



# EU Insight - Horizon 2020



## The 8th Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020)

### What is Horizon 2020?

“[Horizon 2020](#)” (H2020) is the new EU’s Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, covering the years 2014 to 2020. It will replace the EU’s 7th Research Framework Programme (FP7), which was launched in 2007 and runs until the end of 2013.

H2020 is a key pillar of [Innovation Union](#), a Europe 2020 flagship initiative aimed at enhancing Europe’s global competitiveness. The European Union is a global leader in many technologies, but it faces increasing competition from traditional powers and emerging economies alike.

For the first time, Horizon 2020 brings together all EU research and innovation funding under a single programme. It focuses more than ever on turning scientific breakthroughs into innovative products and services that provide business opportunities and change people’s lives for the better. At the same time it drastically cuts red tape, with simplification of rules and procedures to attract more top researchers and a broader range of innovative businesses.

### The three key objectives

Horizon 2020 will underpin the objectives of the [Europe 2020 strategy](#) for growth and jobs, as well as the goal of strengthening the scientific and technological bases by contributing to achieving a [European Research Area](#) in which researchers, scientific knowledge and technology circulate freely.

Horizon 2020 focuses on three priorities, namely generating excellent science in order to strengthen the Union’s world-class scientific excellence and make the Union’s research and innovation system more competitive, fostering industrial leadership to speed up the development of technologies that will support businesses and innovation, including for small companies, and tackling societal challenges in order to respond to the priorities identified in the Europe 2020 strategy by supporting activities covering the entire chain from research to market.

### Budget

With a budget of around 70 billion euros, Horizon 2020 is the world’s largest research programme. The previous multi-annual programme FP7 had a financial allocation of 53 billion euros.

### Horizon 2020 in Social Media

To receive more information and updates on Horizon 2020 you can visit the EU’s dedicated [Horizon 2020](#) homepage or the dedicated [Innovation Union Facebook page](#) of the European Commission.



The budget distribution is envisioned as follows:

<b>I. Excellent Science:</b>	<b>31.73 %</b>
1. European Research Council	17.00
2. Future and Emerging Technologies	3.50
3. Marie Curie actions	8.00
4. Research infrastructures	3.23
<b>II. Industrial Leadership:</b>	<b>22.09 %</b>
1. Leadership in enabling and industrial technologies	17.60
2. Access to risk finance	3.69
3. Innovative small and medium-size enterprises	0.80
<b>III. Societal Challenges:</b>	<b>38.53 %</b>
1. Health, demographic change and wellbeing	9.70
2. Food quality and marine research	5.00
3. Energy	7.70
4. Transport	8.23
5. Climate action, resources and raw materials	4.00
6. Inclusive societies	1.70
7. Secure societies	2.20
<b>Spreading excellence and widening participation</b>	<b>1.06 %</b>
<b>Science with and for society</b>	<b>0.60 %</b>
<b>European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)</b>	<b>3.52 %</b>
<b>Joint Research Centre: non-nuclear direct actions</b>	<b>2.47 %</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>100 %</b>

**Source:** Council of the European Union, Press Release on "[Agreement on "HORIZON 2020": the EU's research and innovation programme for the years 2014 to 2020](#)", Brussels, 17 July 2013.

Sources and further information:

[European Union](#)

[European Commission - Horizon 2020 Homepage](#)

[Euresearch](#)

[German Federal Ministry of Education and Research](#)

Council of the European Union, Press Release: "[Agreement on "Agreement on "HORIZON 2020": the EU's research and innovation programme for the years 2014 to 2020](#)", Brussels, 17 July 2013 (main source).

EU-Bureau of the German Federal Ministry for Research and Education, Special Announcement (in German), [EUB-Telegramm, 19 July 2013](#), Bonn.

### Funding for mobility, the ERC and international cooperation

€5.6 billion (+20%) will be allocated to the Marie Curie Actions, which has supported the training, mobility and skills development of more than 50 000 researchers since its launch in 1996.

Funding for the European Research Council (ERC) will increase by 70% to €11.9 billion. The ERC supports the most talented and creative scientists to carry out frontier research of the highest quality in Europe, in a programme that is internationally recognized and respected.

International cooperation will also be further promoted in Horizon 2020, in order to strengthen the EU's excellence and attractiveness in research, to tackle global challenges jointly and to support EU external policies (see [Fact sheet: International Participation in Horizon 2020](#)).

### What's next?

In July 2013, the EU Council and the European Parliament reached an [informal agreement](#) on the "Horizon 2020" programme for research and innovation. The agreement paves the way for the formal adoption of the "Horizon 2020" legislative package by these EU institutions through a vote in the coming months.

Therefore, it can be expected that Horizon 2020 will be launched as planned on 1 January 2014 with the first calls possibly being launched in December 2013.