

## Horizon 2020

### The EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation

#### What is Horizon 2020?

Horizon 2020 is the biggest EU research and innovation programme ever and the biggest multinational programme of its kind. Horizon 2020 is focused on three priorities:

- **Excellent science**
- **Industrial leadership**
- **Societal Challenges**

Almost **€77 billion** of funding is available over 7 years (2014 to 2020). Funding opportunities under Horizon 2020 are set out in multiannual work programmes that announce the specific research and innovation areas that will be funded. Each Call for Proposals is divided into topics and provides all the information on the research and innovation issues that the applicant should address in their proposals. With a budget of €16 billion, the **work programme 2016-17** contains more than 60 calls and 600 topics. This work programme is complemented by the separate work programmes for the European Research Council, Euratom, the Joint Research Centre and the Strategic Innovation Agenda for the European Institute of Innovation and technology (EIT). **Horizon 2020 is open to everyone**, with a simple structure that reduces red tape and time so participants can focus on what is really important. This approach makes sure new projects get off the ground quickly – and achieve results faster.

#### Why participate?

- **By cooperating with Europe, you cooperate with some of the world's leading institutions in Research and Innovation**

Europe has:

- Some of the most innovative companies in the world: one quarter of companies featuring among the world's top 2000 R&D investors in 2012 are European, including number one on the list with close to €10 billion investment in R&D<sup>1</sup>.

- Some of the best universities in the world: 25 universities in EU Member States are among the top 100 universities worldwide<sup>2</sup>.

- **Focus on innovation** – Horizon 2020 encourages innovators to move their ideas from the lab to the market.
- **Access to new networks and alliances** – raising the profile of your research in an international project,

sharing expertise and access to equipment, data and facilities in partner countries.

- **World-class research infrastructures** – Horizon 2020 facilitates the continued development of global research infrastructures in Europe and the cooperation of European infrastructures with their non-European counterparts, ensuring global interoperability and access.
- **Opportunities to tackle global challenges together** – challenges that affect us all, such as infectious diseases, energy security or climate change, can only be solved at international level. Horizon 2020 provides the opportunity for **economies of scale** and expanded research scope shared across many nations.
- **Funding for excellent science** – Stringent evaluation procedures ensure that the best research projects are selected. Researchers from anywhere in the world may be part of the consortia proposing collaborative research projects. In addition the European Research Council and Marie Skłodowska Curie grants are open to applications from individual researchers anywhere in the world who want to spend time working in Europe.

#### How to participate?

- ✓ Visit the Horizon 2020 Participant Portal
- ✓ Find a relevant call
- ✓ Find partner(s)
- ✓ Submit the proposal; then a panel of independent specialists will assess the application (the evaluation stage usually lasts 5 months)

#### Drawing on FP7 success stories

**GRATITUDE** - Gains from Losses of Root and Tuber Crops

From 01-01-2012 to 31-03-2015

**16 participants including 4 from Nigeria**

- ❖ Nobex Technical Company Limited
- ❖ Peak Precision Products Nigeria Limited
- ❖ Federal Ministry Of Science and Technology
- ❖ University of Agriculture Abeokuta

**EU contribution:** EUR 2,850,413

Cassava and yams provide food security in Africa and Asia because they are hardy and easy to grow. GRATITUDE investigated ways to reduce post-harvest losses in order to further improve on the profitability of these crops. GRATITUDE introduced better storage and processing techniques. These solutions will help to reduce waste and turn it into something of value during the production of yam and cassava. These two vital crops are a part of the staple diet for about 700 million people in disadvantaged regions worldwide.

More information: [Horizon 2020](#) and the [Participant Portal](#).

<sup>1</sup> The EU Industrial R&D Investment Scoreboard (European Commission - Joint Research Centre (JRC))

<sup>2</sup> Shanghai ranking 2013