EVROPSKI PROGRAMI FINANCIRANJA 2014-2020
Vodič po EU programih v angleškem jeziku (prirejeno po Europa Media Ltd.)

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Smart and Inclusive Growth

Period: 2014-2020
Budget: EUR 508 921 million (current prices) 47% of the MFF

The Commission has proposed an overall ceiling of **€ 1 082 555 million** under five headings:
Smart and inclusive growth: 47%
Sustainable growth: natural resources: 39%
Security and citizenship: 2%
Global Europe: 6%
Administration: 6%

Objectives

Sub-Heading 1a: Competitiveness for Growth and Jobs

The programmes under this Heading have a high potential to contribute to the fulfilment of the Europe 2020 Strategy, in particular as regards the promotion of research, innovation and technological development; specific action in favor of the competitiveness of enterprises and SMEs; investing in education and in human skills through the ERASMUS for all programme; and developing the social agenda.

Under this heading you will find the sources for the Connecting Europe Facility; the three large infrastructure projects: Galileo, ITER, GMES; and support to the decommissioning of three nuclear power plants.

Sub-Heading 1b: Economic, social and territorial cohesion

Through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the European Social Fund (ESF) and the Cohesion Fund (CF), it will pursue the following goals: "Investment for growth and jobs" in Member States and regions, to be supported by all the Funds; and "European territorial cooperation ", to be supported by the ERDF. The Cohesion Fund will support projects in the field of environment and transport trans-European networks. The necessary support to human capital development will be ensured through an adequate share of the ESF in cohesion policy.

Supported activities

**H1.a Competitiveness for growth and jobs**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Galileo</td>
<td>7 071,73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copernicus (GMES)</td>
<td>4 291,48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nuclear safety + decommissioning</td>
<td>1 643,09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o/w nuclear safety</td>
<td>198,49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o/w decommissioning</td>
<td>969,26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ITER</td>
<td>2 985,62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horizon 2020</td>
<td>79 401,83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COSME</td>
<td>2 298,24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erasmus+</td>
<td>14 774,52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Change and Innovation</td>
<td>919,47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fiscalis-Customs-Anti Fraud</td>
<td>908,01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agencies before transfer</td>
<td>2 293,13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>2 003,45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Margin</td>
<td>2 078,00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connecting Europe Facility</td>
<td>21 936,76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy</td>
<td>5 850,08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport</td>
<td>14 945,08</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
H1.b. Economic, social and territorial cohesion
Youth employment initiative (top-up) 3 211,22
Regional convergence 185 374,42
Transition regions 35 701,31
Competitiveness 55 780,14
Territorial cooperation 10 228,81
Cohesion fund 74 928,36
Outermost and sparsely populated regions 1 562,99
margin 3,76
H1 Subtotal 508 921 million

Horizon 2020

Period: 2014-2020

Budget: 79.4 billion in current prices

Link: Commission Regulation on Horizon 2020, Website, Presentation on H2020

Horizon 2020 will be an integrated programme that will cover all research and innovation funding currently provided through the Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development, the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP) and the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT). The different types of funding provided by the existing programmes will be brought together into a single coherent, flexible framework. It will provide funding for every stage of the innovation process from basic research to market uptake. Horizon 2020 is the financial instrument implementing the Innovation Union. Horizon 2020 is the biggest EU Research and Innovation programme ever with nearly €80 billion of funding available over 7 years (2014 to 2020) – in addition to the private investment that this money will attract. It promises more breakthroughs, discoveries and world-firsts by taking great ideas from the lab to the market. Horizon 2020 is the financial instrument implementing the Innovation Union, a Europe 2020 flagship initiative aimed at securing Europe’s global competitiveness.

Objectives
EU funding for research and innovation will be focused on three key objectives (Excellent science, Competitive industries and Better Society), implemented through specific programs and a dedicated financial contribution to the EIT. The primary aim of Horizon 2020 is to strengthen the EU’s position as a world leader in science, to help make Europe a more attractive location to invest in research and innovation and to bring excellent research results to market which will deliver direct benefits to citizens, such as affordable health-care, protection against cyber-crime, and the transition to a resource-efficient, low-carbon economy.

Implementation
The Horizon 2020 programme consists of the following parts:
“Excellent science”
“Industrial leadership”
“Societal challenges”
In addition, there is a specific programme named „Non-nuclear direct actions of the Joint Research Centre (JRC)“.

“Excellent science”, “Industrial leadership” and “Societal challenges” will be implemented by the Commission, which will adopt annual work programmes that contain descriptions of the actions to be financed, an indication of the amount allocated to each action, indicative implementation timetables, as well as a multi-annual approach and strategic orientations for the essential evaluation criteria and the maximum rate of co-financing.

The priorities should be implemented by a specific programme consisting of three Parts on indirect actions and one Part on the direct actions of the Joint Research Centre (JRC).

The specific objective “Strengthening Europe’s science base in frontier research” under “Excellent science”, will be implemented by the European Research Council (“ERC”).

The budget distribution (in percentage) for Horizon 2020 is foreseen as follows:

| I. Excellent Science:                        | 31.73 % |
| 1. European Research Council                | 17.00   |
| 2. Future and Emerging Technologies         | 3.50    |
| 3. Marie Curie actions                      | 8.00    |
| 4. Research infrastructures                 | 3.23    |
| II. Industrial Leadership:                  | 22.09 % |
| 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    |
| III. Societal Challenges:                   | 38.53 % |
| 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    |
| Spreading excellence and widening participation | 1.06 %  |
| Science with and for society               | 0.60 %  |
| European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) | 3.52 %  |
| Joint Research Centre: non-nuclear direct actions | 2.47 %  |
| Total                                      | 100 %   |


Eligibility

Horizon 2020 will be open besides the 28 EU countries to:

- acceding countries, candidate countries and potential candidates, in accordance with the general principles and general terms and conditions for the participation of those countries in Union
programmes established in the respective framework agreements and decisions of association councils or similar agreements;

-selected third countries that fulfill all of the following criteria:
(i) have a good capacity in science, technology and innovation;
(ii) have a good track record of participation in Union research and innovation programmes;
(iii) have close economic and geographical links to the Union;

Horizon 2020 groups the countries as:
1. industrialised and emerging economies
2. enlargement and neighboring countries
3. developing countries

Special new eligibility rules are not expected. Please check however the rules for third country participation.

**Excellent Science**
Budget: EUR 24 441 million

**Objectives**

The Excellent science programme aims at supporting world leading scientists in blue sky research, providing training and career development opportunities, developing future and emerging technologies and EU research infrastructures.

The specific objectives are:

- strengthening frontier research, through the activities of the European Research Council (ERC);
- strengthening research in Future and Emerging Technologies;
- strengthening skills, training and career development, through the Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions ("Marie Curie actions");
- strengthening European research infrastructures, including e-infrastructures.

**Supported activities**

European Research Council (ERC) will provide substantial grants to top-level individual researchers working in Europe (€13 095 million)

Future and emerging technologies (FET) opens up new fields of research and innovation. (€2 696 million)

Marie Curie Actions develops research and innovation skills through the training, mobility and career development of researchers (€6.162 million)

Funding of €2.488 million will also be available for supporting access to, and networking of priority European research infrastructures.

**Eligibility**

Independent researchers of any age, including starting researchers making the transition to being independent research leaders in their own right, from any country in the world will be supported.

**Industrial leadership**
Budget: EUR 17 016 million
Objectives

“Industrial leadership” should help make Europe a more attractive location to invest in research and innovation by supporting major investments in key industrial technologies, by facilitating access to risk finance for innovative companies and projects, and providing Union wide support for innovation in small and medium-sized enterprises.

The scopes are:

- Boosting job creation
- Support innovation, increase market uptake
- Stimulate private investment in R&I
- Strengthen participation of innovative SMEs

Supported activities

Leadership in enabling and industrial technologies (€13 557 million) – the themes are the following:

- Information and Communication Technologies (ICT),
- Nanotechnologies,
- Advanced materials,
- Biotechnology,
- Advanced Manufacturing and Processing,
- Space

Access to risk finance (Debt facility, Equity facility and Specific implementation aspects) (€2 842 million).
Innovation in SMEs (Mainstreaming SME support and Specific support) €616 million.

Societal challenges

Budget: EUR 29 679 million

Objectives

The “Societal challenges” programme aim is to tackle the major issues affecting the lives of European citizens. It should increase the effectiveness of research and innovation in responding to key societal challenges by supporting excellent research and innovation activities.

The scopes are:

- Longer and healthier lives
- Reliable, clean, efficient energy
- Efficient use of resources for protection of our planet
- Inclusive innovation and secure policy
- Safe, secure food supply
- Smart, green transport

Supported activities

- Health, demographic change and well-being (€7 472 million);
- Food security, sustainable agriculture and forestry, marine and maritime and inland water research and the Bio-economy (€3 851 million);
- Secure, clean and efficient energy (€5 931 million);
- Smart, green and integrated transport (€6 339 million);
- Climate action, environment resource efficiency and raw materials (€3 081 million);
- Europe in a changing world - Inclusive, innovative and reflective societies (€1 309 million).
- Secure societies – Protecting freedom and security of Europe and its citizens (€1 695 million)

**Science with and for society (€462 million)**

**Spreading excellence and widening participation (€816 million)**

**European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) (€ 2 711 million)**

**Non-nuclear direct actions of the Joint Research Centre (JRC)**

Budget: EUR 1 903 million

**Objectives**

The Joint Research Centre (JRC) is the in-house science service of the European Commission. Its mission is to provide scientific and technical support to EU policy making, thus operating at the interface between research and EU policy and to complement other Horizon 2020 funded research. It provides input throughout the whole policy cycle from conception to implementation and evaluation.

Council meeting news - accepted by the EP and the EC as well:

A simplified system consisting of a single reimbursement rate for eligible costs per research project would apply to all activities within a research project and to all participants. The reimbursement would reach a maximum of 100% of the total eligible costs of a project, with a ceiling of 70% for close-to-market actions and programme co-funded actions. A flat rate of 25% of the total direct eligible costs will be reimbursed to cover indirect costs. A “bonus” scheme was included in the agreement whereby eligible personnel costs can include supplementary payments made to personnel up to € 8 000 per person per year.

**Updates, modifications in Horizon 2020 compared to FP7** | Download updates from July 2013 are highlighted in orange

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>FP7</th>
<th>Horizon 2020</th>
<th>Comments to Horizon 2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Focus</td>
<td>Research</td>
<td>Research and Innovation</td>
<td>Financial instrument to implement Innovation Union. Check also the other Europe 2020 flagship initiatives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Budget</td>
<td>over 50 billion EUR</td>
<td>ca 70 billion EUR</td>
<td>Not such a significant increase - around 10-15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continuation of</td>
<td>FP6</td>
<td>FP7, CIP, EIT</td>
<td>More complex than FP7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blocks</td>
<td>Cooperation, Capacities, People, Ideas, Euratom, JRC</td>
<td>Excellent Science, Industrial Leadership, Societal challenges, JRC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New element</td>
<td>ERC (frontier research), Guarantee Fund, Risk Sharing Finance Facility</td>
<td>Financing each stage of innovation, FET scheme logic</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management</td>
<td>DGs, ERC, REA</td>
<td>DGs, ERC, REA, EIB, EIF</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guarantee Fund</td>
<td>Set up</td>
<td>Continues</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funding rate (up to) for research</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funding rate (up to) for Demonstration - Newly called Innovation projects</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overhead/indirect costs</td>
<td>Different models (20%, 60% or actual)</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Time-to-grant</strong></td>
<td>12 months in average after submission of proposal</td>
<td><strong>Ex-post audits</strong> reduced to 8 months</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>------------------</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ex-ante financial viability check</strong></td>
<td>All beneficiaries exceeding 500,000 EUR EU contribution</td>
<td>Coordinators</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Audit certificates to be submitted</strong></td>
<td>All beneficiaries exceeding 375,000 EUR EU contribution (cumulative in periods)</td>
<td>All beneficiaries exceeding 325,000 EUR EU contribution - only one at the end of the project</td>
<td>Ex-post audits will be limited to 7% of the participants, the rule on the extrapolation on systematic errors will change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Interest on pre-financing</strong></td>
<td>Reported by the coordinator</td>
<td>No need to declare</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Simplification</strong></td>
<td>In all processes</td>
<td>Continues in reimbursement rates, average personnel cost acceptance, unit costs, lump sums and flat rates, time-recording requirements, limited ex-post audits, no declaration on interest on pre-financing, VAT might be eligible, limited extrapolation on systematic errors, new Participant Portal and online admin system)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thematic approach</strong></td>
<td>“Cooperation” 10 themes go under “Industrial leadership” and “Societal challenges”</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Health</strong></td>
<td>FP7 Health: integrated in ‘Health, demographic change and wellbeing challenge’;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>KBEE</strong></td>
<td>FP7 Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, and Biotechnology: integrated in the ‘Food security, sustainable agriculture and the bio-economy’ challenge, although enabling biotechnologies will be supported under ‘Leadership in enabling and industrial technologies’</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ICT</strong></td>
<td>FP7 Information and communication technologies: support for enabling ICTs under ‘Leadership in enabling and industrial technologies’ and ICT applications within the relevant societal challenges;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Nanotechnologies</strong></td>
<td>FP7 Nanosciences, nanotechnologies, materials and new production technologies: support for enabling technologies under ‘Leadership in enabling and industrial technologies’ and applications within the relevant societal challenges;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Energy</strong></td>
<td>FP7 Energy theme: in the ‘Secure, clean and efficient energy’ challenge (which also includes follow-up to CIP intelligent energy programme);</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Environment</strong></td>
<td>FP7 Environment (including Climate Change): integrated in ‘Climate action, resource efficiency and raw materials’ challenge (which also includes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frontier Research, ERC</td>
<td>New in FP7 - Ideas block</td>
<td>Continues, &quot;Excellent Science&quot; priority</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Transport</strong></td>
<td>FP7 Transport (including Aeronautics): integrated in 'Smart, green and integrated transport' challenge;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SSH</strong></td>
<td>FP7 Socio-economic Sciences and the Humanities: underpinning socio-economic and humanities in the 'Inclusive, innovative and secure societies' challenge; application of socio-economic sciences and humanities within all the societal challenges</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Space</strong></td>
<td>FP7 Space: integrated under 'Leadership in enabling and industrial technologies';</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Security</strong></td>
<td>FP7 Security: integrated within the 'Inclusive, innovative and secure societies' challenge.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Technology Platforms and Joint Undertakings</strong></td>
<td>Set up, support</td>
<td>Existing public-public and public-private partnerships may receive support and new ones may be launched</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>International cooperation</strong></td>
<td>Supported</td>
<td>Important in many topics, actions. Three groupings: (1) industrialized and emerging economies; (2) enlargement and neighborhood countries; and (3) developing countries.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Frontier Research, ERC**

- New in FP7 - Ideas block
- Continues, "Excellent Science" priority

**Technology Platforms and Joint Undertakings**

- Set up, support
- Existing public-public and public-private partnerships may receive support and new ones may be launched

**International cooperation**

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- Important in many topics, actions. Three groupings: (1) industrialized and emerging economies; (2) enlargement and neighborhood countries; and (3) developing countries.

**Frontier Research, ERC**

- New in FP7 - Ideas block
- Continues, "Excellent Science" priority

- Article 185 initiatives: the European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP), Ambient Assisted Living (AAL), Baltic Sea Research and Development Programme (BONUS), Eurostars and the European Metrology Research Programme. Further support may also be provided to the European Energy Research Alliance (EERA) established under the Strategic Energy Technology Plan (SET Plan).

**International cooperation**

- Supported
- Important in many topics, actions. Three groupings: (1) industrialized and emerging economies; (2) enlargement and neighborhood countries; and (3) developing countries.

**Technology Platforms and Joint Undertakings**

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Space Dialogues between the Union and the United States of America and Russia</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>FET: Future and Emerging Technologies</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Marie Curie Actions</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Research infrastructures</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Key Enabling Technologies</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SME related actions, access to finance</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Enterprise Europe Network and supporting SMEs - soft measures (networking, reducing barriers, studies, etc)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Combination of funds</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Link with Structural Funds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Participants Portal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EIT</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**possible addition of grants (including lump sums), with provisions from the equity financial instrument in one or more integrated schemes**

**Comments**

Ca. €80 billion budget has been accepted including the EURATOM budget.

The €80 billion total does not include the budget allocated to the three major infrastructure projects of the global positioning system Galileo, the ITER fusion project and the earth observation system Copernicus (formerly GMES).

Connecting Europe facility budget is also ring-fenced separately from the Horizon 2020 budget.

**COSME**

Period: 2014-2020  
Budget: EUR 2.30 billion in current prices  
Link: COSME pdf, EC COSME website
The programme for the Competitiveness of enterprises and SMEs (COSME)’s aim is to strengthen the competitiveness and sustainability of the Union’s enterprises, including in the tourism sector, encourage an entrepreneurial culture, and promote the creation and growth of SMEs.

It largely continues the activities started under the current Competitiveness and Innovation programme (CIP) and also ensures continuity with initiatives and actions already undertaken under the Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme (EIP), such as the Enterprise Europe Network.

Objectives

- Improve the framework conditions to make for the competitiveness and sustainability of Union enterprises including in the tourism sector
- Encouraging an entrepreneurial culture and promoting the creation and growth of SMEs.
- Improving access to finance for SMEs in the form of equity and debt
- Improving access to markets inside the Union and globally

Supported activities

Specific objective No 1: Actions to improve the framework conditions for the competitiveness and sustainability of Union enterprises (384.4 million EUR)

1. Actions to improve and strengthen the competitiveness and sustainability of Union enterprises, particularly SMEs.

2. Actions intended to develop new competitiveness strategies. Such actions may include the following:
   a) measures to improve the design, implementation and evaluation of policies affecting the competitiveness and sustainability of enterprises, including disaster resilience, and to secure the development of appropriate infrastructures, world class clusters and business networks, framework conditions and development of sustainable products, services and processes;
   b) measures to encourage cooperation in policy making and exchange of good practices and to address international aspects of competitiveness policies.
   c) support for SME policy development and cooperation between policy makers, particularly with a view to improving the ease-of-access to programmes and measures for SMEs.

3. Initiatives accelerating the emergence of competitive industries based on cross-sectoral activities in areas characterised by a high proportion of SMEs and with a high contribution to the Union's GDP.

4. Tourism

5. New business concepts for consumer goods

Specific objective No 2: Actions to promote entrepreneurship (86.8 million EUR)

Supported actions include studies, campaigns, events and exchange programmes.

1. Improving framework conditions affecting the development of entrepreneurship; support a business environment favorable to enterprise development and growth.

2. Particular attention shall be paid to young entrepreneurs, new and potential entrepreneurs and female entrepreneurs, as well as specific target groups.

3. The Commission may support Member States’ measures to build-up entrepreneurial education, skills and attitudes, in particular among potential and new entrepreneurs, for example, through Erasmus for Entrepreneurs programme.
Specific objective No 3: Actions to improve access to finance for SMEs (1.4 billion EUR)

1. Actions which aim to improve access to finance for SMEs in their start-up and growth phases, being complementary to the Member States’ use of financial instruments for SMEs at national and regional level.
   a) The equity facility of the Competitiveness and SME Programme, the Equity Facility for Growth (EFG), shall be implemented as a window of a single EU equity financial instrument supporting EU enterprises’ growth and RDI from the early stage (including seed) to the growth stage and financially supported by the Horizon 2020 and this Programme. EFG shall use the same delivery mechanism as the equity facility for RDI to be established under Horizon 2020.
   b) The Loan Guarantee Facility (LGF) shall be implemented as part of a single EU debt financial instrument for EU enterprises’ growth and RDI, using the same delivery mechanism as the SME demand-driven window of the debt facility under Horizon 2020 (RSI II).

2. Develop measures, subject to market demand, to improve cross-border and multi-country financing, thereby assisting SMEs to internationalise their activities in compliance with Union law.

Specific objective No 4: Actions to improve access to markets (535, 6 million EUR)

1. Support for the Enterprise Europe Network.

2. Actions to improve SMEs access to the Single Market including information provision and awareness-raising.

3. Facilitate SMEs access to markets outside the Union, and to strengthening existing support services in those markets. SMEs may receive support through the Programme as regards standards and intellectual property rights in priority third countries.

4. Foster international industrial cooperation, including industrial and regulatory dialogues with third countries.

Implementation

The budget will be largely outsourced. The financial instruments will be operated by the European Investment Bank Group on behalf of the Commission and Other actions may be managed by an executive agency, building on the positive experience with the Executive Agency for Competitiveness and Innovation (EACI) in the current multi-annual financial framework. In order to implement the Programme, the Commission will adopt an annual work Programme.

Eligibility

Besides all EU countries, the Programme will be open to the participation of the EFTA countries which are members of the European Economic Area (EEA), in accordance with the conditions laid down in the EEA Agreement, and other European countries when agreements and procedures so allow;

Acceding countries, candidate countries and potential candidates in accordance with the general principles and general terms and conditions for the participation of those countries in Union’s programmes established in the respective Framework Agreements and Association Council Decisions, or similar arrangements;

Countries falling under the scope of the European neighborhood policies, when agreements and procedures allow are eligible to participate.

Entities established in other third countries may participate in actions under the Programme, but such entities shall not be entitled to receive Union financial contributions, except where it is
indispensable for the Programme, in particular in terms of competitiveness and access to markets for Union enterprises. That exception shall not apply to entities which are profit-making.

**Erasmus+**

Period: 2014-2020  
Budget: EUR 14.7 billion in current prices  
Legal basis: Proposal 788 final 2011/0371 (COD) of the European Commission of 23 November 2011 for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the council establishing „Erasmus for All” The Union Programme for Education, Training, Youth and Sport  
Link: Regulation, Website

Erasmus for all brings together existing EU programmes in the fields of Education, Training and Youth (Erasmus, Leonardo da Vinci, Comenius and Grundtvig; Erasmus Mundus, Tempus, Alfa, Edulink as well as Youth in Action); it will for the first time provide support for Sport. As an integrated programme, Erasmus offers more opportunities for cooperation across the Education, Training and Youth sectors and is easier to access than its predecessors, with simplified funding rules.  
The target number is around 4 million people to get involved in mobility actions.

**Objectives**

The aims of Erasmus+ are:

- To support young people gain more and better skills by studying & training abroad.  
- To enhance teaching quality in the EU and beyond.  
- To support Member States and partner countries in modernizing their education and vocational training systems.  
- To promote youth participation in society.  
- To support teaching and research on European integration.  
- To support European grass-roots sport.

**Supported activities**

The main actions of the existing programmes will continue (i.e. learning mobility, cooperation projects and support for policy reform), but activities will be strengthened where the systemic impact is strongest and where there is a clear EU added value. There are also a number of new innovative proposals, such as the Erasmus Master's degree student loan guarantee scheme, the knowledge alliances and the sector skills alliances. A single programme will result in simpler application rules and procedures, as well as avoiding fragmentation and duplication.

The creation of 300 knowledge alliances and 'sector skills alliances'. Knowledge alliances are large-scale partnerships between higher education institutions and businesses to promote creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship by offering new learning opportunities and qualifications. Sector skills alliances are partnerships between education and training providers and businesses to promote employability by forming new sector-specific curricula and innovative forms of vocational teaching and training.

For key action “Learning mobility of individual’s”, 25 % of the funds allocated to National Agencies will be distributed on the basis of quantifiable principles such as budget implementation, number of individuals on the move and the implementation of the National Agencies work programmes. The remaining budget will be allocated to National Agencies essentially on the basis of the size of the population. Qualitative criteria to increase EU added value will apply in particular to key actions 2 (“Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices”) and 3 (“Support for policy reform”), such as the level of institutional and resource commitment of the stakeholders entering a partnership, or the link between open method of coordination activities and the challenges as identified in Europe 2020 governance.
The Erasmus Master (masters student loan guarantee scheme), will be delivered through a trustee, with a mandate to implement it on the basis of fiduciary agreements setting out the detailed rules and requirements governing the implementation of the financial instrument as well as the respective obligations of the parties.

Implementation

The programme will support three main types of actions: learning opportunities for individuals, both within the EU and beyond; institutional cooperation between educational institutions, youth organizations, businesses, local and regional authorities and NGOs; and support for policy reform in Member States and cooperation with non-EU countries. Also, two completely new elements will be part of Erasmus for All: a loan guarantee scheme to help Master’s degree students to finance their studies abroad and to acquire the skills needed for knowledge intensive jobs.

Erasmus+ will replace seven existing programmes with one: it brings together the existing Lifelong Learning Programme (Erasmus, Leonardo da Vinci, Comenius and Grundtvig), Youth in Action, and five international cooperation programmes (Erasmus Mundus, Tempus, Alfa, Edulink and the programme for cooperation with industrialised countries).

Eligibility

Erasmus+ will be open to all EU Member States, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland, EU candidate countries benefiting from a pre-accession strategy and other countries in the Western Balkans. In addition, non-EU, mostly neighbourhood countries, will be able to benefit from actions aimed at promoting study and training opportunities abroad, as well as youth activities.

Erasmus Key actions

Actions in the field of education, training and youth
Period: 2014-2020
Budget: EUR €12.9 bilion

Key Action 1: Learning Mobility of individuals
Period: 2014-2020
Indicative budget allocation is approximately 66% of the total budget for education, training and youth

Learning mobility has the potential to raise the level of key competences and skills of high importance to the labour market and society; reinforce participation of young people in democratic life; and to enhance the modernisation and internationalisation of education institutions, both to the benefit for EU and third countries. Mobility will therefore be strengthened and remain the core element across the Programme, with a strong emphasis on mobility for students in higher education.

Supported activities

Erasmus support for mobility will focus on four key activities:
– Staff mobility, in particular for teachers, trainers, school leaders and youth workers.
– Mobility for higher education students (including joint/double degrees) and vocational education and training students.
– Erasmus Master for master degree mobility of higher education students, through a new loan guarantee mechanism.
– Joint Master Degrees.
– Youth mobility, including volunteering and youth exchanges.

Eligibility
Any public and private body active in the areas of education, training, youth and grassroots sport may apply within this Programme.

**Key Action 2: Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices**

**Period:** 2014-2020  
Indicative budget allocation is approximately 26% of the total budget for education, training and youth.

Transnational cooperation projects are essential to encourage transparency, openness and excellence, and to facilitate exchange of good practices between institutions. In order to contribute to the governance and implementation of Europe 2020 and open method of coordination activities, the Programme will provide strengthened support to cooperation projects aimed at developing, transferring and implementing innovative education, training and youth practices. Finally, the new programme will boost international cooperation and capacity building in third countries.

**Supported activities**

Erasmus support for cooperation will focus on four key activities:
- Strategic partnerships between education establishments/youth organisations and/or other relevant actors.  
- Large-scale partnerships between education and training establishments and business, in the form of Knowledge Alliances for higher education and Sector Skills Alliances.  
- IT support platforms, including e-Twinning.  
- Capacity building in third countries, with a strong focus on neighborhood countries.

**Eligibility**

Any public and private body active in the areas of education, training, youth and grassroots sport may apply within this Programme.

**Key Action 3: Support for policy reform**

**Period:** 2014-2020  
Indicative budget allocation is approximately 5% of the total budget for education, training and youth.

Evidence-based policy making, strong country analysis and multilateral surveillance are all critical for the achievement of Europe’s strategic priorities. Mutual learning at EU and international level has proven its worth in terms of the effectiveness of education investments and in helping Member States implement new policies and reforms. The various EU transparency tools created under the Lifelong Learning Programme have had an immense impact.

**Supported activities**

Erasmus support for policy reform will focus on three key activities:  
- Support to open methods of coordination (ET 2020, EU youth strategy) and the European Semester (Europe 2020).  
- EU tools: valorisation and implementation.  
- Cooperation with international organizations  
- Policy dialogue (stakeholders, third countries, international organisations).

**Eligibility**

Any public and private body active in the areas of education, training, youth and grassroots sport may apply within this Programme.
Jean Monnet Initiative
Period: 2014-2020
Budget: EUR 221 617 800

The Jean Monnet activities aim is to promote teaching and research on European integration world-wide among specialist academics, learners and citizens, notably through the creation of Jean Monnet Chairs and other academic activities, as well as by providing aid for other knowledge-building activities at higher education institutions; to support the activities of academic institutions or associations active in the field of European integration studies and support a Jean Monnet label for excellence. In the light of its specific efforts to promote excellence in education and research on EU integration, the Jean Monnet Initiative will continue as a separate activity within the Programme and will share its delivery mechanisms.

For institutions interested in securing recognition of the quality of their European integration studies programmes, the Commission will create a Jean Monnet label of excellence. The Jean Monnet Professors’ network also serves as a think tank to support EU governance and policymaking.

Sport Action
Period: 2014-2020
Budget: EUR 265 941 360

In order to exploit the potential for simplification and streamlining of the Multiannual Financial Framework architecture, EU level cooperation in the field of Sport will be treated as a separate activity within the Programme. The Programme will focus on: strengthening good governance and the knowledge base for sport in the EU; promoting health-enhancing physical activity; exploiting the potential of sport to foster social inclusion, promoting dual careers through education and training of athletes; and tackling transnational threats such as doping match fixing, violence, racism and intolerance.

Supported activities

The Programme will provide support for the following activities:
– transnational collaborative projects;
– non-for-profit European sporting events of major importance;
– strengthening of the evidence base for policy making in the field of sport;
– capacity building in sport;
– dialogue with relevant European stakeholders.
– Support for Presidency Events

Eligibility

The Programme beneficiaries will be public bodies or civil society organisations active in the area of grassroots sport. The supported projects and networks will mainly serve to implement and monitor guidelines and recommendations adopted by Member States and/or sports organisations in areas such as good governance, dual careers, and participation levels in sports and physical activity.

Galileo

Period: 2014-2020
Budget: € 7 071 million in current prices
Legal basis: Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on the implementation and exploitation of European satellite navigation systems
Galileo is supporting the implementation and operation of satellite navigation systems. Galileo and EGNOS (European Geostationary Navigation Overlay Service) programmes are flagship projects of the Union. In the period 2014-2020 the programme will finance the completion of the deployment phase of the Galileo programme, the exploitation phase of the same programme and operation of the EGNOS system.

Objectives

The aim of the Galileo programme is to establish and operate the first global satellite navigation and positioning infrastructure specifically designed for civilian purposes. The aim of the EGNOS programme is to improve the quality of signals from existing global navigation satellite systems (GNSS).

The specific objectives of the Galileo programme:

- To offer an open service (OS), which is free to the user and provides positioning and synchronisation information intended for high-volume satellite navigation applications;
- To offer a safety-of-life service (SoL) aimed at users for whom safety is essential. This service also fulfils the requirements of certain sectors for continuity, availability and accuracy and includes an integrity function alerting the user to any failure in the system;
- To offer a commercial service (CS) for the development of applications for professional or commercial use by means of improved performance and data with greater added value than those obtained through the open service;
- To offer a public regulated service (PRS) restricted to government-authorised users, for sensitive applications which require a high level of service continuity; this service uses strong, encrypted signals;
- To participate in the search and rescue support service (SAR) of the COSPASSARSAT system by detecting emergency signals given off by beacons and relaying messages to them.

The specific objectives of the EGNOS programme:

- To offer an open service (OS), which is free to the user and provides positioning and synchronisation information intended for high-volume satellite navigation applications in the area covered by the system;
- To offer a service for the dissemination of commercial data, the EGNOS Data Access Service (EDAS), to promote the development of applications for professional or commercial use by means of improved performance and data with greater added value than those obtained through the open service;
- To offer a safety-of-life service (SoL) service aimed at users for whom safety is essential; in particular, this service fulfils the requirements of certain sectors for continuity, availability and accuracy and includes an integrity message alerting the user to any failure in the system over the coverage area.

The EGNOS programme also has the specific objective of extending geographic coverage to these services throughout the territory of the Union and, subject to technical constraints and on the basis of international agreements, to other regions of the world, in particular territories of third countries covered by the single European sky.

Supported activities

- Activities relating to the deployment phase of the Galileo programme, including actions to manage and monitor this phase;
- Activities relating to operation of the system established under the Galileo programme, including advance or preparatory actions for this phase;
- Activities associated with the operation of the EGNOS system.
The Union budget appropriations assigned to the programmes may also cover Commission expenditure relating to preparation, monitoring, inspection, audit and assessment activities required for their management and the implementation of the objectives, in particular expenditure covering:

- Studies and meetings with experts;
- Information and communication activities, including institutional communication on the policy priorities of the Union where they are directly linked to the objectives of this Regulation;
- IT technology networks, with the objective of processing or transferring data;
- Any other technical or administrative assistance given to the Commission for the management of programmes.

Implementation

Within the deployment and exploitation phases of the programmes, public procurement procedures will be conducted. Galileo itself will not launch call for proposals, only calls for tenders. Several Horizon 2020 projects are expected to be financed linked to the objectives of Galileo.

Eligibility

Galileo is open to participation for:

- EU and ESA Member States
- Third countries after approval by the European Council

Customs, Taxation and Fight against Fraud

Period: 2014-2020
Budget: €908,01 million (current prices)

- **Customs and taxation:** the Customs 2020 and Fiscalis 2020 programmes support cooperation between EU countries’ customs and tax authorities. The programmes promote networking, knowledge-sharing and fund a highly secured communication network connecting national customs and tax administrations.
- **Fight against fraud:** the Pericles 2020 programme aims at combating euro-counterfeiting in Europe and worldwide. It funds exchanges, assistances and training for authorities, banks and others involved in the protection of euro coins and banknotes. The Hercule III programme is dedicated to fighting fraud, corruption and any other illegal activities affecting the financial interests of the EU, including the fight against cigarette smuggling and counterfeiting. The programme helps national law enforcement authorities in their fight against illegal cross-border activities by financing technical and operational support and professional training activities.

Pericles 2020

Period: 2014-2020
Budget: €7,344,000 (current prices)
Legal basis: Proposal for a EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND COUNCIL Regulation establishing an exchange, assistance and training programme for the protection of the euro against
counterfeiting (the ‘Pericles 2020’ programme)
Link: Proposal (pdf)

The Pericles programme is an exchange, assistance and training programme for the protection of the euro against counterfeiting. It is administered by OLAF. The Pericles 2020 programme aims at combating euro-counterfeiting in Europe and worldwide. It funds exchanges, assistantances and training for authorities, banks and others involved in the protection of euro coins and banknotes.

With the overall aim to protect the euro against counterfeiting, Pericles works to raise awareness and to act as a catalyst for closer cooperation between relevant structures and staff. It also seeks improving the general understanding of relevant European and international laws and instruments.

Objectives

The specific objective of the Programme shall be to protect the euro banknotes and coins against counterfeiting and related fraud, by supporting and supplement the measures undertaken by the Member States and assisting the competent national and European authorities in their efforts to develop between themselves and with the European Commission a close and regular cooperation, also including third countries and international organisations. This objective shall be measured, inter alia, through the effectiveness of action by financial, technical, law-enforcement and judicial authorities, as measured through the number of counterfeits detected, illegal workshops dismantled, individuals arrested and sanctions imposed.

The short-term objectives of the Programme shall encompass:

- raising awareness of the Union and international dimension of the euro; expanding general knowledge related to the protection of the euro;
- supporting the prevention and contributing to repression of euro counterfeiting and related fraud through specialised training and assistance in these areas;
- promoting convergence of high-level training activities for trainers, taking into consideration national operational strategies;
- encouraging closer cooperation between the structures and staff concerned, developing mutual trust and exchanging information, inter alia of methods of action, experience and work practices;
- supporting the development of specific legal and judicial protection of the euro;
- increasing the level of protection of the euro in those countries that have been evaluated as being at risk by supporting the purchase of specific equipments.

Supported activities

- Awareness raising actions on the need for close cooperation between competent authorities
- Awareness raising actions on legislation related to the protection of the euro
- Training related to legislation, cooperation, investigation and security features of the euro
- Develop and strengthen mechanisms and exchange of best practises
- Purchase of equipment to be used by specialised anti-counterfeiting agencies in third countries for protecting the euro against counterfeiting;

The Programme provides financial support to the following actions (in the form of grants or public procurement):

- Exchange and dissemination of information, in particular through organising workshops, meetings and seminars including training, targeted placements and exchanges of staff of competent national authorities and other similar actions;
- Technical, scientific and operational assistance, as appears necessary as part of the programme
- Grants to finance the purchase of equipment to be used by specialised anti-counterfeiting authorities for protecting the euro against counterfeiting

Implementation

Pericles is implemented and coordinated by the Commission/OLAF in close cooperation with the Member States. Coordination covers initiatives taken by other bodies, in particular the ECB and Europol. Calls for proposals are published annually. Member States’ competent national authorities or the Commission can present proposals.

Eligibility

The Programme shall target participation of the following groups:
(a) staff of agencies engaged in detecting and combating counterfeiting (in particular police forces and financial administrations, depending on their specific functions at national level);
(b) intelligence personnel;
(c) representatives of the national central banks, the mints, commercial banks and other financial intermediaries (particularly as regards the obligations of financial institutions);
(d) judicial officers, specialist lawyers and members of the judiciary in this field;
(e) any other group of specialists concerned (such as chambers of commerce and industry or comparable structures capable of providing access to small

Hercule III

Period: 2014-2020
Budget: € 110 million
Legal basis: Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on the Hercule III programme to promote activities in the field of the protection of the European Union's financial interests

The Hercule III programme was established to promote activities against fraud, corruption and any other illegal activities affecting the financial interests of the Union. The programme will contribute to an increased transnational cooperation and more effective prevention of fraud, corruption and any other illegal activities affecting the financial interests of the Union, by offering joint specialised training for staff of national, regional administrations and to other stakeholders.

The Hercule III programme is dedicated to fighting fraud, corruption and any other illegal activities affecting the financial interests of the EU, including the fight against cigarette smuggling and counterfeiting. The programme helps national law enforcement authorities in their fight against illegal cross-border activities by financing technical and operational support and professional training activities

Objectives

The operational objectives of the programme are:
(1) Improving the prevention and investigation of fraud, smuggling and counterfeiting, especially of cigarettes, by enhancing transnational and multi-disciplinary cooperation;
(2) Increasing the protection of the financial interests of the EU against fraud by facilitating the exchange of information, experiences and best practices, including staff exchanges;
(3) Strengthening the fight against fraud and other illegal activities by providing technical and operational support to national investigations, and in particular to customs and law enforcement authorities;
(4) Enhancing the development of legal and judicial protection of the financial interests against fraud by promoting a comparative legal analysis. As of 1 January 2014, Hercule III will replace its predecessor Hercule II and operate under the 2014-2020 Multiannual Financial Framework. Under the new programme, the European Union will co-finance activities including technical assistance, the purchase of equipment such as scanners, and specialised training up to 80% of the eligible projects. In exceptional and duly justified cases, as well as for Member States facing higher risks regarding the protection of the Union's financial interests, the co-financing rate will be of a maximum 90%.

**Supported activities**

Specialised technical assistance for national authorities:

- Providing specific knowledge, specialised and technically advanced equipment and effective information technology (IT) tools facilitating transnational cooperation and cooperation with the Commission;
- Ensuring the necessary support and facilitating investigations, in particular the setting up of joint investigation teams and cross border operations;
- Supporting Member States' capacity to store and destroy seized cigarettes as well as independent analytical services for the analysis of seized cigarettes;
- Enhancing staff exchanges for specific projects, in particular in the field of the fight against cigarette smuggling and counterfeiting;
- Providing technical and operational support for the law enforcement authorities of the Member States in their fight against illegal cross border activities and fraud affecting the Union financial interests, including in particular support for customs authorities;
- Building information technology capacity throughout the Member States and third countries by developing and providing specific databases and IT tools facilitating data access and analysis;
- Increasing data exchange, developing and providing IT tools for investigations, and monitoring intelligence work.

Organisation of specialised training, and risk analysis training workshops, as well as conferences, aimed at:

- Further fostering better understanding of Union and national mechanisms;
- Exchanging experience between the relevant authorities in the Member States, and third countries as well as representatives of international organisations, including specialised law enforcement services;
- Coordinating the activities of Member States, third countries, and international public organisations;
- Disseminating knowledge, particularly on better identification of risk for investigative purposes;
- Developing high-profile research activities, including studies;
- Improving cooperation between practitioners and academics;
- Further raising the awareness of the judiciary and other branches of the legal profession for the protection of the financial interests of the Union.

**Implementation**

In order to implement the Programme the Commission shall adopt annual work programmes. They shall set out the objectives pursued, the expected results, the method of implementation and their total amount. They shall also contain a description of the actions to be financed, an indication of the amount allocated to each action and an indicative implementation timetable. They shall include for grants the priorities, the essential evaluation criteria and the maximum rate of co-financing. Budget allocated to communication actions to be carried out by the Commission under this Regulation shall also cover the corporate communication of the political priorities of the Union.
Union funding for activities shall take the form of:

a) grants;
b) public procurement.
c) reimbursement of costs for participation in activities under the programmes incurred by representatives.

The co-financing rate for grants awarded under the programme shall not exceed 80% of the eligible costs. In exceptional and duly justified cases, defined in the annual work programme referred to in article 10, the co-financing rate shall not exceed 90% of the eligible costs.

**Eligibility**

National or regional administrations of a Member State or a third country, which promote the strengthening of action at Union level to protect the Union's financial interests;

Research and educational institutes and non-profit making entities provided that they have been established and have been operating for at least one year, in a Member State or in a third country, and promote the strengthening of action at Union level to protect the Union's financial interests.

**Customs 2020 Programme and Fiscalis 2020 Programme**

Period: 2014-2020
Budget: €522.9 million (Customs 2020), 223.3 (Fiscalis 2020)
Link: Regulation (Fiscalis), Regulation (Customs), http://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/customs/cooperation_programmes/fiscus/index_en.htm

**Customs 2020 Programme and Fiscalis 2020 Programme (split into two programmes from previous proposal for Fiscus 2020 Programme)**

FISCUS Programme will support customs and tax cooperation in the Union clustered around human networking and competency building, on the one hand, and IT capacity building on the other hand. The aim is to improve the operation of the taxation systems in the internal market and the functioning of the Customs Union. FISCUS will be the single programme for customs and taxation replacing the 2007-2013 Customs and Fiscalis programmes.

**Objectives**

**Objectives (Fiscalis)**

- to implement, improve, operate and support the European Information Systems for taxation;
- to support administrative cooperation activities;
- to reinforce the skills and competence of tax officials;
- to enhance the understanding and implementation of Union law in the field of taxation;
- to support the improvement of administrative procedures and the sharing of good administrative practices.

**Objectives (Customs Programme)**

- to support the preparation, coherent application and effective implementation of Union law and policy in the field of customs;
to develop, improve, operate and support the European Information Systems for customs;
to identify, develop, share and apply best working practices and administrative procedures, in particular further to benchmarking activities;
to reinforce the skills and competences of customs officials;
to improve cooperation between customs authorities and international organisations, third countries, other governmental authorities, including Union and national market surveillance authorities, as well as economic operators and organisations representing economic operators.

Supported activities

Supported activities (Fiscalis 2020)
1. joint actions:

- seminars and workshops;
- project groups, generally composed of a limited number of countries, operational during a limited period of time to pursue a predefined objective with a precisely described outcome;
- bilateral or multilateral controls and other activities provided for in Union law on administrative cooperation, organised by two or more participating countries, which include at least two Member States;
- working visits organised by the participating countries or another country to enable officials to acquire or increase their expertise or knowledge in tax matters;
- expert teams, namely structured forms of cooperation, with a non-permanent character, pooling expertise to perform tasks in specific domains, in particular in the European Information Systems, possibly with the support of online collaboration services, administrative assistance and infrastructure and equipment facilities;
- public administration capacity-building and supporting actions;
- studies;
- communication projects;
- any other activity in support of the overall, specific and operational objectives and priorities set out in Articles 5 and 6, provided that the necessity for such other activity is duly justified;

2. European Information Systems building: the development, maintenance, operation and quality control of Union components of the European Information Systems set out in point A of the Annex and new European Information Systems established under Union law, with a view to interconnecting tax authorities efficiently;

3. Common training activities: jointly developed training actions to support the necessary professional skills and knowledge relating to taxation.

Supported activities (Customs 2020)
1. joint actions:

- seminars and workshops;
- project groups, generally composed of a limited number of countries, operational during a limited period of time to pursue a predefined objective with a precisely defined outcome, including coordination or benchmarking;
- working visits organised by the participating countries or another country to enable officials to acquire or increase their expertise or knowledge in customs matters; for working visits organised within third countries only travel and subsistence (accommodation and daily allowance) costs are eligible under the Programme;
- monitoring activities carried out by joint teams made up of Commission officials and officials of the participating countries to analyse customs practices, identify any difficulties in implementing rules and, where appropriate, make suggestions for the adaptation of Union rules and working methods;
• expert teams, namely structured forms of cooperation, with a non-permanent or permanent character, pooling expertise to perform tasks in specific domains or carry out operational activities, possibly with the support of online collaboration services, administrative assistance and infrastructure and equipment facilities;
• customs administration capacity building and supporting actions;
• studies;
• jointly developed communication actions;
• any other activity in support of the general, specific and operational objectives;

2. IT capacity building: development, maintenance, operation and quality control of Union components of the European Information Systems set out in Section A of Annex II and new European Information Systems established under Union law;
3. Human competency building: common training actions to support the necessary professional skills and knowledge relating to customs.

Support within Fiscalis and Customs Program will be given in the form of:
(a) grants;
(b) public procurement contracts;
(c) the reimbursement of costs incurred by external experts

The co-financing rate for grants shall be up to 100 % of the eligible costs in the case of travel and accommodation costs, costs linked to the organisation of events and daily allowances.

Implementation

The Commission shall implement the Programme by means of an annual work programme for each sector of the Programme, including the priorities for the Programme, the breakdown of the budget and the evaluation criteria for the grants for actions.

Participating countries shall ensure that officials with the adequate profile and qualifications are nominated to participate in the joint actions. Participating countries shall take the necessary measures for the implementation of the joint actions, in particular by raising awareness within their customs or tax authorities on those actions and by ensuring an optimal use is made of the outputs generated.

Eligibility

The Fiscalis and Customs 2020 Programme will be open to:
- acceding countries, candidate countries and potential candidate countries benefiting from a preaccession strategy, in accordance with the general principles and general terms and conditions for the participation of those countries in Union programmes established in the respective framework agreements, Association Council decisions or similar agreements
- partner countries of the European Neighbourhood Policy provided that those countries have reached a sufficient level of approximation of the relevant legislation and administrative methods to those of the Union.

Structural Funds

Period: 2014-2020
Budget: € 325 billion (in 2011 prices)
Legal basis: MFF
Link: Regulation, Amended Proposal for Cohesion Policy 2014-2020

The Structural Funds (ERDF, ESF, CF, EAFRD and EMFF) are the main financial instruments to implement the European Union’s regional and cohesion policy.
In its proposals for the 2014-2020 financial framework (tabled in June 2011) the European Commission:

- decided that cohesion policy, rural development and maritime and fisheries policies should remain essential elements of the 2014-20 financial package because of their pivotal role in delivering the Europe 2020 strategy;
- proposed that structural policies should concentrate funding on a smaller number of priorities strongly linked to the Europe 2020 strategy.

The total proposed budget for the period 2014-2020 will be €376 billion, including funding for the new Connecting Europe Facility, which is designed to enhance cross-border projects in energy, transport and information technology. The legislative architecture comprises:

- a general regulation setting out common rules for the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the European Social Fund (ESF), the Cohesion Fund (CF), the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD), the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF);
- three specific regulations for the ERDF, the ESF and the Cohesion Fund. These three fund-specific regulations include provisions specific to each Fund (ERDF, ESF and the Cohesion Fund), in particular regarding the scope of the Funds, investment priorities, and indicators; and
- two further regulations on European territorial cooperation and the European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC).

We will also upload the initiatives financed through the Structural Funds supporting the implementation of the scopes of regional policy and territorial cooperation as soon as more information will be available.

Comments

Resources for the "Investment for growth and jobs" goal will amount to a total of EUR 322,332 million (2011 prices) and will be allocated as follows:

- a total of EUR 185,374,42 million for less developed regions (Regional convergence) (current prices);
- a total of EUR 35,701,31 million for transition regions (current prices);
- a total of EUR 55,780,14 million for more developed regions (Competitiveness) (current prices);
- a total of EUR 74,928,36 million for Member States supported by the Cohesion Fund;
- a total of EUR 1,562,99 million as additional funding for the outermost regions identified in Article 349 of the Treaty and the northern sparsely populated regions fulfilling the criteria laid down in Article 2 of Protocol No 6 to the Treaty of Accession of Austria, Finland and Sweden (current prices).

Resources for the "European territorial cooperation" goal will amount to a total of EUR 10,228,81 million (current prices).

0.35% of the global resources will be allocated to technical assistance at the initiative of the Commission.

EUR 325 million of the Structural Funds resources for the Investment for growth and jobs goal will be allocated to innovative actions at the initiative of the Commission in the area of sustainable urban development*.
ERDF

Period: 2014-2020
Budget: € 185,374 billion (regional convergence)
Link: Proposal (pdf), Regulation, Website

The ERDF aims to strengthen economic and social cohesion in the European Union by correcting imbalances between its regions. The ERDF supports regional and local development by co-financing investments in R&D and innovation; climate change and environment; business support to SMEs; services of common economic interest; telecommunication, energy and transport infrastructures; health, education and social infrastructures; and sustainable urban development.

Objectives

The ERDF shall contribute to the financing of support which aims to reinforce economic, social and territorial cohesion by redressing the main regional imbalances through support for the development and structural adjustment of regional economies, including the conversion of declining industrial regions and regions lagging behind.

The ERDF should contribute to the Europe 2020 strategy, thus ensuring greater concentration of ERDF support on the priorities of the Union. According to the category of regions supported, the support from the ERDF should be concentrated on research and innovation, small and medium-sized enterprises and climate change mitigation. The degree of concentration should take into account the level of development of the region as well as the specific needs of regions whose GDP per capita for the 2007-13 period was less than 75% of the average GDP of the EU-25 for the reference period.

Supported activities

- Productive investment, which contributes to creating and safeguarding sustainable jobs, through direct aid to investment in small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs);
- Investments in infrastructure providing basic services to citizens in the areas of energy, environment, transport, and information and communication technologies (ICT);
- Investments in social, health and educational infrastructure;
- Development of endogenous potential by supporting regional and local development and research and innovation. These measures shall include:
  - fixed investment in equipment and small-scale infrastructure;
  - support for and services to enterprises, in particular SMEs;
  - support to public research and innovation bodies and investment in technology and applied research in enterprises;
  - networking, cooperation and exchange of experience between regions, towns, and relevant social, economic and environmental actors;
- Technical assistance.

In more developed regions, the ERDF shall not support investments in infrastructure providing basic services to citizens in the areas of environment, transport, and ICT.

Implementation
ERDF is implemented at a national level by a managing authority. Calls for proposals and tenders are published in the national language and potential applicants should contact the managing authority in his/her country for more information.

The mechanism proposed provides that:
– at least 80% of resources are focused on energy efficiency and renewables, research and innovation and SME support in more developed and transition regions of which 20% for energy efficiency and renewables. Given the ongoing restructuring needs in those regions phasing out from the Convergence objective, the minimum percentage shall be reduced to 60%.
– at least 50% of resources are focused on energy efficiency and renewables, research and innovation and SME support in less developed regions of which 6% for energy efficiency and renewables.

There will be an increased focus on sustainable urban development, which is to be achieved through the earmarking of a minimum of 5% of ERDF resources for sustainable urban development, the establishment of an urban development platform to promote capacity building and exchange of experience, and the adoption of a list of cities where integrated actions for sustainable urban development will be implemented.

**Eligibility**

All Member States. Legal entities.

Specific eligibility rules may apply.

**ESF (European Social Fund)**

Period: 2014-2020
Budget: € minimum 74 billion

Link: Proposal (pdf), Regulation, Website

The European Social Fund (ESF) supports policies and priorities aiming to achieve progress towards full employment, enhance quality and productivity at work, increase the geographical and occupational mobility of workers within the Union, improve education and training systems, and promote social inclusion, thereby contributing to economic, social and territorial cohesion.

**Main changes in 2014**

From 2014, the role of the ESF will be reinforced:

- A critical mass of human capital investment will be ensured through a **minimum guaranteed share** of the ESF within the cohesion policy funding in each Member State. Together with the 3 billion € special allocation for the Youth Employment Initiative, this means that more than 74 billion € will be invested in Europe's people over the next 7 years;
- Allocating **at least 20% of the Fund to social inclusion** will mean that people in difficulties and those from disadvantaged groups will get more support to have the same opportunities as others to integrate into society;
- Promoting equality between women and men and **equal opportunities** for all without any discrimination will be integrated in all actions and also supported through specific initiatives;
- A greater emphasis is placed on **combating youth unemployment**. The Youth Employment Initiative will help young people not in employment, education or training in regions experiencing youth unemployment rates above 25%. At least €6 billion will come
in support of Member States' efforts to put their Youth guarantee implementation plans in practice;

- **Concentrating funding for achieving results**: the ESF will focus its interventions on a limited number of priorities in order to ensure a sufficiently high **critical mass of funding to make a real impact** in addressing Member States' key challenges;
- Greater support will be provided to **social innovation**, i.e. testing and scaling up innovative solutions to address social, employment and education needs;
- The ESF will be implemented in **close cooperation** between public authorities, social partners and bodies representing the civil society at national, regional and local levels throughout the whole programme cycle;
- The European Social Fund will be at the forefront of innovative managing rules to **simplify** implementation of projects. The Commission is helping Member States to simplify ESF implementation in order to focus more on the results and make ESF easier and safer for the beneficiaries.

### Objectives

- Promoting employment and labour mobility;
- Investing in education, skills and lifelong learning;
- Promoting social inclusion and combating poverty;
- Enhancing institutional capacity and an efficient public administration;
- Supporting the shift towards low-carbon, climate resilient and resource efficient economy;
- Enhancing the use of information and communication technologies, strengthening research;
- Technological development and innovation and enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises.

### Supported activities

**Promoting employment and supporting labour mobility:**

- Access to employment for job-seekers and inactive people, including local employment initiatives and support for labour mobility;
- Sustainable integration of young people not in employment, education or training into the labour market;
- Self-employment, entrepreneurship and business creation;
- Equality between men and women and reconciliation between work and private life;
- Adaptation of workers, enterprises and entrepreneurs to change;
- Active and healthy ageing;
- Modernisation and strengthening of labour market institutions, including actions to enhance transnational labour mobility;

**Investing in education, skills and life-long learning:**

- Reducing early school-leaving and promoting equal access to good quality early-childhood, primary and secondary education;
- Improving the quality, efficiency and openness of tertiary and equivalent education with a view to increasing participation and attainment levels;
- Enhancing access to lifelong learning, upgrading the skills and competences of the workforce and increasing the labour market relevance of education and training systems;

**Promoting social inclusion and combating poverty:**

- Active inclusion;
- Integration of marginalised communities such as the Roma;
Combating discrimination based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation;
Enhancing access to affordable, sustainable and high-quality services, including health care and social services of general interest;
Promoting the social economy and social enterprises;
Community-led local development strategies;

Enhancing institutional capacity and efficient public administration:
Investment in institutional capacity and in the efficiency of public administrations and public services with a view to reforms, better regulation and good governance; This investment priority is only applicable throughout the territory of the Member States which have at least one NUTS level 2 region or in Member States eligible for Cohesion Fund support.
Capacity building for stakeholders delivering employment, education and social policies and sectoral and territorial pacts to mobilise for reform at national, regional and local level.

Also:
Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon, climate-resilient, resource-efficient and environmentally sustainable economy, through reform of education and training systems, adaptation of skills and qualifications, up-skilling of the labour force, and the creation of new jobs in sectors related to the environment and energy;
Enhancing the accessibility, use and quality of information and communication technologies, through the development of digital literacy, investment in inclusion, e-skills and related entrepreneurial skills;
Strengthening research, technological development and innovation, through the development of post-graduate studies, the training of researchers, networking activities and partnerships between higher education institutions, research and technological centres and enterprises;
Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises, through promoting the adaptability of enterprises and workers and increased investment in human capital.

Implementation
The strategy and the budget of the fund is negotiated and decided between the EU Member States, the European Parliament and the Commission. On this basis, seven-year Operational Programmes are planned by Member States together with the European Commission. These Operational Programmes are then implemented at a national level by a managing authority. Calls for proposals and tenders are published normally at a national language.
ESF may support actions and policies falling within its scope through financial instruments, such as risk-sharing schemes, equity and debt, guarantee funds, holding funds, and loan funds.

Eligibility
A wide range of organisations, both from the public and private sector (from regional and local authorities, educational and training institutions, non-governmental institutions, trade unions, works councils, industry and professional associations to individual companies) can apply for funding.

Comments
Minimum overall share for the ESF of 25 % of the budget allocated to cohesion policy (excluding the allocation to the Connecting Europe Facility), i.e. EUR 84 billion. The indicated minimum ESF
allocation includes the budget (EUR 2.5 billion) for a forthcoming Commission proposal regarding food support for the most deprived persons.

**Youth Employment Initiative**

Period: 2014-2020  
Budget: EUR 3 211, 22 million (current prices)  
Link: Regulation on the ESF, including YEI, Communication from the EC Youth Employment Initiative

The European Council has decided to create a Youth Employment Initiative to add to and reinforce the very considerable support already provided through the EU structural funds. The Initiative will be open to all regions (NUTS level 2) with levels of youth unemployment above 25%. It will act in support of measures set out in the youth employment package proposed by the Commission in December 2012 and in particular to support the Youth Guarantee following its adoption.

**Objectives**

YEI shall target all young persons under the age of 25 not in employment, education or training, residing in eligible regions, who are inactive or unemployed including the long-term unemployed, and whether or not registered as seeking work. On a voluntary basis, Member States may decide to extend the target group to include young persons under the age of 30. For the purpose of the YEI for 2014-2015, "eligible regions" are those NUTS level 2 regions that have youth unemployment rates for young persons aged 15 to 24 of more than 25% in 2012 and for Member States where the youth unemployment rate has increased by more than 30% in 2012, NUTS level 2 regions that have youth unemployment rates of more than 20% in 2012.

**Implementation**

EUR 3 211 million will come from targeted investment from the European Social Fund in the eligible NUTS level 2 regions, proportionally to the number of unemployed youth in these regions, and EUR 3 211 million from a dedicated Youth Employment budget line under sub-heading 1b). Eligibility and number of unemployed youth will be determined on the basis of Union figures for the year 2012. For every intervention of the ESF in the eligible region, an equivalent amount will be added from the dedicated budget line.

**Cohesion Fund**

Period: 2014-2020  
Budget: € 74 928,36 million (current prices)  
Link: Proposal (pdf), Regulation

The Cohesion Fund is a structural instrument designed to support the least prosperous Member States” to help catch-up with other Member States and to stabilize their economies while supporting sustainable development (actions in the frame of the Convergence objective). It finances major projects in the fields of transport, energy and environmental protection. The Cohesion Fund contributes to interventions in the field of the environment and trans-European transport networks. It applies to Member States with a Gross National Income (GNI) of less than 90% of the Community average which means it covers the new Member States as well as Greece and Portugal. Spain will be eligible to the Cohesion Fund on a transitional basis. In the new period, the Fund will contribute alongside the ERDF to multi-annual investment programmes
managed in a decentralised way, rather than being subject to individual project approval by the Commission.

Objectives

The Cohesion Fund shall, while ensuring an appropriate balance and according to the investment and infrastructure needs specific to each Member State, support:

- Investments in the environment, including areas related to sustainable development and energy which present environmental benefits;
- Trans-European networks in the area of transport infrastructure;
- Technical assistance.

Supported activities

Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors by:

- promoting the production and distribution of renewable energy sources;
- promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy use in small and medium-sized enterprises;
- supporting energy efficiency and renewable energy use in public infrastructures;
- developing smart distribution systems at low voltage levels;
- promoting low-carbon strategies for urban areas;

Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management by:

- supporting dedicated investment for adaptation to climate change;
- promoting investment to address specific risks, ensuring disaster resilience and developing disaster management systems;

Protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency by:

- addressing the significant needs for investment in the waste sector to meet the requirements of the Union's environmental acquis;
- addressing the significant needs for investment in the water sector to meet the requirements of the Union's environmental acquis;
- protecting and restoring biodiversity, including through green infrastructures;
- improving the urban environment, including regeneration of brownfield sites and reduction of air pollution.

Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures, by:

- supporting a multi-modal Single European Transport Area by investing in the Trans-European Transport Network;
- developing environment-friendly and low-carbon transport systems including promoting sustainable urban mobility;
- developing comprehensive, high quality and interoperable railway systems;

Enhancing institutional capacity and an efficient public administration by strengthening of institutional capacity and the efficiency of public administrations and public services related to implementation of the Cohesion Fund.

Part of the Cohesion Fund allocation (€11.3 billion) will be ring-fenced to finance core transport networks under the “Connecting Europe” Facility. The Cohesion Fund can also support projects
related to energy, as long as they clearly present a benefit to the environment, for example by promoting energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy.

Implementation

The Fund is implemented at a national level by a managing authority. Calls for proposals and tenders are published in the national language and potential applicants should contact the managing authority in his/her country for more information. The size of individual allocations for each country is determined on the basis of population, total area of the country, GDP per capita and socio-economic factors related to the transport infrastructure system.

Eligibility

* Member States, whose GNI per inhabitant is less than 90% of the EU27 average in making investments in TEN-T transport networks and the environment.

Territorial Cooperation

Period: 2014-2020
Budget: € 10 228 million in current prices
Legal basis: Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on specific provisions for the support from the European Regional Development Fund to the European territorial cooperation goal
Link: Proposal (pdf), Updates in the Council conclusions Febr 2013 - not final, Regulation

European Territorial Cooperation is one of the goals of cohesion policy and provides a framework for the implementation of joint actions and policy exchanges between national, regional and local actors from different Member States. For Member States the actions are financed from the Structural Funds, mostly ERDF.

European Territorial Cooperation provides resources for cooperation activities at the external borders of the Union, to be supported under the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument and the instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance. Synergies and complementarity between programmes under the European Territorial Cooperation goal and programmes financed under external instruments shall be promoted.

Objectives

- Transboundary problems can most effectively be solved with the cooperation of all regions concerned to avoid disproportionate costs for some, and free-riding by others (e.g. cross-border environmental pollution).
- Cooperation can provide an effective mechanism for sharing good practice and learning to spread know-how (e.g. enhancing competitiveness).
- Cooperation can ensure that a solution to a specific problem becomes more effective due to economies of scale and the achievement of a critical mass establishment of clusters to foster research and innovation).
- Governance can improve as a result of coordination of the sector policies, actions and investments on a cross-border and transnational scale.
- Relations with EU neighbours through cooperation programmes on the EU’s external borders can contribute to safety and stability, and mutually beneficial relationships.
- In some contexts such as sea basins and coastal regions, cooperation and transnational action are indispensable to support growth, employment and ecosystem-based management
Supported activities

Cross-border cooperation between adjacent regions to promote integrated regional development between neighbouring land and maritime border regions from two or more Member States or between neighbouring border regions from at least one Member State and one third country on external borders of the Union other than those covered by programmes under the external financial instruments of the Union;

Transnational cooperation over larger transnational territories, involving national, regional and local authorities and also covering maritime cross-border cooperation in cases not covered by cross-border cooperation, with a view to achieving a higher degree of territorial integration of those territories, thus contributing to territorial cohesion across the Union;

Interregional cooperation to reinforce the effectiveness of cohesion policy by promoting:

- exchange of experience on thematic objectives among partners throughout the Union on the identification and dissemination of good practice with a view to its transfer to operational programmes under the Investment for growth and jobs goal;
- exchange of experience concerning the identification, transfer and dissemination of good practice on sustainable urban and rural development;
- exchange of experience concerning the identification, transfer and dissemination of good practice and innovative approaches in relation to actions concerning territorial cooperation and to the use of EGTCs;
- analysis of development trends in relation to the aims of territorial cohesion and harmonious development of the European territory through studies, data collection and other measures.

Implementation

The implementation modalities have been streamlined for cooperation programmes. The number of authorities involved in programme implementation has been reduced and roles and responsibilities further clarified. Content requirements for cooperation programmes and implementation reports have been made more precise in order to reduce administrative burden for programme authorities. Common indicators have been defined to better capture the outputs of and increase the overall orientation on results.

Eligibility

For cross-border cooperation, the regions to be supported shall be the NUTS level 3 regions of the Union along all internal and external land borders other than those covered by programmes under the external financial instruments of the Union, and all NUTS level 3 regions of the Union along maritime borders separated by a maximum of 150 km. Cross-border cooperation programmes may cover regions from Norway, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Andorra, Monaco and San Marino and third countries or territories neighbouring outermost regions. For transnational cooperation, the Commission shall adopt the list of transnational areas to receive support, broken down by cooperation programme and covering NUTS level 2 regions. Transnational cooperation programmes may also cover regions from third countries covered by the external financial instruments of the Union (ENI, IPA) and the Faroe Islands and Greenland. For interregional cooperation, support from the ERDF shall cover the entire territory of the Union.

Operations under cooperation programmes shall be located in the part of the programme area comprising Union territory (the 'Union part of the programme area').

The managing authority may accept that all or part of an operation is implemented outside the Union part of the programme area, provided that all the following conditions are satisfied:

- the operation is for the benefit of the programme area;
the total amount allocated under the cooperation programme to operations located outside the Union part programme area does not exceed 20 % of the support from the ERDF at programme level, or 30 % in the case of cooperation programmes for which the Union part of the programme consists of outermost regions;

- the obligations of the managing and audit authorities in relation to management, control and audit concerning the operation are fulfilled by the cooperation programme authorities or they enter into agreements with authorities in the Member State or third country or territory in which the operation is implemented provided that the obligations in relation to management, control and audit concerning the operation are fulfilled.

For operations concerning promotional activities and capacity-building, expenditure may be incurred outside the Union part of the programme area provided that the conditions are fulfilled.

Support from the ERDF to each cross-border and sea-basin programme under ENI and IPA shall be granted provided that at least equivalent amounts are provided by ENI and IPA.

For cooperation programmes, the intermediate body to carry out the management and implementation of an Integrated territorial investment referred to in Article 99(3) of Regulation (EU) No./2012 [CPR] shall be an EGTC (European grouping of territorial cooperation) or other legal body established under the laws of one of the participating countries provided that it is set up by public authorities from at least two participating countries.

Comments

Cross-border cooperation EUR 6 627 million;
Transnational cooperation EUR 1 822 million;
Interregional cooperation EUR 500 million.

Connecting Europe Facility

Period: 2014-2020
Budget: € 21 936,76 in current prices
Legal basis: Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL establishing the Connecting Europe Facility
Link: Proposal (pdf), Updates in the Council conclusions Febr 2013 - not final, Website

The Connecting Europe Facility shall enable the preparation and implementation of projects of Common interest within the framework of the trans-European networks (TEN) policy in the sectors of energy, transport and telecommunications. In particular the Connecting Europe Facility shall support the implementation of projects aiming at the development and construction of new or upgrading of existing infrastructure in the field of transport, energy and telecommunications.

Objectives

- Contribute to smart, sustainable and inclusive growth by developing modern and high performing trans-European networks, thus bringing forward benefits for the entire European Union in terms of competitiveness and economic, social and territorial cohesion within the Single Market and creating an environment more conducive to private and public investment through a combination of financial instruments and Union direct support and by exploiting synergies across the sectors. The achievement of this objective will be measured by the volume of public and private investment in projects of common interest, and in particular the volume of public and private investments in projects of common interest realised through the financial instruments under this Regulation.

- Enable the Union to achieve its targets of a 20% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, a 20% increase in energy efficiency and raising the share of renewable energy to 20% up to 2020, while ensuring greater solidarity among Member States.
**Supported activities**

**Transport**

- Removing bottlenecks and bridging missing links, to be measured by the number of new and improved cross-border connections and removed bottlenecks on transport routes which have benefited from CEF;
- Ensuring sustainable and efficient transport in the long run, to be measured by the length of the conventional railway network in the EU-27 and the length of highspeed railway network in the EU-27;
- Optimising the integration and interconnection of transport modes and enhancing interoperability of transport services. The achievement of this objective will be measured by the number of ports and airports connected to the railway network.

**Energy**

- Promoting the further integration of the internal energy market and the interoperability of electricity and gas networks across borders, including by ensuring that no Member State is isolated from the European network, to be measured by the number of projects effectively interconnecting Member states’ networks and removing internal bottlenecks;
- Enhancing Union security of supply, to be measured by the evolution of system resilience and security of system operations as well as number of projects allowing diversification of supply sources, supplying counterparts and routes;
- Contributing to sustainable development and protection of the environment, notably by fostering the integration of energy from renewable sources into the transmission network and developing carbon dioxide networks, to be measured by the transmission of renewable energy from generation to major consumption centers and storage sites, and the sum of CO2 emissions prevented by the construction of the projects which benefited from CEF.

**Telecommunications networks**

- Accelerating the deployment of fast and ultrafast broadband networks and their uptake, including by small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs), to be measured by the level of broadband and ultrafast broadband coverage and the number of households having subscribed for broadband connections for above 100 Mbps;
- Promoting the interconnection and interoperability of national public services online as well as access to such networks, to be measured by the percentage of citizens and businesses using public services on-line and the availability of such services across borders.

**Implementation**

The Commission shall adopt multiannual and annual work programmes for each sector. Work Programmes shall establish the forms of grants that may be used to fund the actions concerned. Proposals may be submitted by one or several Member States, international organisations, joint undertakings, or public or private undertakings or bodies established in Member States. Funding rates vary according to the area and project type.

Financial support will be distributed mainly through public procurement procedures carried out by the Commission or one of the bodies on its own behalf or jointly with Member States:

- May provide for specific conditions such as the place of performance of the procured activities, where duly justified by the objectives of the actions and provided such conditions do not infringe public procurement principles;
- May authorise multiple award of contracts within the same procedure (“multiple sourcing”)
Where duly justified and required by the implementation of the actions, apply to procurement procedures carried out by beneficiaries of grants. The programme will also use financial instruments, such as equity instruments, loans and/or guarantee facilities or other. Actions in third countries may be supported by the financial instruments if it is necessary for the implementation of a project of common interest.

Eligibility

- One or several Member States, international organisations, joint undertakings, or public or private undertakings or bodies established in Member States.
- Entities which do not have legal personality under the applicable national law, provided that their representatives have the capacity to undertake legal obligations on their behalf and offer guarantee for the protection of the Union's financial interests equivalent to that offered by legal persons.
- Where it is needed to achieve the objectives of a given project of common interest, third countries and entities established in third countries may participate in actions contributing to the projects of common interest. They may not receive funding under this Regulation, except where it is indispensable to achieve the objectives of a given project of common interest.
- The agreement of Member States concerned by the action shall accompany all proposals for grants except in the field of telecommunications and in the field of transport for air traffic management.
- Multiannual and annual Work Programmes may provide additional provide specific rules on submissions of proposals.

Comments

Transport: EUR 14 945 million, out of which EUR 11.3 billion shall be transferred from the Cohesion Fund to be spent in line with this Regulation in Member States eligible for funding from the Cohesion Fund;  
Energy: EUR 5 850 million;  
Telecommunications: EUR 1 141 million.

Joint Technology Initiatives *

Link: http://ec.europa.eu/research/jti/index_en.cfm

Joint Technology Initiatives (JTIs) are means to implement the Strategic Research Agendas (SRAs) of a limited number of European Technology Platforms (ETPs). In these few ETPs, the scale and scope of the objectives is such that loose co-ordination through ETPs and support through the regular instruments of the Framework Programme for Research and Development are not sufficient. Instead, effective implementation requires a dedicated mechanism that enables the necessary leadership and coordination to achieve the research objectives. To meet the needs of this small number of ETPs, the concept of "Joint Technology Initiatives" has been developed. The operational and support expenditure for each of the JTIs and SESAR in 2014 (in commitment and payment appropriations) are proposed to be funded by redeployment from the major operational budget lines of the Horizon 2020 programmes concerned, which serve the same policy objectives. Overall, the redeployment of commitment and payment appropriations within Horizon 2020 to allow the functioning of the five JTIs and SESAR amounts to EUR 609.2 million in commitment appropriations and EUR 76.9 million in payment appropriations. The financial envelopes for the JTIs and SESAR indicated above consist primarily of operational appropriations to realise their policy objectives, as well as of a contribution to their running costs, which are financed on a 50/50 basis with industry and other partners in the joint undertaking. The overall amount of operational expenditure to be managed by the JTIs and SESAR is foreseen to increase substantially over the new MFF period.
The Horizon 2020 Regulation sets out a number of criteria which must be met when selecting areas for public-private partnerships. The legislation also foresees a single set of rules that will apply to all parts of Horizon 2020, including the JTIs, unless there is a well justified need for a specific derogation.

Building on the experience gained with Joint Technology Initiatives (JTIs) during the current 7th Research Framework Programme (FP7), and the clear commitments from the industry partners, JTIs under Horizon 2020 will benefit from a legal framework that is better suited to strong industrial involvement and major simplification achieved by making full use of the new provisions in the Financial Regulation, which includes dedicated provisions on public-private partnerships, e.g. explicit recognition of JTIs as public-private partnership bodies with the possibility to adopt their own ‘light’ Financial Regulation adapted to their specific needs.

The proposed JTIs build on a successful track record under FP7. Four of these represent the next stage for JTIs established under FP7 (including the electronics systems and components JTI that merges the existing ARTEMIS and ENIAC JTIs). The Bio-based Industries JTI has been identified as a new initiative following the European bioeconomy strategy. Each JTI proposed has clearly defined objectives to achieve breakthroughs in the following areas:

- Innovative Medicines: to improve European citizens’ health and wellbeing by providing new and more effective diagnostics and treatments such as new antimicrobial treatments;
- Fuel Cells and Hydrogen: to develop commercially viable, clean, solutions that use hydrogen as an energy carrier and of fuel cells as energy converters;
- Clean Sky: to radically reduce the environmental impact of the next generation of aircraft;
- Bio-based Industries: to develop new and competitive bio-based value chains that replace the need for fossil fuels and have a strong impact on rural development;
- Electronic Components and Systems: to keep Europe at the forefront of electronic components and systems and bridge faster the gap to exploitation.

These five JTIs are expected to mobilise a total investment of over EUR 17 billion, of which the EU budget contribution will be up to.

Access individual JTI pages:

- Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI)
- Aeronautics and Air Transport (Clean Sky)
- Fuel Cells and Hydrogen (FCH)
- Embedded Computing Systems (ARTEMIS)
- Nanoelectronics Technologies 2020 (ENIAC)

NEW JTI:
The Joint Technology Initiative (JTI) will contribute to the development of a strong and globally competitive electronics components and systems industry in the Union. It will focus on high Technology Readiness Levels (TRL), i.e. manufacturing and market-segments demonstrations. It will encompass micro-/nanoelectronics (ENIAC ETP), smart integrated systems (EPoSS ETP) and embedded systems (ARTEMIS ETP).

It aims to:

- keep Europe at the forefront of technology development, bridging the gap between research and exploitation, strengthening innovation capabilities and creating economic and employment growth in the Union;
- align strategies with Member States to attract private investment and contribute to sound public finances by avoiding unnecessary duplication and fragmentation of efforts;
- maintain and grow electronics manufacturing capability in Europe and secure a commanding position in design and systems engineering;
- provide access for all stakeholders to a world-class infrastructure;
- build a dynamic ecosystem involving innovative SMEs, strengthening existing clusters and nurturing the creation of new clusters in promising new areas.
The JTI will combine the ENIAC and ARTEMIS Joint Undertakings into the new ECSEL Joint Undertaking and simplify the modus operandi based on the past experience.

Priority:

**JTI on electronic components and systems (nanoelectronics, smart systems & embedded systems).**
Negotiate the Council Regulation on the ECSEL Joint Undertaking, set up and participate in the governance of the ECSEL Joint Undertaking.
Coordinate with key decision-makers (European Technology Platforms, Member States, regions, industry associations and R&D&I actors in the field).

**Objectives**

JTIs support co-operative research across Europe in fields of key importance for industrial research, where there are clearly identified common technological and economic objectives. The idea is to boost European investment by providing a clear framework for research investment, which encourages both industry and Member States to increase their spending.

They contribute considerably to raising European, national and regional as well as private R&D investment in the technological fields concerned and to improving the impact of this investment through concentrating efforts and resources and avoiding fragmentation.

Europe stands to gain massively from a focused approach to research which complements and integrates national research efforts, and leads to economies of scale and efficiency gains. Streamlining management overheads and reducing red tape would lead to shorter times to contract and project. This is attractive for companies that face ever-shrinking times to market and windows of opportunity.

**Implementation**

A JTI implements a common Strategic Research Agenda. This details the research and development challenges that need to be addressed. Each JTI defines a detailed Work Programme and directly manages all aspects of the implementation of the JTI programme, including organising calls for proposals and tender, proposal evaluation, project selection, negotiation and signature of research grant agreements, project follow-up and reporting, all respecting the Framework Programme's principles of transparency, competition and excellence.

In addition, it deals with general aspects such as research infrastructure, education, support for SMEs and international collaboration.

**Eligibility**

Besides EU Member States, organisations in countries associated to Horizon 2020 are eligible for funding. Applications from organisations based in third countries are assessed on a case-by-case basis.

All calls for proposals organised by the JTI JUs are open and competitive. The proposals to be funded are selected on the basis of the over-riding criterion of scientific excellence.

**Comments**

*These initiatives are not financed fully from the EU's budget.


**Joint Programming Initiatives**
The overall aim of the Joint Programming process is to pool national research efforts in order to make better use of Europe's precious public R&D resources and to tackle common European challenges more effectively in a few key areas.

**Objectives**

It is a structured and strategic process whereby Member States agree, on a voluntary basis and in a partnership approach, on common visions and Strategic Research Agendas (SRA) to address major societal challenges. On a variable geometry basis, Member States commit to Joint Programming Initiatives (JPIs) where they implement together joint Strategic Research Agendas.

The following Joint Programming Initiatives (JPIs) have been launched to date (please see News for more details):

- Alzheimer and other Neurodegenerative Diseases (JPND)
- Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change (FACCE)
- A Healthy Diet for a Healthy Life
- Cultural Heritage and Global Change: A New Challenge for Europe
- Urban Europe - Global Urban Challenges, Joint European Solutions
- Connecting Climate Knowledge for Europe (CliK'EU)
- More Years, Better Lives - The Potential and Challenges of Demographic Change
- Antimicrobial Resistance - The Microbial Challenge - An Emerging Threat to Human Health
- Water Challenges for a Changing World
- Healthy and Productive Seas and Oceans

**Implementation**

At the end of 2010, the GPC produced a report on the first two years of the Joint Programming process and adopted Guidelines on for Framework Conditions on Joint Programming (http://ec.europa.eu/research/era/docs/en/voluntary_guidelines.pdf). The Guidelines should facilitate the implementation of JPIs by providing advice on administrative, normative and regulatory factors considered essential for the effective implementation of Joint Programming in Research such as:

- Peer Review Procedures
- Foresight Activities
- Evaluation of Joint Programmes
- Funding of Cross-border Research by National or Regional Authorities
- Optimum Dissemination and Use of Research Findings

Based on the result of the GPC, the Council, upon a proposal by the Commission, recommends a limited number of areas in which to implement Joint Programming in priority. From there on, participation of Member States in each initiative is "à la carte", based on voluntary commitments leading to partnerships composed of variable groups of countries. For each initiative, participating countries will start with:

- Developing a shared vision for the area;
- Defining a Strategic Research Agenda (SRA) and SMART objectives (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-Bound); and
- Preparing for implementation of the SRA by analysing the options, assessing expected impacts and defining the best mix of instruments to be used.
The Commission facilitates the Joint Programming process and, if they so wish, support Member States for Joint Programming by:

- Financing support actions to their management
- Launching possible complementary measures to actions undertaken jointly by participating countries as identified in each JPI Strategic Research Agenda
- Linking the JPIs to international actions and bodies where the Commission represents the EU
- Reporting on the JPI progress to the Council and informing the European Parliament.

Comments
* These initiatives are not financed fully from the EU's budget.

ERA-NET *

The ERA-NET under Horizon 2020 merges the former ERA-NET and ERA-NET Plus into a single instrument with the central and compulsory element of implementing one substantial call with top-up funding from the Commission. The focus of ERA-NETs is therefore shifting from the funding of networks to the top-up funding of single joint calls for transnational research and innovation in selected areas with high European added value and relevance for Horizon 2020. This aims at increasing substantially the share of funding that Member States dedicate jointly to challenge driven research and innovation agendas. Financial contributions of Member States can be in cash or in kind in order to broaden the scope of ERA-NETs towards the coordination institutional funding of governmental research organisations.

ERA-NETs under Horizon 2020 will be implemented by using a specific, new type of action: **ERA-NET Cofund**. There are a number of important changes compared to FP7.

Objectives

Objectives for the ERA-NET instrument under **Horizon 2020**

- Concentrate resources on areas with high impact and relevance and reduce unnecessary duplication by significantly increasing the overall volume of publicly funded transnational research and innovation efforts (competitive and institutional funding) implemented in a coordinated way.
- Produce substantial leverage effect of EU funding on national/regional public funding and private resources.
- Ensure significant level of financial commitments to the joint calls and actions.
- Establish an effective process to identify and select topics for intervention and establish flexible governance that allows effective steering and monitoring of the entire process.
- Strengthen participation of all Member States to support them in linking their research and innovation capacities towards cross border cooperation.
- Ensure high and common standards for proposal evaluation and selection for the calls launched by ERA-NETs and support harmonisation of funding rules and implementation modalities for the selected projects.
- Optimise the management and limit administrative costs for the implementation at EU level while simplifying participation of national/regional research funders.

Implementation

ERA-NET Cofund under Horizon 2020 is designed to support public-public partnerships, including joint programming initiatives between Member States, in their preparation, establishment of networking structures, design, implementation and coordination of joint activities as well as Union topping-up of a trans-national call for proposals. It allows for programme collaboration in any part of the entire research innovation cycle. The main and compulsory activity of the ERA-NET Cofund
under Horizon 2020 is the implementation of the co-funded joint call for proposals that leads to the funding of trans-national research and/or innovation projects. The call is normally based on a call for proposals resulting in grants to third parties. In addition to the co-funded call the consortia may implement other joint activities including other joint calls without Union co-funding. ERA-NET Cofund may also, depending on the research area and the underlying national programmes and their governing principles, target governmental research organisations. The co-funded call for proposals will in these cases be based on in-kind contributions from their institutional funding and the beneficiaries carry out the transnational projects resulting from their call for proposals fully or partially themselves. The in-kind contributions are the resources allocated as direct expenditure in the selected trans-national projects that are not reimbursed by the Union contribution. The participation of programme managers including governmental research organisations has to be mandated by the national/regional authorities in charge (normally the responsible Ministry). The minimum conditions for participation have to be fulfilled by the entities participating in the joint trans-national call for proposals. Only in addition to the minimum conditions, and if justified by the nature of the action, programmes funded by other entities (international programmes, foundations or other non-public programmes) may participate.

Relevant for all 3 priorities of Horizon 2020 (Excellent science, Industrial leadership, Societal challenges).

- It may be used to support JPIs if the area fits with the priorities of Horizon 2020, and the case-by-case assessment on EU value-added justifies a possible EU financial contribution.
- May include an objective to harmonise rules and implementation modalities of joint calls and actions.
- May be used in particular to prepare Art.185 initiatives.
- Implemented based on grants by using programme co-fund actions.
- Horizon 2020 rules for participation do not apply to the calls launched by ERA-NETs. H2020 rules will apply to Co-fund projects available in H2020 calls.
- Possibility for Framework Partnerships Agreements and grants to named beneficiaries (instead of open calls).
- Possible combination with other EU funding sources (cohesion funds).

ERA-NET Actions:

1. **AERTOs** (Associated European Research and Technology Organisations)
   Project Ref: 219340
2. **AIRTN2** (Air Transport Net as one of the Key Enablers for the Prosperous Development of Aeronautics in Europe)
   Project Ref: 235476
3. **ARIMNET** (Coordination of Agricultural Research in the Mediterranean)
   Project Ref: 219262
4. **ASPERA** (Deepening and Broadening of Astroparticle Physics European Coordination)
   Project Ref: 235489
5. **EMIDA** (Coordination of European Research on Emerging and Major Infectious Diseases of Livestock)
   Project Ref: 219235
6. **ENR2** (ERA-NET Road II)
   Project Ref: 235474
7. **ENT II** (ERA-NET Transport II)
   Project Ref: 219169
8. **ERA-AGE 2** (European Research Area on Ageing 2)
   Project Ref: 235489
9. **ERACOBUILD** (Strategic Networking of RDI Programmes in Construction and Operation of Buildings)
   Project Ref: 219395
10. ERA-ENVHEALTH (Coordination of National Environment and Health Research Programmes – Environment and Health ERA-NET)  
   Project Ref: 219337
11. ERA-IB-2 (ERA-Net for Industrial Biotechnology 2)  
   Project Ref: 291814
12. ERNEST (European Research Network on Sustainable Tourism)  
   Project Ref: 219438
13. ETB-PRO (European Programme for Transnational R&D&I Cooperations of Biotech SMEs)  
   Project Ref: 235368
14. EUROCURSE (Europe Against Cancer: Optimisation of the Use of Registries for Scientific Excellence in Research)  
   Project Ref: 219453
15. EuroNanoMed (European Network of Transnational Collaborative RTD Projects in the Field of Nanomedicine)  
   Project Ref: 234811
16. ICT-AGRI (Coordination of European Research within ICT and Robotics in Agriculture and related Environmental Issues)  
   Project Ref: 235460
17. LEAD ERA (Lead Market European Research Area Network)  
   Project Ref: 235527
18. MNT-ERA.NET II (Micro and Nano Technologies for a Highly Competitive European Industry)  
   Project Ref: 234989
19. NET-HERITAGE (European Network on Research Programme Applied to the Protection of Tangible Cultural Heritage)  
   Project Ref: 219301
20. RURAGRI (Facing Sustainability: New Relationships between Rural Areas and Agriculture in Europe)  
   Project Ref: 235175
21. SmartGrids (SmartGrids – ERA-NET)  
   Project Ref: 219343
22. WoodWisdom-Net 2 (Networking and Integration of National Programmes in the Area of Wood Material Science and Engineering in the Forest-Based Value Chains)  
   Project Ref: 235066

ERA-NET PLUS ACTIONS

1. BONUS+ (Multilateral Call for Research Projects within the Joint Baltic Sea Research Programme)  
   Project Ref: 217246
2. ERASysBio+ (The Consolidation of Systems Biology Research – Stimulating the Widespread Adoption of Systems Approaches in Biomedicine, Biotechnology, and Agri-food)  
   Project Ref: 235447
3. HERA JRP (Humanities in the European Research Area – Joint Research Programme)  
   Project Ref: 235336
4. iMERA-Plus (Implementing Metrology in the European Research Area Plus)  
   Project Ref: 217257
   Project Ref: 219433
6. NORFACE Plus (NORFACE Transnational Programme on Migration in Europe)  
   Project Ref: 235548
7. MATERA+ (ERA-NET Plus on Materials Research)  
   Project Ref: 235303
SPECIFIC SUPPORT ACTIONS

1. **ERA-LEARN** (Supporting the ERA-NET Learning Platform by Creating a Toolbox for the ERA-NET community)
   Project Ref: 235063

2. **NETWATCH** (Development of a Central Information Platform for ERA-NETs under ERAWATH)
   Project Ref: 219177

3. **NORDERA** (Lessons Learnt from Nordic Research Coordination in the Context of the ERA)
   Project Ref: 234854

**Eligibility**

All EU Member States highly involved in the ERA-NET scheme

- More than 190 calls, resulting in more than 2000 transnational projects
- Annual volume of coordinated research close to €300 Million, with a total of €1,4 Billion
- Substantial leverage effects on research coordination

(on average 5, many >10, some 25)

- Virtual common pot and mixed mode preferred funding modes for transnational programme collaboration
- ERA-NET Plus supporting critical mass, common evaluation standards and financial integration, lack of networking
- Positive impact on ERA, national programmes and their collaboration
- But: limited success in creating multiannual joint programmes with critical mass


**Comments**

Funding rate:
The Union contribution will be limited to a maximum of 33% of the total eligible costs of the action. The Union contribution to the costs for support to or implementation of trans-national projects is limited to one call per grant agreement and unit costs for coordination is fixed to EURO 29000 per year per beneficiary. Indirect costs for the coordination costs must be declared on the basis of the flat rate. The Union contribution to coordination costs should not exceed 20% of the total Union contribution to the action. The total duration of the action should normally not exceed 5 years.

**European Innovation Partnerships * **


The Innovation Union contains over thirty action points including ground-breaking initiatives like the European Innovation Partnerships. European Innovation Partnerships (EIPs) are a new approach to EU research and innovation. EIPs are challenge-driven, focusing on societal benefits and a rapid modernisation of the associated sectors and markets.

EIPs act across the whole research and innovation chain, bringing together all relevant actors at EU, national and regional levels in order to:

- step up research and development efforts;
- coordinate investments in demonstration and pilots;
- anticipate and fast-track any necessary regulation and standards; and
- mobilise ‘demand’

in particular through better coordinated public procurement to ensure that any breakthroughs are quickly brought to market. Rather than taking the above steps independently, as is currently the case, the aim of the EIPs is to design and implement them in parallel to cut lead times.

The establishment of European Innovation Partnerships (EIPs) in different sectors represents a new approach under the Europe 2020 Strategy to advance EU research and innovation. EIPs are challenge-driven, focusing on societal benefits and rapid modernisation. EIPs should provide favourable conditions for research and innovation partners to co-operate and achieve better and faster results compared to existing approaches.

The agricultural European Innovation Partnership (EIP-AGRI), which was launched by a communication in February 2012, aims to foster a competitive and sustainable agriculture and forestry sector. The agricultural European Innovation Partnership (EIP-AGRI) works to foster competitive and sustainable farming and forestry that ‘achieves more and better from less’. It contributes to ensuring a steady supply of food, feed and biomaterials, developing its work in harmony with the essential natural resources on which farming depends.

Objectives

EIPs streamline, simplify and better coordinate existing instruments and initiatives and complement them with new actions where necessary. This should make it easier for partners to co-operate and achieve better and faster results compared to what exists already. Therefore, they build upon relevant existing tools and actions and, where this makes sense, they integrate them into a single coherent policy framework. Flexibility is important; there is not a ‘one-size-fits-all’ framework.

Existing European Innovation Partnerships:

EIPs are launched only in areas, and consist only of activities, in which government intervention is clearly justified and where combining EU, national and regional efforts in R&D and demand-side measures will achieve the target quicker and more efficiently. The pilot European Innovation Partnership was on Active and Healthy Ageing. Currently there are five EIPs.

- Active and Healthy Ageing
- Agricultural Sustainability and Productivity
- Smart Cities and Communities
- Water
- Raw Materials

The European Innovation Partnerships are NOT a new instrument (nor an instrument in the sense of a programme), or yet another layer coming on top of what already exists. On the contrary, the aim is to simplify, looking at ways to optimise and streamline the use of existing instruments and synergies between them, and to fill the gaps.

For the EU level, the partnerships should, in particular, examine how the different instruments such as Joint Technology Initiatives (JTIs), the Article 185 Joint Programmes, European Technology Platforms (ETPs), Joint Programming Initiatives (JPIs), the European Institute for Innovation and Technology (EIT) and the Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs), and Lead Markets Initiatives (LMI) can contribute to reaching the stated objective and to overcome the bottlenecks to achieving it.

(pg. 9: Innovation Union: Frequently Asked Questions regarding European Innovation Partnerships under Europe 2020)

The role of EIPs in implementing Horizon2020 is to increase the impact of actions funded under Horizon 2020 by linking them to a broader strategy. The EIPs will provide systematic input on a continuous basis during the implementation of Horizon 2020. They will deliver important contributions to the definition of priorities in the annual Work Programmes of Horizon 2020,
through the Strategic Implementation Plans and also through experience gained during the implementation of different actions under the EIPs.

Specific Horizon 2020 priorities, notably among the Societal Challenges, will support, interface and establish links with the actions and activities developed in the context of the EIPs. The implementation of Horizon 2020 will seek to contribute to achieving the aims of the specific EIPs by providing key knowledge, ensuring dialogue, and supporting the follow-up on proposed priorities.

Implementation

1. European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing

   The European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing (the Partnership) gathers stakeholders from the public and private sectors, across different policy areas. Together they work on shared interests, activities and projects to promote successful social, process, technological and organisational innovation. The Partnership’s main goal is to obtain commitment and investment from stakeholders – public and private, EU, national and local – who have jointly agreed on three priority areas for action: Care and Cure; Prevention, Screening and Early Diagnosis and Active Ageing and Independent Living.

   You can find out more about the Partnership on the Innovation Union website.

2. European Innovation Partnership on Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability
   Link: [http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/eip/index_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/eip/index_en.htm)

   The agricultural European Innovation Partnership (EIP-AGRI), which was launched by a communication in February 2012, aims to foster a competitive and sustainable agriculture and forestry sector that "achieves more from less". It will contribute to ensuring a steady supply of food, feed and biomaterials, both existing and new ones, sustainable management of the essential natural resources on which farming depends, and working in harmony with the environment. For achieving this aim, the EIP-Agri needs to build bridges between research and practice (farmers, businesses, advisory services, NGOs, etc).

   The innovation model under the EIP-AGRI goes beyond speeding up the transfer from laboratory to practice (referred to as the "linear innovation model"). The EIP-AGRI adheres to the "interactive innovation model" which focuses on forming partnerships - using bottom-up approaches and linking farmers, advisors, researchers, businesses, and other actors in Operational Groups. This will generate new insights and ideas and mould existing tacit knowledge into focused solutions that are quicker put into practice. Such an approach will stimulate innovation from all sides and will help to target the research agenda. Innovation under the EIP-AGRI may be technological, non-technological, organisational or social, and based on new or traditional practices.

   Operational Groups will bring together farmers, researchers, advisors, businesses, NGOs and other actors to implement innovative projects pursuing the objectives of the EIP-AGRI.

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Operational Groups will bring together farmers, researchers, advisors, businesses, NGOs and other actors to implement innovative projects pursuing the objectives of the EIP-AGRI. As a key instrument of the EIP, a Brussels-based network facility will work as an intermediary enhancing communication between science and practice and fostering cooperation. This “EIP Service Point” will encourage the establishment of Operational Groups and support their work through focus groups, seminars and workshops, the establishment of data bases (on relevant research results and good practice examples), support for partnering, and help desk functions.

A particularly important action format of the EIP Network is the so-called Focus Group which is established to share knowledge and practical experience from concrete innovative projects. Focus Groups will in particular build upon the outcome of Operational Groups. You can learn more about the Innovation Partnership on the EIP-AGRI website.

3. European Innovation Partnership on Smart Cities and Communities
Link: http://ec.europa.eu/energy/technology/initiatives/smart_cities_en.htm
Source: COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION SMART CITIES AND COMMUNITIES - EUROPEAN INNOVATION PARTNERSHIP:

The Smart Cities and Communities European Innovation Partnership was launched on 10 July 2012, by European Commission. The Smart Cities and Communities EIP (SCC) is a partnership across the areas of energy, transport and information and communication with the objective to catalyse progress in areas where energy production, distribution and use; mobility and transport; and information and communication technologies (ICT) are intimately linked and offer new interdisciplinary opportunities to improve services while reducing energy and resource consumption and greenhouse gas (GHG) and other polluting emissions.

SCC focuses on industry led innovation as a key driver to achieve economic and social change in urban areas and promotes actions across the innovation cycle and across different sectors. It will support existing and future EU initiatives for urban areas in the field of environment (i.e. resource efficiency, water, waste, pollution, green infrastructures) and climate policies.

You can learn more about the Innovation Partnership on the SCC website.

4. European Innovation Partnership on Water
Link: http://www.eip-water.eu/about
The European Innovation Partnership on Water - EIP Water - is an initiative within the EU 2020 Innovation Union. The EIP Water facilitates the development of innovative solutions to address major European and global water challenges. At the same time, the EIP Water supports the creation of market opportunities for these innovations, both inside and outside of Europe.

The EIP Water aims to remove barriers by advancing and leveraging existing solutions. Its implementation has started in May 2013 with the main objective to initiate and promote collaborative processes for change and innovation in the water sector across the public and private sector, non-governmental organisations and the general public. This is mainly done via the establishment of Action and other Working Groups.

Eight priority areas have been chosen for the EIP Water. They centre on challenges and opportunities in the water sector, and on innovation driven actions that will deliver the highest impact. Five thematic priorities have been selected:

- Water reuse and recycling
- Water and wastewater treatment, including recovery of resources
- Water-energy nexus
- Flood and drought risk management
- Ecosystem services
In addition, selected cross cutting priorities are:

- Water governance
- Decision support systems and monitoring
- Financing for innovation

Smart technology has been defined as an enabling factor for all priorities. You can learn more about the European Innovation Partnership on Water on the EIP Water website.

5. European Innovation Partnership on Raw Materials

The EIP on Raw Materials will bring together EU Member States and other stakeholders (companies, NGOs, researchers, etc.) to promote innovation along the entire value chain of raw materials. This includes:

- **Exploration**: to promote coordination and integration among the EU's Geological Surveys.
- **Extraction**: to extract more deeply, in remoter areas and under harsher conditions, and to ensure Europe retains the skills needed to do so.
- **Processing**: to develop new technologies for efficient water management, energy consumption and recycling.
- **Recycling**: to introduce new cost-effective and environmentally-sound recycling techniques and best practices regarding the collection and treatment of waste.
- **Substitution**: to find alternative materials for certain applications, or to replace those applications with an alternative technology not dependent on key raw materials.

The Partnership will target non-energy, non-agricultural raw materials. Many of these are vital inputs for innovative technologies that offer environmentally-friendly, clean-technology applications. They are also essential for the manufacture of crucial alloys and new and innovative products required by our modern society, such as batteries for electric cars, photovoltaic systems and devices for wind turbines.

You can learn more about the European Innovation Partnership on Raw Materials on the website of DG Enterprise and Industry.

**Eligibility**

In order to be successful, the European Innovation Partnership (EIP) needs to involve a very large number of partners across the European Union. The Call for Commitment and the rules of participation are available on the EIPs website.

* These initiatives are not financed fully from the EU's budget.

**Article 185 Initiatives**

Article 185 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) [ex Article 169 of the Treaty establishing the European Community (TEC)] enables the EU to participate in research programmes undertaken jointly by several Member States, including participation in the structures created for the execution of national programmes.

On 10 July 2013 the Commission adopted the Innovation Investment Package which, besides proposals for Art. 187 initiatives (PPPs), also consisted of four proposals for Art.185 initiatives (P2Ps). The budget in the Commission Proposal of these four Public-to-Public Partnerships amounts to a total public budget of almost 3,5 billion € (Horizon 2020 and participating states
funds combined). Currently, the ordinary legislative procedure (with Council and European Parliament) is ongoing.

These four Art. 185 initiatives are the successor initiatives to the currently existing Art. 185 initiatives under FP 6 and FP 7:

- **European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP 2)** (188 KB)
- **Eurostars-2** (187 KB)
- **Active and Assisted Living (AAL)** (202 KB)
- **European Metrology Programme for Innovation and Research (EMPIR)**

**Objectives**

The actions supported may cover subjects not directly linked to the ten themes of the FP7/H2020 'Cooperation' Specific Programme, in as far as they have a sufficient EU added value. They will also be used to enhance the complementarity and synergy between FP7/H2020 and activities carried out under intergovernmental structures such as EUREKA and COST.

**Implementation**

Article 185 TFEU (ex Article 169 TEC) states that:

"In implementing the multiannual framework programme, the Union may make provision, in agreement with the Member States concerned, for participation in research and development programmes undertaken by several Member States, including participation in the structures created for the execution of those programmes."

In practical terms, Article 185 TFEU foresees the participation of the EU in the joint implementation of (parts of) research and development national programmes.

**Eligibility**

*These initiatives are not financed fully from the EU's budget.

**Comments**

*Article 185 in Horizon 2020*

The Commission Communication “Partnering in Research and Innovation” which was adopted on 21st September 2011 recalls that the commitment of the participating countries to the three levels of integration (scientific, management and financial) are the essential pre-conditions for future proposals for an Art. 185 initiative under Horizon 2020, also for Joint Programming Initiatives. This has been recognized and reconfirmed by Council in its “Conclusions on Partnering in Research and Innovation” on 6th December 2011.

Article 185 (ex-Art. 169) remains equal in the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), nevertheless there are some changes for Horizon 2020 compared to the 7th Framework Programme for Art. 185:

- In the Commission proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing Horizon 2020 - The Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020), adopted on 30th November 2011, Article 20 spells out the needed three integration levels for using the instrument of Art. 185. Under the 7th Framework Programme this was not explicit.

- In the Commission Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and Council laying down the rules for the participation and dissemination in Horizon 2020, ), adopted on 30th November 2011, Article 1 states that the Rules for Participation of the FP will
apply to Art. 185 initiatives (with the possibility for justified derogations). Since the start of Art. 185 initiatives under the 6th Framework Programme and under the 7th Framework Programme, Art. 185 was exempt from the Rules for Participation.

Subsequently any new proposal for an Art.185 initiative, apart from the existing criteria (in the Horizon 2020 proposal they are listed in Art.20) will have to take into account these two additional requirements.


Ambient Assisted Living Joint Programme

Period: 2014-2020
Budget: The AAL JP receives €175 million from the European Commission, €350 million from industrial partners and another € 175 million from Member States: more than € 700 million for 7
Legal basis: Article 185 (ex. Article 169) of the Lisbon Treaty
Link: http://www.aal-europe.eu/, Decision on AAL

The objective of the Ambient Assisted Living Joint Programme (AAL JP) is to enhance the quality of life of older people and strengthen the industrial base in Europe through the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT). The motivation of the new funding activity is in the demographic change and ageing in Europe, which implies not only challenges but also opportunities for the citizens, the social and healthcare systems as well as industry and the European market.

The new AAL JP is fully in line with the European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing as it covers the ICT based innovation sphere. Furthermore, the renewal of the programme will make possible again the joint work of the European Commission together with the participating countries, so that economic effort is optimized and that development is harmonized.

The new AAL JP will be further optimised for rapid decision making and new types of support (like prizes and innovation grants) to ensure fast response time to opportunities and even further lower entrance barriers.

The new AAL JP will support the implementation of the European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing by aligning to its scope covering ICT based innovation: from independent living and integrated care (including telehealth and telecare) to fall prevention, medication adherence and age-friendly environments and communities.

The proposal provides for simplification of administrative procedures for private parties. Notably, recipients of the research funding from the new joint programme will benefit from a single contracting and payment scheme using familiar national rules without any need for separate reporting concerning the Union contribution. The EU will deal directly with the AAL Association, which will be in charge of allocating.

The new AAL JP is fully in line with the European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing as it covers the ICT based innovation sphere. Furthermore, the renewal of the programme will make possible again the joint work of the European Commission together with the participating countries, so that economic effort is optimized and that development is harmonized.

- See more at: http://www.aal-europe.eu/why-another-aal-programme/

Objectives

- To give older adults access to more and better products and services for ageing well. These will help them to keep living independently in their own homes and to participate in economy and society for more years.
• To create a larger market for industry and especially SMEs at European level and improve EU competitiveness in ICT based products and services for ageing well.
• To make researchers benefit from collaboration with other experts at European scale.
• To help governments gain cost efficiencies and increased sustainability of health and social care, while tackling the societal challenge of demographic ageing.

Implementation

The participating countries manage the dedicated Ambient Assisted Living Association, which takes all the strategic and funding decisions, while the European Commission is an observer. The EU provides financial support subject to at least 50% of the public funding provided by participating countries.

- Time-to-market perspective of maximum 2 to 3 years after end of the project;
- Project total budget: 1 – 7 M€;
- Maximum funding from the AAL Joint Programme: 3 M€;
- Significant involvement of industry and other business partners, particularly SMEs are encouraged;
- Realistic trial set-up at the end of the project;
- Proactive end-user involvement throughout the life of the project;
- Defined market segment(s), use cases and target group(s) and address the wishes and needs of these specific group(s).

A proposal consists of two parts:

• Part A contains the administrative information about the proposal and the participants including a proposal abstract, contact details and characteristics of the participants, and budgetary information.
• Part B presents the project idea, the project content, the project implementation (the Consortium) and the potential exploitation of the proposal. For this purpose, a template is offered on the proposal site proposals.aal-europe.eu, which is obligatory to be used.

The template is designed to highlight those aspects that will be assessed against the evaluation criteria. The expected length of this description is normally between 15 to 30 pages. The template itself gives further binding guidance rules for proposers. The template is made available with the publication of each call.

The granted subsidy for project partners consists partially of national funds and European funds. The AAL Association will pay the European co-funding on request by the national funding authorities that forward the amounts to the project partners that are administered by them. The AAL Association does not transfer any funds directly to accounts of project partners.

Eligibility

Only proposers from the AAL Partner States can expect funding under the AAL Joint Programme. However, as national funding rules are applied, not all types of organisations may profit from funding. This information is published with the call.

Participating states: Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Denmark, France, Hungary, Ireland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Poland, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom and Switzerland.

Eurostars-2

Budget: maximum EUR 287 million
Legal basis: Proposal for a DECISION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on the participation of the Union in a Research and Development Programme jointly undertaken by several Member States aimed at supporting research performing small and
Eurostars-2 is aligned with the Europe 2020 strategy, the related Flagship initiative ‘Innovation Union’ and ‘A Reinforced European Research Area Partnership for Excellence and Growth’ will aim at supporting research performing SMEs by co-financing their market oriented research projects in any field. As such, and in combination with the activities under the ‘Leading and Enabling Technology’ objective set out in the Horizon 2020 Framework Programme, it will contribute to the goals of the Industrial Leadership part of that programme to speed-up development of the technologies and innovations that will underpin tomorrow’s businesses and help innovative European SMEs to grow into world-leading companies. As part of the improvements from the previous Eurostars programme, Eurostars-2 should head towards shorter time to grant, stronger integration and lean, transparent and more efficient administration to the ultimate benefit of research performing SMEs.

The Horizon 2020 Communication indicates that: ‘partnership approaches on the basis of Articles 185 and 187 of the Treaty will also be continued’. Article 20(2)(b) of the proposal for a Regulation establishing Horizon 2020 lists a number of criteria for how public-public partnerships are to be identified. Eurostars complies with those criteria: the ‘Budapest document’ on Eurostars-2 was endorsed by all Eureka countries.

In line with the recommendations from the interim evaluation of Eurostars-1, Eurostars-2 will be characterised by:

- streamlined programme administration
- stronger integration (standardised rules, 50 top ranking projects funded, etc.)
- shorter time to contract

Objectives

- to promote market-oriented transnational research activities in any fields of research-performing small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), especially those without previous experience in transnational research, leading to the placing of new or improved products, processes and services on the market;
- to contribute to the completion of the European Research Area (ERA) and to increase the accessibility, efficiency and efficacy of public funding for research-performing SMEs in n Europe by aligning, harmonising and synchronising the national funding mechanisms

Supported activities

Eurostars-2 aims to:

- promote research activities that comply with the following conditions: (a) the activities are carried out by transnational collaboration of research-performing SMEs among themselves or including other actors of the innovation chain (e.g. universities, research organisations) (b) results of activities are expected to be introduced into the market within two years of the completion of an activity increase the accessibility, efficiency and efficacy of public funding for SMEs in Europe by aligning, harmonising and synchronising the national funding mechanisms of participating states
- promote the participation of SMEs without previous experience in transnational research

Implementation

Eurostars-2 respects the proportionality principle as the Member States themselves will be responsible for implementation and all operational aspects. The role of the EU is limited to providing incentives for improved coordination of participating programmes and harmonisation of
rules and regulations, to the benefit of SMEs interested in transnational R&D activities, and also ensuring synergy with relevant complementary activities in Horizon 2020.

The joint implementation of Eurostars-2 requires an implementation structure. The participating states have agreed on designating the Eureka Secretariat as the implementation structure for Eurostars-2. In order to achieve the objectives of Eurostars-2, ESE should be in charge of the organisation of the calls for proposals, the verification of the eligibility criteria, the peer-review evaluation and the selection and the monitoring of projects as well as the allocation of the Union contribution. The evaluation of proposals should be performed centrally by independent external experts under the responsibility of ESE following calls for proposals. The projects' ranking list should be binding for the participating states as regards the allocation of funding from the Union's financial contribution and from contribution from participating states. The contribution shall be paid from the appropriations in the general budget of the Union allocated to the relevant parts of the Specific Programme implementing the Horizon 2020. A maximum of 2% of the Union's financial contribution may be used to contribute to the administrative costs of Eurostars-2. Participating states shall cover any other administrative costs necessary for the implementation of Eurostars-2. Contribution from the participating states shall consist of the following financial contributions:

- the co-financing of the selected Eurostars-2 projects, mainly through grants;
- financial contribution to the administrative costs of Eurostars-2 not covered by the Union contribution

**Participation:** EU-28 Member States + Iceland, Israel, Norway, Switzerland and Turkey

**Eligibility**

Adhering to the criteria is imperative to the success of an application. All applicants must fulfill all criteria or your application will be withdrawn. A summary of the criteria is as follows:

- Consortium leader is an R&D performing SME from a Eurostars country
- At least one other independent participant from another Eurostars country
- Eurostars R&D performing SMEs contribution is 50% or more of the total project cost (subcontracting costs excluded)
- The consortium is well balanced (no single participant or country is responsible for more than 75%)
- The project duration is 3 years or fewer
- Market introduction is within 2 years of the project's completion
- The project meets the EUREKA criteria (No restrictions on thematic area, civilian purpose)

**European Metrology Research Programme for Innovation and Research (EMPIR)**

Period: 2014-2020
Budget: maximum EUR 300 million
Legal basis: Proposal for a DECISION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on the participation of the Union in a European Metrology Programme for Innovation and Research jointly undertaken by several Member States
Link: [http://www.emrponline.eu/](http://www.emrponline.eu/), Proposal

EMPIR, the successor EMRP programme, will contribute to a number of flagship initiatives under EUROPE 2020 that are affected by metrology research, including ‘Innovation Union’, ‘A digital agenda for Europe’, ‘Resource-efficient Europe’ and ‘An industrial policy for the globalisation era’. It will do this by developing innovative solutions for the management of natural resources, by
supporting the standardisation process that enables global trade opportunities for new products and services and by allowing the efficient testing of communication satellites, for example. EMPIR will strongly contribute to achieving the objectives of Horizon 2020 by supporting topics of direct relevance for a number of Horizon 2020 priorities.

The proposed initiative EMPIR will be based on Article 185 of the TFEU. The conclusions of the interim evaluation and an analysis of the options in the impact assessment have demonstrated that Article 185 is the most appropriate means for achieving the objectives of EMPIR. The proposal will simplify the administrative procedures for public authorities and bodies (EU or national) and for private parties.

The EU will deal directly with the dedicated implementation structure of EMPIR, which will be in charge of allocating, monitoring and reporting on the use of the EU’s contribution

Objectives

- Provide integrated and fit-for-purpose metrology solutions supporting innovation and industrial competitiveness and measurement technologies to tackle societal challenges such as health, environment and energy including support to policy development and implementation;
- Create an integrated European Metrology Research system with critical mass and active engagement at regional, national, European and international level

Supported activities

EMPIR shall be implemented on the basis of annual work plans. The joint implementation of EMPIR requires an implementation structure. The participating states have agreed on the implementation structure for EMRP and set up in 2007 EURAMET e.V. (hereinafter "EURAMET"), the European Regional Metrology Organisation and a non-profit association under German law.

The Union’s financial contribution should be subject to formal commitments from the participating states to contribute to the implementation of EMPIR and fulfilment of those commitments. Participating states’ contributions to EMPIR should include a contribution to administrative costs within a ceiling of 5% of the budget of EMPIR.

Participating states should commit to increase, if necessary, their contribution to EMPIR by a reserve funding capability of 50% to ensure that they are able to fund their national entities (National Metrology Institutes and Designated Institutes) participating in the selected projects. Member States’ contributions are made through institutional funding of the NMI and the Designated Institutes (DI) participating in EMPIR projects and financial contributions to the administrative costs of EMPIR.

EURAMET shall provide financial support mainly in the form of grants to participants following calls for proposals. Before identifying the topics of each call for proposals, EURAMET shall invite interested individuals or organisations from the metrology research community and users to suggest potential research topic.

Implementation

EMPIR shall be implemented on the basis of annual work plans. The joint implementation of EMPIR requires an implementation structure. The participating states have agreed on the implementation structure for EMRP and set up in 2007 EURAMET e.V. (hereinafter "EURAMET"), the European Regional Metrology Organisation and a non-profit association under German law.
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Participating states should commit to increase, if necessary, their contribution to EMPIR by a reserve funding capability of 50% to ensure that they are able to fund their national entities (National Metrology Institutes and Designated Institutes) participating in the selected projects. Member States’ contributions are made through institutional funding of the NMI and the Designated Institutes (DI) participating in EMPIR projects and financial contributions to the administrative costs of EMPIR.

EURAMET shall provide financial support mainly in the form of grants to participants following calls for proposals. Before identifying the topics of each call for proposals, EURAMET shall invite interested individuals or organisations from the metrology research community and users to suggest potential research topic.

**Eligibility**

**Participating countries:**

Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Croatia, Italy, Hungary, the Netherlands, Austria, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Finland, Sweden, the United Kingdom, as well as Bosnia and Herzegovina, Norway, Serbia, Switzerland and Turkey.

**BONUS Baltic Sea Research and Development Programme**

Period: 2010-2016  
Budget: EUR 100 million  
Link: [http://www.bonusportal.org/](http://www.bonusportal.org/)

BONUS brings together the research communities of marine, maritime, economical and societal research to address the major challenges faced by the Baltic Sea region. A full understanding of the Baltic Sea system is needed. This requires sound knowledge that is scientifically first-rate and relevant for society.

The EU framework provides mechanism for combining national research funding and for using this in the work aiming to meet the challenges of today. Over the past years the EU regulations show a paradigm shift from substance and sector based directives to integrated approaches such as the Water Framework Directive, the Integrated Maritime Policy and the Roadmap for Marine Spatial Planning. The development of European macro-regional policy within Baltic and Danube regions in particular are viewed as pioneers.

**Objectives**

BONUS vision is ‘Economically and ecologically prosperous Baltic Sea region where resources and goods are used sustainably and where the long-term management of the region is based on sound knowledge derived from multi-disciplinary research.’

The strategic objectives of BONUS (2010-2016) are:

- Understanding the Baltic Sea ecosystem structure and functioning
Meeting the multifaceted challenges in linking the Baltic Sea with its coast and catchment
Enhancing sustainable use of coastal and marine goods and services of the Baltic Sea
Improving the capabilities of the society to respond to the current and future challenges directed to the Baltic Sea region
Developing improved and innovative observation and data management systems, tools and methodologies for marine information needs in the Baltic Sea region enhancing sustainable use of coastal and marine goods and services of the Baltic Sea

The scientific approach towards the above strategic objectives is interdisciplinary with balanced representation natural and socioeconomic disciplines.

Supported activities

• BONUS builds on the ERA-NET and BONUS+ programmes and has engaged to date over 100 research institutes and universities in nine Baltic Sea countries

• BONUS combines research related to the Baltic Sea system into a joint and durable interdisciplinary and focused multinational programme that supports the Baltic Sea region's sustainable development

• BONUS produces knowledge to support development and implementation of regulations, policies and management practices specifically tailored for the Baltic Sea region

• BONUS issues calls for competitive proposals and funding projects of high excellence and relevance based on its strategic research agenda; this is developed in close collaboration with stakeholders across the Baltic Sea region

• BONUS facilitates researchers' collaboration, networking, human capacity building and joint use of research infrastructures

• BONUS supports European, regional and national coastal and marine environmental policies and plans, in particular HELCOM's Baltic Sea Action Plan

Implementation

The BONUS Secretariat (EEIG) is the legal management organisation of BONUS. BONUS launches calls that fund projects which address the strategic objectives of the research agenda.

The calls are targeting multi-partner and transnational projects, encouraging adequate participation of small and medium-sized enterprises and other end users.

The calls will include research, innovation, training and dissemination activities.

The projects to be funded will be selected according to the principles of transparency, independent evaluation, co-financing; non-profit, non-retroactivity and financing not cumulated with other EU sources.

The maximum funding available is EUR 100 million for the years 2011-2017. Half of the sum, up to EUR 50 million matching national contributions, is provided by the European Community Seventh Framework Programme, and the other half by the participating funding institutions.
COST *

Period: 2014-2020
Link: http://www.cost.eu

COST is an intergovernmental framework for European Cooperation in Science and Technology, allowing the coordination of nationally-funded research on a European level.

COST is ready to take on the challenges that lay ahead in Horizon 2020. COST’s mission is to enable break-through scientific developments leading to new concepts and products, and thereby contribute to strengthening Europe’s research and innovation capacities. As part of this mission, COST will continue to foster scientific and technological excellence and inclusiveness in Europe, by supporting bottom-up, open science and technology networks involving researchers across the continent. In order to do so, COST has been formally inscribed in Horizon 2020 and is expected to contribute in particular to the ‘Societal Challenges’ and ‘Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation’ pillars of the Horizon 2020 strategy.

Horizon 2020 has been allocated a budget of almost €80 billion, amounting to a 30% increase from the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7). In this context, COST will receive an increased budget compared to the budget allocated under FP7. This increase confirms the strategic importance of COST as a unique intergovernmental framework in the context of the ERA, enabling scientists and researchers to jointly develop their own ideas and new initiatives through inclusive, trans-European cooperation in science and technology and networking.

COST’s preparation for the new seven-year period required the establishment of a new legal entity, the ‘COST Association’. The COST Association will incorporate COST’s governance and administrative functions into a single, integrated structure. All 35 COST Member Countries are expected to adhere to and support this new dedicated agency, thus taking full responsibility for the implementation of COST as an intergovernmental networking framework programme. COST’s current implementing agent, the European Science Foundation (ESF), will ensure that COST activities continue to be implemented until the EC-ESF COST II FP7 Grant Agreement is fully executed and all activities are definitively transferred to the COST Association. COST and the ESF are jointly committed to ensuring a smooth transition so as to avoid any disruption of activities, to the best benefit of the European science and technology community.

COST is a building block of the European Research Area, instrumental for successful innovation strategies and global cooperation.

Objectives

COST Mission Statement

COST enables breakthrough scientific developments leading to new concepts and products and thereby contributes to strengthen Europe’s research and innovation capacities.

COST key features are:

Building capacity by connecting high-quality scientific communities throughout Europe and worldwide; providing networking opportunities for early career investigators;
Increasing the impact of research on policy makers, regulatory bodies and national decision makers as well as the private sector.

COST has a very specific mission and goal. It contributes to reducing the fragmentation in European research investments and opening the European Research Area to cooperation worldwide.

As a precursor of advanced multidisciplinary research, COST plays a very important role in building a European Research Area (ERA). It anticipates and complements the activities of the
EU Framework Programmes, constituting a “bridge” towards the scientific communities of emerging countries. It also increases the mobility of researchers across Europe and fosters the establishment of scientific excellence in the nine key domains:

- Biomedicine and Molecular Biosciences
- Food and Agriculture
- Forests, their Products and Services
- Materials, Physics and Nanosciences
- Chemistry and Molecular Sciences and Technologies
- Earth System Science and Environmental Management
- Information and Communication Technologies
- Transport and Urban Development
- Individuals, Societies, Cultures and Health

In addition, Trans-Domain Proposals allow for broad, multidisciplinary proposals to strike across the nine scientific domains.

**Implementation**

COST funds pan-European, bottom-up networks of scientists and researchers across all science and technology fields. These networks, called 'COST Actions', promote international coordination of nationally-funded research.

COST does not fund research itself, but provides support for networking activities carried out within COST Actions.

The Actions are bottom-up science and technology networks open to researchers and stakeholders, with a four-year duration and a minimum participation of five COST Countries. COST Actions are active through a range of networking tools, such as meetings, workshops, conferences, training schools, short-term scientific missions (STSMs) and dissemination activities. COST Actions are open to researchers from universities, public and private research institutions, as well as to NGOs, industry and SMEs. To learn more about participating in COST Actions, please visit the Participate page.

COST invites researchers throughout Europe to submit proposals for COST Actions through a continuous Open Call. The two collection dates a year are announced in the Official Journal of the European Union and on the COST Website. Following a thorough evaluation and selection process, the decision for funding a proposal is taken by the COST Committee of Senior Officials (CSO) within eight months from the collection date. Successful proposals are approved to become COST Actions and can expect to ‘kick-off’ within three months thereafter. For more information on how to submit a proposal for a COST Action, please visit the Open Call page.

Proposals for COST Actions can be submitted in one of the COST Scientific Domains. Highly interdisciplinary proposals that cover several scientific Domains can be submitted through the COST Trans-Domain (TD) Pilot.

Researchers can also apply to join an existing COST Action.

**Eligibility**

COST Actions are open to international cooperation, by also allowing the participation of researchers from Near Neighbour Countries and International Partner Countries on the basis of mutual benefit. In addition, COST has signed Reciprocal Agreements with Argentina, New Zealand and South Africa as a pilot exercise to facilitate cooperation with researchers from these countries.

COST’s 35 Member Countries are: Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary,
Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Israel is a Cooperating State.

Comments

*These initiatives are not financed fully from the EU's budget.

Knowledge Innovation Communities (EIT KIC) *

Period: 2014-2020

The European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT), based in Budapest, Hungary, aims to enhance Europe’s ability to innovate, which translates into providing solutions to the rapidly emerging societal problems, as well as products that meet the demands and desires of consumers.

The EIT’s operational basis are the Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs), through which the EIT aims to fully integrate all three sides of the ‘knowledge triangle’, i.e. higher education, research and business. Each of the KICs operates across a limited number of hubs called ‘co-location centres’. There are currently 17 co-location centres spread across the EU. Climate-KIC additionally operates through six regions, each led by a regional or local government in Regional Implementation and Innovation Communities (RICs).

Three KICs were launched in 2010:

- Climate-KIC: climate change mitigation and adaptation
- EIT ICT Labs: information and Communication Technologies
- KIC InnoEnergy: sustainable energy.

Creation of five new KICs to be launched in three waves. The themes (outlined in more details in the EIT’s Strategic Innovation Agenda) to be addressed by the new KICs are:

- **2014:**
  - Innovation for healthy living and active ageing; and
  - Raw materials: sustainable exploration, extraction, processing, recycling and substitution

- **2016:**
  - Food4Future: sustainable supply chain from resources to consumers; and
  - Added-value manufacturing

- **2018:**
  - Urban mobility

As established in the EIT’s Strategic Innovation Agenda (SIA) and Horizon 2020, the first two new KICs, to be established in 2014, will address the thematic fields of:

1. Innovation for healthy living and active ageing; and
2. Raw materials: sustainable exploration, extraction, processing, recycling and substitution.

Objectives
KICs carry out a whole range of activities, covering the entire innovation chain – including training and education programmes, reinforcing the journey from research to the market, innovation projects and business incubators.

Each KIC has been set up as a legal entity and has appointed a CEO to run its operations – a first for an EU initiative. The EIT has provided the KICs with a great degree of autonomy to define their legal status, internal organisation and working methods.

Implementation
The EIT funding model is based on the concept of leverage; every euro invested from the EU budget will trigger a higher investment from other sources. Through its unique funding model, the EIT contributes on average a maximum of 25 % of the overall budget of each KIC.

KICs carry out a whole range of activities, covering the entire innovation chain – including training and education programmes, reinforcing the journey from research to the market, innovation projects and business incubators. KICs have been conceived so that they are able to react in an effective and flexible way to new challenges and changing environments.

Each KIC has been set up as a legal entity and has appointed a CEO to run its operations – a first for an EU initiative. The EIT has provided the KICs with a great degree of autonomy to define their legal status, internal organisation and working methods.

The KICs are driven by a pursuit of excellence in all of their activities and are established with the aim of reaching the necessary critical mass to achieve systemic impact, including the creation of new businesses and new jobs, and the promotion of new skills and entrepreneurial talent in the economy.

Eligibility

The EIT financial contribution is decided on an annual basis following the assessment of each KIC’s individual performance and a competitive review between them, which includes the evaluation of KICs’ past performance, future plans and the level of co-financing from other sources.

The budget for the EIT of approximately EUR 2.7 bn for the period from 2014 to 2020.

Comments

* These initiatives are not financed fully from the EU’s budget.
Sustainable Growth: Natural Resources

Period: 2014-2020
Budget: EUR 420 034 000 million in current prices 39% of MFF

The Commission has proposed an overall ceiling of **€ 1 082 555 million** under five headings:
- Smart and inclusive growth: 47%
- Sustainable growth: natural resources: 39%
- Security and citizenship: 2%
- Global Europe: 6%
- Administration: 6%

Outside MFF there is (to complete 100%):
- Emergency Aid Reserve
- European Globalisation Fund
- Solidarity Fund
- Flexibility Instrument
- EDF

**Supported activities**

Subceiling CAP (direct payments + market expenditures) 312 735,00
Rural Development 95 577,05
EMFF (incl. market measures) + FPA's + RFMO's 7 404,84
Environment and climate action (Life+) 3 456,66
Agencies 387,48
Margin 472,97
H2 Subtotal 420 034,00

**Implementation**

Pillar I will provide direct support to farmers and finance market measures. Direct support and market measures will be funded entirely and solely by the EU budget, so as to ensure the application of a common policy throughout the single market and with the integrated administration and control system (IACS).

Pillar II of the CAP will deliver specific environmental public goods, improve the competitiveness of the agriculture and forestry sectors promote the diversification of economic activity and quality of life in rural areas including regions with specific problems. Measures in Pillar II will be co-financed by Member States according to the provisions in paragraph 73, which helps to ensure that the underlying objectives are accomplished and reinforces the leverage effect of rural development policy.

Financing under Heading 2 will also support the Common Fisheries Policy and Integrated Maritime Policies, in particular through the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and an envelope for the international dimension of the CFP as well as activities in the fields of climate and environment through the Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE).

A new reserve for crises in the agricultural sector, to bring support in case of major crises affecting agricultural production or distribution, will be included under Heading 2.
The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) is designed to deliver a modern, sustainable and efficient agricultural sector in Europe. It aims to promote the competitiveness of the sector, to ensure an adequate and secure food supply and to preserve the environment and countryside while providing a fair standard of living for the agricultural community.

The new CAP maintains the two pillars, but increases the links between them, thus offering a more holistic and integrated approach to policy support. Specifically it introduces a new architecture of direct payments; better targeted, more equitable and greener, an enhanced safety net and strengthened rural development.

The CAP is financed by two funds, which form part of the EU's general budget:

- the **European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF)** finances direct payments to farmers and measures to respond to market disturbances, such as private or public storage and export refunds, while
- the **European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)** finances the rural development programmes of the Member States.

The CAP is a genuinely European policy. Instead of operating 27 separate agriculture policies and budgets, Member States pool resources to operate a single European policy with a single European budget. This naturally means that the CAP accounts for a significant proportion of the EU budget.

The recent political agreement on CAP relates to four basic European Parliament and Council regulations – i) on Direct Payments, ii) the Single Common Market Organisation (CMO), iii) Rural Development and, iv) a Horizontal Regulation for financing, managing and monitoring the CAP.

**Objectives**

**CAP reform objectives:**

- Enhanced competitiveness of EU agriculture
- Improved sustainability
- Greater effectiveness through more targeted and equitable direct payments

**Implementation**

The Pillar I and Pillar II funding is complemented by additional funding of EUR 17.1 billion consisting of EUR 5.1 billion for research and innovation, EUR 2.5 billion for food safety and EUR 2.8 billion for food support for the most deprived persons in other headings of the MFF, as well as of EUR 3.9 billion in a new reserve for crises in the agricultural sector and up to EUR 2.8 billion in the European Globalization Adjustment Fund outside the MFF, thus bringing the total budget to EUR 435.6 billion over the 2014-2020 period.

The only permanent CAP funding scheme which is centrally managed by the Commission is the scheme "Information measures relating to the Common Agricultural Policy". Besides grants awarded following calls for proposals, the Agriculture and Rural Development Directorate-General also concludes public procurement contracts for the provision of services. These contracts are concluded following calls for tenders.

**Comments**
New features of CAP:

- joint provision of public and private goods
- new targeted and coherent. Pillar I covers direct payments and market measures providing a basic annual income support to EU farmers and support in case of specific market disturbances, while Pillar II covers rural development where Member States draw up and co-finance multiannual programmes under a common framework.

Pillar II of the CAP will continue to deliver specific environmental public goods, improve the competitiveness of the agriculture and forestry sectors and promote the diversification of economic activity and quality of life in rural areas. Member States have flexibility in the design of the measures, based on specific national and regional needs but reflecting EU priorities. Measures in Pillar II are co-financed by Member States, which helps to ensure that the underlying objectives are accomplished and reinforces the leverage effect of rural development policy. Through higher co-financing rates for the poorer regions of the EU, Pillar II also contributes to the cohesion objectives of the EU.

Within the two pillar structure, the design of the policy will be comprehensively modernised and simplified so as to deliver a fairer, greener policy, aligned with the Europe 2020 objectives.

To maximise the synergies between rural development policy and the EU’s other territorial development funds, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) will be incorporated in the Partnership Contracts between the Commission and each Member State. These contracts will be linked to the objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy and the National Reform Programmes. They will set out an integrated strategy for territorial development supported by all of the relevant EU structural funds, including rural development. They will include objectives based on agreed indicators, strategic investments and a number of conditionalities.

EAFRD - European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development

Period: 2014-2020
Budget: € 95.577 billion in current prices (CAP Pillar II)
Legal basis: Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)
Link: Council Regulation, Web site

The EAFRD is financed under Pillar II of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). It shall contribute to the Europe 2020 Strategy by promoting sustainable rural development throughout the Union in a complementary manner to the other instruments of the common agricultural policy (hereinafter “CAP”), to cohesion policy and to the common fisheries policy. It shall contribute to a more territorially and environmentally balanced, climate-friendly and resilient and innovative Union agricultural sector.

Objectives

Rural development contributes to the competitiveness of agriculture, the sustainable management of natural resources and climate action and the balanced territorial development of rural areas. In line with the Europe 2020 strategy, these broad objectives of rural development support for 2014-2020 are given more detailed expression through the following six EU-wide priorities:

- fostering knowledge transfer and innovation in agriculture, forestry and rural areas;
enhancing competitiveness of all types of agriculture and enhancing farm viability;
promoting food chain organization and risk management in agriculture;
restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems dependent on agriculture and forestry
promoting resource efficiency and supporting the shift towards a low-carbon and climate-
resilient economy in the agriculture, food and forestry sectors;
promoting social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas.

Supported activities

Supported actions are related to a package of measures grouped around 4 axes:

- Competitiveness (vocational training and information actions, schemes promoting the
  establishment of young farmers, actions aimed at modernisation of agricultural and
  forestry holdings and the improvement of their commercial performance, actions
  encouraging farmers to participate in schemes that promote quality food etc.)
- Environment
- Quality of Life (actions renovating and developing villages and preserving and making the
  best use of the rural heritage)
- LEADER

Supported activities

- Fostering knowledge transfer and innovation in agriculture, forestry, and rural areas
- Enhancing competitiveness of all types of agriculture and enhancing farm viability
- Promoting food chain organisation and risk management in agriculture
- Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems dependent on agriculture and forestry
- Promoting resource efficiency and supporting the shift towards a low carbon and climate
  resilient economy in agriculture, food and forestry sectors
- Promoting social inclusion poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas

Implementation

The EAFRD shall act in the Member States through rural development programmes. These
programmes shall implement a strategy to meet the Union priorities for rural development through
a set of measures, for the achievement of which aid from the EAFRD will be sought. There shall
be consistency between support from the EAFRD and the measures financed by the European
Agricultural Guarantee Fund.

Several EU funds provide additional support for rural areas alongside the EAFRD, namely: the
European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the European Social Fund (ESF), the Cohesion
Fund (CF) and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF). In order to deliver greater
European added value and maximise synergies, in 2014-2020 all European Structural and
Investments funds (ESI funds) will concentrate their support on achieving the EU2020 headline
targets and will be coordinated under a Common Strategic Framework (CSF).
A Member State may submit either a single programme for its entire territory or a set of regional
programmes. Member States with regional programmes may also submit for approval a national
framework containing common elements for these programmes without a separate budgetary
allocation.

Member States may include within their rural development programmes thematic sub-
programmes, contributing to the Union priorities for rural development, aimed to address specific
needs identified, in particular in relation to:

(a) young farmers;
(b) small farms;
(c) mountain areas;
(d) short supply chains.
(e) women in rural areas;
(f) climate change mitigation and adaptation and biodiversity

The EAFRD contribution rate shall be established for each axis. The maximum EAFRD contribution rate shall be:

(a) 85 % of the eligible public expenditure in the less developed regions, in the outermost regions and in the smaller Aegean islands
(b) 75 % of the eligible public expenditure for all regions whose GDP per capita for the 2007-2013 period was less than 75 % of the average of the EU-25 for the reference period but whose GDP per capita is above 75 % of the GDP average of the EU-27
(c) 63 % of the eligible public expenditure for the transition regions other than those referred to in point (b) of this paragraph;
(d) 53 % of the eligible public expenditure in the other regions.
The minimum EAFRD contribution rate at axis level shall be 20 %.

For the expenditure incurred under the new programming period 2014-2020 the EAFRD contribution rate may be increased by 10 percentage points above the co-financing rate applicable to each measure for the EAFRD. This new system, which will be a uniform top-up for all measures, may in some cases mean either lower or higher changes to the EAFRD contribution rates than the current system under Article 70(4c) of Regulation (EC) No 1698/2005

Eligibility

Interested applicants should contact their responsible ministry. Contact details and information on National Rural Development Programmes for respective country (EU27) can be found at: http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/index_en.htm

Comments

* App. 20% of the fund dedicated to the CAP

European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF)

Period: 2014-2020
Budget: € 7.404 billion in current prices
Link: Proposal (pdf), Common Fisheries Policy, Website

The general objective of the EMFF is to support the objectives of the Common Fisheries Policy, and to further develop the EU Integrated Maritime Policy.

Contribution to Europe 2020
EMFF will contribute to achieving the objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy under three flagship initiatives: i) a resource efficient Europe, ii) an innovation union and iii) the agenda for new skills and jobs

Reinforced social dimension
EMFF will promote social cohesion and job creation in fisheries dependent communities through adding more value to fisheries and through diversification into other maritime sectors.
Environmental sustainability
Focus on innovative, viable and competitive fisheries and aquaculture
New impetus to the development of Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP)
Simplification and reduction of the administrative burden

Strategic approach: CSF and Partnership Contracts will replace the strategic approach (National Strategic Plans) introduced in the current EFF, which has serious limitations and required a disproportionate effort for Member States receiving limited EFF funding

Strategic programming
EMFF focuses on CFP and IMP long-term strategic objectives including sustainable and competitive fisheries and aquaculture, consistent policy framework for the further development of IMP and balanced and inclusive territorial development of fisheries areas/
The existing measures have been streamlined and reviewed in order to establish a strong link to environmental sustainability EMFF will support the transition to Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) and facilitate the gradual introduction of a discard ban through the integral approach.

Objectives
- Promoting sustainable and competitive fisheries and aquaculture;
- Fostering the development and implementation of the Union's Integrated Maritime Policy in a complementary manner to cohesion policy and to the Common Fisheries Policy;
- Promoting a balanced and inclusive territorial development of fisheries areas;
- Contributing to the implementation of the CFP.

The EMFF is structured around 4 pillars:

1. Smart, Green Fisheries (shared management) to foster the transition to sustainable fishing which is more selective, produces no discards, does less damage to marine ecosystems and thus contributes to the sustainable management of marine ecosystems; and to provide support focused on innovation and value added, making the fisheries sector economically viable and resilient to external shocks and to competition from third countries.
2. Smart, Green Aquaculture (shared management) - to achieve economically viable, competitive and green aquaculture, capable of facing global competition and providing EU consumers with healthy and high nutrition value products.
3. Sustainable and Inclusive Territorial Development (shared management) - to reverse the decline of many coastal and inland communities dependent on fishing, through adding more value to fishing and fishing related activities and through diversification to other sectors of the maritime economy.
4. Integrated Maritime Policy (direct centralised management) to support those cross cutting priorities which generate savings and growth but which the Member States will not take forward on their own – such as marine knowledge, maritime spatial planning, integrated coastal zone management and integrated maritime surveillance, the protection of the marine environment, in particular its biodiversity, and adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change on coastal areas.

In addition to the four pillars, the EMFF will include accompanying measures: data collection and scientific advice, control, governance, fisheries markets (including outermost regions), voluntary payments to RFMOs and technical assistance.

Supported activities

I. Under shared management

Sustainable development of fisheries
Innovation (projects aiming at developing or introducing new or substantially improved products compared to the state of art, new or improved processes, new or improved management and organisation systems.)

Advisory services (feasibility studies, business and marketing strategies)

Partnership between scientists and fishermen (network building)

Promoting human capital and social dialogue (lifelong learning and dissemination, dialogue, etc.)

Facilitating diversification and job creation (business start-ups, retrofitting, skill development)

Health and safety on board (investments on board or in individual equipment’s)

Support to systems of transferable fishing concessions of the CFP (design, development, monitoring, evaluation)

Support to the implementation of conservation measures under the CFP (design, development, monitoring, evaluation)

Limiting the impact of fishing on the marine environment (support investments in equipment)

Innovation linked to the conservation of marine biological resources (developing or introducing new technical or organisational knowledge)

Protection and restoration of marine biodiversity and ecosystems in the framework of

Sustainable fishing activities (collection of waste, construction or installation of facilities, better management and conservation of resources)

Mitigation of climate change (investments on board, energy efficiency audits and schemes)

Product quality and use of unwanted catches (investments on board)

Fishing ports, landing sites and shelters (investments improving fishing port infrastructure or landing sites)

Inland Fishing (investments)

**Sustainable development of aquaculture**

- Innovation (introducing new technical or organisational knowledge, developing or introducing in the market new or substantially improved products)
- Investments in off-shore and non-food aquaculture
- New forms of income and added value (investments)
- Management, relief and advisory services for aquaculture farms
- Promoting human capital and networking (lifelong learning and dissemination, dialogue, etc.)
- Increasing the potential of aquacultures sites (development of the aquaculture sites and infrastructures)
- Encouraging new aquaculture farmers (foster entrepreneurship in aquaculture)
- Promotion of aquaculture with high level of environmental protection (investments)
- Conversion to eco-management and audit schemes and organic aquaculture
- Aquaculture providing environmental services
- Public health measures (compensation to mollusc farmers for the temporary suspension of harvesting of farmed molluscs exclusively for reasons of public health)
- Animal health and welfare measures (foster animal health and welfare in aquaculture enterprises)
- Aquaculture stock insurance

**Sustainable development of fisheries areas**

- Fisheries areas, local partnerships and local development strategies (local action groups may apply for preparatory support, implementation, cooperation activities)
- Marketing and processing related measures (production and marketing plans, storage aid, marketing measures, processing products)
Compensation for additional costs in outermost regions for fishery and aquaculture products

Accompanying measures

II. Under direct management

Integrated maritime policy

- studies;
- projects, including test projects and cooperation projects;
- public information and sharing best practice, awareness raising campaigns;
- conferences, seminars and workshops;
- exchange of best practices, coordination activities;
- the development, operation and maintenance of IT-systems and networks.

Accompanying measures

Implementation

Most of the budget is allocated under shared management. Each Member State draws up a single operational programme to implement the Union priorities to be co-financed by the EMFF that the Commission approves. Annual work programmes will set the specific objectives, results to be achieved and the method of implementation.

Eligibility

Entities based in Member States can apply for funding from the European Fisheries Fund.

LIFE: Environment and Climate Action

Period: 2014-2020
Budget: € 3 456 million in current prices
Legal basis: Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on the establishment of a Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE)
Link: Proposal (pdf), Website, Regulation

The new LIFE Programme with two subprogrammes: one for Environment and one for Climate Action. The creation of a subprogramme for Climate Action upgrades the former thematic strand "climate change" under the LIFE+ Environment Policy and Governance component. LIFE Programme is a catalyst for promoting implementation and integration of environmental and climate objectives in other policies and Member State practice.

Objectives

- To contribute to the shift towards a resource-efficient, low-carbon and climate resilient economy, to the protection and improvement of the quality of the environment and to halting and reversing biodiversity loss;
- To improve the development, implementation and enforcement of Union environmental and climate policy and legislation, and to catalyse and promote integration and mainstreaming of environmental and climate objectives into other Union policies and public and private sector practice, including by increasing their capacity;
- To support better environmental and climate governance at all levels.

Supported activities

Sub-programme for Environment (€2 592 million in current prices)
**Environment and Resource Efficiency**

- To develop, test and demonstrate policy or management approaches, best practices, and solutions to environmental challenges, suitable for being replicated, transferred or mainstreamed, including with respect to the link between environment and health, and in support of resource efficiency-related policy and legislation, including the Roadmap to a Resource Efficient Europe;
- To support the application, development, testing and demonstration of integrated approaches for the implementation of plans and programmes pursuant to Union environmental policy and legislation, primarily in the areas of water, waste and air;
- To improve the knowledge base for the development, assessment, monitoring and evaluation of Union environmental policy and legislation, and for the assessment and monitoring of the factors, pressures and responses that impact on the environment within and outside the Union.

**Nature and Biodiversity**

- To contribute to the implementation of Union policy and legislation in the area of biodiversity, including the Union Biodiversity Strategy to 2020, in particular by applying, developing, testing and demonstrating approaches, best practices and solutions;
- To support the further development, implementation and management of the Natura 2000 network set up, in particular the application, development, testing and demonstration of integrated approaches for the implementation of the Prioritized Action Frameworks;
- To improve the knowledge base for the development, assessment, monitoring and evaluation of Union biodiversity policy and legislation, and for the assessment and monitoring of the factors, pressures and responses that impact on the biodiversity within and outside the Union.

**Environmental Governance and Information**

- To promote awareness raising on environmental matters, including generating public and stakeholders support to Union policy-making in the field of environment, and to promote education for sustainable development;
- To support communication, management, and dissemination of information in the field of environment, and to facilitate knowledge sharing on successful environmental solutions and practice, including by developing cooperation platforms between stakeholders and training;
- To promote and contribute to a more effective compliance with and enforcement of Union environmental legislation, in particular by promoting the development and dissemination of best practices and policy approaches;
- To promote better environmental governance by broadening stakeholder involvement, including NGOs, in policy consultation and implementation

**Sub-programme for Climate Action** (€ 864 million)

**Climate Change Mitigation**

- To contribute to the implementation and development of Union policy and legislation on mitigation, including mainstreaming across policy areas, in particular by developing, testing and demonstrating policy or management approaches, best practices and solutions for climate change mitigation;
- To improve the knowledge base for the development, assessment, monitoring, evaluation and implementation of effective mitigation actions and measures and to enhance the capacity to apply that knowledge in practice;
To facilitate the development and implementation of integrated approaches, such as for mitigation strategies and action plans, at local, regional or national level;
To contribute to the development and demonstration of innovative mitigation technologies, systems, methods and instruments that are suitable for being replicated, transferred or mainstreamed.

Climate Change Adaptation

To contribute to the development and implementation of Union policy and legislation on adaptation, including mainstreaming across policy areas, in particular by developing, testing and demonstrating policy or management approaches, best practices, and solutions, for climate change adaptation;
To improve the knowledge base for the development, assessment, monitoring, evaluation and implementation of effective adaptation actions and measures and to enhance the capacity to apply that knowledge in practice;
To facilitate the development and implementation of integrated approaches, such as for adaptation strategies and action plans, at local, regional or national level;
To contribute to the development and demonstration of innovative adaptation technologies, systems, methods and instruments that are suitable for being replicated, transferred or mainstreamed.

Climate Governance and Information

And stakeholders support to Union policy-making in the field of climate, and to promote education for sustainable development;
To support communication, management, and dissemination of information in the field of climate and to facilitate knowledge sharing on successful climate solutions and practice, including by developing cooperation platforms between stakeholders and training;
To promote and contribute to a more effective compliance with and enforcement of Union climate legislation, in particular by promoting the development and dissemination of best practices and policy approaches;
To promote better climate governance by broadening stakeholder involvement, including NGOs, in policy consultation and implementation.

Implementation

LIFE remains centrally managed. The Commission will explore the possibility of delegating to a large extent the selection and monitoring tasks to the European Agency for Competitiveness and Innovation, while keeping the governance of the LIFE Programme within the Commission.

The LIFE Programme will cover all types of funding required to address its objectives and priorities. In particular, action grants to finance projects represent the main financial intervention. Operating grants for NGOs and other entities of Union interest which are primarily active in the area of environment or climate are also possible. The LIFE Programme allows the use of financial instruments. The Commission will encourage the use of green public procurement when implementing action grants.

Union funding may take the following legal forms:
(a) grants;
(b) public procurement contracts;
(c) contributions to financial instruments in accordance with provisions on financial instruments under Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012, in particular Articles 139 and 140 thereof, and with operational requirements set out in specific Union acts;
(d) any other interventions needed for the purpose of achieving the general objectives set out in Article 3.
At least 81% of the budgetary resources for the LIFE Programme shall be allocated to projects supported by way of action grants. The Commission may include those financial instruments as part of the multiannual work programme referred to in Article 24, subject to an ex-ante evaluation. A maximum of 30% of the budgetary resources allocated to action grants may be allocated to integrated projects.

Action grants may finance the following projects:

(a) pilot projects;
(b) demonstration projects;
(c) best practice projects;
(d) integrated projects primarily in the areas of nature, water, waste, air, and climate change mitigation and adaptation;
(e) technical assistance projects;
(f) capacity-building projects;
(g) preparatory projects;
(h) information, awareness and dissemination projects;
(i) any other projects needed for the purpose of achieving the objectives.

Operating grants shall support certain operational and administrative costs of nonprofit making entities.

Eligibility

The LIFE Programme may fund public and private bodies. The LIFE Programme shall be open to the participation of the following countries:
- European Free Trade Association (EFTA) countries which are parties to the Agreement on the European Economic Area (EEA);
- Candidate countries, potential candidates and acceding countries to the Union;
- Countries to which the European Neighbourhood Policy applies;
- Countries which have become members of the European Environmental Agency.

**European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF)**

**Period:** 2014-2020  
**Budget:** maximum €150 million per year in 2011 prices  
**Legal basis:** Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund  
**Link:** Proposal (pdf), EGF Regulation for 2014-2020

The European Globalisation Fund aims to help workers reintegrate into the labour market after they have been made redundant as a result of major structural changes in world trade patterns (e.g. as a consequence of the global financial and economic crisis). For example, it supported Belgian workers after the General Motors Antwerp plant closed down.

The European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF) enables the European Union to demonstrate solidarity at Union level and to provide support to workers made redundant as a consequence of trade globalisation, as a result of an unexpected crisis or as a consequence of trade agreements impacting upon the agricultural sector.

The EGF is one of the special instruments not included in the MFF.

**Objectives**

- Provide tailored made services to each worker and reintegrate dismissed workers into the labour market as soon as possible
- Encourage a competitive but fair EU
The aim of the EGF is to contribute to economic growth and employment in the Union by enabling the Union to show solidarity towards workers made redundant as a result of major structural changes in world trade patterns due to globalisation, trade agreements affecting agriculture, or an unexpected crisis, and to provide financial support for their rapid reintegration into employment, or for changing or adjusting their agricultural activities. Actions benefiting from financial contributions by the Fund shall aim to ensure that a minimum of 50 % of workers participating in these actions find stable employment within a year from the date of application.

**Supported activities**

- job-search assistance
- careers advice
- tailor-made training and re-training
- mentoring
- promoting entrepreneurship.

Providing **one-off, time-limited individual support**, such as:

- job-search allowances
- mobility allowances
- allowances for participating in lifelong learning and training activities.

The EGF will not fund social protection measures such as pensions or unemployment benefits. These are the responsibility of EU national governments.

**Eligible actions:**

- tailor-made training and retraining, including information and communication technology skills and certification of acquired experience, job-search assistance, occupational guidance, advisory services, mentoring, outplacement assistance, entrepreneurship promotion, aid for self-employment, business start-ups and employee take-overs, and co-operation activities

- special time-limited measures, such as job-search allowances, employers' recruitment incentives, mobility allowances, subsistence or training allowances (including allowances for carers);
- measures to stimulate in particular disadvantaged, older and young unemployed persons to remain in or return to the labour market

**Implementation**

The Commission would designate agricultural sectors or products and, where relevant, regions as eligible for possible EGF support. Member States would have the possibility to submit applications for an EGF contribution, provided that they can prove that eligible sectors experience significant trade-related losses, that farmers operating in these sectors are affected and that they have identified and targeted the affected farmers.

In order to ensure that EGF support is available to workers independently of their contract of employment or employment relationship, the notion of ‘workers’ is extended to include not only workers with contracts of employment of indefinite duration, but also workers with fixed-term contracts, temporary agency workers and owner-managers of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises and self-employed workers (including farmers).

As the access to EGF support is conditioned by the fact that the workers must have been made redundant, or for farmers that they are adjusting that part of their activity affected by the relevant
trade agreement, the proposal contains specific provisions on how the redundancy should be counted for each worker.

Member States shall accredit bodies responsible for the proper management and control of the actions supported by the EGF. Applications to the Fund are submitted by Members States. Individuals, representative organisations or companies affected by redundancies and wishing to benefit from the Fund should contact their national authorities. Detailed eligibility criteria for intervention are set out in the EGF Regulation and its amendment**. List of EGF contact persons for

**Eligibility**

The applicant Member State may provide personalised services co-financed by the EGF to affected workers, who may include:

- All workers being made redundant,
- Workers being made redundant before or after the period, in cases where an application derogates from the criteria set out,
- Farmers changing or adjusting their previous agricultural activities following the initialling by the Union of a trade agreement.

Financial contributions to be provided to:

- workers made redundant as a result of major structural changes in world trade patterns due to globalisation, demonstrated, in particular, by a substantial increase in imports into the Union, a rapid decline of the Union market share in a given sector or a delocalisation of activities to non-member countries, where these redundancies have a significant adverse impact on the local, regional or national economy;
- workers made redundant as a result of a serious disruption of the local, regional or national economy caused by an unexpected crisis, provided that a direct and demonstrable link can be established between the redundancies and that crisis;
- workers changing or adjusting their previous agricultural activities during a period starting upon initialling of the trade agreement by the Union containing trade liberalisation measures for the relevant agricultural sector and ending three years after the full implementation of these measures and provided that these trade measures lead to a substantial increase in Union imports of an agricultural product or products accompanied by a significant decrease in prices of such products at the Union or, where relevant, the national or regional level.

**Comments**

The EU structural funds, in particular the European Social Fund (ESF), take a more strategic, long-term perspective – anticipating and managing change through activities such as life-long learning.

By contrast, the EGF provides one-off, time-limited individual support geared to helping workers who have suffered redundancy as a result of globalisation.

**Emergency Aid Reserve**

Period: 2014-2020
Budget: 280 million per year (outside of MFF)
Legal basis: MFF
Link: MFF Part I., A budget for Europe 2014-2020
The Emergency Aid Reserve is designed to finance humanitarian, civilian crisis management and protection operations in non-EU countries in order to quickly respond to unforeseen events. For example, the Emergency Aid Reserve was mobilised in 2012 following the outbreak of conflict in Syria, the conflicts in Mali and the drought in the Sahel.

Priority is given to humanitarian operations, but the reserve may also be used for civil crisis management and protection if necessary.
Security and citizenship

Period: 2014-2020
Budget: EUR 17,725 million (current prices), 2% of MFF

The Commission has proposed an overall ceiling of € 1,082,555 million under five headings:
- Smart and inclusive growth: 47%
- Sustainable growth: natural resources: 39%
- Security and citizenship: 2%
- Global Europe: 6%
- Administration: 6%

Outside MFF there is (to complete 100%):
- Emergency Aid Reserve
- European Globalisation Fund
- Solidarity Fund
- Flexibility Instrument
- EDF

Supported activities

Asylum and Migration Fund 3,137,42
Internal Security Fund 3,764,23
IT systems (-IT scale agency) 138,66
Justice 377,60
Rights and Citizenship 439,47
Civil Protection Mechanism 223,78
Europe for Citizens 185,47
Food safety 1,891,94
Health for Growth 449,39
Consumer Programme 188,83
Creative Europe 1,462,72
Agencies (+IT scale agency) 4,003,30
Other 678,71
Margin 783,47
H3 Subtotal 17,725,00

Asylum and Migration Fund

Period: 2014-2020
Budget: € 3,137 million in current prices
Legal basis: Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL establishing the Asylum and Migration Fund
Link: Proposal (pdf)

The general objective of the Fund shall be to contribute to an effective management of migration flows in the Union as part of the area of freedom, security and justice, in accordance with the common policy on asylum, subsidiary protection and temporary protection and the common immigration policy. It draws on the capacity building process developed with the assistance of the European Refugee Fund, the European Fund for the Integration of third-country nationals and the European Return Fund and extends it to cover more comprehensively different aspects of the common Union asylum and immigration policy, including actions in or in relation to third countries.
addressing primarily EU interests and objectives in those policy areas, and takes into account new developments.

**Objectives**

- to strengthen and develop the Common European Asylum System, including its external dimension;
- to support legal migration to the Union in line with the economic and social needs of Member States and promote the effective integration of third-country nationals, including of asylum seekers and beneficiaries of international protection;
- to enhance fair and effective return strategies in the Member States with emphasis on sustainability of return and effective readmission in the countries of origin;
- to enhance the solidarity and responsibility sharing between the Member States, in particular towards those most affected by migration and asylum flows.

**Supported activities**

I. COMMON EUROPEAN ASYLUM SYSTEM

**Actions related to reception and asylum systems**

- material aid, education, training, support services, health and psychological care;
- social assistance, information or help with administrative and/or judicial formalities and information or counselling on the possible outcomes of the asylum procedure, including on aspects such as voluntary return;
- legal aid and language assistance;
- Specific assistance for vulnerable persons;
- Information for local communities as well as training for the staff of local authorities;

In specific Member States also:

- establishment, development and improvement of accommodation infrastructure and services;
- setting up of administrative structures, systems and training of staff.
- Member States’ capacity to develop, monitor and evaluate their asylum policies
- actions enhancing the capacity of Member States to collect, analyse and disseminate data and statistics;
- actions directly contributing to the evaluation of asylum policies, such as national impact assessments, surveys amongst target groups, the development of indicators and benchmarking.

**Resettlement and relocation**

- national resettlement and relocation programmes;
- establishment of appropriate infrastructure and services;
- training;
- pre-departure services;
- information and assistance;

II. INTEGRATION OF THIRD-COUNTRY NATIONALS AND LEGAL MIGRATION

**Immigration and pre-departure measures**

- information packages and awareness-raising campaigns
- assessment of skills and qualifications
- vocational training and other courses
Integration measures at local and regional level

- setting up and developing integration strategies
- advice and assistance
- education and training
- capacity building of implementing organisations

Capacity building measures

- reinforcing the capacity of Member States to develop, implement, monitor and evaluate their immigration strategies
- promoting the exchange of experience and good practices, cooperation and networking;
- building sustainable organisational structures

III. RETURN

Measures accompanying return procedures

- establishment and improvement of accommodation infrastructure or services
- setting up of administrative structures, systems and training
- material aid, education, training, support services, health and psychological care;
- social assistance;
- legal aid and language assistance;
- specific assistance for vulnerable persons;

Return measures

- co-operation with consular authorities and immigration services
- assisted return measures
- facilities and services in third countries

Practical co-operation and capacity building measures

- actions to promote and reinforce the operational cooperation between the return services of Member States, including as regards co-operation with consular authorities and immigration services of third countries

The Fund will support the European Migration Network and provide financial assistance necessary for its activities and its future development (http://emn.intrasoft-intl.com/html/index.html)

Implementation

The global resources shall be implemented through the following means:

- National programmes;
- Union actions;
- Emergency assistance;
- European Migration Network;
- Technical assistance.

* Indicatively more than 80% of this amount (EUR 2,509 million) should be used for national programmes of Member States while EUR 628 million should be centrally managed by the Commission to fund Union actions, emergency assistance, European Migration Network, technical assistance and the implementation of specific operational tasks by Union Agencies.
Eligibility
Third-country nationals or stateless people are eligible if fulfilling specific asylum or immigration conditions. The actions will support family members of persons referred to above, where appropriate, and in so far as the same conditions apply. See detailed conditions in the regulation.

Comments
List of common Union resettlement priorities for 2014-2015
(1) The Regional Protection Programme in Eastern Europe (Belarus, Moldova, Ukraine)
(2) The Regional Protection Programme in the Horn of Africa (Djibouti, Kenya, Yemen)
(3) The Regional Protection Programme in North Africa (Egypt, Libya, Tunisia)
(4) Refugees in the region of Eastern Africa / Great Lakes
(5) Iraqi refugees in Syria, Lebanon, Jordan
(6) Iraqi refugees in Turkey

Internal Security Fund (Police cooperation and Border instruments)

Period: 2014-2020
Budget: € 3 764, 23 million in current prices
Legal basis: Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL establishing, as part of the Internal Security Fund, the instrument for financial support for external borders and visa
Link: Proposal (pdf)

The programme aims to support more systematically the services provided by individual Member States in securing the border free area ("operating support mechanism"), to enhance the interagency cooperation between border and other law enforcement authorities and to increase the available specialised equipment in Member States to be put at the disposal of the Frontex Agency for joint operations in the interest of safeguarding the border free area.

The instrument for financial support for external borders and visa will be part of the Internal Security Fund. The Fund will also have the police cooperation, preventing and combating crime, and crisis management component.

The objective is supporting the implementation of the Internal Security Strategy and the EU approach to law enforcement cooperation, including the management of the union's external borders.

Available instruments:
Component for police co-operation
Component for external borders and visa

Objectives

Strategic priorities
- Support and reinforce the national capabilities in the area of border control and visa policy;
- Finance the development of the smart border package, i.e. the setting up of an EU Entry Exit System (EES) and an EU Registered Traveller Programme (RTP);
- Finance the introduction and operation of the European Border Surveillance System, EUROSUR;
- Reinforce the Schengen governance and the evaluation and monitoring mechanism to verify the application of the Schengen acquis;
- Boost the operational potential of the Frontex Agency by inviting Member States to earmark additional resources under their programmes for specialised equipment which can be put at the disposal of the Agency for its joint operations;
- Improving the overall management of migration flows to the Union (projects managed either directly, such as studies or pilot projects to reinforce co-operation with third countries, or indirectly, in accordance with the Financial Regulation;
- Have readily available adequate resources to provide emergency assistance in case of situations of urgent or exceptional migratory pressure;
- Continue support for the functioning of the Specific Transit Scheme for Lithuania.

Objectives

- Preventing and fighting against cross-border, serious and organised crime;
- Raising the levels of security for citizens and business in cyberspace;
- Preventing terrorism and addressing radicalisation and recruitment;
- Raising capabilities to protect critical infrastructure in all economic sectors; and
- Increasing Europe’s resilience to crisis and disaster.
- Enhancing the capacity of Member States and the Union for managing effectively security-related risks and crisis, and preparing for and protecting people and critical infrastructure against terrorist attacks and other security related incidents.
  * supporting a common visa policy to facilitate legitimate travel, ensure equal treatment of third country nationals and tackle irregular migration
  * supporting borders management, to ensure, on one hand, a high level of protection of external borders and, on the other hand, the smooth crossing of the external borders in conformity with the Schengen acquis

Supported activities

Actions in Member States:

- Actions improving police cooperation and coordination between law enforcement authorities, including joint investigation teams and any other form of cross-border joint operation, the access to and exchange of information and interoperable technologies;
- Networking, mutual confidence, understanding and learning, the identification, exchange and dissemination of know-how, experience and good practices, information sharing, shared situation awareness and foresight, contingency planning and interoperability;
- Analytical, monitoring and evaluation activities, including studies and threat, risk and impact assessments;
- Awareness raising, dissemination and communication activities;
- Acquisition and/or further upgrading of technical equipment, secure facilities, infrastructures, related buildings and systems, especially ICT systems and their components, including for the purpose of European cooperation on cyber-crime, notably with the European Cybercrime Centre;
- Exchange, training and education of staff and experts of relevant authorities, including language training and joint exercises or programmes;
- Measures deploying, transferring, testing and validating new methodology or technology, including pilot projects and follow-up measures to Union funded security research projects.

Actions in third countries:

- Actions improving police cooperation and coordination between law enforcement authorities, including joint investigation teams and any other form of cross-border joint operation, the access to and exchange of information and interoperable technologies;
- Networking, mutual confidence, understanding and learning, the identification,
• Exchange and dissemination of know-how, experience and good practices, information sharing, shared situation awareness and foresight, contingency planning and interoperability;
• Acquisition and/or further upgrading of technical equipment, including ICT systems and their components;
• Exchange, training and education of staff and experts of relevant authorities, including language training;
• Awareness raising, dissemination and communication activities
• Threat, risk and impact assessments;
• Studies and pilot projects

Actions in Member States:

• Border crossing infrastructures, buildings and systems required at border crossing points and for surveillance between border crossing points and effective tackling of illegal crossing of the external borders;
• Operating equipment, means of transport and communication systems required for effective border control and the detection of persons, such as fixed terminals for VIS, SIS and the European Image Archiving System (FADO), including state-of-the-art technology;
• IT systems for the management of migration flows across borders;
• Infrastructures, buildings and operating equipment required for the processing of visa applications and consular co-operation;
• Studies, pilot projects and actions aiming to foster interagency cooperation within Member States and between Member States, and implementing the recommendations, operational standards and best practices resulting from the operational cooperation between Member States and Union Agencies.

Actions in third countries:

• Information systems, tools or equipment for sharing information between Member States and third countries;
• Actions aiming to foster operational co-operation between Member States and third countries, including joint operations;
• Studies, events, training, equipment and pilot projects to provide ad hoc technical and operational expertise to third countries;
• Studies, events, training, equipment and pilot projects implementing specific recommendations, operational standards and best practices, resulting from the operational cooperation between Member States and Union agencies in third countries.

Implementation

The global resources shall be implemented through the following means:
• National programmes;
• Union actions;
• Technical assistance;
• Emergency assistance;

The countries associated with the implementation, application and development of the Schengen acquis shall participate in the Instrument, in accordance with this Regulation.

The Commission's proposal for the next multi-annual framework includes a proposal of EUR 4,648 million (in current prices) for the Internal Security Fund for the period 2014-2020. Within this global envelope, the resources available for the implementation of this specific Regulation amount to EUR 3,520 million. Indicatively, about 61% of this amount (EUR 2,150 million) should be used for national programmes of Member States and the support to the Special Transit
Scheme implemented by Lithuania, 31% (EUR 1,100 million) should be dedicated to the development of the smart border package and the remainder should then be available to fund Union actions, emergency actions and technical assistance, whilst taking into account also the contributions expected from the Schengen associated countries, which would be added to the total envelope.

Eligibility

Under the national programmes, Member States shall focus on projects addressing the strategic Union priorities.
To be eligible for funding, Union actions shall be in line with the priorities identified in relevant Union strategies, programmes, threat and risk assessments.

Comments

See also the the Police cooperation instrument component of the Internal Security Fund.

Justice Programme

Period: 2014-2020
Budget: € 377.6 million in current prices
Legal basis: Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL establishing for the period 2014 to 2020 the Justice Programme
Link: Proposal (pdf)

The general objective of the Programme is to contribute to the creation of a European area of justice by promoting judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters. The programme promotes effective, comprehensive and consistent application of Union legislation in the areas of judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters, and fosters access to justice and prevents and reduces drug demand and supply. This can be achieved by supporting training and awareness-raising, strengthening networks and facilitating transnational cooperation.

Within this framework and aiming at simplification and rationalisation, the Justice programme is the successor of three 2007-2013 programmes financed within the Fundamental Rights and Justice Framework Programme:
• Civil Justice (JCIV),
• Criminal Justice (JPEN),
• Drug Prevention and Information Programme (DPIP).

Objectives

- To promote effective, comprehensive and consistent application of Union legislation in the areas of judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters. The indicator to measure the achievement of this objective shall be, inter alia, the number of cases of trans-border cooperation.
- To facilitate access to justice. The indicator to measure the achievement of this objective shall be, inter alia, the European perception of access to justice.
- To prevent and reduce drug demand and supply. The indicator to measure the achievement of this objective shall be, inter alia, the number of cases of trans-border cooperation.

The Programme shall aim to promote equality between women and men and combat discrimination based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation in all its activities.
**Supported activities**

- analytical activities, such as collection of data and statistics; development of common methodologies and, where appropriate, indicators or benchmarks; studies, researches, analyses and surveys; evaluations and impact assessments;
- training activities for members of the judiciary and judicial staff;
- mutual learning, cooperation, awareness raising and dissemination activities;
- support for main actors, key European level networks, networking among specialised bodies and organisations, national, regional and local authorities at European level; funding of experts' networks; funding of European level observatories.

**Implementation**

Community funding may take the form of grants and public procurement contracts (e.g. expenditure on information and communication, preparation, implementation, monitoring, checking and evaluation of projects, policies, programmes and legislation). Community grants shall be awarded following calls for proposals and the maximum rate of co-financing will be specified in the annual work programmes.

**Eligibility**

Access to the Programme shall be open to all public and/or private bodies and entities legally established in:

- Member States;
- EFTA countries which are party to the EEA Agreement, in accordance with the conditions laid down in the EEA Agreement;
- Accession countries, candidate countries and potential candidates, in accordance with the general principles and the general terms and conditions laid down in the framework agreements concluded with them on their participation in Union programmes;
- Denmark, on the basis of an international agreement.

Public and/or private bodies and entities legally established in other third countries, notably countries where the European Neighbourhood Policy applies, may be associated to actions of the Programme, if this serves the purpose of these actions.

The training and exchange actions aim at 'members of the judiciary and judicial staff' including judges, prosecutors, advocates, solicitors, notaries, court officers, bailiffs, court interpreters and other professionals associated with the judiciary.

Under the Programme, the Commission may cooperate with international organisations active in the areas covered by the Programme, such as the Council of Europe, the United Nations and the Hague Conference on Private International Law. Access to the Programme shall be open to those international organisations.

**Comments**

Websites of the three 2007-2013 programmes:
Rights and Citizenship

Period: 2014-2020
Budget: € 439.47 million in current prices
Legal basis: Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL establishing for the period 2014 to 2020 the Rights and Citizenship Programme
Link: Proposal (pdf)

The Rights and Citizenship Programme is the successor of three 2007-2013 programmes: Fundamental Rights and Citizenship, Daphne III, the Sections “Antidiscrimination and Diversity” and “Gender Equality” of the Programme for Employment and Social Solidarity (PROGRESS).

The general objective is to contribute to the creation of an area, where the rights of persons, as enshrined in the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, are promoted and protected. In particular, this Programme should promote the rights deriving from European citizenship, the principles of non-discrimination and equality between women and men, the right to the protection of personal data, the rights of the child, the rights deriving from the Union consumer legislation and from the freedom to conduct a business in the internal market.

Objectives

- To contribute to enhancing the exercise of rights deriving from the citizenship of the Union;
- To promote the effective implementation of the principles of non-discrimination on the grounds of sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation, including equality between women and men and the rights of persons with disabilities and of the elderly;
- To contribute to ensuring a high level of protection of personal data;
- To enhance the respect of the rights of the child;
- To empower consumers and businesses to trade and purchase in trust within the internal market by enforcing the rights deriving from the Union consumer legislation and by supporting the freedom to conduct business in the internal market through cross-border transactions.

Supported activities

- Analytical activities, such as collection of data and statistics; development of common methodologies and, where appropriate, indicators or benchmarks; studies, researches, analyses and surveys; evaluations and impact assessments; elaboration and publication of guides, reports and educational material; monitoring and assessment of the transposition and application of Union legislation and of the implementation of Union policies; workshops, seminars, experts meetings, conferences;
- Training activities, such as staff exchanges, workshops, seminars, train-the-trainers events, development of online/other training modules;
- Mutual learning, cooperation, awareness raising and dissemination activities, such as identification of, and exchanges on, good practices, innovative approaches and experiences, organisation of peer review and mutual learning; organisation of conferences and seminars; organisation of awareness-raising and information campaigns, media campaigns and events, including corporate communication of the political priorities of the European Union; compilation and publication of materials to disseminate information as well as results of the Programme; development, operation and maintenance of systems and tools using information and communication technologies;
- Support for main actors, such as support for Member States when implementing Union law and policies; support for key European level networks whose activities are linked to the implementation of the objectives of the Programme; networking among specialized
bodies and organisations, national, regional and local authorities at European level; funding of experts' networks; funding of European level observatories.

**Implementation**

The annual work programmes will set out the measures needed for their implementation, the priorities of calls for proposals and all other elements required. In order to implement the Programme, the Commission shall adopt annual work programmes in the form of implementing acts.

**Eligibility**

Access to the Programme shall be open to all public and/or private bodies and entities legally established in:

- Member States;
- EFTA countries which are party to the EEA Agreement, in accordance with the conditions laid down in the EEA Agreement;
- Accession countries, candidate countries and potential candidates, in accordance with the general principles and the general terms and conditions laid down in the framework agreements concluded with them on their participation in Union programmes.

Public and/or private bodies and entities legally established in other third countries, notably countries where the European Neighbourhood Policy applies, may be associated to actions of the Programme, if this serves the purpose of these actions.

Under the Programme, the Commission may cooperate with the international organisations active in the areas covered by the Programme, such as the Council of Europe, the organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the United Nations. Access to the Programme shall be open to those international organisations.

**Europe for Citizens**

Period: 2014-2020  
Budget: € 185.47 million in current prices  
Legal basis: Proposal for a COUNCIL REGULATION establishing for the period 2014-2020 the programme Europe for Citizens  
Link: Proposal (pdf), Programme

Europe for Citizens aims to promote active European citizenship with the main scope of bridging the gap between citizens and the European Union through financial instruments that promote active European citizenship. It intends to encourage cooperation between citizens and organisations from different countries and facilitate the development of a sense of belonging to common European ideals and to promote the process of European integration.

**Objectives**

The programme aims to address the need for more genuine debates on Union related issues at the local, regional and national levels, which can be translated into a pan-European perspective. It seeks to reach out to the large group of citizens — those who would normally not seek to influence or take part in Union affairs — through a broad set of organisations to take a first step towards involvement, whatever the (Union related) topic or format, as long as it is trans-national or has a European dimension.

The main objectives of the programme are:
Giving the citizens the opportunity to interact and participate in constructing “an ever closer Europe
Strengthen the European identity, based on common values
Developing a sense of ownership of the Union
Enhancing mutual understanding and tolerance between European citizens, while contributing to intercultural dialogue

**Supported activities**

The programme shall consist of the following two strands:

- "Remembrance and European citizenship” - seeks to support organisations to promote debate and activities on European integration and history at a transnational level or when a clear European dimension is addressed. It will support activities that invite to reflection on common values in the broadest sense, taking into account diversity. Funds may be available for initiatives reflecting on causes of totalitarian regimes in Europe’s modern history (especially but not exclusively Nazism and Stalinism) and to commemorate their victims. The strand should also encompass activities concerning other reference points in recent European history. In particular, it will give preference to actions which encourage tolerance and reconciliation with a view to reaching the younger generation.

- "Democratic engagement and civic participation" - seeks to develop citizens’ understanding and capacity to participate in the Union policy making process and to develop opportunities for solidarity, societal engagement & volunteering. It will support activities that cover civic participation in the broadest sense, with particular focus on structuring methods for long-term sustainability. It will give preference to initiatives and projects with a clear link to the European political agenda. The strand may also cover projects and initiatives that develop opportunities for solidarity, women’s engagement in political decisions, societal engagement and volunteering at Union level.

The two strands shall be complemented by horizontal actions for analysis, dissemination and exploitation of project results ("Valorisation" actions).

In order to achieve its objectives, the programme shall finance inter alia the following types of actions, implemented on a transnational level or with a clear European dimension:

- Citizens’ meetings, town-twinning
- Creation and operations of transnational partnerships and networks
- Support for organisations of a general European interest
- Community building and debates on citizenship issues based on the use of ICT and/or social media
- Union level events
- Debates/studies and interventions on defining moments in European history, in particular to keep the memory alive of the crimes committed under Nazism and Stalinism
- Reflection/debates on common values
- Initiatives to raise awareness on the EU institutions and their functioning
- Actions that exploit and further valorise the results of the supported initiatives
- Studies on issues related to citizenship and civic participation
- Support of programme information/advice structures in the Member States

**Implementation**

The Citizenship team of the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) manages the implementation of Europe for Citizens (together with the DG Education and Culture). The programme is implemented through two types of grants: grants for projects and grants for the operating budget for NGOs promoting active European Citizenship.
Public procurement contracts will cover the purchase of services, such as for organising events, studies and research, information and dissemination tools, monitoring and evaluation.

The programme may cover joint activities in the field covered by this programme, with relevant international organisations, such as the Council of Europe and UNESCO, on the basis of joint contributions.

In order to implement the programme, the Commission shall adopt annual work programmes by way of implementing acts in accordance with the advisory procedure referred to in Article 9(2). They shall set out the objectives pursued, the expected results, the method of implementation and the total amount of the financing plan. They shall also contain a description of the actions to be financed, an indication of the amount allocated to each action and an indicative implementation timetable. They shall include for grants the priorities, the essential evaluation criteria and the maximum rate of co-financing.

Eligibility

Member States of the European Union are eligible to participate fully in all actions of the Programme. The Programme is potentially open to other countries, namely the EFTA countries which are parties to the EEA Agreement, the Candidate Countries and countries from the Western Balkans, provided that certain legal and financial obligations are fulfilled. European research institutions, local authorities, policy research organisations (think-tanks), citizens’ groups and other civil organisations, educational institutions, which promote active European citizenship, are eligible for funding.

Comments


Food safety

Period: 2014-2020
Budget: € 1.891 billion in current prices
Legal basis: MFF
Link: http://ec.europa.eu/food/food/index_en.htm,
http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/health_consumer/index_en.htm

The new animal and plant health programme will contribute to a high level of health for humans, animals and plants all along the food chain by supporting for example, risk-based rules to strengthen the control and eradication of animal diseases and plant pests. It will also provide a high level of protection and information to consumers whilst taking into account the environment, competition, growth and jobs. The programme will also aim at improving the effectiveness of official controls and other official activities carried out by the Member States to ensure the correct application of EU agri-food chain rules.

CAP and the Animal and Plant Health and Food Safety programme

CAP Pillar I and Pillar II funding is complemented by additional funding of €17.1 billion consisting of €5.1 billion for research and innovation, €2.2 billion for food safety and €2.5 billion for food support for the most deprived persons in other headings of the MFF, as well as of €3.9 billion in a new reserve for crises in the agricultural sector and up to €2.8 billion in the European Globalization Adjustment Fund outside the MFF, thus bringing the total budget to €435.6 billion over the 2014-2020 period.

The Animal and Plant Health and Food Safety programme focuses on the eradication of animal diseases, the emergency veterinary fund and related actions such as the financing of EU reference laboratories, training programmes and vaccine banks. The future programme will continue these activities with a strengthened emphasis on results. The programme will also fund
additional and much-needed action to address the plant health pests and diseases which are becoming increasingly prevalent across the EU.

Ensuring a uniform and high level of animal health and food safety throughout the EU enables the free movement of live animals and animal products, which is essential to the functioning of the single market, benefits consumers through greater choice and increased competition, and allows EU food producers to enjoy economies of scale.

**Objectives**

Today, European agriculture faces a variety of challenges, in particular the need to react to unforeseeable circumstances, which have a sudden impact on agricultural income, or the need to facilitate the adaptations/transitions required by international trade agreements. For these reasons, it was proposed to restructure the market measures which are currently regrouped in Pillar 1, to create and extend two instruments outside the multi-annual financial framework. An emergency mechanism to react to crisis situations (which could result from a food safety problem or sudden markets developments) will be created to provide immediate support to farmers through a fast-track procedure. The procedure for mobilising this Fund will be the same as that for mobilising the Emergency Aid Reserve.

Furthermore, the Commission proposed to transfer the funding of food support for the most deprived persons to Heading 1 in order to regroup actions to fight poverty and exclusion and to transfer the financing of food safety together with actions concerning public health.

**Health for Growth Programme**

Period: 2014-2020  
Budget: EUR 449.4 million in current prices  
Legal basis: Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL On establishing a Health for Growth Programme, the third multi-annual programme of EU action in the field of health  

The Health for Growth Programme is the third action supporting the objectives of the EU’s Health strategy. The general objectives of the Health for Growth Programme shall be to work with Member States to encourage innovation in healthcare and increase the sustainability of health systems, to improve the health of the EU citizens and protect them from cross-border health threats. All these actions shall fully respect the responsibilities of the Member States for the organisation and delivery of health services and medical care.

The Health for Growth programme is better oriented towards how health can contribute to growth and to the objectives of Europe 2020; in particular as regards employment, innovation, sustainability. This programme is much more focused on key issues where EU action can deliver added value and make a difference. The Health for Growth programme will give greater support to Member States to help them achieve innovative and sustainable health systems. As such, it will promote the uptake of innovation for health systems' reform, for example, through Health Technology Assessment (HTA) and eHealth solutions. Co-operation on HTA will lead to optimal sharing of information on the effectiveness of health technologies, such as medicines, medical devices, interventions and preventive measures to support decision-making on health at national level. The programme also aims to establish European Reference Networks as foreseen in the EU Directive on Patients’ Rights in Cross-border Healthcare, to empower patients and professionals to identify, access, and disseminate best practices for improving the quality and safety of care. The implementation and management of the new programme will be simplified for example through electronic applications and smaller number of projects and actions. Dissemination of
results will be improved so that Member States and the health community can make better use of them.

**Objectives**

It focuses on four specific objectives with a strong potential for economic growth through better health:

Objective 1:  
**To contribute to the creation of innovative and sustainable health systems.** Action will develop tools and mechanisms at EU level to address shortages of human and financial resources, to facilitate uptake of innovation in healthcare through HTA and e-Health, expertise on healthcare reforms and support to the European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing. Action under the programme will also contribute to forecasting demand for health professionals and help Member States secure a solid health workforce.

Objective 2:  
**To increase access to better and safer healthcare for all EU citizens.** Action will aim at increasing access to medical expertise and information for specific conditions; developing solutions and guidelines to improve the quality of healthcare and patient safety through actions supporting patients’ rights in cross-border healthcare, rare diseases, prudent use of antibiotics and high standards of quality and safety for organs and substances of human origin used in medicine.

Objective 3:  
**To promote good health and prevent diseases** by addressing the key risk factors of most diseases, namely smoking, alcohol abuse and obesity. This will involve fostering the identification and dissemination of best practices for cost-effective prevention measures; as well as specific action aimed at preventing chronic diseases including cancer.

Objective 4:  
**To protect people from cross-border health threats.** Action will contribute towards developing common approaches for better preparedness coordination in health emergencies, for example, improving risk assessment capacity and joint procurement of medical countermeasures.

Main objectives(Presentation)  
- promote health, prevent disease and foster supportive environments for healthy lifestyles;  
- protect citizens from serious cross-border health threats;  
- contribute to innovative, efficient and sustainable health systems;  
- facilitate access to better and safer healthcare for Union citizens.

**Supported activities**

(1) Contributing to innovative and sustainable health systems:

* 1.1. Develop EU cooperation on Health Technology Assessment on the application of patients’ rights in cross-border healthcare;  
* 1.2. Promote the uptake of health innovation and e-Health by increasing the interoperability of e-Health applications;  
* 1.3. Support the sustainability of EU health workforce by promoting effective forecasting and planning and efficient recruitment and retention strategies;  
* 1.4. Provide expertise to assist Member States undertaking health systems reforms;  
* 1.5 Support to the European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing;  
* 1.6 Actions required by the objectives of medical devices as well as e-Health and Health Technology Assessment provisions;  
* 1.7 Foster a health knowledge system, including Scientific Committees, to contribute to evidence-based decision making.
(2) Increasing access to better and safer healthcare for citizens:

- 2.1. Set up accreditation and support European Reference Networks;
- 2.2. Support action on rare diseases including creation of European Reference Networks;
- 2.3. Strengthen collaboration on patient safety and quality of healthcare, by increasing the availability of information to patients, exchange of best practices and development of guidelines;
- 2.4. Develop guidelines to improve the prudent use of antimicrobials in human medicine and reduce the practices that increase antimicrobial resistance;
- 2.5. Actions required by the objectives of tissues and cells, blood, organs, patients’ rights in cross-border healthcare and medicinal products;
- 2.6. Foster a health knowledge system, to contribute to evidence-based decision making.

(3) Promoting good health and preventing diseases:

- 3.1 Exchange best practices on key health issues such as smoking prevention, abuse of alcohol and obesity;
- 3.2. Supporting the prevention of chronic diseases including cancer, by sharing knowledge and best practice and developing joint activities;
- 3.3. Actions required by or contributing to the objectives of EU legislation in the fields of tobacco products and advertisement;
- 3.4. Foster a health knowledge system, to contribute to evidence-based decision making.

(4) Protecting citizens from cross border health threats:

- 4.1. Strengthen preparedness and response for serious cross border health threats;
- 4.2. Improve risk assessment capacity by providing additional capacities for scientific expertise and map existing assessments;
- 4.3. Support capacity building against health threats in Member States;
- 4.4. Actions required by or contributing to the objectives of communicable diseases and other health threats;
- 4.5. Foster a health knowledge system to contribute to evidence-based decision making.

More detailed description is included in the Annex I of the regulation.

Implementation

Financial contributions by the Union may take the form of either grants or public procurement or any other interventions necessary for achieving the objectives of the Programme.

The level of Union co-financing for grants for actions, actions co-financed by the competent authorities of the Member States or third countries, or by non-governmental bodies mandated by these authorities and operating grants will be harmonised at 60% of eligible costs and up to 80% in cases of exceptional utility.

The Executive Agency for Health and Consumers will be the implementing authority.

The largest proportion of the budget - 48% - will be dedicated to helping Member States achieve innovative and sustainable health systems (objective 1). This is important to support the reforms needed to improve the cost-efficiency and long-term sustainability of health systems. Such reforms are key to enabling health systems to address the growing demand for healthcare generated by the ageing population and to continue providing healthcare to their citizens for generations to come.

Similar shares of the budget will be allocated to increase access to better and safer healthcare (objective 2) and to promote good health and prevent diseases (objective 3) – respectively 22% and 21%. Finally, 9% of the budget will be dedicated to protect people from cross-border health threats (objective 4).
It will be funded through:

- **Grants for action** co-financed by the competent authorities responsible for public health in the Member States (so called "joint actions") and with international health organisations.
- **Grants to support NGOs** working in the area of public health who play an effective role in civil dialogue processes at EU level and contribute to at least one of the specific objectives of the programme.
- **Procurement contracts**.

In most cases, the grants will contribute **60% of the costs of the action/project**. This figure rises to 80% in exceptional cases, such as for Member States with a low Gross National Income participating in joint actions.

**Eligibility**

Potential candidates for funding are national health authorities, as well as public and private bodies, international organisations and NGOs with a general interest in health at EU level and which support the programme's specific objectives.

The Programme is open to all EU Member States, EFTA/EEA countries, countries acceding to the EU, candidate countries and potential candidates, as well as countries covered by the European Neighbourhood Policy, as long as membership of the programme remains in accordance with the conditions of their bilateral or multilateral agreements.

**Consumer Programme**

Period: 2014-2020
Budget: EUR 188,83 million in current prices
Legal basis: Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on a consumer programme
Link: Proposal (pdf)

The Consumer programme aims to contribute to protecting the health, safety and economic interests of European citizens. The programme intends to integrate consumer interests in all Community policies, and places a special focus on consumer protection and consumer awareness in the new Member States.

The Consumer Programme will support EU consumer policy in the years to come, contributing to the objective of placing **consumers at the centre of the Single Market**. The key principle is to empower consumers to participate actively in the market and make it work for them in a way which protects their safety and economic rights and interests, in particular by:

- Reinforcing and enhancing product **safety** through effective market surveillance;
- Improving consumers’ **information, education** and awareness of their rights, working closely in partnership with Member States;
- Consolidating consumer **rights** and strengthening effective **redress**, especially through alternative dispute resolution mechanisms;
- Strengthening **enforcement** cross-border by enhancing co-operation between national enforcement bodies and by supporting consumers with advice.

**Objectives**

The aim of the Programme is to support the policy objective of placing the empowered consumer at the centre of the internal market. The Programme will do so by contributing to protecting the health, safety and economic interests of consumers, as well as to promoting their right to
information, education and to organise themselves in order to safeguard their interests. The programme will:

- Ensure a high level of consumer protection (through better representation of consumer interests)
- Ensure the effective application of consumer policy rules (through enforcement cooperation, information, redress and education)
- Develop cooperation with international partners to deal with the impact of the globalisation of the production chain on product safety;
- Support the production of EU-level comparable consumer markets data for benchmarking between Member States and input into EU-level policy-making;
- Ensure EU-level representation of consumer interests by financially supporting EU-level consumer organisations;
- Support awareness-raising campaigns on consumer issues and the training of national consumer organisations.

The programme has four priorities: Safety, Information and education, Rights and redress, and Enforcement (SIRE).

- Safety: to consolidate and enhance product Safety through effective market surveillance throughout the EU;
- Information and education: to improve consumers’ education, information and awareness of their rights, to develop the evidence base for consumer policy and to provide support to consumer organisations.
- Rights and redress: to consolidate consumer rights in particular through regulatory action and improving access to redress including alternative dispute resolution.
- Enforcement: to support enforcement of consumer rights by strengthening cooperation between national enforcement bodies and by supporting consumers with advice.

**Supported activities**

The programme will finance and maintain the

- RAPEX network: EU rapid alert system for all dangerous consumer products
- CPC Network: network of national enforcement authorities
- ECC-Net: network of European Consumer Centres

**Eligible actions**

- under objective 1 - safety:
  - scientific advice and risk analysis relevant to consumer health and safety regarding non-food products and services;
  - coordination of market surveillance and enforcement actions on product safety
  - maintenance and further development of databases on cosmetics;
- under objective 2 – information and education:
  - building the evidence base for policy-making in areas affecting consumers;
  - support to consumer organisations;
  - enhancing the transparency of consumer markets and consumer information;
  - enhancing consumer education;
- under objective 3 – rights and redress:
• preparation by the Commission of consumer protection legislation and other regulatory initiatives,
• facilitating access to and monitoring of the functioning and the effectiveness of dispute resolution mechanisms for consumers,
• under objective 4 – enforcement:
  • coordination of surveillance and enforcement actions with regard to cooperation between national authorities responsible for the enforcement of consumer protections laws;
  • financial contributions for joint actions with public or non-profit bodies constituting Union networks which provide information and assistance to consumers.

The end beneficiaries of the Programme are European consumers, through the support offered by the Programme to consumer organisations at EU and national level, as well as Member States’ national authorities in charge of product safety and enforcement with the overarching objective of improving the situation of consumers throughout the EU.

The Programme will also de facto benefit reputable businesses, as effective consumer policy supports the proper functioning of the Single Market, rewards the most competitive companies and drives out rogue operators.

Empowered consumers are drivers of innovation and consumer policy will therefore contribute to supporting innovative business.

Finally, economic operators will benefit from a level playing field based on clear rules and better coordinated enforcement. In this context, the Programme will contribute to stimulating economic growth.

**Implementation**

An annual programme (which sets out the various budget items for consumer policy to be absorbed on that given year) is established by the Commission every year and then it is submitted to the Consumer Financial Programme Committee (CFPC)* for revision.

While the problems to be tackled by consumer policy are wide ranging, the relatively small size of the Consumer Programme means that actions to be financed under it have to be targeted on areas where intervention at EU level can make a difference and add value. The selected areas for actions are of three kinds:

• Actions corresponding to legal obligations imposed by the Treaty and the existing EU acquis in the field of consumer protection on the EU and Member States
• Actions which are not or could not be undertaken at national level because of their EU-level character
• Actions complementing and enhancing the efficiency of measures undertaken at national level

**Eligibility**

The following countries are eligible for support:

• Member States
• EEA countries
• Candidate Countries
• Western Balkan countries
• Third countries covered by the European Neighbourhood Policy

The following organisations are eligible for funding:
• Public bodies
• Non-profit organisations
• Non-governmental, non-profit and independent European consumer organisations
• Consumer protection officials

Specific conditions apply for specific grants, please check the guidelines or the regulation for details.

The EU contribution can be up to 50% or 70%, depending on the action.

Comments

* The CFPC is composed of the representatives of the 27 Member States of the EU. They meet formally at the last quarter of every year in order to give their opinion on the annual work programme through a vote.

The website of the Consumer Programme 2007 – 2013

Creative Europe

Period: 2014-2020
Budget: EUR 1 462.72 million in current prices
Legal basis: Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on establishing the Creative Europe Programme
Link: Website, Proposal Regulation

Creative Europe programme gives support to safeguard and promote the European cultural and linguistic diversity and support to strengthen the competitiveness of the sector; thereby it will contribute to the EU 2020 strategy and its flagship initiatives. “Creative Europe” framework programme brings together the 2007-2013 Culture, MEDIA and MEDIA Mundus programmes, and includes a new financial facility to improve access to finance for small- and medium-sized enterprises (SME) and organisations in the cultural and creative sectors.

• More funding for artists and cultural professionals to develop their skills and to work across borders
• More funding for transnational cultural activities within and outside of the EU
• Support schemes tailored to the specific needs of the audiovisual and the cultural sectors in the EU
• Easier access to private funding through guarantees
• Increase banking expertise in the cultural and creative sectors
• Develop Europe’s competitiveness in culture and film while safeguarding cultural and linguistic diversity

Objectives

• To support the capacity of the European cultural and creative sectors to operate transnationally;
• To promote the transnational circulation of cultural and creative works and operators and reach new audiences in Europe and beyond;
• To strengthen the financial capacity of the cultural and creative sectors, and in particular small and medium-sized enterprises and organisations;
• To support transnational policy cooperation in order to foster policy development, innovation, audience building and new business models.

Supported activities
Funding for:
• Development of European films, TV programmes and games
• Distribution and promotion of European films, festivals, cinema networks
• Training for cultural and creative professionals/artists
• Literary translations
• Cross-border cooperation

Strand I.: Cross-sectoral Strand addressed to all cultural and creative sectors.

The Cultural and Creative Sectors Facility

- Provide guarantees to appropriate financial intermediaries from any country participating in the Creative Europe Programme;
- Provide financial intermediaries with additional expertise and capacity to evaluate risks associated with operators in the cultural and creative sectors

Transnational policy cooperation

- transnational exchange of experiences and knowhow on new business models, peerlearning
- activities and networking among cultural operators and policy makers
- market data, studies
- testing of new and cross-sectoral business approaches
- conferences, seminars, policy dialogue
- supporting the Creative Europe Desks' network

Strand II.: Culture Strand addressed to the cultural and creative sectors.

- cooperation measures bringing together operators from different countries to undertake sectoral or cross-sectoral activities;
- activities by European bodies comprising networks of operators from different countries;
- activities by organisations providing a promotional European platform for the development of emerging talent and stimulating the circulation of artists and works, with a systemic and large scale effect;
- support for literary translation;
- special actions aiming to achieve greater visibility for the richness and diversity of European cultures, and stimulate intercultural dialogue and mutual understanding, including European cultural prizes, the European Heritage Label, and the European Capitals of Culture.

Strand III.: MEDIA Strand addressed to the audiovisual sector.

- support the development of a comprehensive offer of new skills acquisition, knowledge sharing and networking initiatives;
- support audiovisual operators to develop European audiovisual works with enhanced crossborder circulation potential;
- support activities aiming at facilitating European and international co-productions, including television;
- facilitate access to professional audiovisual trade events and markets and the use of online business tools inside and outside Europe;
- establish systems of support for the distribution of non-national European films on all platforms and for international sales activities;
- facilitate circulation of European films worldwide and of international films in Europe on all platforms;
- support of a European cinema owners' network screening a significant proportion of non-national European films, including the integration of digital technologies;
• support initiatives presenting and promoting a diversity of European audiovisual works;
• support activities aiming at increasing knowledge and interest of audiences;
• support innovative actions testing new business models and tools in areas likely to be influenced by the introduction and the use of digital technologies.

Implementation

The indicative budgetary allocation will be 15 % for the Cross-sectoral Strand, 30 % for the Culture Strand and 55% for the MEDIA Strand.

In order to implement the programme, the Commission shall adopt annual work programmes by way of implementing acts in accordance with the advisory procedure. The annual work programmes shall set out the objectives pursued the expected results, the method of implementation and the total amount of the financing plan. They shall also contain a description of the actions to be financed, an indication of the amount allocated to each action and an indicative implementation timetable. For grants they shall include the priorities, the essential evaluation criteria and the maximum rate of co-financing.

Eligibility

The Strands shall be open to the participation of the following countries provided that the conditions are met, including those contained on the coordination of certain provisions laid down by law, regulation or administrative action in Member States concerning the provision of audiovisual media services for the MEDIA strand, and additional appropriations are paid:

• Acceding countries, candidate countries and potential candidates benefiting from a preaccession strategy, in accordance with the general principles and general terms and conditions for the participation of those countries in Union programmes established in the respective Framework Agreements, Association Council Decisions or similar agreements;
• EFTA countries which are members of the EEA, in accordance with the provisions of the EEA Agreement;
• The Swiss Confederation, on the basis of a bilateral agreement to be concluded with that country;
• Countries of the European neighbourhood area in accordance with the procedures defined with those countries following the framework agreements providing for their participation in European Union programmes.

The Programme shall be open for bilateral or multilateral cooperation actions targeted at selected countries or regions on the basis of additional appropriations.
Global Europe

Period: 2014-2020
Budget: EUR 66 262 million (current prices), 6% of MFF

The Commission has proposed an overall ceiling of **€1 082 555 billion** under five headings:
- Smart and inclusive growth: 47%
- Sustainable growth: natural resources: 39%
- Security and citizenship: 2%
- Global Europe: 6%
- Administration: 6%

Outside MFF there is (to complete 100%):
- Emergency Aid Reserve
- European Globalisation Fund
- Solidarity Fund
- Flexibility Instrument
- EDF

**Supported activities**

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**Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA II)**

Period: 2014-2020
Budget: EUR 11 698 million in current prices
Legal basis: Proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and the Council on the
Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA II)  
Link: Proposal (pdf)

Technical and financial assistance to the Enlargement countries is currently provided through the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA). This instrument will expire at the end of 2013. With a view to future accessions, the EU will continue to offer candidate countries and potential candidates technical and financial assistance to overcome their difficult situation and develop sustainably.

The Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance II. is designed to create a single framework and to unite under the same instrument both Candidate and Potential Candidate Countries, thus, facilitating the transfer from one status to another.

EU pre-accession funds make political and economic reform easier in the beneficiary countries and prepare them for the rights and obligations that come with EU membership. With the EU's help, citizens in the enlargement region can enjoy better opportunities and overall conditions. Their countries can develop the same standards we enjoy as citizens of the EU. The pre-accession funds also help the EU reach its own objectives regarding a sustainable economic recovery, energy supply, transport, the environment and climate change, etc. This is a sound investment in the future.

The allocation of EU pre-accession funds helps translate the political priorities of the enlargement strategy into concrete actions. Through IPA, the EU reinforces its guidance to the aspiring countries on the priorities necessary for aligning with EU standards and legislation.

Objectives

- Strengthening democratic institutions
- Promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms and enhanced respect for minority rights
- Development of civil society
- Regional and cross-border cooperation

Supported activities

Assistance will address the following policy areas:
(a) the transition process towards Union membership and capacity building;
(b) regional development;
(c) employment, social policies and human resources development;
(d) agriculture and rural development;
(e) regional and territorial cooperation.

Implementation

The financial envelope for the implementation of this Regulation for the period from 2014 to 2020 is set at EUR 11 698 668 000 (current prices). Up to 4 % of the financial envelope shall be allocated to cross-border cooperation programmes between the beneficiaries listed in Annex I and EU Member States, in line with their needs and priorities (Parliament voting).

An indicative amount of EUR 1 680 000 000 from the different external instruments (Development Cooperation Instrument, European Neighbourhood Instrument, Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance, Partnership Instrument and the European Development Fund), will be allocated to actions of learning mobility to or from non EU countries and to cooperation and policy dialogue with authorities/institutions/organisations from these countries. The provisions of the "Erasmus for All" Regulation will apply to the use of those funds.

A priority for the Commission in this new Regulation is to simplify the regulatory environment and facilitate Union assistance to beneficiary countries and regions, civil society organisations, SMEs, etc.

The objectives of the assistance should be defined in indicative country and multi–country
strategy papers established by the Commission for the duration of the Union’s Multi-annual Financial Framework in partnership with the beneficiary countries, based on their specific needs and enlargement agenda. The strategy papers should identify the policy areas for assistance and, without prejudice to the prerogatives of the budgetary authority, lay down the indicative allocations of funds per policy area, broken down per year, including an estimate of climate related expenditure. Sufficient flexibility should be built in to cater for emerging needs and to give incentives to improve performance.

Linked to the streamlining of the components structure, undifferentiated access to assistance under each policy area means that beneficiary countries will no longer need to be identified separately in the legal basis of the instrument. As a result, it will no longer be necessary to go through a cumbersome procedure to reflect a beneficiary’s change of status, thus reducing the gap between the political decisions on financial assistance and implementation on the ground.

Different Commission services will remain responsible for managing and implementing the assistance in the different policy areas. However, coordination, communication and implementation on the ground will be further improved through simplification of a number of aspects, including closer joint monitoring of the progress of implementation in the beneficiary countries and fewer processes for accreditation and conferral of management powers. Increasing the coherence of action by the Commission should also substantially reduce the cost and burden of coordination incurred by beneficiary countries, on account of the different communication channels and procedures used by the Commission.

Overall, the current proposal for IPA II and future implementing rules envisage the following revisions to the design of the instrument and its implementation modalities:

- The delivery of assistance will be made more coherent, strategic and result-oriented
- The delivery of assistance will be made more flexible and tailored to address needs
- The deployment of assistance will be made more efficient and effective

**Eligibility**

Candidate countries

- the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
- Iceland
- Montenegro
- Turkey
- Potential candidate countries
- Albania
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Serbia
- Kosovo (Under UNSCR 1244/1999)

**Instrument for Stability (IfS)**

Period: 2014-2020
Budget: EUR 2.338 billion
Link: [Proposal (pdf)]

The IfS is a key instrument of the EU to help prevent and respond to crises and create a safe and stable environment. It provide a swift crisis-response in political conflicts and when natural disasters occur, enhances the EU capacity for crisis preparedness, conflict prevention and peace building, and builds capacity to address global and trans-regional security threats, including climate change.
Objectives

- Address global and regional trans-border challenges with a security or stability dimension arising in third countries, including issues such as nuclear safety, as well as the fight against trafficking, organised crime and terrorism and unforeseen major threats to public health. In addition, some of the most critical security challenges have a worldwide scope, impacting on both developing and industrialized countries. Natural and man-made disasters, cyber security challenges and threats and related disruptions increase insecurity, hamper development, weaken the rule of law and contribute to instability.
- Enable the Community to deliver a timely response to future urgent policy challenges faced by the Union, by piloting measures unforeseen under the three policy-driven instruments, until such time as they can adequately be integrated within the policy framework of those instruments.

The specific objectives shall be:

- in a situation of crisis or emerging crisis, to swiftly contribute to stability by providing an effective response designed to help preserve, establish or re-establish the conditions essential to the proper implementation of the Union's external policies and actions in accordance with Article 21 TEU;
- to contribute to the prevention of conflicts and to ensuring capacity and preparedness to address pre- and post-crisis situations and build peace; and
- to address specific global and trans-regional threats to peace, international security and stability.

Implementation

The Union shall provide technical and financial assistance in response to exceptional and unforeseen situations and provide the technical and financial assistance to cover specific areas. The Union shall provide technical and financial assistance in pursuit of the specific objectives set out in point (b) of Article 1(4). Such technical and financial assistance shall cover support for measures aimed at building and strengthening the capacity of the Union and its partners to prevent conflict, build peace and address pre- and post-crisis needs in close coordination with the United Nations and other international, regional and sub-regional organisations, and State and civil society actors, in relation to their efforts in:

- promoting early warning and conflict-sensitive risk analysis in policy-making and implementation;
- facilitating and building capacity in confidence-building, mediation, dialogue and reconciliation, with particular regard to emerging inter-community tensions;
- strengthening capacities for participation and deployment in civilian stabilisation missions;
- improving post-conflict recovery as well as post-disaster recovery with relevance to the political and security situation;
- curbing the use of natural resources to finance conflicts, and supporting compliance by stakeholders with initiatives such as the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, especially as regards the implementation of efficient domestic controls over the production of, and trade in, natural resources.

The short-term component is managed by Directorate General External Relations, while the long-term component by Europe Aid (except for the third priority, which is also managed by DG RELEX). The Community assistance is implemented with the help of four types of documents:

- Exceptional Assistance Measures and Interim Response Programmes
- Multi-country Strategy Papers, Thematic Strategy Papers and Multi-annual Indicative Programmes
- Annual Action Programmes
- Special Measures
- Support Measures
Financial assistance provided in crisis situations or emerging crises is allocated in accordance with Exceptional Assistance Measures and Interim Response Programmes. Support provided in stable conditions is allocated along Multi-country Strategy Papers, Thematic Strategy Papers and Multi-annual Indicative Programmes. These documents summarize the priority areas selected for Community financing, the specific objectives, the expected results and timeframe of Community support and the indicative financial allocation. These strategy papers are broken down into annual action programmes.

Flexibility has been improved by expanding the maximum length of crisis response measures (so-called ‘Exceptional Assistance Measures’) up to a maximum of 30 months and the deployment of a second Exceptional Assistance Measure in cases of protracted conflict to build on the results of a previous one. In addition, in exceptional situations of urgency, the Commission will be empowered to adopt Exceptional Assistance Measures for up to €3 million without prior information to Council. This improvement in speed of deployment will allow the EU to respond to crises within a period of 48 -72 hours.

**Eligibility**

Applicants can be nationals of or legal persons who are established in a Member State, a Candidate Country or in an EEA State.

Non-state actors eligible for financial support under this instrument include: non-governmental organisations, organisations representing indigenous peoples, local citizens' groups and traders' associations, co-operatives, trade unions, organisations representing economic and social interests, local organisations (including networks) involved in de-centralized regional cooperation and integration, consumer organisations, women and youth organisations, teaching, cultural, research and scientific organisations, universities, churches and religious associations and communities, the media and any non-governmental associations and private and public foundations likely to contribute to development or the external dimension of internal policies.

Other eligibility criteria:

- For a third country considered a Least Developed Country, according to the criteria laid down by the OECD, calls are open on a global basis
- For support provided in crises situations, calls are open on a global basis
- Support provided in stable conditions, the calls are open to any natural or legal person of a developing country or of a country in transition, as defined by the OECD

**Comments**


**European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR)**

**Period:** 2014-2020  
**Budget:** 1 332 million  
**Legal basis:** Proposal for a a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a financing instrument for the promotion of democracy and human rights worldwide  
**Link:** Proposal (pdf), Website

The instrument for democracy and human rights supports the promotion, development and consolidation of democracy and the rule of law as well as the respect for human rights worldwide. Assistance under EIDHR complements other tools which are used to implement EU policies for democracy and human rights such as ENI, DCI and IFS.

It aims to contribute to an increased respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and to promote democratic reforms in third countries through support to civil society organisations support. Furthermore to support and enhance the international framework for the protection,
promotion and monitoring of human rights, the promotion of democracy and the rule of law and reinforce an active for civil society within these frameworks.

**Objectives**

- Enhancing respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in countries where they are most at risk;
- Strengthening the role of civil society in promoting human rights and democratic reform, in supporting the peaceful conciliation of group interests and, in consolidating political participation and representation;
- Supporting actions on human rights and democracy issues in areas covered by EU Guidelines, including on human rights dialogues, on human rights defenders, on the death penalty, on torture, on children and armed conflict, on the rights of the child, on violence against women and girls and combating all forms of discrimination against them, on International Humanitarian Law and on possible future guidelines;
- Supporting and strengthening the international and regional framework for the protection and promotion of human rights, justice, the rule of law and the promotion of democracy;
- Building confidence in and enhancing the reliability and transparency of democratic electoral processes, in particular through election observation.

**Supported activities**

- Support for human rights defenders
- Education in the area of human rights and democracy
- Support for civil society organisations focusing on human rights
- Fostering cooperation of civil society with international organisations, and supporting civil Society activities aimed at monitoring the implementation of instruments concerning human rights
- Promoting observance of international humanitarian law

Assistance shall aim in particular at:

(a) enhancing the respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms, as proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international and regional human rights instruments, and strengthening their protection, promotion and monitoring, mainly through support to relevant civil society organisations, human rights defenders and victims of repression and abuse;

(b) supporting and consolidating democratic reforms in third countries, by enhancing participatory and representative democracy, strengthening the overall democratic cycle, and improving the reliability of electoral processes, in particular by means of election observation missions.

**EIDHR Highlights**

- Torture
- Democracy
- Death Penalty
- Economic and Social Rights
- International Justice
- LGBT, women, children, minorities
- Electoral observation

**Implementation**

Funds are allocated according to strategy papers, which specify the priority areas selected for financing, objectives, the expected results, performance evaluation as well as indicative financial allocation.
The assistance measures shall be implemented in the territory of third countries or shall be
directly related to situations arising in third countries, or shall be directly related to global or
regional actions.

The assistance measures shall take into account the specific features of crisis or urgency
situations and countries or situations where there is a serious lack of fundamental freedoms,
where human security is most at risk or where human rights organisations and defenders operate
under the most difficult conditions.

Eligibility

Depending on the specific objectives of each action/call for proposal civil society organisations,
public- and private-sector non-profit organisations, national, regional and international
parliamentary bodies (where the proposed measure cannot be financed under a related
Community external assistance instrument), international and regional inter-governmental
organisations, natural persons (where their help is necessary for achieving the aims of the
EIDHR) from countries (except EU and industrialised countries) are eligible for funding.

Comments


Humanitarian Aid Instrument

Period: 2014-2020
Budget: € 6 621 million in current prices
Legal basis: MFF
Link: Humanitarian aid and Civil Protection

The EU's humanitarian aid is now recognised in the Lisbon Treaty as a self-standing policy in the
area of the EU's external action, bringing a high level of added value. A coherent, complementary
and coordinated EU approach to the provision of humanitarian aid ensures that scarce resources
are used efficiently to meet identified needs and supports the drive to more effective international
humanitarian response. The increase in the number of natural and man-made disasters and their
economic impact calls for systematic action at European level to strengthen preparedness and to
enhance response capacities, both inside and outside the EU. The Commission proposes that
crisis response, prevention and management be pursued with the Humanitarian Aid Instrument,
and the Civil Protection Mechanism responding to natural and man-made disasters, which will
continue as the effects of climate change make themselves felt.

Objectives

The Humanitarian Aid Instrument will provide response to natural and man-made disasters,
based on the international principles of humanitarian law, and through the use of specialised
organisations.

Civil Protection Financial Instrument (CPFI) and Emergency Response
Center

Period: 2014-2020
Budget: 144,6 million
Legal basis: Proposal for a DECISION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE
The Civil Protection Financial Instrument supports and complements the efforts of Member States for the protection, primarily of people, but also of the environment and property, including cultural heritage, in the event of natural and man-made disasters, acts of terrorism and technological, radiological or environmental accidents. It also intends to facilitate reinforced cooperation between Member States in the field of civil protection. The Emergency Response Centre of the European Commission co-ordinates assistance on the European level in the event of disasters.

Objectives

The main objectives of the Civil Protection Instrument are to:

- achieve a high level of protection against disasters by preventing or reducing their effects and by fostering a culture of prevention;
- enhance the Union’s state of preparedness to respond to disasters;
- facilitate rapid and efficient emergency response interventions in the event of major disasters or their imminence

Supported activities

The following general actions shall be eligible for financial assistance:

- Studies, surveys, modelling and scenario building to facilitate the sharing of knowledge, best practices and information, and to enhance prevention, preparedness and effective response;
- Training, exercises, workshops, exchange of staff and experts, creation of networks, demonstration projects and technology transfer to enhance prevention, preparedness and effective response;
- Monitoring, assessment and evaluation actions;
- Public information, education and awareness raising and associated dissemination actions, so as to minimise the effects of disasters on Union citizens and to help Union citizens to protect themselves more effectively;
- Establishment of a programme of lessons learnt from interventions and exercises in the context of the Mechanism, including on areas relevant to prevention and preparedness;
- Communication actions and measures to promote the visibility of the European civil protection work in the areas of prevention, preparedness and response.

The following prevention and preparedness actions shall be eligible for financial assistance:

- Preparing risk management plans and a Union-wide overview of risks;
- actions to improve the knowledge base on disaster risks and facilitate the sharing of knowledge, best practices and information
- establish and manage the Emergency Response Centre (ERC) and manage a Common Emergency Communication and Information System (CECIS)
- Maintaining the functions provided by the ERC, in accordance with point (a) of Article 7 to facilitate a rapid response in the event of a major disaster;
- Developing and maintaining a surge capacity through a network of trained experts of Member States, who can be available at short notice to assist in the monitoring, information and coordination tasks of the ERC;
- Maintaining the CECIS and tools to enable communication and sharing of information between the ERC and the contact points of the Member States and of other participants in the context of the Mechanism;
• Contributing to the development of detection, early warning and alert systems for disasters, in order to enable a rapid response and to promote their interlinkage and their linkage to the ERC and the CECIS.

Response:
Where a major disaster occurs within the Union, or in the imminence thereof, a Member State may request assistance through the ERC. In the event of a major disaster occurring outside the Union, or the imminence thereof, the affected country, the United Nations and its agencies, or a relevant international organisation may request assistance through the ERC. The Union coordination shall be fully integrated with the overall coordination provided by the UNOCHA, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

The following response actions shall be eligible for financial assistance:

• dispatching expert teams together with the necessary equipment,
• supporting Member States in obtaining access to equipment, transport resources and related logistics;
• any other supporting and complementary action necessary in the framework of the Mechanism.

Implementation

Financial assistance under this Decision may take any of the forms provided by the Financial Regulation, in particular grants, reimbursement of expenses, public procurement, or contributions to trust funds. The Commission will adopt annual work programmes, except for actions falling under the emergency response, which may not be foreseen in advance. They shall set out the objectives pursued, the expected results, the method of implementation and their total amount. They shall also contain the description of actions to be financed, an indication of the amount allocated to each action and an indicative implementation timetable. For grants, they shall include the priorities, the essential evaluation criteria and the maximum rate of co-financing.

The instrument will exploit synergies with relevant Union initiatives, such as the European Earth monitoring programme (GMES), the European Programme for Critical Infrastructure Protection (EPCIP) and the Common Information Sharing Environment (CISE).

Eligibility

The Civil Protection Financial Instrument is open to Member States and to EEA countries. Other third countries may co-operate in activities when agreements so allow. Depending on the Call for Proposals, different potential beneficiaries can participate in the programme (as long as projects are not profit generating):

• State administration bodies,
• Universities,
• International organizations,
• Non-government organizations,
• Commercial companies, including small and medium size enterprises.

Physical persons (individuals) cannot participate.