



# Novelties in the Implementation of Horizon Europe

BESTPRAC-EARMA event 26/11/2020

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# A stable legal framework with simplified rules and procedures

- Horizon Europe **Rules for Participation** will be aligned with the EU Financial Regulation, providing simpler opportunities for synergies between programmes.
- Simplification measures in Horizon 2020 were widely acknowledged as a big step towards a more attractive and easier to use programme, but further improvements are needed. These are part of the **Implementation Strategy for Horizon Europe**.
- The strategy will:
  - provide a **strong measure of continuity** to implement Horizon Europe
  - introduce **improvements based on lessons-learned**
  - accommodate the **novelties of Horizon Europe** (EIC, missions...)

# Horizon Europe Implementation Strategy

- The **Implementation Strategy** is an essential component for **delivering the objectives** of Horizon Europe, **in practice**.
- It provides the framework for **carefully designed rules and processes** across the **entire programme and project-cycle**
- It will embrace all the processes involved in running calls, selecting proposals and managing projects, with **joined-up systems** and **common principles**

Following an extensive period of **analysis, consultation and co-design**, the implementation framework will be ready for the start of the programme.

# An extensive period of analysis, consultation and co-design

- **Key milestones:**

- Stakeholder event with umbrella organisations (January 2019)
- Co-design exercise through web survey, open to all stakeholders (summer 2019)
- National & Regional Stakeholder consultation events (June 2019 to January 2020):  
Czech and Slovak Regional Stakeholder Workshop on Horizon Europe implementation, Prague, 29 October 2019
- R&I Days 2020: a dedicated hub on **“Smart Implementation & Synergies”**



# The Implementation Strategy Guiding Principles

- 1. Maximising impacts**
- 2. Ensuring greater transparency and further simplification**
- 3. Fostering synergies with other EU spending programmes**
- 4. Easing access through digital transformation and outreach**

Under each guiding principles, we will implement key measures:

[https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/implementation-strategy-horizon-europe\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/implementation-strategy-horizon-europe_en)

# The areas of the Implementation Strategy:

## Programme and project life-cycle:

Work programme  
Submission and evaluation  
Model Grant Agreement  
Dissemination & exploitation  
Data & reporting  
Feedback to policy and evidence based policy  
Simplified forms of costs  
Control Strategy

## Enabling aspects:

Outreach  
Digital transformation

## Specific cross-cutting considerations:

European partnerships  
International cooperation  
Synergies

# Work programme design



- Design a **simpler, less complex work programme**, less prescriptive / improved readability
- **Specify in the call topics the expected outcomes and their link to the wider targeted impacts**, in line with the Strategic Plan. Topics will therefore be open to a range of different pathways to achieve them
- Integrate calls arising from **institutionalized European partnerships and EIT in the Funding and Tenders Portal**.

# Proposal submission and evaluation



- **Award criteria:** easier to understand; consistent use of terminology; particularly revision of the wording of ‘impact’ criteria
- **Proposal template:** revision of guidance; reference to external sources where possible (eg. Researchers’ ID); substantial reduction in maximum length;
- **‘Right to react’ (*rebuttal*) pilot:** applicants will be able to react to expert’s individual comments; objective to increase the quality of feedback to applicants
- **Anonymised first stage proposals (‘blind evaluation’) pilot:** one or more pilots in early calls of HE (as per Art 25.3a)
- Special arrangements will be needed for the parts of the Programme where it is important to establish a **consistent portfolio of projects**
- **Reinforcing the quality of experts**

# Model Grant Agreement



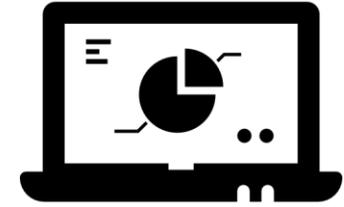
- **New MGA developed in a corporate context:**
  - One model for all centrally managed programmes
  - With specificities for Horizon Europe regarding the Rules for Participation
  - Drastic reduction of number of models and alignment of provisions, facilitating synergies
- **Simplification in terms of funding:**
  - Personnel costs: unique simpler corporate mandatory formula to calculate actual personnel costs  
     No time sheets
  - Project based remuneration: similar rules as in H2020 with further simplification
  - Wider reliance on beneficiaries' usual practices for internal invoicing costs
  - Still the possibility to have full-unit costs based MGA (MSCA) and full-lump sum based MGA

# Dissemination and Exploitation



- **Dissemination and Exploitation**
  - **Improved D&E guidance** to applicants & beneficiaries, e.g. through Horizon Europe proposal/reporting templates, etc.
  - **Incentives for leading beneficiaries from obligation towards opportunities of exploitation**, e.g. through the Horizon Impact Award contest, public campaigns of successful results, etc.
  - **Targeted D&E support services to projects**: full launch of the Horizon Results Platform, support to develop business plans and go-to-market strategies through the D&E Boosters...
- **Feedback to policy**
  - **Developing guidance for beneficiaries** to improve the report of policy relevant results
  - **Better engagement with policy makers and citizens**
  - Improved frameworks for **tailor-made Feedback to Policy plans**

# Data and Reporting



- **Enhancing reporting templates:** Financial and technical reporting templates will be streamlined (e.g.: easier reporting on personnel costs, reducing the number of questions requiring free-text input, use of external identifier)
- **Linking to external data:** Enriching data captured through the reporting templates with external data sources, to monitor and evaluate the impact of the framework programme while reducing the burden on our beneficiaries
- **Sharing European and Member States R&I data:** European Data for R&I Policy initiative
- **Boosting awareness, accessibility and use of data:** developments are in progress to extend the Horizon Dashboard towards Horizon Europe

# Control strategy



Design a risk-based overall control strategy (ex-ante and ex-post):

## *Ex-ante controls*

- **Reinforcing early detection of emerging risks of irregularity**: enhancing tools and procedures
- **Enhancing beneficiaries' knowledge** on how to avoid errors and sharing best practice in project, in the framework of outreach events

## *Ex-post controls*

- Explore the possibility of **introducing System and Process Audits** (SPAs) with focus on larger participants in the Programme
- Initiate a number of **pilots SPAs** on H2020 legal basis
- Explore possibility of **enhanced cross-reliance on audits and assessments**

# Lump sum pilot



- **Enhancing knowledge sharing on the first lump sum pilots:** through seminars with Member States, NCPs and beneficiaries
- **Developing an assessment framework for entire lump sum project cycle:** this will enable structured monitoring of the pilots, a deeper degree of analysis and a much easier sharing and communication of findings to all interested parties
- **Reinforcing the harmonised implementation of the lump sum pilots:** production of guidance document on the specificities of lump sum pilot for applicants, beneficiaries and experts
- **Developing guidelines to support the decision of further using lump sums**

# European partnerships



- **Aiming for a single set of rules for participation** and funding for Institutionalised Partnerships (IPs), with limited derogations
- **Common approach for submission, evaluation & reporting**
- Strong leverage effect for IPs through **increased private contribution**
- **Better communication of funding opportunities** by European partnerships, including accessibility of calls on the F&T Portal
- **Better access to information and results** to boost EU policy-making

# Synergies



- **The new Corporate Model Grant Agreement will enable synergies between EU funded programmes:** Improvement of existing synergy schemes and deployment of new ones
- **Revised rules of State aid Global Block Exemption Regulation** will benefit Seal of Excellence: Allowing the uptake of excellent projects not retained due to lack of funding
- The conditions to allow **cumulative funding** on the same project will be revised
- **Conditions for budget transfer mechanism** (e.g.: “top up” of HE budget from structural funds) to be defined

# Widening



- More impactful **Teaming, Twinning and ERA Chairs** and full integration of **COST** in widening
- **Up-scaled NCP networks**, carrying out pre-proposal checks, trainings and matchmaking activities
- **Hop-on**: either granting an integration prime to consortia that decide to integrate at the beginning of the project a legal entity from a widening country or adding additional partner from widening countries to existing actions
- **ERA4You initiative**: to be launched to deepen the European Research Area by strengthening the mobility opportunities for researchers to access excellence and expand their experience through dedicated mobility schemes between industry and academia

# International cooperation



- **Further clarity in the work programme** on the different types of international cooperation targeted actions (e.g. joint, coordinated, standard calls or twinning of activities)
- **Dedicated guidance for the implementation of joint calls** (e.g. joint procedures for selection and evaluation, appointment of experts, role of observers, review, different co-funding modalities)
- **Improved validation process for international participants** (e.g. addressing difficulties in appointing LEARs, providing documentation)

# Outreach



- **Nomination process of the new NCP network** is ongoing, and the new guidance document “Minimum standards and guiding principles” is nearly ready
- Several initiatives to **improve the Research Enquiry Service**
- **Online events** become more interactive, with enriched digital content
- **A series of digital outreach events to explain Horizon Europe implementation**, starting end-2020. Each event will focus on a certain topic and be open to all Member States and beyond

# Digital transformation



- **Further development and enhancement of Funding and Tenders Portal and eGrants:**
  - **On-boarding of new programmes:** one stop shop for Horizon Europe and other centrally managed programmes
  - **Improve functionalities & searchability**
  - **Development of Person Profile**
  - **Introduction multilingual support for the registration process**
  - **Adaption of IT systems and infrastructure** to accommodate the specific needs of Horizon Europe

# Thank you



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