



ENRF Briefing Note H2020 2018-2020 Programme

The Council of the European Union which represents the executive governments of the EU's member states did not accept the European Commission's budget proposal from this summer. What will this mean for the position of European research?

The European Commission wants to spend € 11.1 billion for research and innovation next year. From this initial amount, the Council wants to slash € 0.5 billion. Since the start of the program, Horizon 2020's budget has grown on average by 6.5%. If the Council proposal succeeds, the budget will grow by 2.6% in 2018.

Each summer, the European Commission proposes a draft budget for the coming year. This year the draft budget came out on 30 May. The Council of the European Union is the first European institution to respond to it, with its own proposal coming in July. Ultimately, the third body, the European Parliament, is also expected to disclose its opinion, scheduled for October 2017. The three European institutions will therefore negotiate on the budget for 2018 and thus on the Horizon 2020 budget in the coming weeks.

In previous years, these three institutions have usually found a compromise somewhere in the middle.

Not yet adopted, but available: Horizon 2020 - Work Programme 2018-2020 - chapter 8. Health, demographic change and wellbeing



Draft Call Areas
H2020 2018-2020.pd

Furthermore, the EU's new research commercialization arm, the European Innovation Council will spend €2.7 billion on around 1,000 projects during its initial 2018–2020 pilot phase, according to the draft plan, published last week.

The Council, created by pulling together four existing Horizon 2020 funding streams, is targeted at entrepreneurs, engineers and researchers with ideas that are “radically different” from existing products or services.

The EIC will be based on four highly competitive programmes, the SME Instrument, Fast Track to Innovation, FET Open and innovation prizes.

To boost the entrepreneurship credentials of the EIC, it is proposed that applicants who make it through to the second round of the SME Instrument have to sit an interview, which is a new element in the selection process!

Requiring applicants to pitch their proposals is the idea of EU Research Commissioner Carlos Moedas, chief architect of EIC, who would like to see interviews become a regular part of mainstream funding.



According to the Commission, the success of the EIC pilot will be judged on the new products, services and processes developed, private investment attracted during and after the pilot phase, and the turnover and employment of the companies that take part.

Six prizes - Six new prize competitions are confirmed in the work programme including: €10 million to develop a battery for electric vehicles; €10 million for a bench-scale prototype of an artificial photosynthesis device that produces a synthetic liquid fuel; and €5 million each for a scalable, reliable and cost-effective early warning system for epidemics; a prize for “blockchain for social good”; a prize for an affordable way of launching nano- and micro-satellites into low-earth orbit; and a prize for technology to aid humanitarian work.

Hope this ENRF Briefing Note supports you in moving your research agenda forward.

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