



## ENRF Briefing Note on Lump Sum in Horizon Europe!

In December 2013, The European Nursing Research foundation started its activities as key partners of EFN in 2 years project with [ENS4Care](#). The main purpose was to develop the [WP4 guidelines](#) on Integrated Care as essential steps for the deployment of eHealth services for integrated care and work on the project sustainability with the final goal to provide the evidence for key political messages of the nursing community.

It was a Lump Sums project and, about that, EFN had a positive and enthusiastic approach to this methodology and continues to have it and to be the promoter of this method because it is extremely helpful for small organizations running a project.

MEPs and University representatives are facing a steep road ahead, as they demand academic freedom is made a key principle in EU treaties, meaning Member States that are found to be limiting University autonomy and freedom to do research can be held accountable. At a [STOA meeting](#), the European Parliament’s panel for the future of science and technology, MEPs lamented the EU’s inability to hold some Member States accountable and consequently argued that the EU treaties should include specific references to academic freedom. *“European governments have been shifting norms to limit academic freedom for the first time in the history of the European Union”*, said **MEP Christian Ehler**.



During the event, **Peter Härtwich**, Head of unit for Horizon Europe implementation at the Commission’s research directorate, said the Commission is gradually implementing lump sum system. The Commission is also working on the **guidance** and **exemption** in the **lump sum pilot** that will allow consortia to go over the 45-page limit on the length of proposals imposed in [Horizon Europe](#). Peter Härtwich said *“We start with a number of topics in the 2022 work programme and then we will roll it out in bigger numbers in the 2023-24 work programme.”*

In this context, the European Commission announced that is working to reduce bureaucracy, allowing researchers to spend more time on their research activities rather than filling out expenses claims and time sheets. However, not all stakeholders are fully on board. Disagreements persist over the use of lump sum funding in Horizon Europe, as the European Commission gears up for broader implementation over the next two years. According to the [“Assessment of the Lump Sum Pilot 2018 – 2020”](#), the European Commission analyzed **500 lump sum grants** defining that this approach *“works in practice and is fit for wider use”*. Nevertheless, for some research organizations the impact of the Lump Sums Methodology remains unclear.



### Assessment of the Lump Sum Pilot 2018 - 2020

Analysis of qualitative and quantitative feedback

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According to a study commissioned by **STOA** to the [Research Institutes Sweden \(RISE\)](#) emerged that the lump sums system is successful among beneficiaries. As stated by Adam Edström of RISE *“We tend to agree very much with the study made by the Commission that lump sum meets the primary objective of increased focus on scientific and technical content and less focus on financial management”*

We can affirm that the Lump Sums Methodology is a great opportunity to accelerate research activities, especially of small organizations. The possibility of obtaining European research funds in less time and through leaner bureaucratic processes is precisely the boost we need. And EFN really believe in this method. The continuous flow of nursing research would allow us to obtain concrete answers to build a strong and resilient health system able of facing present and future health crises. Spending more time on research and less time on bureaucratic processes is an essential and necessary step forward.

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