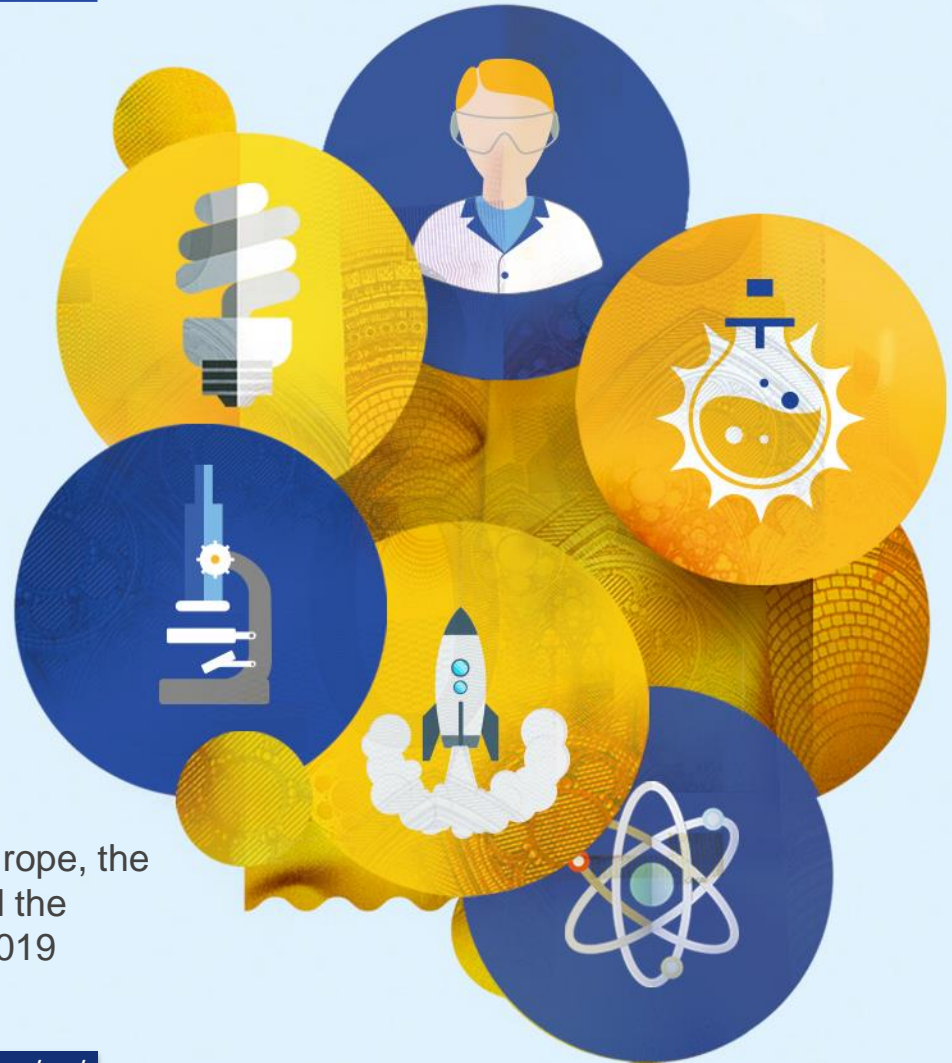


Horizon Europe

THE NEXT EU RESEARCH & INNOVATION
INVESTMENT PROGRAMME (2021 – 2027)

#HorizonEU

Based on the Commission Proposal for Horizon Europe, the common understanding between co-legislators and the Partial General Approach, both approved in April 2019



Our vision

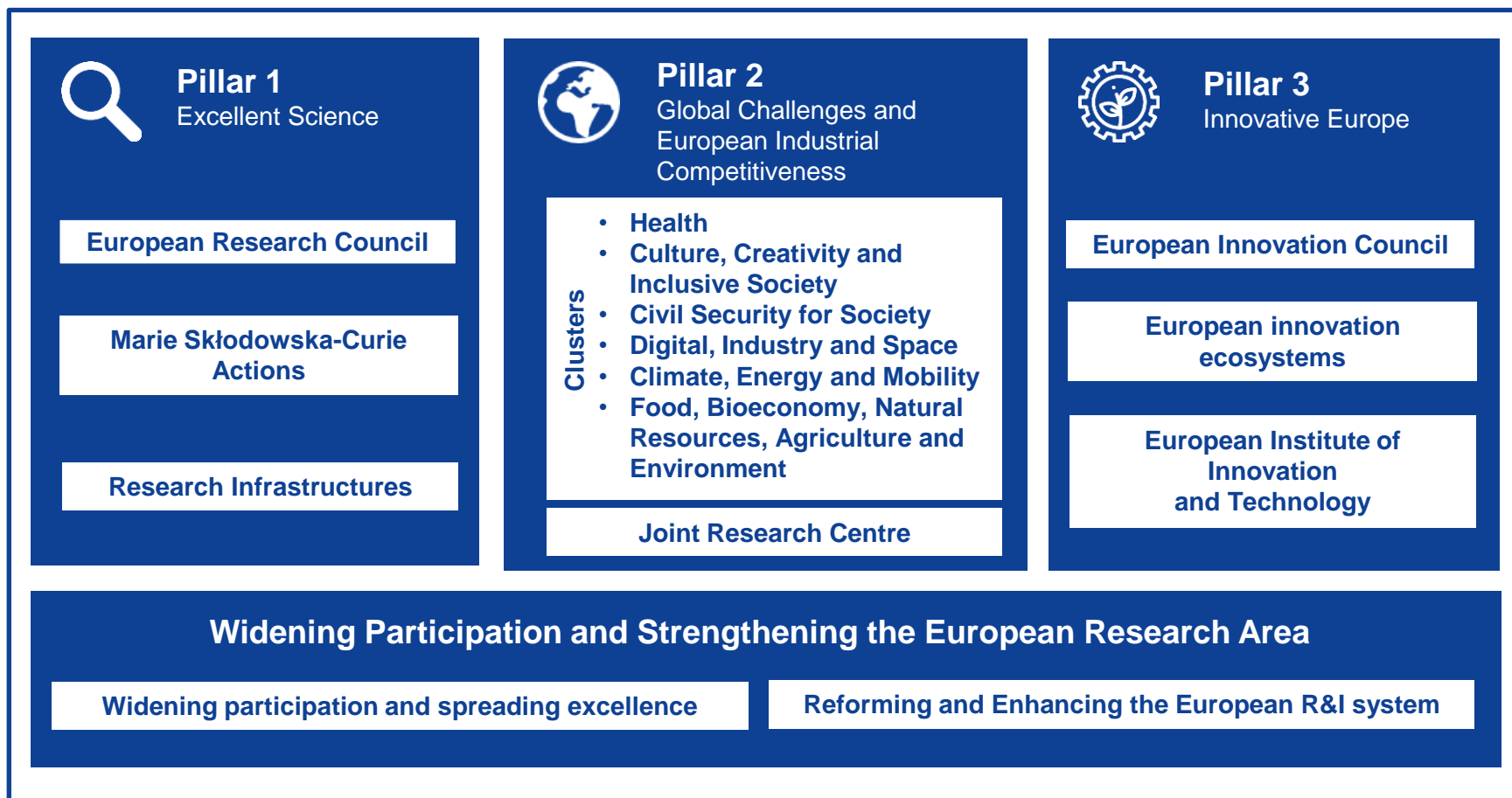
A sustainable, fair and **prosperous** future for **people** and **planet** based on European values.

- Tackling **climate change** (35 % budgetary target)
- Helping to achieve **Sustainable Development Goals**
- Boosting the Union's **competitiveness and growth**

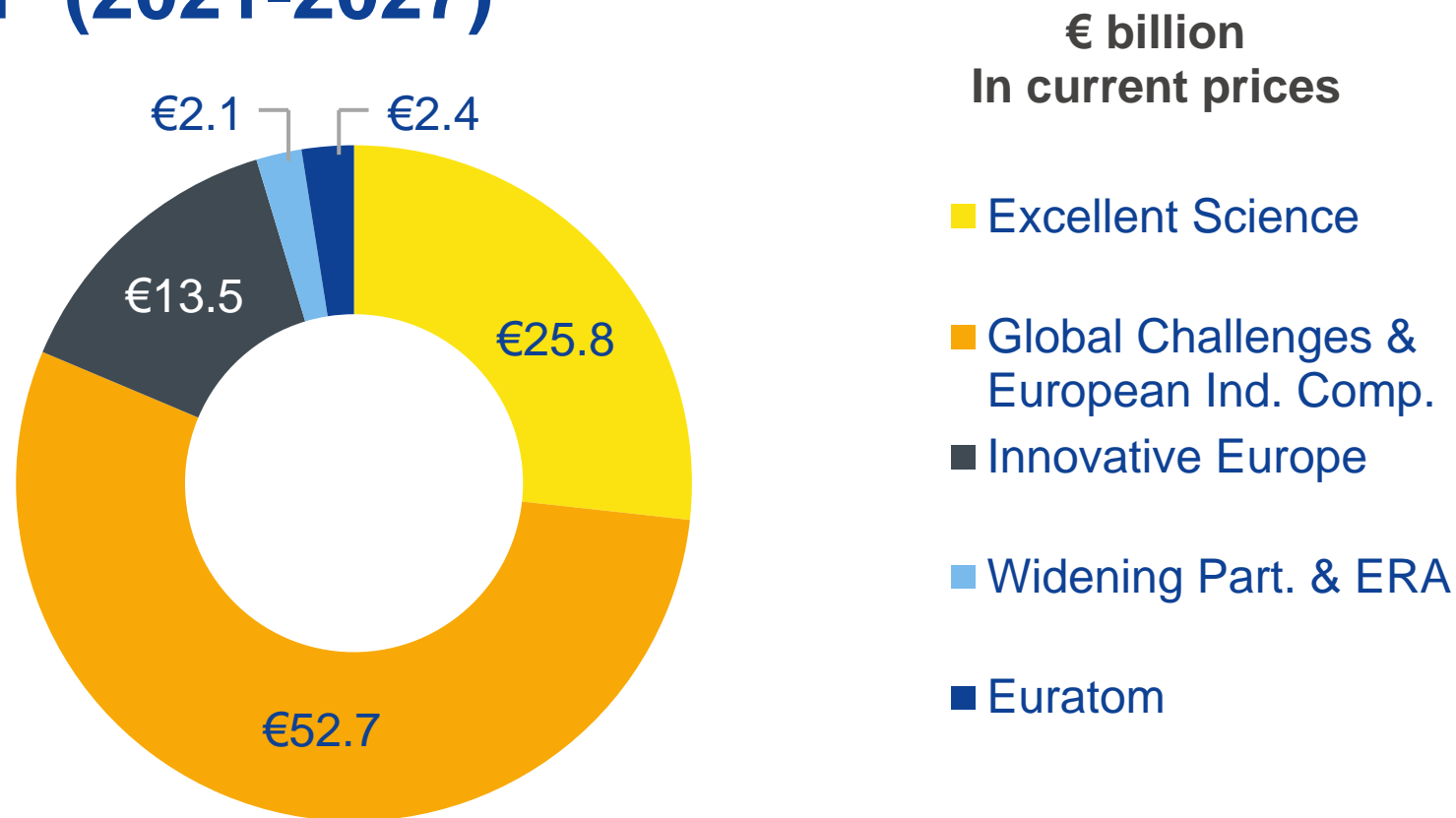


Credits: <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>

Horizon Europe: Preliminary structure



Commission proposal for budget: €100 billion* (2021-2027)



* This envelope includes EUR 3.5 billion allocated under the InvestEU Fund.

European Parliament and Council reached a common understanding on Horizon Europe on 19 March 2019

- Budget, synergies and third country association still pending, depending on the overall MFF negotiations
- Commission has started preparations for the implementation of Horizon Europe

Horizon Europe – Central elements

Lessons Learned

from Horizon 2020 Interim Evaluation

Key Novelties

in Horizon Europe



Support breakthrough innovation



European Innovation Council



Create more impact through mission-orientation and citizens' involvement



R&I Missions



Strengthen international cooperation



Extended association possibilities



Reinforce openness



Open science policy



Rationalise the funding landscape



New approach to Partnerships



Encourage participation



Spreading Excellence

Rules for participation: continuity and simplification



European Innovation Council

Support to innovations with breakthrough and disruptive nature and scale up potential that are too risky for private investors (**70% of the budget earmarked for SMEs**)

**European
Innovation Council
– a one-stop-shop**

Helping innovators create markets of the future, leverage private finance, scale up their companies, Innovation centric, risk taking & agile, pro-active management and follow up

Two complementary instruments bridging the gap from idea to investable project

Pathfinder: grants
(from early technology
to pre- commercial)

Accelerator:
grants only & blended finance
(from pre-commercial
to market & scale-up)



R&I Missions

R&I Missions

Relating EU's research and innovation better to society and citizens' needs; with strong visibility and impact

A mission is a portfolio of actions across disciplines intended to achieve a **bold and inspirational and measurable goal** within a set timeframe, with **impact** for society and policy making as well as relevance for a significant part of the European population and wide range of European citizens.

Horizon Europe defines mission characteristics and elements of governance, and 5 missions areas.

Specific missions will be programmed within the Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness pillar (drawing on inputs from other pillars)

Adaptation to climate change, including societal transformation



Mission areas

Healthy oceans, seas, coastal and inland waters



Cancer



Climate-neutral and smart cities



Soil health and food





New approach to European Partnerships

New generation of objective-driven and more ambitious partnerships in support of agreed EU policy objectives

Key features

- Simple architecture and toolbox
- Coherent life-cycle approach
- Strategic orientation

Co-programmed

Based on Memoranda of Understanding / contractual arrangements; implemented independently by the partners and by Horizon Europe

Co-funded

Based on a joint programme agreed and implemented by partners; commitment of partners for financial and in-kind contributions

Institutionalised

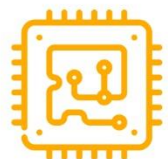
Based on long-term dimension and need for high integration; partnerships based on Articles 185 / 187 of TFEU and the EIT-Regulation supported by Horizon Europe

**Health
innovations**



**Sustainable
bio-based
solutions**

**Key digital
and enabling
technologies**



**Hydrogen
and
sustainable
energy
storage**

Metrology



**Clean,
connected
mobility**

**EU air
traffic,
aviation
and rail**



**Innovative
SMEs**

**Areas for
possible
Institutionalised
European
partnerships
(based on Article
185/7 TFEU)**



**European
Commission**



International Cooperation

International Cooperation

Tackling together global societal challenges; access to the world's best talents, expertise and resources; enhanced supply and demand of innovative solutions

Extended openness to association

- Third countries with good capacity in science, technology and innovation
- Taking into account objective of driving economic growth in Europe through innovation
- General opening for international participation
- Intensified targeted actions (flagship initiatives, joint calls, etc.)



Open Science across the programme

Open Science

Better dissemination and exploitation of R&I results and support to active engagement of society

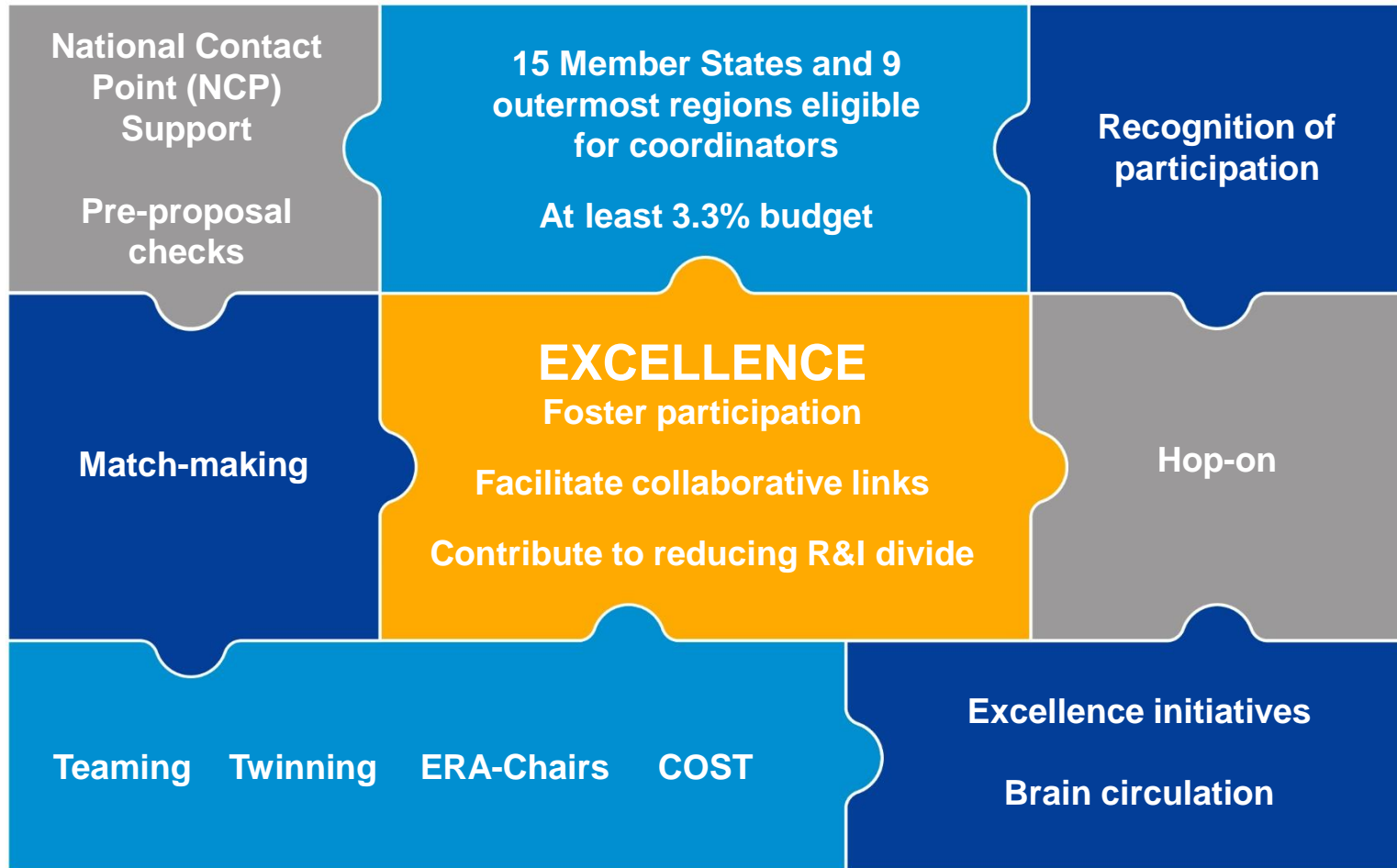
Mandatory Open Access to publications: beneficiaries shall ensure that they or the authors retain sufficient intellectual property rights to comply with open access requirements

Open Access to research data ensured: in line with the principle "as open as possible, as closed as necessary"; Mandatory Data Management Plan for FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Re-usable) and Open Research Data

- Support to researcher skills and reward systems for open science
- Use of European Open Science Cloud



Widening participation/spreading excellence



Simple and fit for purpose rules

- Further alignment to the Financial Regulation
- Increased use of **simplified forms of grants** where appropriate (building on the H2020 lump sum pilot experience)
- Broader acceptance of **usual cost accounting practices**
- Enhanced **cross-reliance on audits** benefiting beneficiaries taking part in several Union programmes

while ensuring continuity and consistency for beneficiaries by maintaining

- Attractive H2020 funding model, including up to 100% funding rate of direct costs
- Single set of rules principle

Commission proposal for synergies with other Union programmes

Horizon Europe



Other Union Programmes, including

Common Agricultural Policy
ERDF
External Instrument
Maritime & Fisheries Fund
InvestEU

LIFE
Connecting Europe Facility
ESF+
Digital Europe
Space Programme

Erasmus
Innovation Fund
Internal Security Fund
Single Market Programme



Enhanced synergies

Compatibility

Harmonisation of funding rules; flexible co-funding schemes; pooling resources at EU level

Coherence and complementarity

Alignment of strategic priorities in support of a common vision

Horizon Europe – implementation, prioritisation and impact

Strategic Plan for implementing Horizon Europe

The Strategic Plan (*new implementing act by the Commission*) will prepare the content in the work programmes and calls for proposals for the first four years

- Strategic orientation for R&I support, expected impacts
- Partnerships and missions
- Areas for international cooperation
- Issues such as:
 - Balance between research and innovation
 - Social Sciences and Humanities
 - Key Enabling Technologies and strategic value chains
 - Gender
 - Ethics and integrity
 - Dissemination and exploitation

Strategic plan gives direction to the work programme



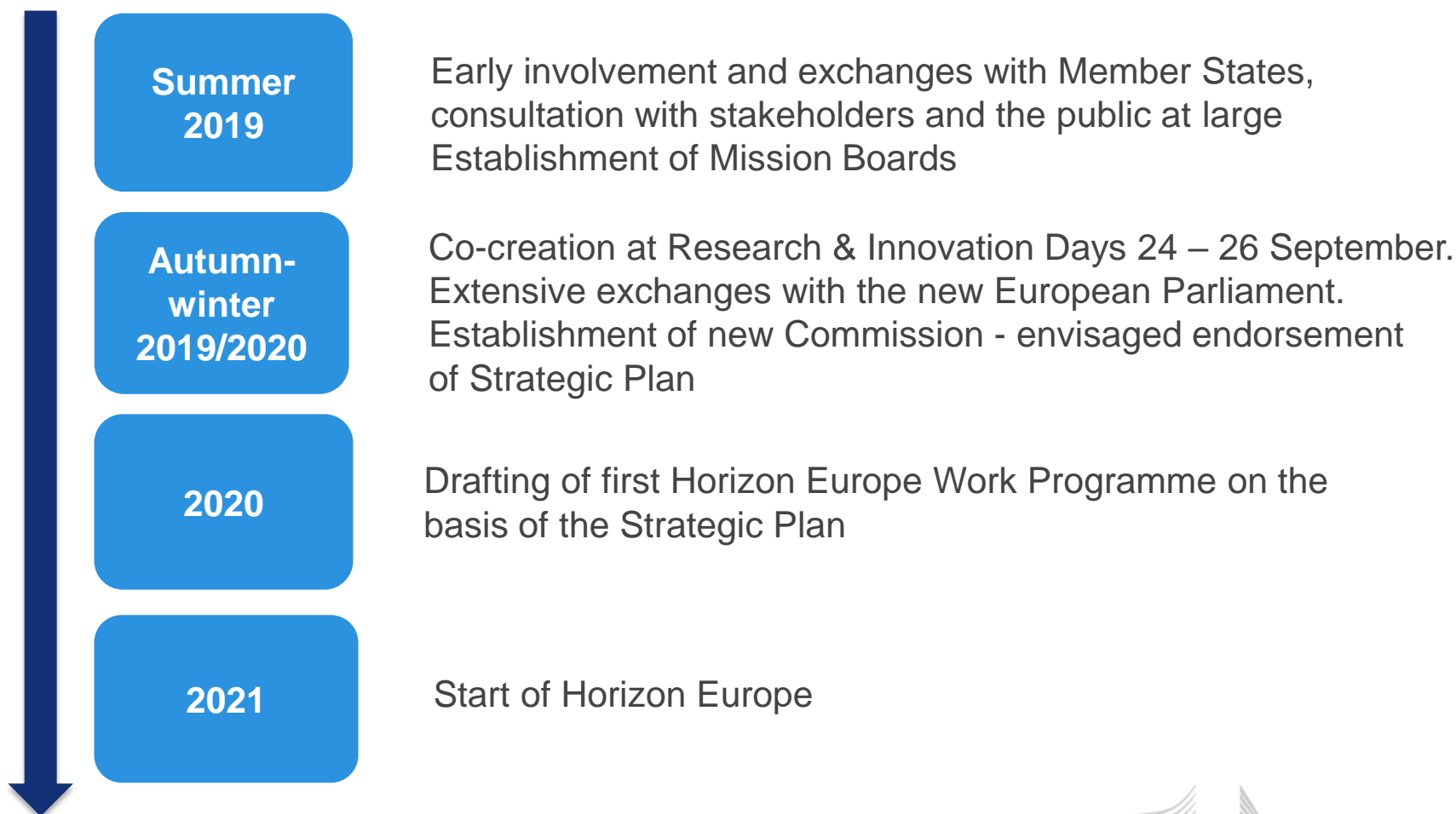
Main Features

Early involvement and extensive exchanges with Member States

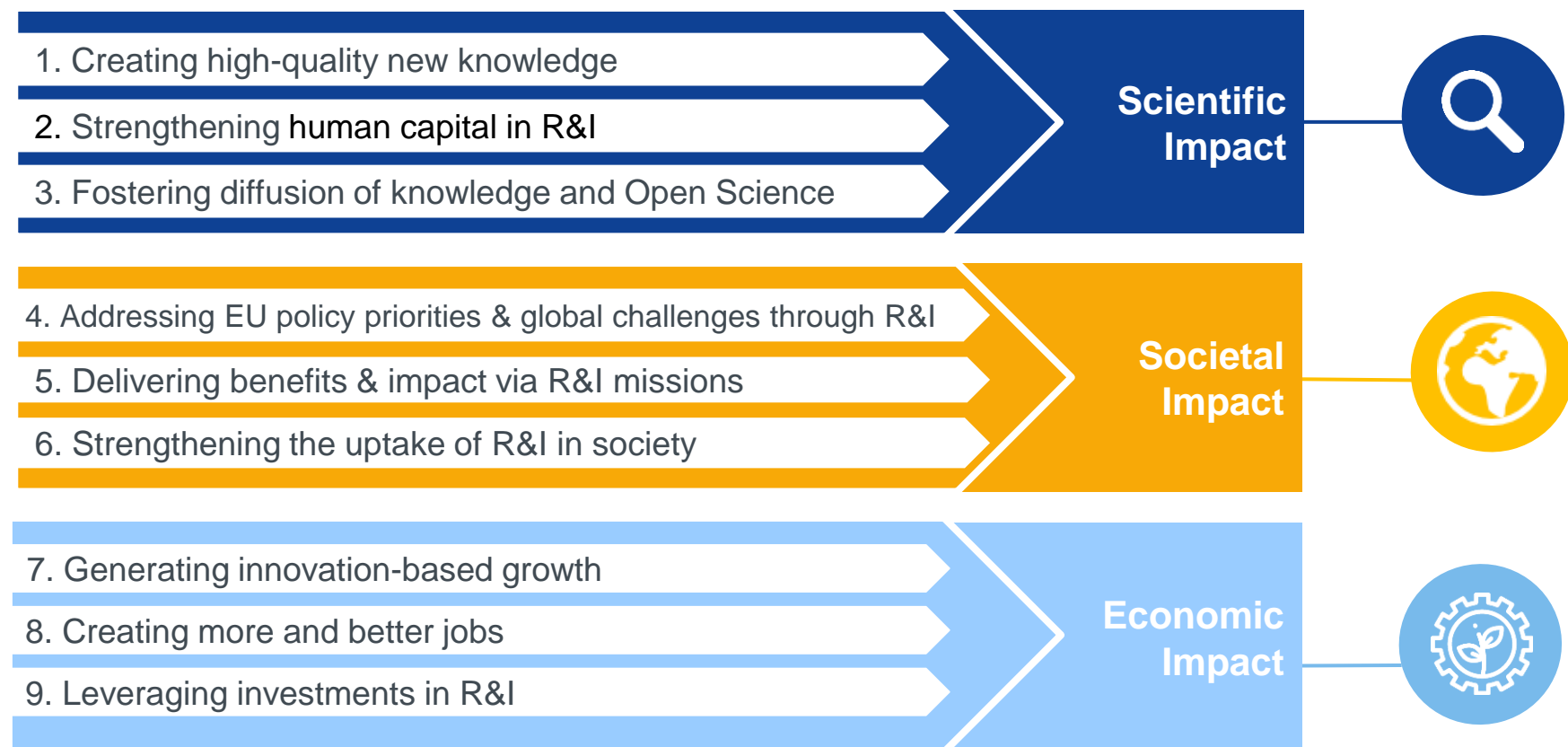
Extensive exchanges with the European Parliament

Consultations with stakeholders and public at large

Steps towards the first Horizon Europe work programme



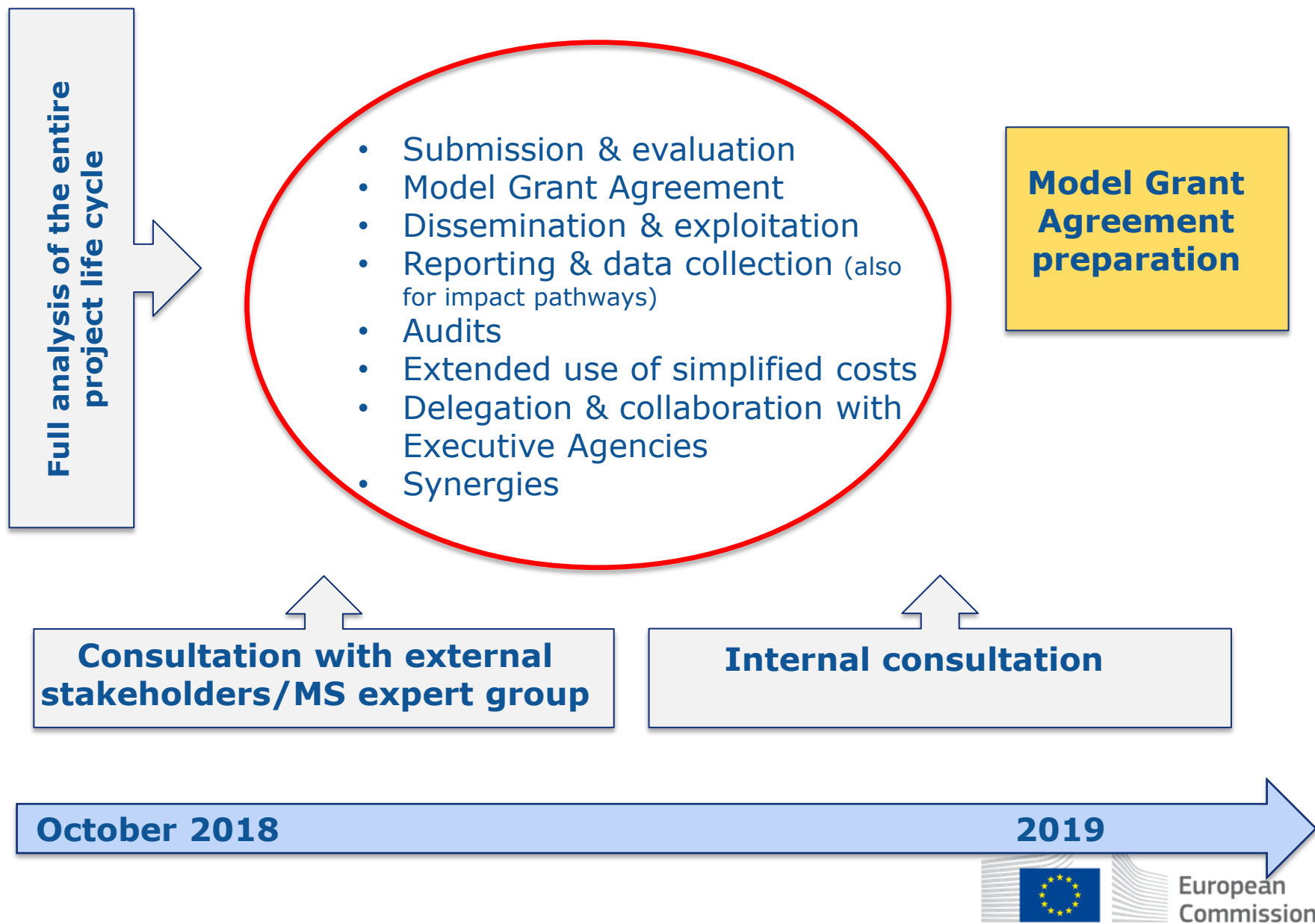
Key impact pathways to track progress



Implementation Strategy

- The **Implementation Strategy** will be an essential component for **delivering the objectives** of Horizon Europe, **in practice**;
- It will embrace all the processes involved in running calls, selecting proposals and managing projects, with **joined-up systems** and **common principles**.
- It will ensure that the new programme is managed according to highest standards, **maximizing the impact** of every Euro spent;
- The strategy will build on successful experience to date, but taking account of **lessons learned**, and also **adapted to the new features of Horizon Europe**.

Review of changes needed for Horizon Europe



Implementation Strategy

ongoing final steps

- Ongoing consultations
- Consolidating and co-drafting the Implementation Strategy
- Key milestones:
 - **R& I Days** 24-26 September in Brussels
 - **National & Regional Stakeholder consultation events**
 - **Co-design exercise through web survey**, closed 4 October (analysis ongoing)
 - **Member States expert group** meetings on **Model Grant Agreement** in July and November

Co-design exercise on Horizon Europe Implementation Strategy

Have your say

ON THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF HORIZON EUROPE

Deadline extended to **4 October 2019**



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Commission

The survey covers the entire project life cycle, from organisation of calls, proposal submission and evaluation up to efficient reporting and exploitation of results.

Feedback from the Horizon Europe Co-design – Implementation (online consultation / R&I Days)

Key messages:

- General acknowledgement of simplifications introduced in H2020, considered as good starting point.
- Clear endorsement of the continuity in the implementation from Horizon 2020 to Horizon Europe. The approach “evolution, not revolution” taken by the Commission for the rules for participation and, by extension in a wider sense, to the implementation of the new programme is appreciated by respondents

Feedback from the Horizon Europe Co-design – Implementation (online consultation / R&I Days)

Some key messages per business process:

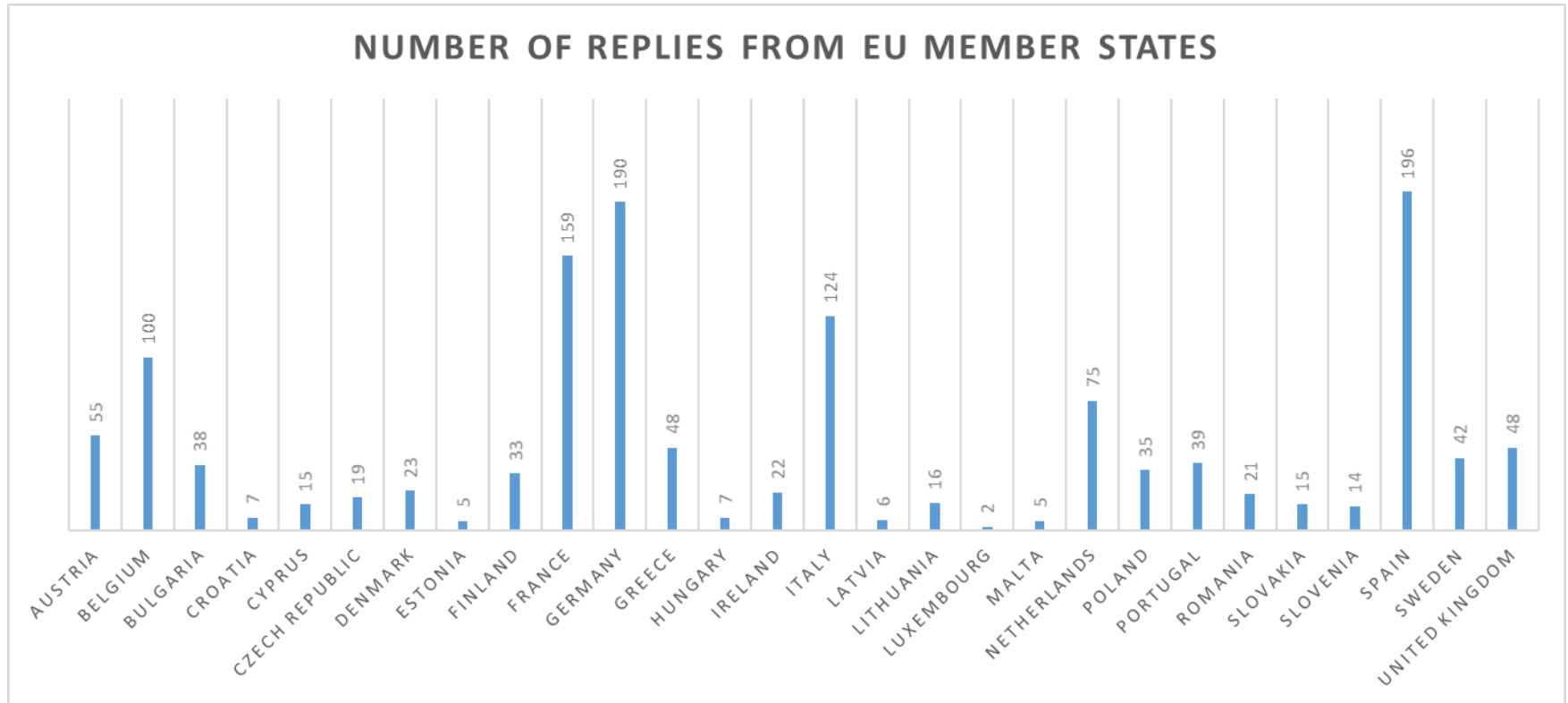
- **Work programme:** feedback underlines convenience to move towards less prescriptive topics and less complex calls.
- **Submission process:** respondents consider substantial margin for simplification, suggest shortening the proposals and removing non-core R&I parts.
- **Evaluation:** request of improving evaluation feedback, more extensive use of two-stage evaluation, introducing interviews with proposers, improving the quality of experts involved, or involving civil society actors in the evaluation process.

Feedback from the Horizon Europe Co-design – Implementation (online consultation / R&I Days)

Some key messages per business process:

- **Project management:** need to improve IT systems and the Funding and Tenders Portal, simplify the amendment process, improve automatic notifications, provide a channel for continuous feedback. Furthermore, some respondents highlight that individual POs should not set stricter requirements than the standard ones.
- **Audits & control:** respondents would like to be allowed to use their own accounting practices and request a more transparent audit process and a stronger link of CFS to 2nd level audit.

Spanish replies to online consultation



- **High participation in Spain:** 196 out of 1550 replies
- **Feedback from Spain in line with overall feedback**

Spanish replies to online consultation: Breakdown by category

- *Similar distribution as for the full set of responses*
- *Higher participation of business & industry*
- **Type of organisations represented**
 - 44% business or an industry
 - 33% university or research organisations
 - Public authorities (13%), NGOs (2%), International Organisations (2%), Other 6%
- **Interest in the Framework Programme**
 - 81% are currently participating
 - 12% have participated/submitted a proposal before
 - 4% have not participated so far, but are interested in the programme
 - 3% do not intend to submit a proposal / participate

Spanish replies to online consultation: main messages

➤ **Simplification**

- Acknowledgment of simplification efforts under Horizon 2020 and call for further simplification in Horizon Europe
- Call for simpler rules and simple templates
- Call for a more flexible programme, ensuring equal opportunities between applicants

➤ **Transparency**

- Establishing a trust-based system
- Ensuring the transparency of the evaluation procedure
- Ensuring the transparency of the selection of experts

➤ **Communication and feedback**

- Importance of training, guidelines, NCP network
- Importance of giving feedback on applications
- Importance of efficient IT tools

➤ **Horizon Europe novelties**

- General interest in Horizon Europe novelties, especially missions and EIC



Thank you!

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THE NEXT EU RESEARCH & INNOVATION
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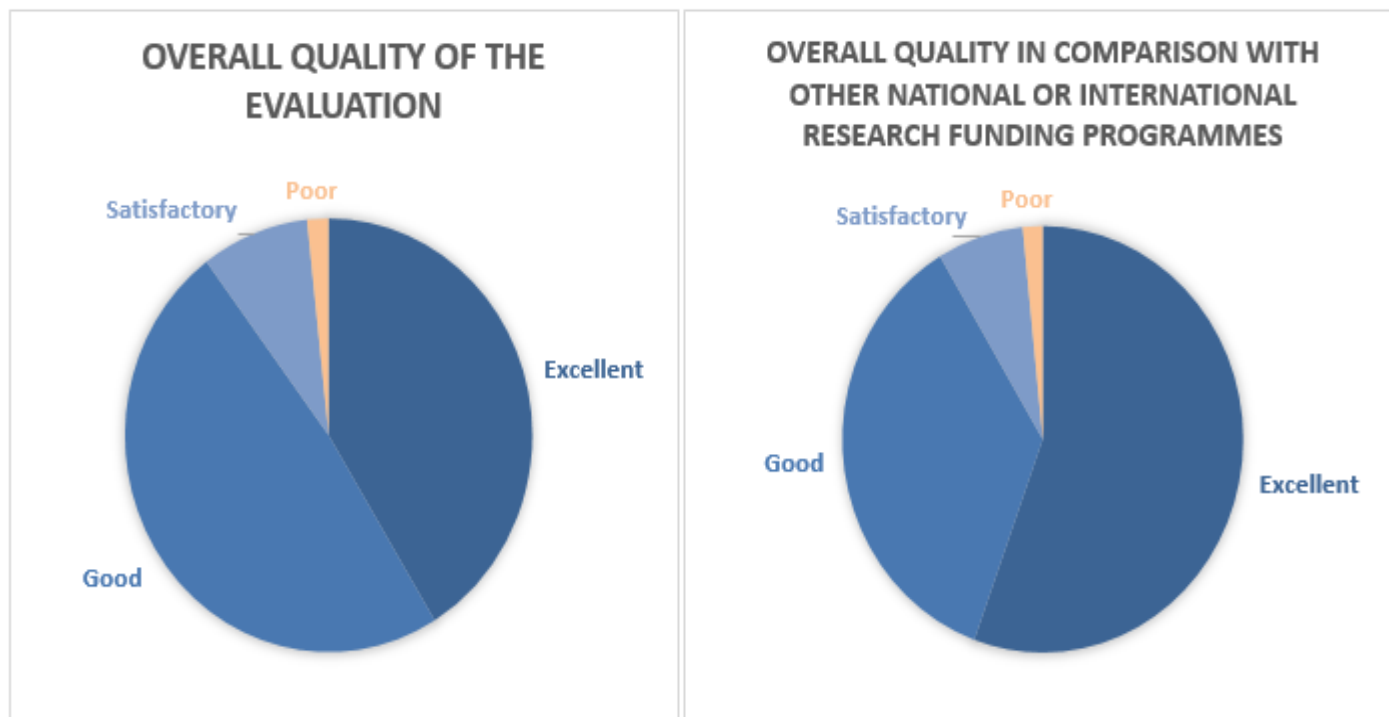
Proposal submission and evaluation in
Horizon Europe

Building on experience and new challenges



Evaluation process in H2020

Solid and recognised process based on an evaluation made by external experts with a final decision taken by the Commission, fully and transparently justified.



Feedback from experts in the 2017 exercise: 12046 evaluators of H2020 calls were surveyed, 3600 answers were gathered.

Evaluation process in HE

Pending final decisions on Horizon Europe, there seems to be consensus on certain key points. For example:

- **Continuity:** *It is based on H2020 evaluation process. Three evaluation criteria retained (Excellence, Impact, Quality of Implementation); Excellence only under the ERC;*
- **Transparency:** *It remains a transparent approach, based on an evaluation made by external experts with a final decision taken by the Commission, fully and transparently justified.*
- **Adapted to new features:** *Special arrangements possible, especially for missions and EIC (e.g. portfolio considerations when ranking; changes to proposals)*

Draft orientations for HE

Areas where system can be improved based on lessons-learned, and how novel features can be accommodated.

- *Missions and EIC*
- *Evaluation criteria (interpretation)*
- *Evaluation modalities*
- *Interaction with applicants*
- *Proposal template*

Missions and EIC

*Special arrangements will be needed for the parts of the Programme where it is important to establish a **consistent portfolio of projects** (esp. EIC, missions). For example:*

- Intrinsic quality of a proposal is determined first, and the portfolio considerations (spelled out clearly in the work programme) in a second phase;*
- The approach adopted will largely depend on the design of a mission call, and may need to vary from mission to mission;*
- Evaluation under the EIC is the subject of an ongoing pilot (EIC accelerator). It currently consists of a two-step process with a face-to-face interview at the second stage.*

Evaluation criteria

*The draft HE rules set the same three award criteria we have in H2020: ‘**Excellence**’, ‘**Impact**’ and ‘**Quality and efficiency of the implementation**’. These need to be spelled out, taking into account the lessons learnt:*

- Simplify and reduce the number of ‘aspects to be taken into account’, where possible, ensuring that the same aspect is not assessed twice;*
- Include an assessment of the quality of applicants under ‘implementation’, rather than as a separate binary assessment of operational capacity;*
- Simplify or remove assessment of management structures.*

Evaluation modalities (i.e.: single-stage, two-stage and two-step procedures; scoring)

*Much experience but need **better rationale** for the use of one or other approach; and **further simplification**, where possible:*

- Reduce aspects evaluated at first stage; arithmetic methods for deriving first stage score; abolish ‘substantial change’ rule for second stage proposals (or at least define it with a very low bar); abolish first stage ESR for successful first stage applicants (while maintaining system of generalized feedback);*
- Examine implications of ‘blind’ evaluation at first stage (re draft legislation);*
- Review rules for ex-aequo (re draft legislation);*
- Examine possible re-calibration of the scoring system (with the same resolution), to increase the range above threshold.*

Interaction with applicants

Can increase the robustness and credibility of the system, but comes with a cost in terms of time and resources.

Experience under H2020 (ERC & EIC pilot), and in national programmes.

- **Interviews** should form part of the process where appropriate, while ensuring equal treatment for all eligible competing applicants;
- Other approaches? (e.g. **written input?**)

Proposal template

There seems to be no need for drastic changes at this stage. But improvements to be identified. For example:

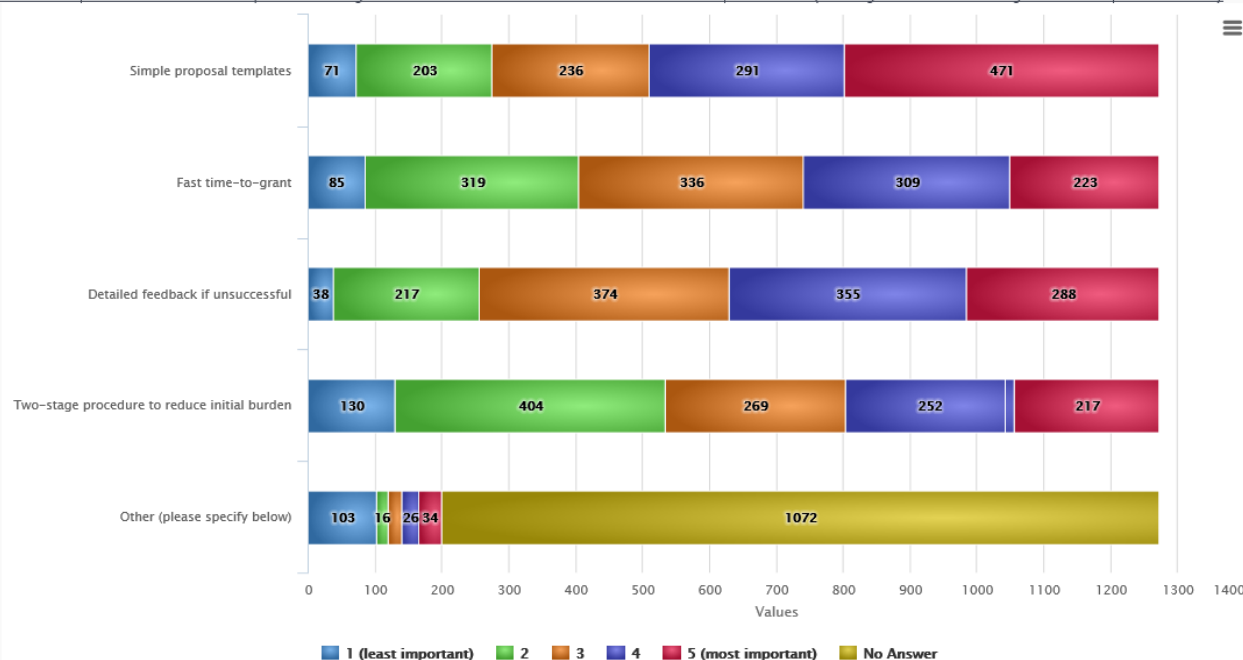
- *Where feasible, capture information needed to assess the quality of applicants in a structured form;*
- ***Reduce the maximum length*** of the proposal (e.g. 50 pages);
- *Structured vs non structured proposal.*
- *Allow compatibility for more radical changes (e.g. videos?)*

Other areas for attention include...

- *Resubmissions rules*
- *Ethics review*
 - A new streamlined approach is proposed that will put more weight, where relevant, on compliance with national regulations harmonised across the EU (e.g. on clinical trials, data protection);
 - Applicants will be expected to supply more comprehensive information on such compliance (although they may not be penalized if incomplete at proposal stage).
 - Focus of resources on problematic cases.
- *Security scrutiny*
 - Implement a similar process as for ethics review based on a questionnaire in proposal
- *Redress ('Evaluation review')*
- *Use of artificial intelligence ('human-led AI').*

Results of consultation - Evaluation

2.1. What aspects are most important to you in the submission and evaluation process? (rank your answers by order of preference)



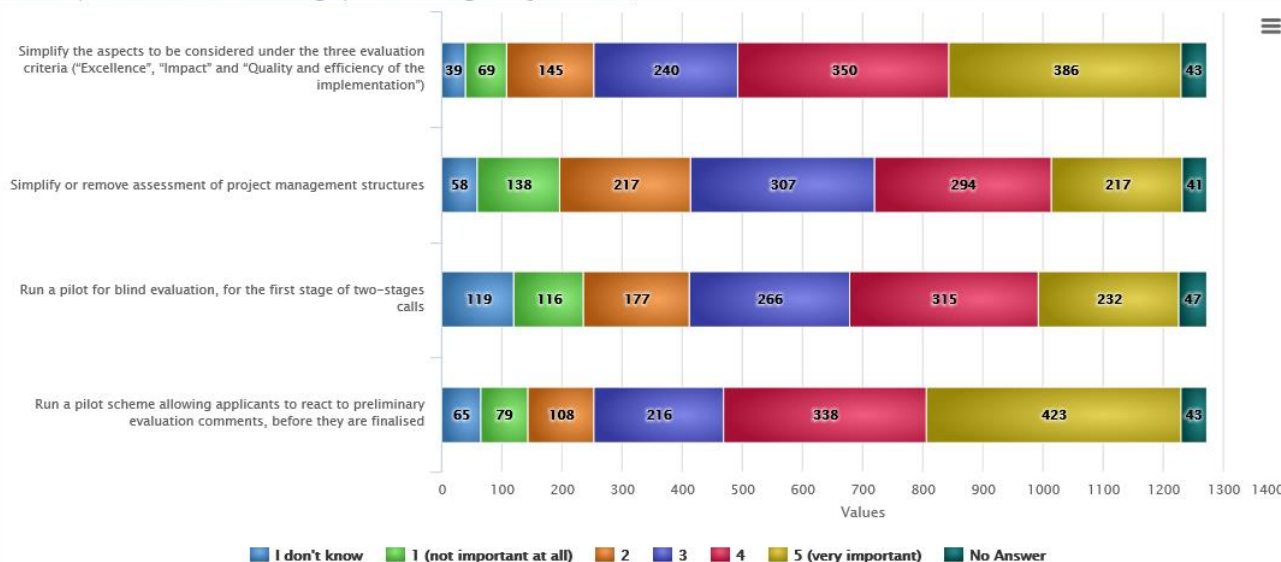
A simple proposal template is the most important aspect for the submission and evaluation process, followed by detailed feedback to rejected applicants.

A two stage procedure to reduce burden to applicants is the less important aspect

Same trend from the 155 Spanish respondents.

Results of consultation - Evaluation

2.2. How important are the following specific changes in your view?



To run a pilot 'right to react' schema and to simplify the aspects to be considered under the three evaluation criteria are the most important proposed changes.

To simplify assessment of management structures and to run a pilot on blind evaluations are the less important changes.

Same trend from the 155 Spanish respondents.

Open questions:

- 'simplify proposal template and evaluation process' seem to be repeated in addition to the need to select good quality of experts.
- For the evaluation of missions, there seem to be a generalized message : 'The quality and excellence of an individual proposal should never be compromised.'

Thank you!

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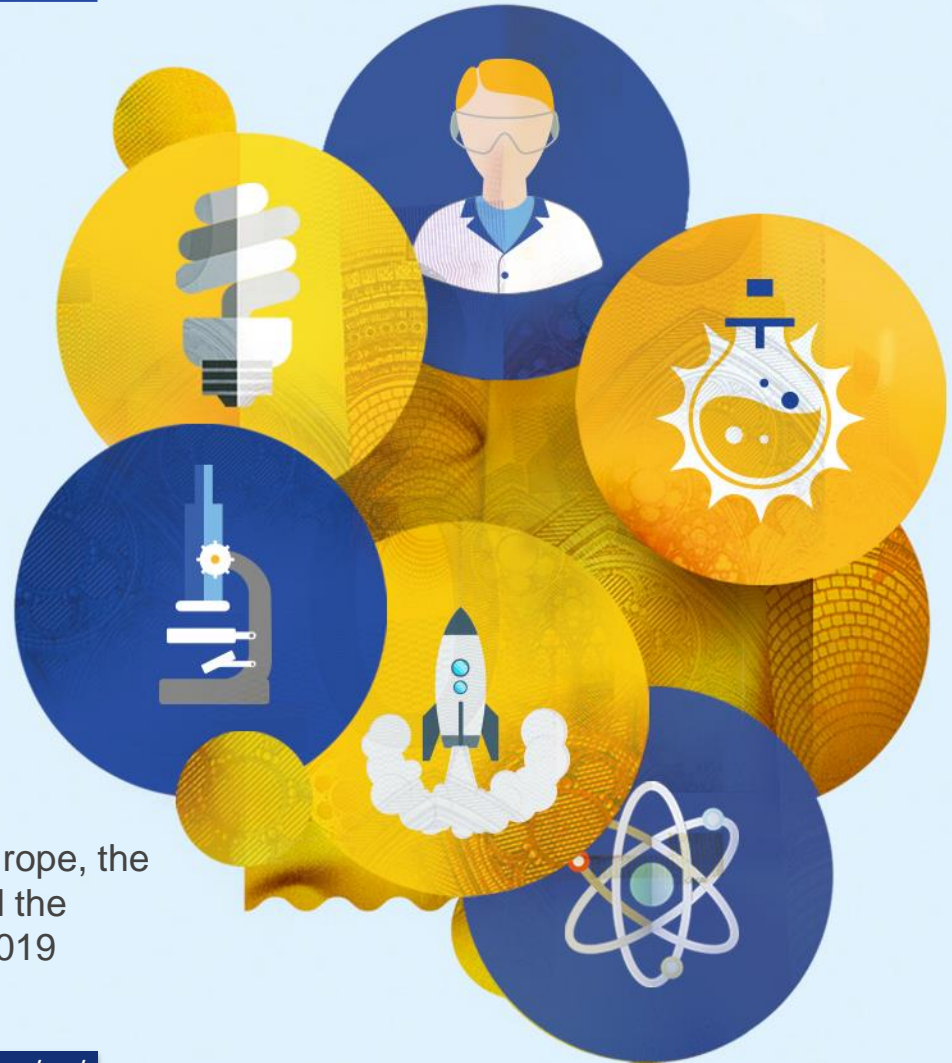
Isabel.vergara-ogando@ec.europa.eu

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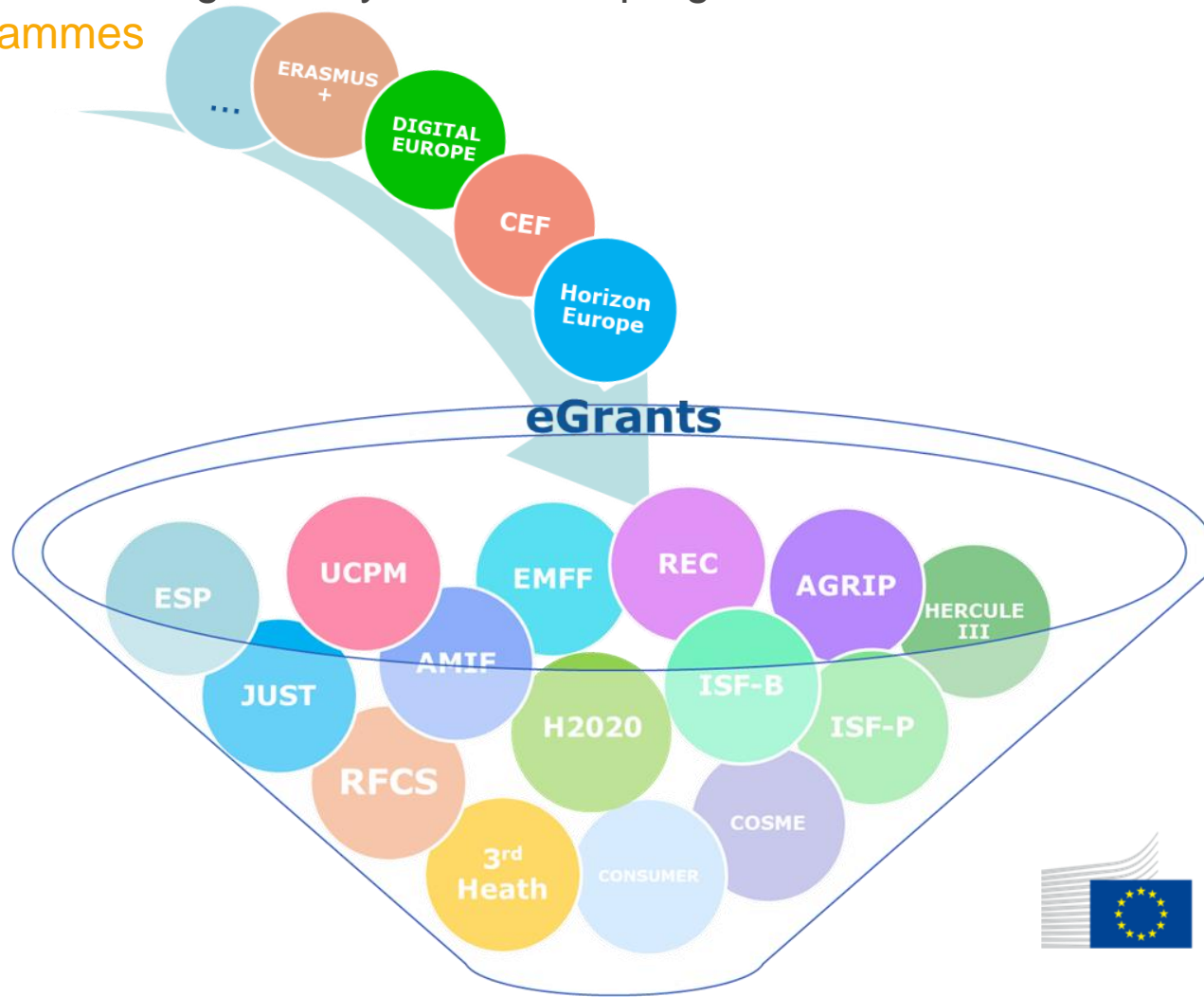
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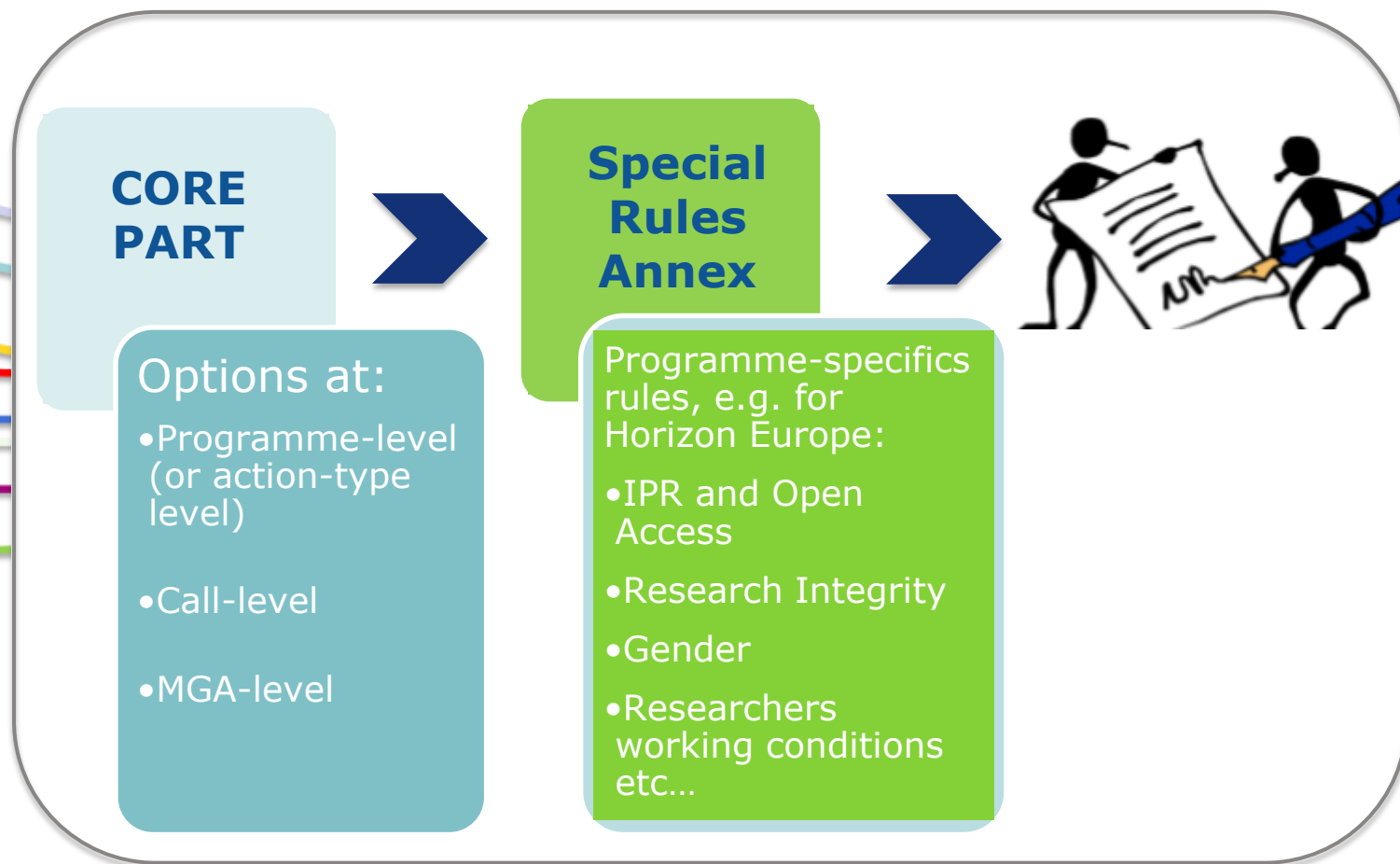
Horizon Europe - Model Grant Agreement

A bit of background...

- **Numerous** Model Grant Agreements (MGAs):
paper-based or **electronically-managed ('eGrants')**
- **eGrants** serving already for several programmes + to **serve for other programmes**



Structure



Objectives

Harmonisation & standardisation

- Harmonise the contractual models and guidance for all post-2020 programmes
- Build on the standardisation of post-2020 basic acts

Consistent interpretation

- Use the same terminology across programmes
- Ensure uniform and consistent interpretation of rules
- Allow equal treatment of beneficiaries
- Create synergies between programmes

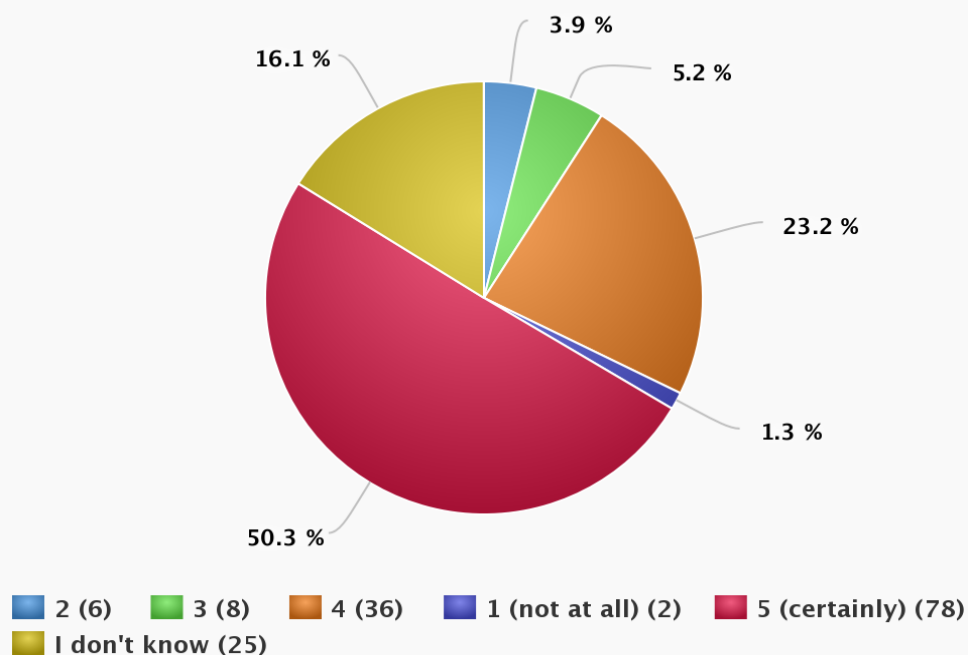
Integration of programme specifics

- Allow for encompassing the specifics of programme
- Specific options and specific annex with 'special rules'

Your contribution to Horizon Europe Co-design

Results of the on-line consultation – Spanish respondents

3.1. Would the use of the same standard Model Grant Agreement for all EU directly managed funding programmes facilitate synergies between them?



SYNERGIES?

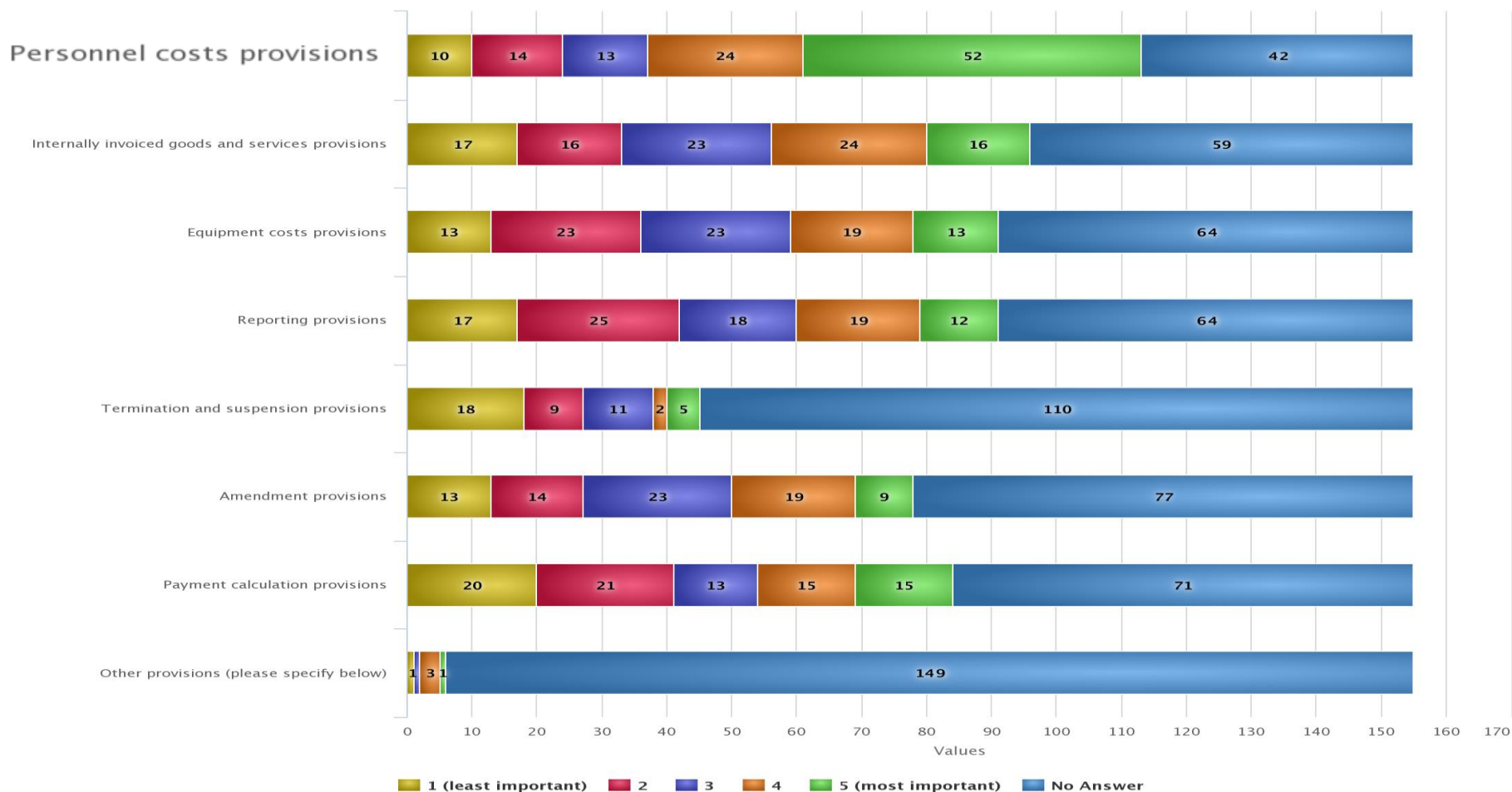
- Bringing together money from different EU programmes in the same project
- Providing funding from alternative sources for successful proposals which could not be funded due to insufficient call budgets
- Funding complementary or successive projects

Horizon Europe - Personnel costs

Your contribution to Horizon Europe Co-design

Results of the on-line consultation – Spanish respondents

3.2. Which provisions in the current Horizon 2020 Model Grant Agreement should be revised? (rank your top 5 provisions by order of preference)



The situation today...

Actual personnel costs (general case): H2020 Calculation



Hours worked

Hourly rate



EUR/hour

$$\text{Hourly rate} = \frac{\text{Personnel costs}}{\text{Productive hours}}$$

Annual hourly rate
Hourly rates calculated per full financial year

Monthly hourly rate
Hourly rates calculated per month

Two options

$$\frac{\text{Annual personnel costs}}{\text{Annual productive hours}}$$

$$\frac{\text{Monthly personnel costs}}{\text{Monthly productive hours}}$$

Annual productive hours

1720 hours

Advice ⚠️ you must use this option if the employment contract does not specify the working time conditions or if the "annual workable hours" cannot be determined

Individual annual productive hours

• Formula: annual workable hours + overtime - absences

Standard annual productive hours

• According to the beneficiary's usual accounting practices. Minimum threshold: annual productive hours ≥ 90 % of the standard annual workable hours

In principle, same option must be applied to all personnel working in H2020 actions.

However, possibility to use different options for different types of personnel (at least per group of personnel employed under similar conditions)

The same option(s) must be kept for the full financial year. It can only change its option(s) for the next financial year.

Monthly productive hours

1/12 of 1720 hours

you must use this option if the employment contract does not specify the working time conditions or if the "annual workable hours" cannot be determined

1/12 of Standard annual productive hours

• According to the beneficiary's usual accounting practices. Minimum threshold: annual productive hours ≥ 90 % of the standard annual workable hours

Annual hourly rate specificities

$$\frac{\text{Annual personnel costs}}{\text{Annual productive hours}}$$

⚠️ The annual hourly rate is to be calculated **per full financial year**

If the financial year is not closed at the time of reporting, the beneficiary must use the hourly rate of the last closed financial year available.

01/10/2014

31/03/2016

Reporting period (example)

2014

2015

2016

Hourly rate of 2014

Hourly rate of 2015

Hourly rate of 2015 also for these months

Possibility to change option

- for the next financial year
- for all personnel in all its H2020 grants.

Monthly hourly rate specificities

$$\frac{\text{Monthly personnel costs}}{\text{Monthly productive hours}}$$

One hourly rate **per each month the person works in the action**

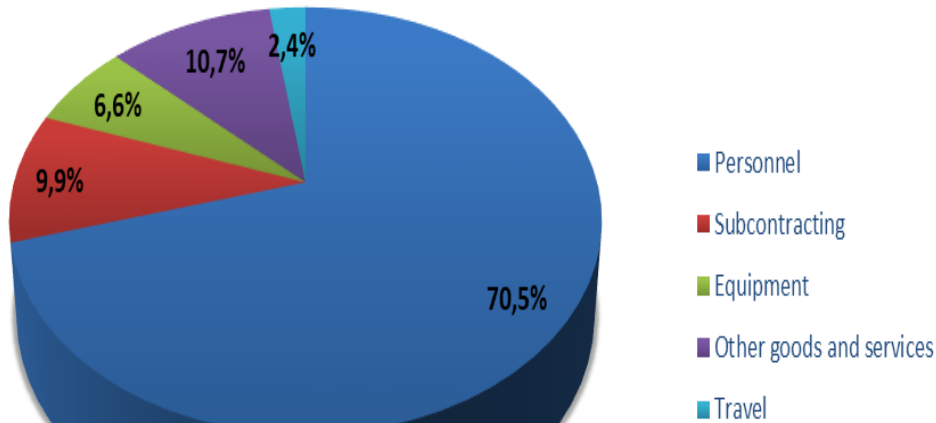
⚠️ **Thirteen salary** (and similar) included in each month "pro-rata"; not in full in the month when they are paid.

⚠️ **Time spent in parental leave** cannot be deducted from the monthly productive hours. However, personnel costs incurred during parental leave may be charged in proportion to the time the person worked for the action.



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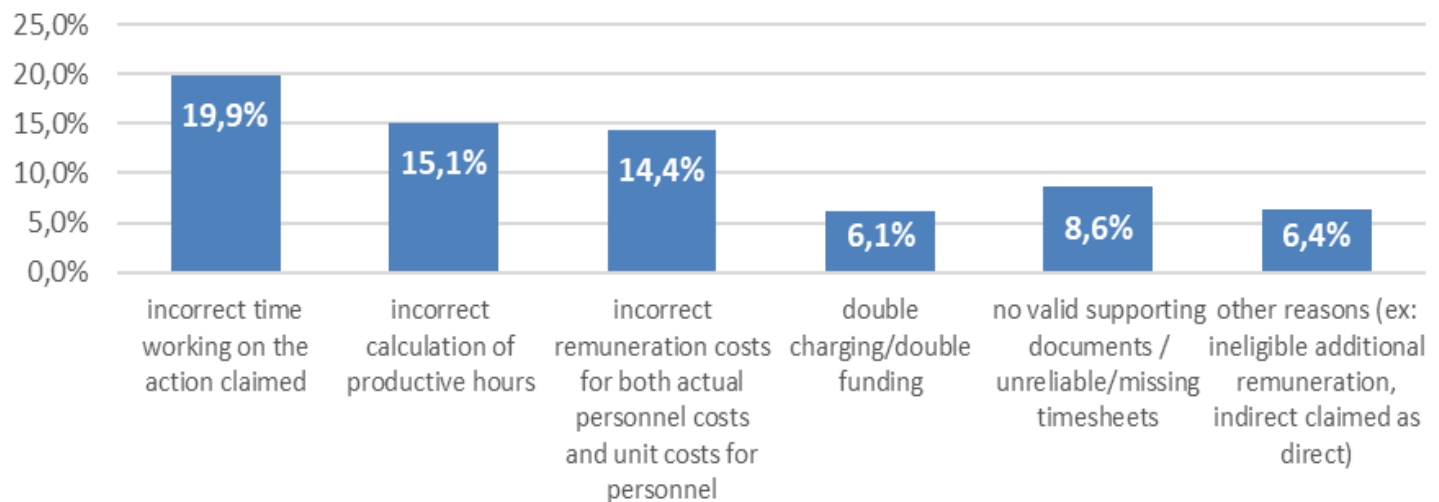
Percentage of errors identified in H2020 ex-post audits leading to adjustments in favour of the EU budget



... and its consequences

Percentage of type of error in personnel costs

(breakdown of 70,5%)



The situation tomorrow...

NEW

Daily rate



Days worked



$$\text{Daily rate} = \frac{\text{annual personnel costs for the person}}{215}$$



Days worked = Monthly declarations instead of time sheets

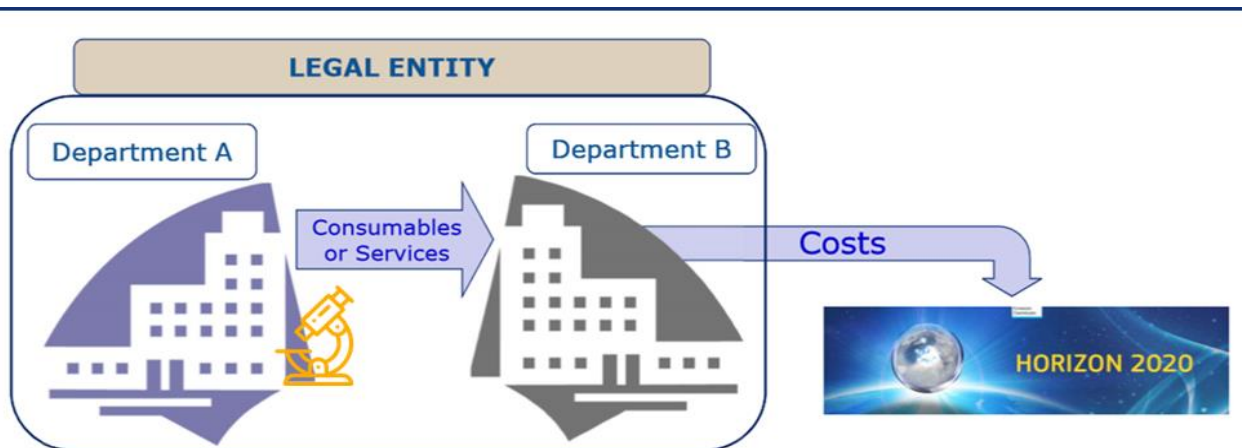
Project-based remuneration (Art 32 RfP)

Similar rules as in H2020 but with the following **simplifications**:

- ✓ Current AGA explanations about **‘National Projects Reference’** incorporated in the MGA (for clarity and legal certainty)
- ✓ **No more** obligation to have paid **at least once** a project-based remuneration **before the submission of the HE proposal**
- ✓ **If not** applicable national law or internal rules, **simpler and more flexible ‘fall-back’ option**:
 - average remuneration of the person **over the reporting period** (excluding remuneration paid for work in Horizon Europe grants)
 - possibility to go back to **the most recent** financial year in which the person did not work exclusively in HE actions

Horizon Europe - Internal invoices unit cost

The situation today...



OK

- ✓ Direct staff
- ✓ Consumables
- ✓ Depreciation of the item
- ✓ Maintenance and supplies **if** their costs are directly identifiable



NOT OK

- ✗ Indirect staff
- ✗ Costs of central services
- ✗ Shared costs for which the part used for the item is not directly identifiable
- ✗ Ineligible cost (e.g. bank interest)

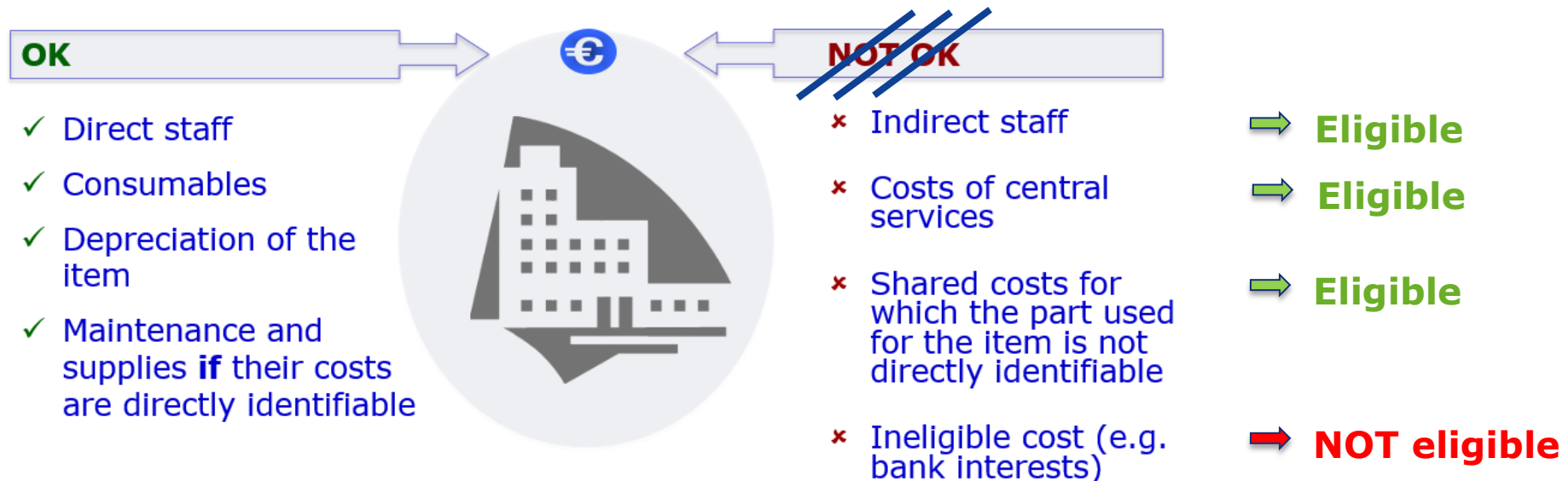


The situation tomorrow...

Wider reliance on beneficiary's usual cost accounting practices (Art 31 HE RfP).

Possibility to accept actual indirect costs allocated via key drivers in the unit cost, **if beneficiary's usual cost accounting practices!**

No application of the 25% flat-rate on top of the unit cost



Horizon Europe - Equipment costs

Continuity and further clarity

Continuity

Depreciation costs are **by default** eligible.

By exception, full costs may be eligible.

Further clarity

Optional provisions addressing the specific case of **assets under construction (e.g. prototype)** and their related **capitalised costs**:

- The **full construction costs** (typically the costs of the personnel involved in the construction of the prototype)
- The **full purchase costs** (typically any component, pieces of equipment bought for the prototype)



Thank you!

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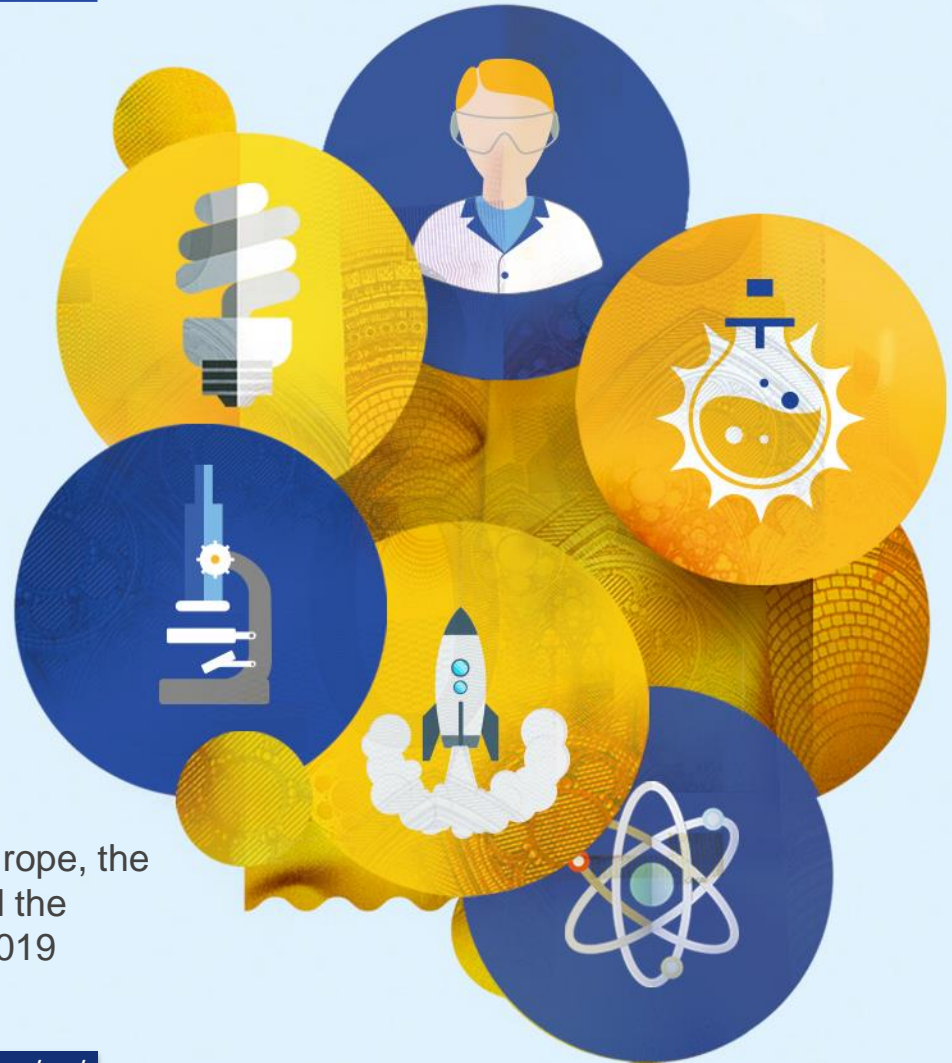
<http://ec.europa.eu/horizon-europe>

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Based on the Commission Proposal for Horizon Europe, the common understanding between co-legislators and the Partial General Approach, both approved in April 2019



Breakdown of contents

I: Simplified forms of costs

- **Which ones?**
- **Why?**

II: The Lump sum pilot

- **Why?**
- **A pilot with 2 options**
- **Principles**
- **Lessons learned**

III: Implementation strategy web consultation: Spanish responses on lump sums

Horizon Europe - Simplified forms of costs

Simplified forms of costs

❖ **Different simplified forms:**

- Units
- Lump sums
- Flat rates

❖ **One common two-fold objective:**

- Reducing the administrative burden & the risk of errors

Why simplified forms?



Focus on conditions triggering the payment

- Shift from focus on financial management and checking costs to focus on scientific-technical content of the projects, e.g.:
 - For unit: occurrence of an event, achievement of a deliverable or a specific output etc...
 - For lump sum: e.g. performance of a set of activities (e.g. accomplishment of a Work Package).

Examples of usage

Actual costs

- e.g. Personnel costs, other direct costs, subcontracting etc.

Units costs

- e.g. SME owner unit cost, MSCA unit costs

Lump sums

- All types of costs (i.e. H2020 lump sum pilot)

Flat rates

- e.g. Indirect costs (25%)

Horizon Europe - Lump sum Pilot

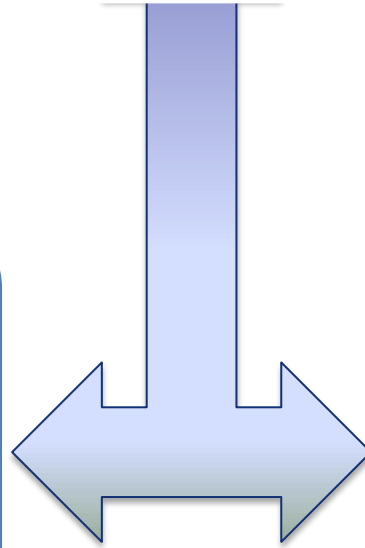
Lump sum: Why?

- **Significant simplification potential:**
 - Despite all simplification, funding based on reimbursement of incurred costs stays complex and error-prone
 - Lump sum project funding removes all obligations on actual cost reporting and financial ex-post audits – i.e. a major reduction of administrative burden
- **Focus on performance:**
 - Shift from focus on financial management and checking costs to focus on scientific-technical content of the projects

Two options

Amount of the lump sum

Fixed in the
Call



Per project
based on the
budget

Lump sum

➤ **Option 1**

- Fixed lump sum per project defined in call for proposals
- Proposals describe the efforts and resources applicants commit to mobilise for this amount.
- Applicants must provide proposed split of the lump sum per work package and per beneficiary.
- The evaluation – and competition between proposals – ensure that adequate resources are committed

➤ **Option 2**

- Proposals provide a detailed estimation of costs
- Experts assess cost details during evaluation and make recommendations (panel will include expert/s with financial expertise).
- Based on this, the lump sum is fixed during grant preparation

Principles

Lump sum evaluation and grant agreement follow standard approach as much as possible:

- Same evaluation criteria
- Same pre-financing and payment scheme
- Reporting periods and technical reporting as today, though focusing on completion of work packages

One lump sum share is fixed in the grant agreement for each work package

- This amount is paid when the activities in the work package are completed. As today, payment does not depend on a successful outcome, **but on the completion of activities**

Record-keeping for beneficiaries

They need



- ☐ Technical documents
- ☐ Publications, prototypes, deliverables
- ☐ Who did what?
- ☐ ...any document proving that the work was done

Already the case for actual costs-based MGA

They don't need



- ☐ Time-sheets
- ☐ Pay-slips
- ☐ Depreciation policy
- ☐ Invoices
- ☐ ...any document proving the actual costs incurred

Lessons learned: Issues to consider before drawing conclusions

- We are in the first stages: Experience is very limited!
- Evaluations of ongoing pilots concluded (NMBP, S2R, Health, ERC-PoC 2 cut-off dates)
- ECA's recommendations on the Special report on H2020 Simplification

Therefore

- We need to increase the number of pilots! ➡ WP 2020!

Lump sum: Lessons learned

From proposal preparation:

- Reinforcing information to beneficiaries on lump sum specificities
- Concept of work packages
- Improving the design of the budget Excel sheet
 - Set of slides 'Lump sum pilots: What do I have to know?'
 - Video 'All I need to know about lump sum pilots'

From evaluation:

- Reinforcing information to evaluators

Other important issues to be underlined

- Careful selection of experts with project management / financial background
- Homogenous implementation of different pilots

New pilots in 2020: Principles considered

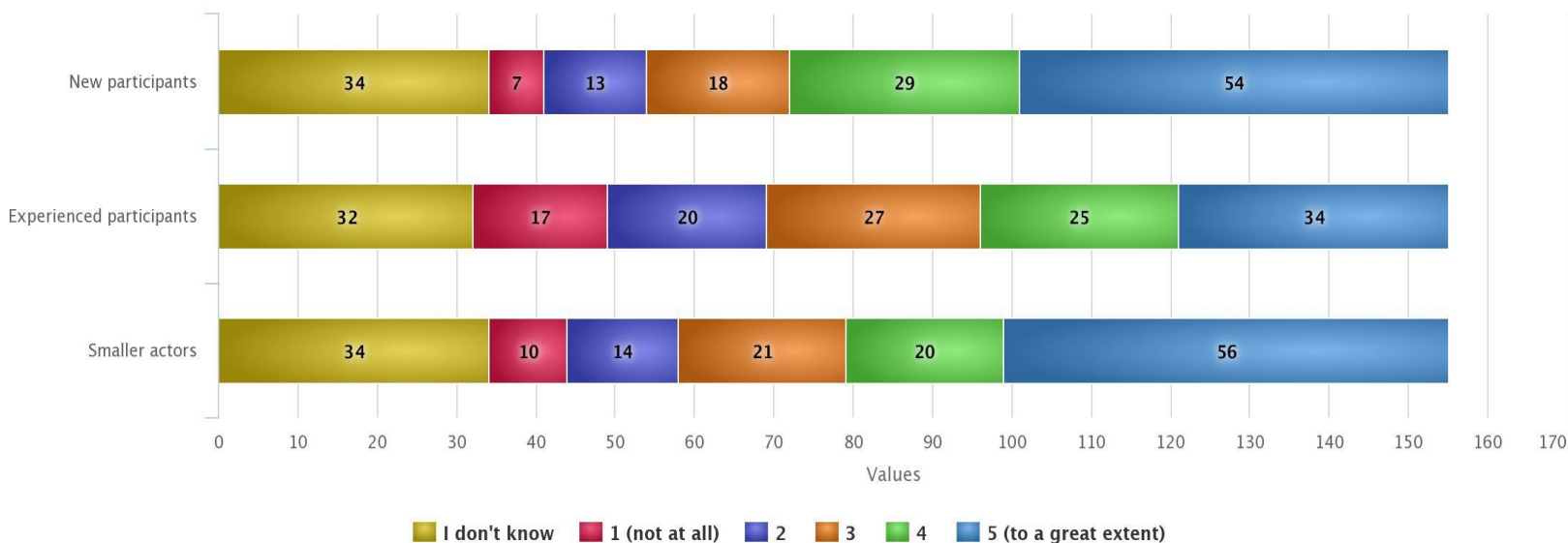
- **Topics which are suitable for Lump sums**
- **Pilots fitting in existing Option I and Option II**
- **Different types of actions: IA-LS, RIA-LS and CSA-LS**
- **Small and big projects**
- **Topics from different parts of the work programme**
- **Implementation by the Commission, and different Executive Agencies**

Horizon Europe Implementation strategy online consultation: Spanish responses on lump sums

Your contribution to Horizon Europe Co-design

Results of the on-line consultation – Spanish respondents

7.2. Do you think lump sum project funding will make R&I Framework Programme more accessible to...



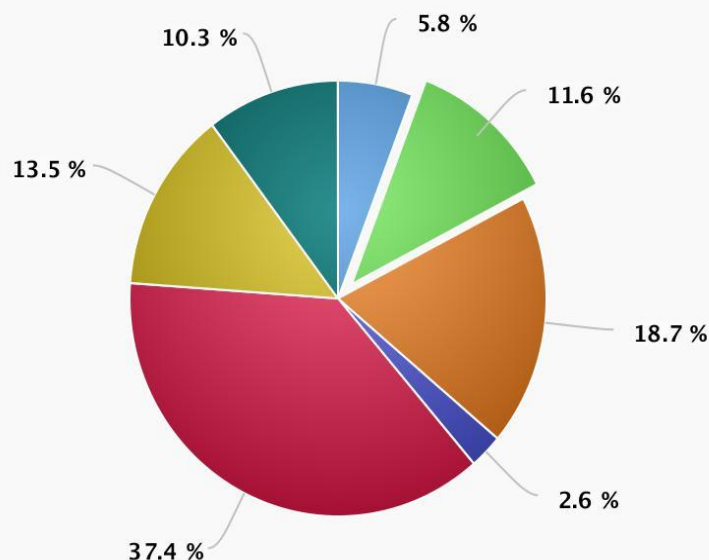
Highcharts.com

- 83% consider it will be more accessible for newcomers
- 76% consider it will be more accessible for smaller actors
- 49% consider it will be more accessible experienced participants

Your contribution to Horizon Europe Co-design

Results of the on-line consultation – Spanish respondents

7.3. To what extent will the abolition of cost reporting and auditing in projects funded by lump sums make project management and administration easier?



2 (9) 3 (18) 4 (29) 1 (not at all) (4) 5 (to a great extent) (58)
I don't know (21) No Answer (16)

Highcharts.com

- 56% consider management and administration will be easier
- 4.4% consider management and administration will be more complicated



Thank you!

#HorizonEU

<http://ec.europa.eu/horizon-europe>

Regional Stakeholder Event on Horizon Europe Implementation

Ex-ante and ex-post controls: From H2020 to Horizon Europe

#HorizonEU



Agenda





- Authorising Officers (AODs) must put in place **internal control systems suited to the performance of their functions;**
- AODs must ensure **equal treatment for all Beneficiaries;**
- The control system shall ensure an **appropriate balance between trust and control** and must be **cost effective;**
- Controls must be developed with due consideration to the **programme objectives** and taking into account the **associated costs** for all stakeholders.

PRINCIPLES

- Balance between **trust** and **control**
- **Minimize burden** on beneficiaries
- **Equal treatment**

METHODOLOGY

- Limited information requested ex-ante (Financial statements, use of resources)
- Risk considerations may justify asking the beneficiary for further information and/or evidence

Ex-post controls in H2020 – The design

1. More Simplification

- 25% flat rate for indirect costs
- One set of documents : MGA and annotated
- A governance to increase synergies
 - ✓ The creation of the Common Audit Service for all H2020 ex-post audits
 - ✓ One Horizon 2020 (Corporate) Audit Strategy

2. More Transparency

- Annotated Model Grant Agreement containing Examples, best practices, Lists and procedures , Specific cases and exceptions
- Research Enquiry Service & FAQ
- Online Indicative Audit Programme (regularly updated)



I, the undersigned Director-General, declare that the information contained in this report gives a true and fair view [1].

I state that I have reasonable assurance [...] which is based on my own judgement and on the information at my disposal [...]

However the following reservation should be noted:

Reservation concerning the rate of residual errors with regard to the accuracy of financial statements in the Framework Programme

Brussels, 31 March 20XX

"Signed"

The Director-General

[1]→ True and fair in this context means a reliable, complete and correct view on the state of affairs in the service.

Errors. Why do they occur?

- *Misunderstandings of the rules;*
- *Lack of attention to the detail of the provisions of the grant agreements.*

The consequences of errors:

Beneficiaries

- *Non-optimal use of funding available*
- *Recoveries*

European Commission

- *Scrutiny of the Budgetary Authority and ECA*
- *Increased error rate*
- *Increased ex post audit efforts*
- *Corrective measures*



Audit Cycle



Audit Planning

Selection of
beneficiaries

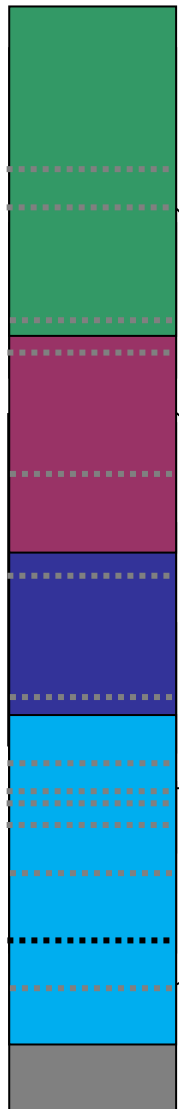


```
graph TD; A[Selection of beneficiaries] --> B[In-house: mission planning]; A --> C[Externalised: batch preparation];
```

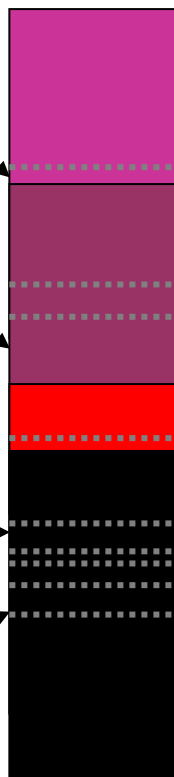
In-house:
mission
planning

Externalised:
batch
preparation

Population €

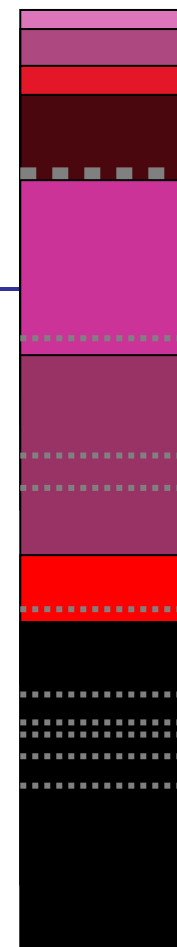


Sample €



Error Rate

Error Rate % =



€ $\Sigma \text{neg_adj}$

€ $\Sigma \text{aud_amount}$

Audit in H2020 – Main detected errors (1/2)

Personnel costs – due to:

- Incorrect productive hours calculation
- Incorrect remuneration costs - e.g. estimated
- Incorrect time working on action claimed
- Other - e.g. unreliable/missing timesheets

Subcontracting - due to:

- Lack of adequate supporting documents
- Not foreseen in Annex I nor agreed by EU services
- Other errors – including e.g. no value for money

Audit in H2020 – Main detected errors (2/2)

Other goods and services - due to:

- Lack of adequate supporting documents
- Cost not related to the action
- No direct measurement of the cost
- Other errors – e.g. indirect costs claimed as direct costs, no value for money

Travel - due to:

- Cost not related to the action
- Other errors – e.g. lack of adequate supporting documents

Ex-post controls in H2020 – The Feedback

Main feedback from Audited Beneficiaries

- Beneficiaries welcome audits conducted centrally by the **Common Audit Service**.
- Preparatory files in H2020 ex-post audits can be **time consuming**.
- Certificate on Financial Statements (CFS): external auditors may not have the **specialized knowledge** needed for H2020 projects.
- The calculation of personnel costs can be **complex and time consuming**.
- Disproportionate audit effort on costs categories with low participation in the overall budget (e.g. travel costs and subsistence).
- **LRI & CoMUC: too long procedures.**

Horizon Europe: the novelties in audit

Systems and Processes Audit (SPA)

Wider cross-reliance on audits and assessments

System and Process Audit

❑ What is a SPA ?

A risk assessment & an audit opinion

in 2 steps:

- Test of the systems / Tests of controls
- Substantive testings / Tests of Transactions

HE Rfp Article 48

assessing 3 types of risks:

- Inherent Risk at the level of the entity
- Control Risk at the entity level
- Budget Category Specific Control Risk and their project based accounting

providing 1 Output:

- One single report in two parts
 - Combined review result ► flag as Low, Medium or High

System and Process audit

Objectives

- Reduced administrative burden;
- Less but more focused audits;
- Reliance on the internal control system of the beneficiary (prevent and detect error)

Consequences

- Timing of the SPA (with first audit)
- Future audits (less audits, less CFS?)

Cross-reliance

NEW

Simplified audit and control system:

Key features

- Combined reviews
- Single audit principle for joint funding
- Possibility for enhanced cross-reliance

Combined review

Combines systems and process audit with an audit of transactions
Optional for certain types of beneficiaries
May lead to less Certificates on Financial Statements

Single audit principle for joint funding

A single audit for actions that receive joint funding from different Union programmes

Possibility for enhanced cross-reliance

Possibility for the Commission to rely on audits on the use of Union contributions carried out by other persons or entities

Reduced audit burden for beneficiaries

Cross-Reliance

Factors of success

Having "conditions equivalent" between EU programmes irrespective of the management mode,

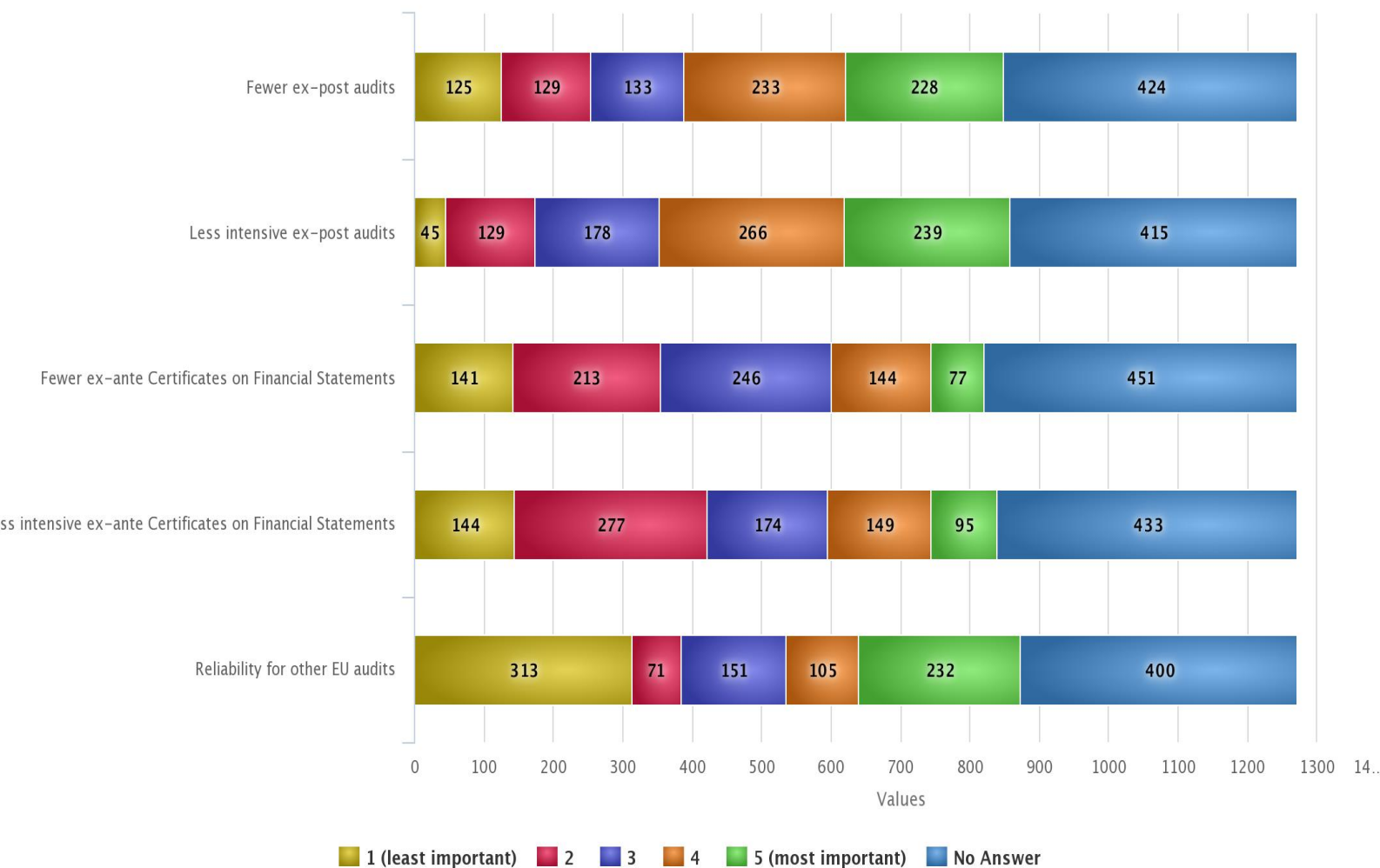
Enhancement of corporate IT tools:

Taking into account international benchmarks:

- **International Standard on Auditing (ISA)**
- **INTOSAI**
- **COSO**

Results of consultation – Control Strategy

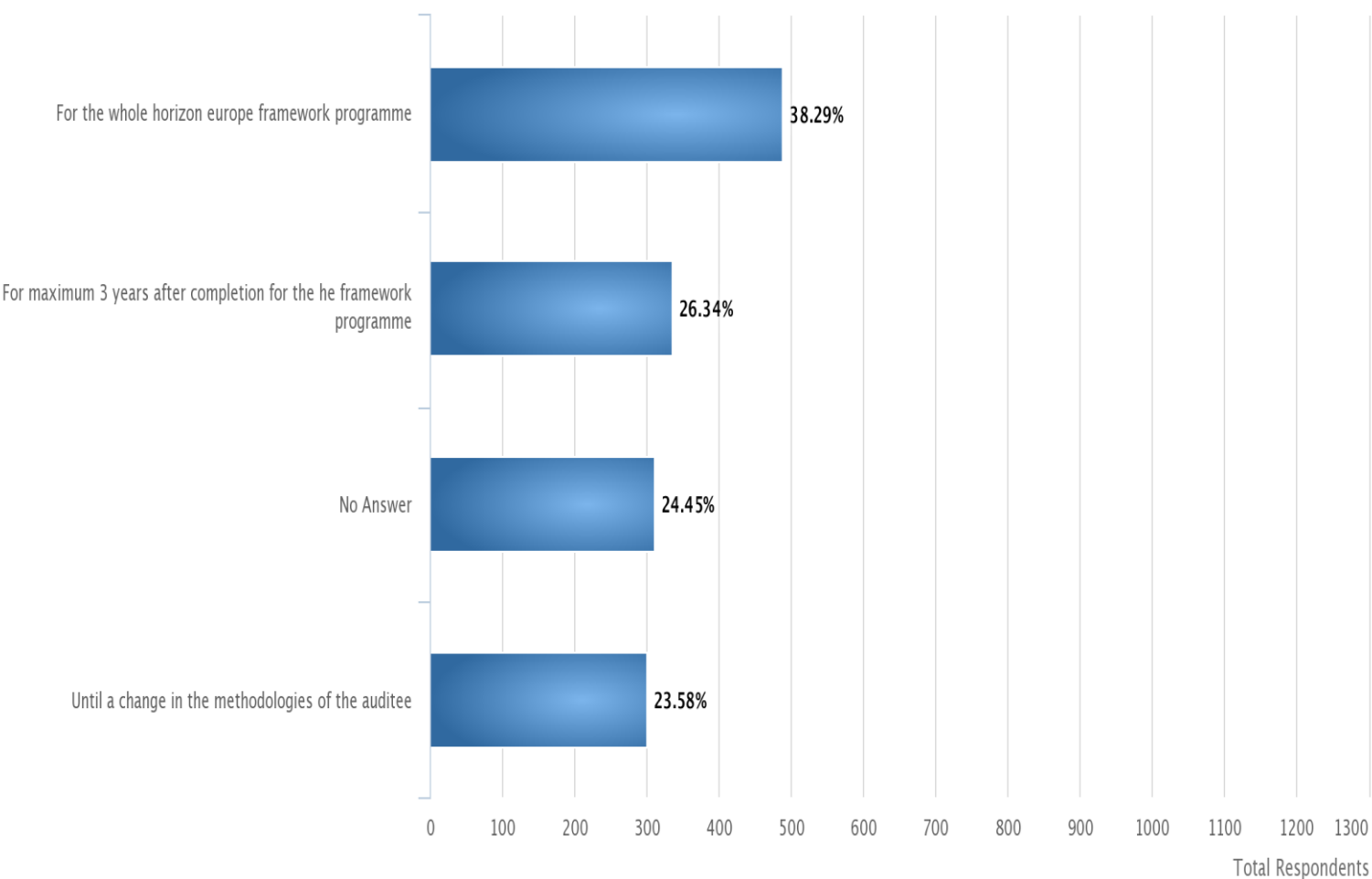
6.3. What type of benefits would you expect from a Systems and Processes Audit (SPA)? (rank by order of preference)



The replies are mitigated among the five types of impacts of a SPA and what is predominant is that a SPA should bring fewer ex-post audits and less intensive audits.

Results of consultation – Control Strategy

6.4. The Systems and Process Audits (SPA) should be valid...



The validity of the SPA's should be for the whole framework programme and for maximum 3 years or until a change in the methodologies for ¼ of the other replies.

For Spain, first and second option are preferable by 68% of the replies.

Way Forward – Audits in Horizon Europe

- **Pilot** System and Process Audit on a number of beneficiaries
- Further **consultation with beneficiaries and member states**
- Discussion with the **Central Services of the Commission** regarding further simplification
- Discussion with Services of the Commission responsible for **shared management**
- Launch of the Horizon Europe audit campaign (creation of an **audit strategy**)

**Thank you
for your
attention & participation !**

Horizon Europe

THE NEXT EU RESEARCH & INNOVATION
INVESTMENT PROGRAMME (2021 – 2027)

#HorizonEU

Horizon Europe implementation: Reporting and
Communicating



Outline

- *Project reporting and monitoring*
- *Communication via the portal*
- *Working with NCPs*

Project reporting - purposes

- ✓ **Monitor progress and delivery**
 - ✓ continuous task that can take place at any moment during the active period of the project (and beyond), but that it could be more relevant at certain periods in project's life, in particular after each reporting period at the time of payments.
- ✓ **Ex-ante control before payment**
- ✓ **Collection of information and data for programme monitoring**
- ✓ **Feedback to policy making**

Review meetings may be organised regularly, normally after each reporting period. External experts may assist.

Project reporting in H2020

✓ Continuous reporting

- ✓ Deliverables →
 - ✓ Milestones (follow up) →
 - ✓ Critical risks (follow up) →
 - ✓ Questionnaire for H2020 Key Performance indicators (predefined by the Programme)
- Linked to the action and proposed by the applicants in the proposal (described in Annex I of the grant agreement)

✓ Periodic and Final Reports

- ✓ Periodic technical report
 - ✓ Periodic financial report
-

Following predefined template (pdf) and web-based forms

Continuity with H2020 - principles

- ✓ "ex-ante controls should be **cost-effective, efficient, rapid and harmonised** [...] avoid unnecessarily burdening beneficiaries but help reduce the overall error risk in the control system."
- ✓ "The control system shall ensure an appropriate **balance between trust and control**, taking into account the administrative and other costs of controls at all levels, so that the policy objectives of Horizon 2020 (scientific excellence and international competitiveness) can be achieved".

Continuity with H2020

- ✓ *Where possible, **ex-ante controls will be targeted** to riskier transactions and beneficiaries, rather than being performed systematically.*
- ✓ *Such a system is more **flexible and adaptable** to specific risks, will **reduce the administrative burden** on beneficiaries, and will also cost less.*

Novelties for Horizon Europe

- Key Impact Pathways (KIPs)
- Some reporting requirements after project end
- Stronger focus on dissemination and exploitation
- Linking with existing data sources wherever possible

Key impact pathways

- Need to demonstrate the impact of EU funding for R&I (to citizens, legislator, budget authority)
- Key Impact Pathways (KPIs) are essential part of the Horizon Indicator Framework (part of HE proposal art. 45 and 47, also Annex V)

Aims of the Key impact pathways

- Highlight the results of EU funding to research (-ers) and society
- Define indicators for short/medium/long term evaluation
- Keep reporting burden reasonable
- Distinguish between management data and impact indicators

Overall overview: 3 Areas of Impact



Scientific impact

diffusion of high-quality new fundamental and applied knowledge, skills, training and mobility of researchers, attract talent at all levels, and contribute to full engagement of Union's talent pool in actions supported under the Programme



Societal impact

Generate knowledge, strengthen the impact of R&I in developing, supporting and implementing Union policies, and support the uptake of innovative solutions in industry, notably in SMEs, and society to address global challenges, inter alia the SDGs



Economic/Technological impact

Foster all forms of innovation, facilitate technological development, demonstration and knowledge transfer, and strengthen deployment of innovative solutions

Quick Introduction – The 9 KIPs

1. Creating high-quality new knowledge

2. Strengthening human capital in R&I

3. Fostering diffusion of knowledge and Open Science

**Scientific
Impact**



4. Addressing EU policy priorities & global challenges through R&I

5. Delivering benefits & impact via R&I missions

6. Strengthening the uptake of R&I in society

**Societal
Impact**

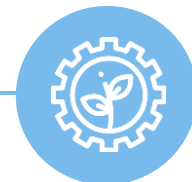


7. Generating innovation-based growth

8. Creating more and better jobs

9. Leveraging investments in R&I

**Economic/
Technological
Impact**



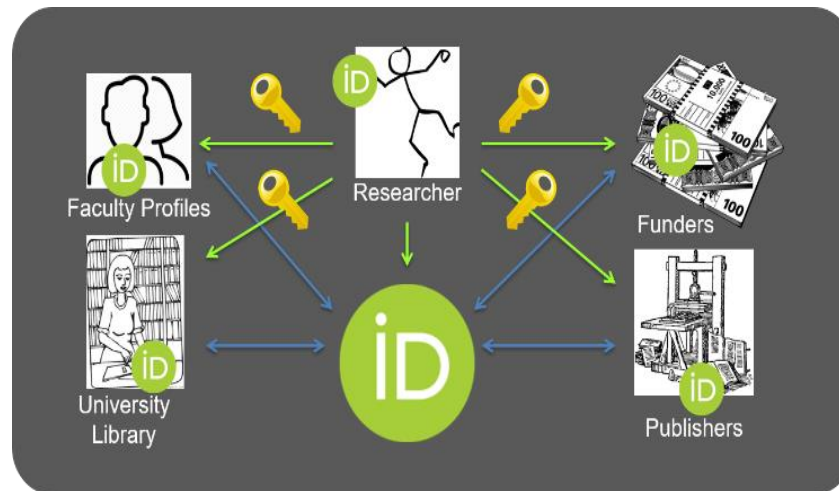
European
Commission

Key information/evolutions needed

- Know **who the individual researchers are** in all projects, e.g. through the collection of unique identifiers of researchers
- Track the **FP outputs** better, through a structured reference to the funding source in publications, patents and other IPR applications
- Make more **use of available data and links** to relevant existing databases
- This requires:
 - Adaptations of current templates (while simplifying): application forms, model grant agreement, reporting templates
 - Some reporting obligation after project end
 - Piloting and testing new approaches, e.g. for accessing microdata on businesses, and for tracking societal impact

Why referring to unique identifiers?

- Unique identification of researchers and scholars using a DOI (Similar to publications)
- Useful for disambiguation
- Improves discoverability
- Allows pulling (and provisionally 'pushing') data between different systems (journal submission, funder's portals etc)



Scientific impact (1/2)

- Further use and promote unique identifiers (publication DOI's, Funder ID, organization IDs) to enable linking with external databases and to facilitate automated identification during and after the lifetime of project
- Capture systematically individual researchers in all types of projects (including EIC and non-paid researchers)
- Use the definition of Frascati manual for the researcher

Scientific impact (2/2)

- Key Needs:
 - **Applicant & beneficiary reporting** on individual researchers
 - **IT systems:** structured around a set of 'profiles' (researchers, organisations, projects) which link to each other, proactively pulling data (publications, patents, etc.)

➤ **Becoming a point of reference for researchers**

- Enhance the portal functionalities so that it becomes a central point to search information and establish contacts between researchers or between potential beneficiaries.
- Researchers will be able to link their individual profile with their project profile, organisation profile but also with their outputs in open access
- Provide functionalities incentivizing researchers and other beneficiaries to keep their profile complete and up to date and make data-sets open

Societal impact

- Key principles:
 - Definition of clear EU R&I priorities in line with Sustainable Development Goals
 - Categorization of proposals, projects, deliverables, outputs, results, impacts by EU priority. This can be done by applicants, evaluators, experts or AI
 - Estimation of overall societal impact based on portfolio approach through experts
- Key needs:
 - **Applicant & beneficiary reporting:** based on structured classification + expert judgement
 - **IT systems:** AI approaches for classification into portfolios (semantic analysis, machine learning) based on TRR, Data4Impact, IRIS, EURITO, CORDIS (topic modelling);

Economic/technological impact

- Key principles:
 - All Horizon Europe projects will be subject to Innovation Radar, and will continue to report on their outputs/deliverables
 - Use and promote unique identifiers where possible (IPR, companies) to link with external databases related to company performance, including turnover and employment
 - Common approach for leverage effect across all projects (direct + indirect)
 - Counterfactual methods
- Key Needs:
 - **Applicant & beneficiary reporting:** on financial and/or in-kind contributions and leveraged funding (direct for project + indirect for scale-up)
 - **Data linking:**
 - Using unique identifiers (VAT, FunderID) to link and automatically exploit external databases; Proactively pulls publications, patents, etc.; Web-scraping on company websites and news/media sites (e.g. TRR methodology, Data4Impact, EURITO)

Dissemination & Exploitation

Novelties:

- Encouraging third party exploitation of R&I results: Set up of the “Horizon Results Platform”
- Focusing on knowledge and impact created after end of R&I projects. Encourage the reporting of this information to the Commission
- Collecting the ‘right’ D&E data from beneficiaries: Review of D&E templates
- Better and more linked D&E data and activities:
 - Looking to the future: Combination of external data sources with FP data to complete information collection on R&I results during and after project’s end
 - Looking back: Tracking of Research Results (TRR) – a methodology to track, trace and link project results with impacts that occurred after the end of the projects

Dissemination & Exploitation platforms?

- CORDIS
- Funding & Tender Portal (dashboard)
- Innovation Radar
- Horizon Results Platform (under preparation)
- Individual project websites
- ...

How to streamline?

Notifications about next steps

- **E-mail notifications** about all the actions that you need to carry out for grant preparation and signature.
- All the notifications that you receive by e-mail are **also available in the "My Notifications" inbox** on the portal.
- Notifications are addressed to the role that is to carry out the action. The roles that may need to be aware of this action receive it in CC (**TASK/INFO notifications**)
- Notifications alert you while the **full information** about the action is provided in the **"My Area"** after you have logged in – in **"My Projects"**, click on **"Actions" → "Manage Project"**

[Overview of notifications](#)

Manage my area

My Organisation(s)

GRANTS

My Proposal(s)

My Project(s)

My Formal Notification(s)

My Expert Area

SEARCH FUNDING & TENDERS

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

PROJECTS & RESULTS

WORK AS AN EXPERT

SUPPORT

select programme

79

The Funding & Tenders Portal is the entry point (the Single Electronic Data Interchange Area) for participants and experts in funding programmes and tenders managed by the European Commission and other EU bodies.

Find calls for proposals and tenders

Search calls for proposals and tenders by keywords, programmes...

Search

View your notifications

What are calls for proposals?

What are calls for tenders?

How to participate in 5 steps

Calls for proposals by EU Programme

3rd Health Programme

Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund

Consumer Programme

Creative Europe

Erasmus+ Programme

European Maritime and Fisheries Fund

HERCULE III

Horizon 2020 Framework Programme

Internal Security Fund Borders and Visa

Internal Security Fund Police

Justice Programme

Pilot Projects and Preparatory Actions

Programme for the Competitiveness of Enterprises and small and medium-sized enterprises

Promotion of Agricultural Products

Research Fund for Coal & Steel

Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme

Union Civil Protection Mechanism

Previous Framework Programs (FP7 - CIP)

Overview of EU funding

News

Useful links

Feedback

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- Manage my area
- My Organisation(s)
- GRANTS
- My Proposal(s)
- My Project(s)
- My Formal Notification(s)
- My Expert Area

- SEARCH FUNDING & TENDERS
- HOW TO PARTICIPATE
- PROJECTS & RESULTS
- WORK AS AN EXPERT
- SUPPORT

The Funding & Tenders Portal is the entry point (the Single Electronic Data Interchange Area) for programmes and tenders managed by the European Commission and other EU bodies.

Find calls for proposals and tenders

Search calls for proposals and tenders by keywords, programmes... Search

- What are calls for proposals?
- What are calls for tenders?

Calls for proposals by EU Programme

3rd Health Programme	Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund	Consumer Programme	Creative Europe	Erasmus+ Programme	European Fisheries
Internal Security Fund Borders and Visa	Internal Security Fund Police	Justice Programme	Pilot Projects and Preparatory Actions	Programme for the Competitiveness of Enterprises and small and medium-sized enterprises	Promotion Products
Union Civil Protection Mechanism	Previous Framework Programs (FP7 - CIP)	Overview of EU funding			

- News
- Useful links

My notifications


Total 20

- Participant Portal
Request to get in contact with the self registrant of <915907369 - TEST TEST TEST TEST6>
- Participant Portal
INFO: Role of Coordinator Contact revoked for project NCP-PLAYGROUND-11-HR (685501) in organisation <934187892 - NCP Test Company E>
- Participant Portal
INFO: Allocation of role of Coordinator Contact for project NCP-PLAYGROUND-11-HR (685501) in organisation <934187892 - NCP Test Company E>
- Participant Portal
Learn/account administrator access request for Project NCPPLAYGROUND-111-FO
- Participant Portal
INFO: Role of Account Administrator revoked for your organisation < 934188086 - NCP Test Research Org D >
- Participant Portal
INFO: Role of Account Administrator revoked for your organisation < 934188086 - NCP Test Research Org D >
- Participant Portal
INFO: Role of Account Administrator revoked for your organisation < 934187892 - NCP Test Company E >
- Participant Portal
INFO: Role of Legal Authorized Signatory revoked for your organisation < 934187892 - NCP Test Company E >

View all notifications



My Notification(s)

 [More info](#)

Inbox Preferences

Results: **82**

	DATE	SOURCE	SUBJECT	PRIORITY
<input type="checkbox"/>	31-10-2018 11:35:18	Participant Portal	Request to get in contact with the self registrant of <915907369 - TEST TEST TEST TEST6>	HIGH
<input type="checkbox"/>	20-09-2018 17:54:59	Participant Portal	INFO: Role of Coordinator Contact revoked for project NCP-PLAYGROUND-11-HR (685501) in organisation <934187892 - NCP Test Company E>	HIGH
<input type="checkbox"/>	18-09-2018 13:58:46	Participant Portal	INFO: Allocation of role of Coordinator Contact for project NCP-PLAYGROUND-11-HR (685501) in organisation <934187892 - NCP Test Company E>	HIGH
<input type="checkbox"/>	06-09-2018 17:15:55	Participant Portal	Lear/account administrator access request for Project NCPPLAYGROUND-111-FO	HIGH
<input type="checkbox"/>	06-09-2018 14:51:05	Participant Portal	INFO: Role of Account Administrator revoked for your organisation < 934188086 - NCP Test Research Org D >	HIGH
<input type="checkbox"/>	06-09-2018 14:51:05	Participant Portal	INFO: Role of Account Administrator revoked for your organisation < 934188086 - NCP Test Research Org D >	HIGH
<input type="checkbox"/>	06-09-2018 14:49:36	Participant Portal	INFO: Role of Account Administrator revoked for your organisation < 934187892 - NCP Test Company E >	HIGH
<input type="checkbox"/>	06-09-2018 14:49:36	Participant Portal	INFO: Role of Legal Authorized Signatory revoked for your organisation < 934187892 - NCP Test Company E >	HIGH
<input type="checkbox"/>	06-09-2018 14:49:35	Participant Portal	INFO: Role of Account Administrator revoked for your organisation < 934187892 - NCP Test Company E >	HIGH
<input type="checkbox"/>	25-07-2018 15:57:07	Participant Portal	Request to get in contact with the account administrator of <934188280 - NCP test SME C>	HIGH

1 2 3 10 ▾

[Delete Selected](#) [Mark Selected Read](#) [Mark All Read](#) [Mark Selected Unread](#)

Feedback 

Funding & Tenders Portal – Grant management service

The screenshot displays the 'RESEARCH & INNOVATION Participant Portal - Grant Management Services' interface. The top navigation bar includes the European Commission logo and the user 'Ppgms COPL'. The main content area is divided into several sections:

- MY PROJECT:** A sidebar on the left containing project details for 'H2020-2020-2014-5', 'Type of Action: H2020-FCT-2015', 'Acronyms: Mindflex', 'Current Phase: Grant management', 'Number: 28109', 'Duration: 48 months', 'Start Date: 2013-04-23', 'Estimated Project Cost: €4,545,454.00', 'Requested EU Contribution: €999,123.00', and 'Contact: James'. A 'See all data ...' link is at the bottom.
- Proposal Management & Grant Preparation:** The main section for project management, showing '28109 - Mindflex'. It includes a 'Process description and reference' (yellow box), a 'Process timeline' (yellow box) with a progress bar from 'Submitted' (12/04/2013) to 'Paid' (12/09/2014), and a 'Grant agreement data: preparation' task (yellow box).
- Documents:** A section for managing project documents.
- Messages:** A section for project-related communications.
- Project Tools:** A section for managing project tasks.
- H2020 ONLINE MANUAL:** A link to the online manual.
- HOW TO:** A link to 'How to use the IT system'.

Yellow arrows and boxes highlight key features and tasks:

- Process description and reference:** Points to the 'Proposal Management & Grant Preparation' section.
- Process timeline:** Points to the timeline progress bar.
- Open and perform the task (Available to you when in a yellow box):** Points to the 'Grant agreement data: preparation' task.
- Complete the task (enabled when available to you):** Points to the 'Submit to EU' button.
- Key Project Data:** Points to the 'MY PROJECT' sidebar.
- Project Tools:** Points to the 'Project Tools' section.
- H2020 Business Information:** Points to the 'H2020 ONLINE MANUAL' link.
- How to use the IT system:** Points to the 'HOW TO' link.

The Grant Management Services provide three levels of information:

- Project information
- Process information
- Task information

PPGMS- Messaging

The screenshot displays the PPGMS Grant Management Services interface. At the top, the European Commission logo and the text 'RESEARCH & INNOVATION Grant Management Services' are visible. A user profile for 'Generic DEVUSERCOORDINATOR' is shown in the top right. The main content area is divided into two sections: 'MY PROJECT' and 'Periodic Reporting'.

MY PROJECT

HORIZON 2020

Call: H2020-SCC-2015
Type of Action: CSA
Acronym: 161992 [GAP]
[H2020_SCC] Automation tests
[ABAC: ABACBUDL]
Current Phase: Grant Management
Number: 161992
Duration: 36 months
GA based on the: H2020
General MGA — Multi - 5.null
Start Date: 23 Aug 2019
Estimated Project Cost: €819.00
Requested EU Contribution: €50.00
Contact: [Virginie BRAEKMAN](#)

Periodic Reporting
REP-161992-1 - period 23/02/2018 > 22/08/2019

Timeline: 23 Aug 2019 (Draft) → 22 Oct 2019 (3/60 days) (Submitted) → Paid

Technical Part contribution
Financial Part AST [PIC 973276467] drafting
Periodic Report composition

Process documents
Process communications
Process history

Continuous Reporting
161992 - 161992 [GAP]
[H2020_SCC] Automation tests
[ABAC: ABACBUDL]

Timeline: 23 Aug 2019 (Started) → Completed

Continuous reporting data

Process documents
Process communications
Process history

Communication Centre

H2020 ONLINE MANUAL

HOW TO


Proposal Management & Grant Preparation 01 Aug 2019

Messages are stored at two levels:

- Process communications: at process level
- Communication Centre: at project level (all process messages are also stored here together with all other project messages)


PPGMS- Formal notifications

The formal notification process is part of the formal communication taking place between the EU and consortia.



Funding & tender opportunities
Single Electronic Data Interchange Area (SEDIA)

Welcome



EN

Manage my area

My Organisation(s)

GRANTS

My Audits

My Formal Notification(s)[1]

My Expert Area

SEARCH FUNDING & TENDERS

HOW TO PARTICIPATE


PROJECTS & RESULTS

WORK AS AN EXPERT

SUPPORT

select programme

187



My Formal Notification(s)

Online manual
"Roles & access rights"

IT HOW TO
"Formal Notification"

Feedback

More info

Results: 1

Search..

SENT	SUBJECT	EC REFERENCE	STATUS	ACKNOL. BY ME
24-04-2015 13:46:54		No Reference available	expired	NO

1

10



PPGMS- Formal notifications

Beneficiaries can:

- **Send a formal notification to the EU:** To initiate a new formal notification on behalf of the consortium, the Coordinator should go to the My Project(s) section and click on the MP button.
- Acknowledge a formal notification from the EU: via the portal or the grant management system

RESEARCH & INNOVATION
Participant Portal - Grant Management Services

Help

Abhishek DHOKTE

1 Launch new interaction with the EU

Launch new interaction with the EU

Choose one of the options below

Request for Amendment Launch

Including notification on termination of the participation of one or more beneficiaries. Choose the data set based on which you would like launching a new amendment request:

☒ latest legal data

☐ AMD-915788-1

☐ AMD-915788-2

Grant Agreement Termination by beneficiaries Launch

Attention! This option is reserved for the termination of the grant agreement. The termination of the grant agreement is considered as a last resort measure, if all other efforts to continue the action fail. Termination is irrevocable and comes into force immediately after signature and submission. You are advised to consult the available guidance of the corresponding funding programme or contact the responsible officer in charge of your grant agreement.

Formal Notification Launch

Attention! The use of the formal notification channel is reserved for specific purposes e.g. for communication as set out in the model grant agreement (MGA) e.g. obligation to provide information upon request or obligation to inform). If you wish to interact with officers, please use the messaging facility (see below).

Communication to the Project Officer Launch

At any time, you may wish to informally exchange messages or ask questions to the Service via the electronic system. If your query is related to an ongoing process, you're encouraged to use the messages section of that process.

H2020 ONLINE MANUAL

HOW TO

Proposal Management & Grant Preparation
915788 - 915788 Abhi-ToA-AT37 [ABAC: ABACBUDL]

01 Apr 2017

05 May 2017 (84/30 days)

Submitted Informed Invited Prepared Signed Paid

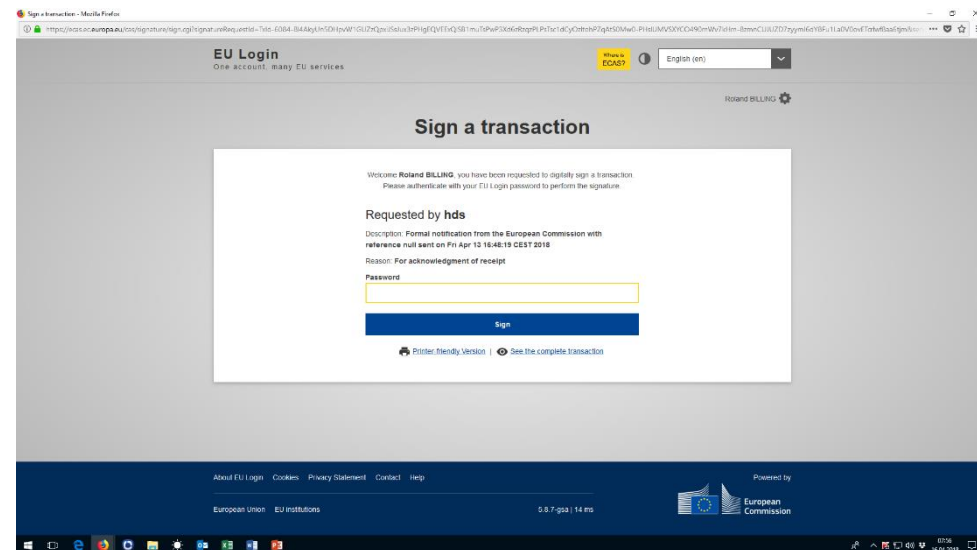
European Commission

PPGMS- Formal notifications

Beneficiaries can:

- Send a formal notification to the EU: To initiate a new formal notification on behalf of the consortium, the Coordinator should go to the My Project(s) section and click on the MP button.
- **Acknowledge a formal notification from the EU:** via the portal or the grant management system

SENT	SUBJECT	EC REFERENCE	STATUS	ACKNOWLED. BY ME
03-08-2018 15:47:58	Formal Notification from the European Commission	ares(2018)125804	Receipt not yet acknowledged	NO
03-08-2018 15:47:58	Formal Notification from the European Commission	ares(2018)125805	Receipt not yet acknowledged	NO
03-08-2018 16:08:49	Formal Notification from the European Commission	ares(2018)125806	Receipt not yet acknowledged	NO
03-08-2018 16:08:50	Formal Notification from the European Commission	ares(2018)125809	Receipt not yet acknowledged	NO
10-08-2018 08:00:35	letter of announcement of audit - aupl-caia000082-99984098 4 - aupl-caia000082-99984098 4	ares(2018)126481	read	16-08-2018 11:44:03
10-08-2018 10:44:36	audit contact letter caia000082 - aupl-caia000082-99984098 4	ares(2018)126953	read	10-08-2018 11:43:55
13-08-2018 10:41:11	letter of announcement of audit - aupl-caia000079-99984098 4 - aupl-caia000079-99984098 4	ares(2018)127615	read	13-08-2018 11:43:30
13-08-2018 10:41:17	letter of announcement of third party audit - aupl-caia000079-99984098 4 - aupl-caia000079-99984098 4	ares(2018)127616	read	13-08-2018 15:26:58
16-08-2018 14:28:58	Formal Notification from the European Commission	ares(2018)128417	Receipt not yet acknowledged	NO



PPGMS- Formal notifications

Beneficiaries can:

- Send a formal notification to the EU: To initiate a new formal notification on behalf of the consortium, the Coordinator should go to the My Project(s) section and click on the MP button.
- **Acknowledge a formal notification from the EU:** via the portal or the grant management system

The screenshot shows the 'Participant Portal - Grant Management Services' interface. The top navigation bar includes the European Commission logo and the text 'RESEARCH & INNOVATION'. Below this, the 'MY PROJECT' section displays details for 'HORIZON 2020' and a timeline for 'Periodic Reporting' (REP-127521-1) from 01/06/2010 to 31/05/2011, with stages for Draft, Submitted, and Paid. A sidebar on the left contains a 'Document Library' button, which is highlighted with a red box. The main content area shows a list of documents, including 'Formal Notification (1)' dated 02 October 2017, which is also highlighted with a red box. The bottom of the page features a 'HOW TO' button and a footer with '© European Communities - Version 1.15'.

The screenshot shows the 'EU Login' 'Sign a transaction' page. The page title is 'Sign a transaction' and it includes a welcome message for 'Roland BILLING'. The main content area displays a 'Requested by hds' section with a description: 'Formal notification from the European Commission with reference null sent on Fri Apr 13 16:48:19 CEST 2018'. Below this, there is a 'Password' field and a 'Sign' button. The page footer includes the European Commission logo and the text 'Powered by'.

Funding & Tenders Portal – Latest developments

- *2nd Factor Identification*
- *LEAR access to projects & proposals*
- *New roles linked to Audits*
- *My Audit: new section available under My Area*
- *Expert Profile Delegation*
- *e-Annotated Grant Agreement (testing phase)*

Funding & Tenders Portal – Next steps

*Funding & Tenders Portal: keeps **on evolving***

- **new functionalities** may be implemented (i.e. Personal Profile, Funded project on topic page)
- further improvements of **visual layout** and user support
- continuing further integration of **e-procurement** on the Portal
- **new programmes** will come on board
- **Multilingualism**

Funding & Tenders Portal

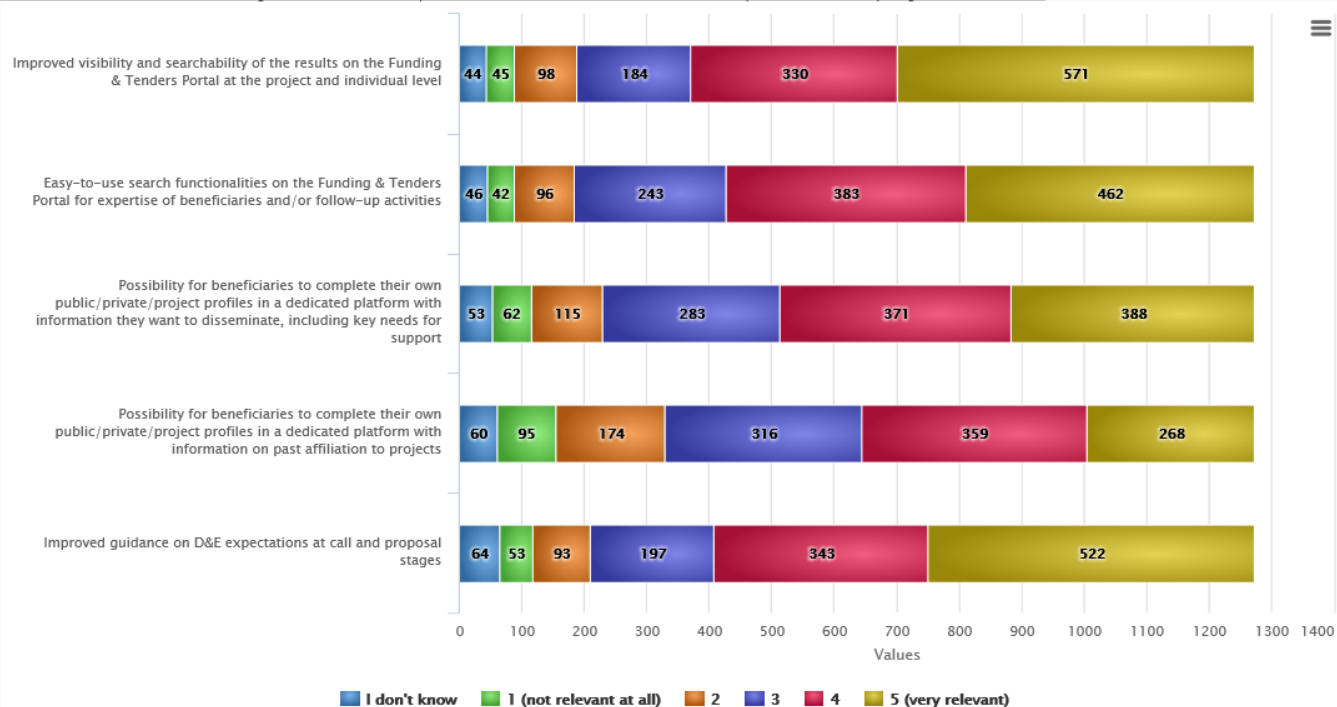
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z5URvbgsYOQ>



European
Commission

Results of consultation - D&E

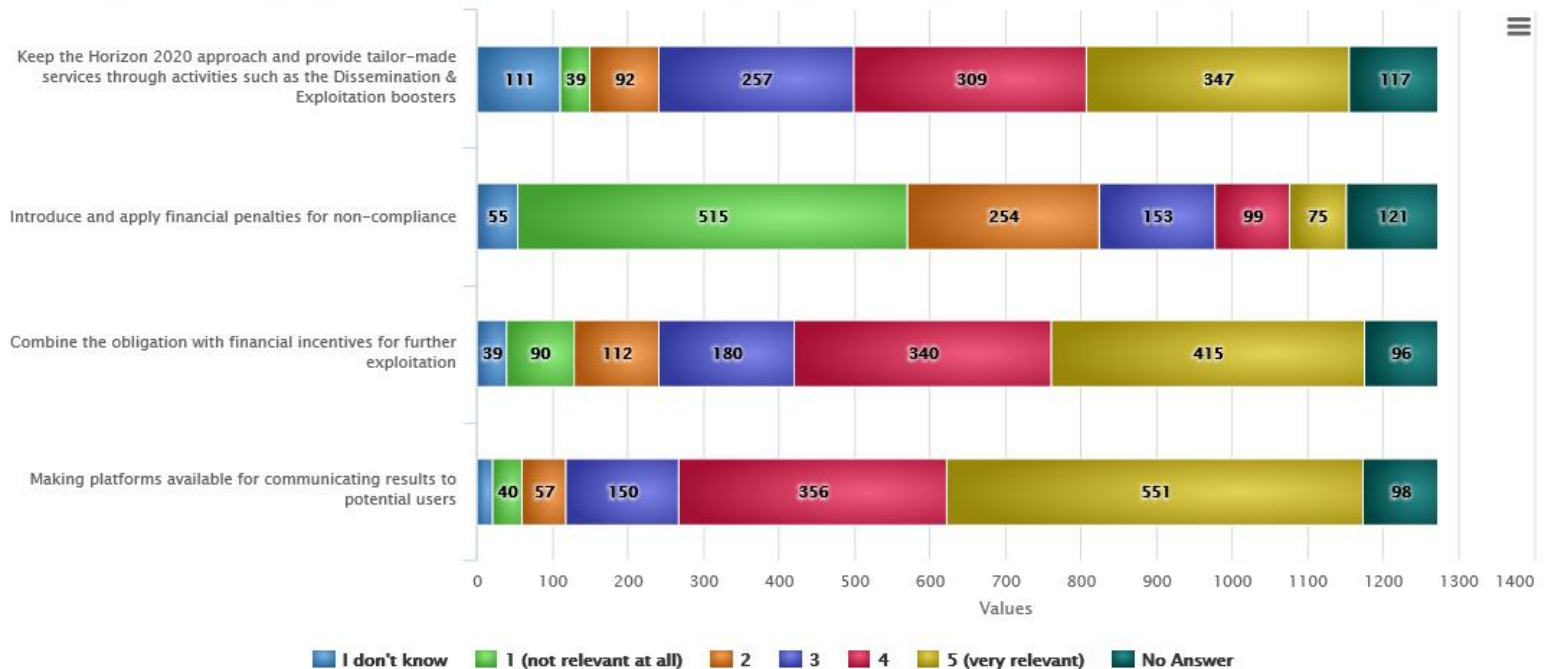
4.1. What would be useful in your view to improve the dissemination and exploitation of projects results?



- The majority of the respondents seem to find the proposed orientations relevant or very relevant with biggest support to 'Improve visibility and searchability of the results on the portal' and lowest support to 'Possibility for beneficiaries to complete their own project profiles in a dedicated platform'.
- Same trend from the 155 Spanish respondents.

Results of consultation - D&E

4.3. How could the European Commission incentivise beneficiaries to report on dissemination and exploitation after the end of the project?



- *Making platforms available for communicating results to potential users is the most relevant incentive way for beneficiaries.*
- *To introduce and apply financial penalties for non-compliance is the less relevant incentive 😊.*
- *Same trend from the 155 Spanish respondents.*

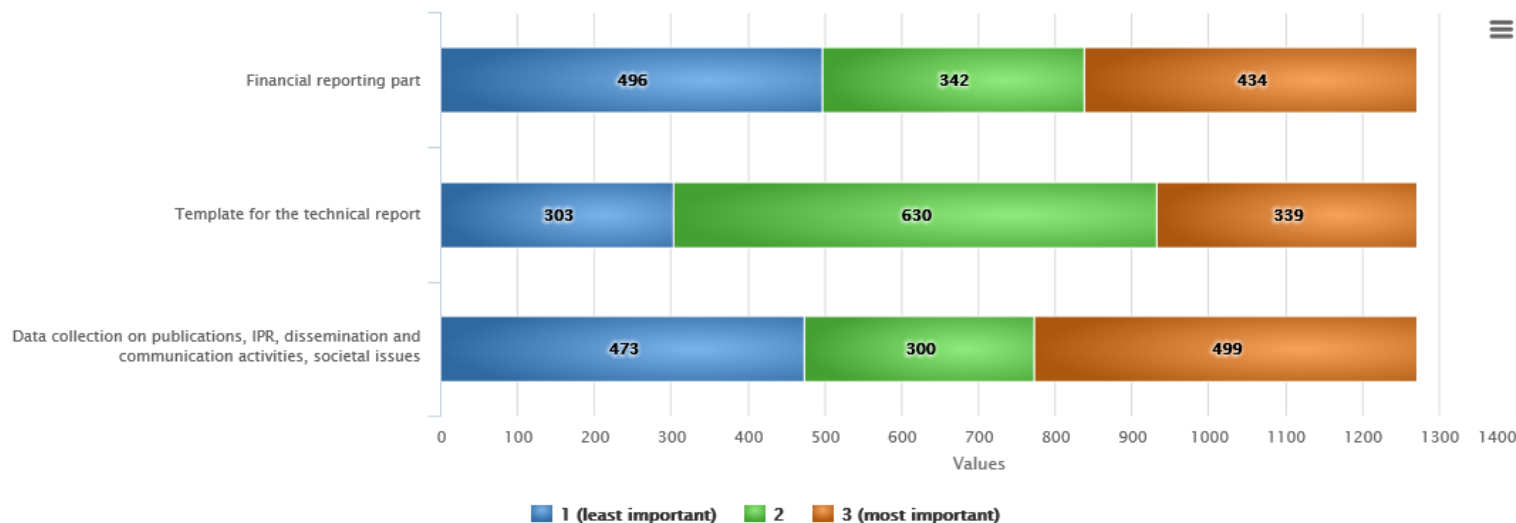
Results of consultation - D&E

Main messages:

- *4.2. Dissemination & Exploitation (D&E) is part of the evaluation criteria and constitutes a separate Work Package in the project's life cycle. How can beneficiaries' understanding around D&E be improved?*
 - *Emphasis on the creation of a **follow-up support mechanism** on D&E for beneficiaries;*
 - *Emphasis on **enhancing training and awareness** raising around D&E to applicants (using the Funding and Tenders Portal, existing networks such as EEN, NCPs, etc.).*
- *4.4. Exploiting the full potential of R&I results for sustainable policy making is becoming more and more important. How could we strengthen the feedback to policy and decision making, based on R&I results, at EU, local, regional, national, international levels?*
 - ***Clustering of similar projects** at the end of their lifecycle; / Using datamining on the project results per section of the WP;*
 - *Introducing a call for proposals or tender **to fund a project which would assess the results coming out of the projects** running under a particular section of the WP;*
 - ***Establishing an intermediary 'committee'** either at EU or national/regional/local levels for pushing the results further.*
 - ...

Results of consultation – Data & Reporting

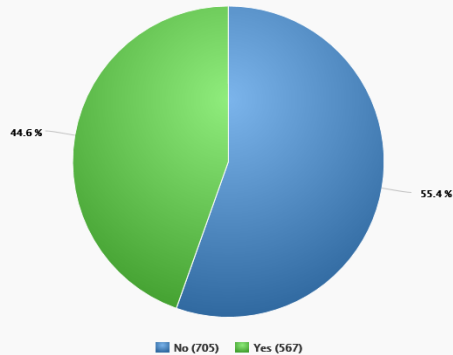
5.1. Which parts of the Horizon 2020 reporting templates and guidance require improvements? (rank your top 3 answers by order of preference)



- *Mixed opinions: About the same percentage of answers believe the reporting template needs improvements, as those that do not consider improvements as priority.*
- *Same trend from the 155 Spanish respondents.*

Results of consultation – Data & Reporting

5.3. Have you already used the Horizon 2020 Dashboard?



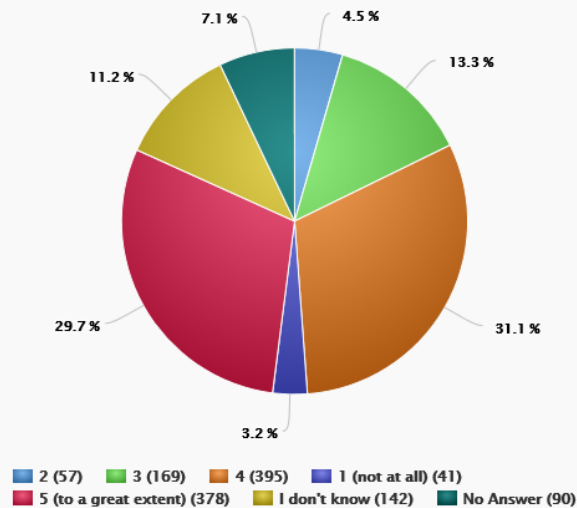
5.3a. Which parts of the Horizon Dashboard do you find most useful? (rank your answers by order of preference)



- Dashboard parts on H2020 proposals and projects the most useful. Part on seal of excellence, the less.
- Similar trend from the 155 Spanish respondents (less emphasis on the projects dashboard, but still in second place).

Results of consultation – Data & Reporting

5.5. The European Commission proposes to create a central EU R&I data hub on data from the EU R&I investments made at EU, national, regional and local levels. Do you consider this could support the definition of R&I policies in Europe at local, regional, national and European levels?



- The majority of the respondents consider that the creation of a datahub could support the definition of the R&I policies at the various levels in Europe to a great or very great extent.
- Only 3.2% of the respondents are against the proposal.
- Similar trend from the 155 Spanish respondents: More weight to answer 'to a great extend' – 40%, and less to 'not at all' – 0.6%.

Thank you!

#HorizonEU

<http://ec.europa.eu/horizon-europe>

Isabel.vergara-ogando@ec.europa.eu

Spanish Stakeholder Workshop on Horizon Europe Implementation (9 October 2019)

DECALOGUE OF SUGGESTIONS

1. Increased **interactions between project officers and NCPs /applicants**;
2. Improved **feedback to participants** through more detailed ESRs and better EC Helpdesk answers;
3. **Clearer and predictable evaluation criteria** (and sub-criteria) in particular for ex-aequo proposals and for the *"portfolio approach"*;
4. Increased acceptance of **usual accounting practices of participants**;
5. **Daily rates for personnel costs are not a straightforward simplification for many participants.** Thus, we would propose to keep it as an option along with hourly rates for those having the latter as their usual accounting practice and therefore, accept time-recording both in days and hours. In any case, alternative options for the calculation of productive days/hours should be maintained;
6. Unit costs for **internally invoiced goods and services** (including indirect costs) should have sufficient impact and thus, a more flexible interpretation is needed, including the use of historical data and allocation keys for goods or services connected to the action;
7. Welcome the **"full costs" option for pilots and prototypes** as long the guidance is clear and this option could be consistently applied;
8. Extending the use of the **Lump Sum model** must be preceded by a full cycle evaluation of current pilots and applied to projects where it better suits (no "one size fits all");
9. The benefits and reach of **ex-ante systems and process audits** need clear and transparent guidelines;
10. Further guidance and support for **exploitation and dissemination** is needed.

FULL SET OF SUGGESTIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Proposal Submission, Evaluation and Selection

- Increased interactions between applicants and Project Officers or through an improved contact between the EC and NCPs;
- Improve feedback to participants through more detailed ESRs (in particular for Stage 1 proposals);
- Clear evaluation criteria (and sub-criteria), in particular for ex-aequo proposals, reserve lists and for the *"portfolio approach"*;
- Two stages call for proposals and blind evaluations should not be a general rule;
- Maintain emphasis on the impact of projects;
- Add certainty to the Grant Agreement Preparation by increasing its predictability;
- Reduce the number of pages for proposals (around 50);
- Improve support to expert evaluators on "non-scientific" issues such as impact, market, etc;
- An evaluation process in two phases proposal: 1) only excellence is evaluated, 2) only the most excellent projects will then be evaluated on their impact/implementation.

MGA

- Increased acceptance of usual accounting practices:
- **Personnel costs:**
 - Further simplification of the average personnel costs methodology is needed;
 - Additional remuneration has not fulfilled its objectives and should, therefore, be replaced or removed;
 - Daily rates for personnel costs are not a straightforward simplification for many participants as they are not aligned with their usual accounting practices. Therefore, their calculation will entail an extra burden and consequently a higher error risk linked to both, the

understanding and the calculation of the “full-day equivalent” concept which in any case will require very clear guidance. In short, we propose to keep the daily rate as an option along with hourly rates, and therefore accept time-recording both in days and hours. In both cases, alternative options for the calculation of productive hours should be maintained;

- Remove the calculation of hourly rates for personnel working exclusively for the action and accept their full cost per period.
- **Internal Invoices (indirect costs)**
 - To be a real improvement, the proposal for Horizon Europe should have sufficient impact (avoid repeating the LRI model) and thus a more flexible interpretation is needed;
 - Allowing the use of actual historical data and direct technical costs measured by allocation keys (e.g. quantity, working hour or unit);
 - Allow for goods or services connected to the action as long as they are part of its usual cost accounting practices.
- **Equipment:** the “full costs” option for pilots and prototypes is welcome as long the guidance is clear and it can be consistently applied.
- **Third parties:**
 - Maintain the current linked third parties definition, including entities with a “legal link” and Joint Research Units;

LUMP SUMS

- Extending the use of the **Lump Sum model** must be preceded by a proper evaluation of current pilots and adapted to its suitability to different type of projects (no “one size fits all”);
- Seems appropriate for closer to market and CSA type of projects but not as a general rule;
- More support to Lump Sum type II as long as the identified shortcuts are tackled and discretionary reductions of budget during the evaluation or negotiation phases are avoided;
- Higher risk and payments uncertainty may lead to a fragmentation of projects and represent, de facto, a barrier for newcomers;

- Reduce the financial risk by establishing clear payment criteria for cases where one Partner breaches its obligations (partial WP payments);
- Lump-Sum have increased the costs of elaborating proposals for all participants and the management costs for coordinators;
- Lump-Sum will increase Grant Agreement management burden (e.g. amendments for any budget reallocation).

Control Strategy: Ex-ante & ex-post controls

- The benefits and reach of ex-ante systems and process audits need clear and transparent guidelines;
- Increase the quality of external auditors;
- Reduce the duration of audits and standardise the documentation required;
- More guidance on the contents of “technical audits” for Lump Sum Projects is needed;
- Certificate on the Financial Statements should be more prescriptive;
- Enhanced cross reliance on other audits would need clear guidance.

Project reporting, communication, dissemination and exploitation

- Reporting requirements need to be simplified;
- Further guidance on communication, exploitation and dissemination is needed;
- Further dissemination obligations for participants after the end of projects requires additional funding;
- Improved reach to the different “open access” channels;
- Common Exploitation Booster impact/results are not clear. Launching “project clusters” as a way to stimulate interactions between projects with similar objectives could be envisaged;

- A clearer differentiation between research results and research data is needed;
- Improve Project Officers training on dissemination, exploitation and communication issues;
- Analyse the possibility of changing the generic dissemination and communication part of the proposal by clear and specific obligations defined by the EC (web, publications, social networks, events, etc.)?

International Cooperation

- Clearer guidelines and predictability for third countries participation (in particular for those not receiving funding);
- Increased cooperation Projects with Latin American countries;

Others

- Alignment between different EU funding programs and their rules is welcome as long as they do not worsen the current H2020 conditions;
- Improve the "partner search" facility in the F&T Opportunities Portal;
- Automatic access for LEARs to all their running projects plus automatic messages when their MGA are modified/updated;
- Further reduction of the Time To Grant should be pursued;
- Improved Electronic Grant Management guidelines and a friendlier Annotated Model Grant Agreement for participants would be welcome.