects)**



Source: eCorda; Showing top-10 collaborator-countries



## SUCCESS STORIES

- ✦ The GEOTHERMICA ERA-NET has been a successful component of Iceland's strategy to increase and expand international cooperation in this field. This can be seen from the fact that 27% of the funding to Icelandic participants in Horizon 2020 is within the field of secure, clean and efficient energy.
- ✦ Increased national support of research and innovation in SMEs together with participation in Eurostars has resulted in a notable success in the SME Instrument under Horizon 2020. This is an example of a good alignment between national and European policy.
- ✦ The Science and Technology Policy for Iceland for 2020-2022 shows a clear alignment with European policy and major societal challenges and green and digital solutions to them. Active and increased participation in European cooperation is also a key component to that policy, which resulted in participation programmes Iceland has not participated in before (Digital Europe, Life and Space) and that have clear synergy with Horizon Europe and the partnerships.