

## Guide on Horizon Europe

### BESTPRAC WG1 Meeting, Session 1.3, Belgrade, 2018

#### How to get prepared?

A prompt overview on strategies to get prepared for the upcoming framework programme was delivered by Estel Gil Guinon representing Vall d'Hebron Research Institute (VHIR).

Horizon Europe is the Commission's proposal for a €100 billion research and innovation funding programme for seven years (2021-2027).

#### *The main aims behind this proposal:*

- to strengthen the EU's scientific and technological bases
- to boost Europe's innovation capacity, competitiveness and jobs
- to deliver on citizens' priorities and sustain our socio-economic model values

*Core values* set by the Commission for Research and Innovation Carlos Moedas are as follows:

- excellence
- openness
- impact

*3 goals* are set further by EU R&I policy:

- open innovation
- open science
- open world

#### *Strategies to get prepared:*

##### **Get to know key improvements in the design of Horizon Europe:**

- identify lessons learnt from previous framework programmes
- expected implications of changes
- how will performance be monitored and evaluated

##### **Based on the existing knowledge it is important to prepare a strategy for your organization:**

- examining the profile institutions successful in previous FPs
- adopt a mission-oriented, impact focused approach
- align with EU priorities, objectives and expected impact: analyse the evaluation documents of H2020, as well as the documents which provides the frame for the upcoming FP
- participate in the definition – get your researchers involved through the different stakeholders' for a, eg. think tanks, advisory groups, expert groups, public consultations, drafting Work Programmes.

There are still a number of open questions which will be answered in the upcoming 2 years:

- What do you think about this European mission concept?
- How will be missions be coordinated, evaluated?
- Dare to guess health-related missions?

- Personal preferences for missions?
- Research and innovation under 1 programme?
- How is your grants office getting ready for FP9?

## Mission Orientated Research and Innovation

Development of the Europe Commission Framework Programme 9 (Horizon Europe) is underway and a number of reports have shaped the proposal for Horizon Europe including the “Mission-Orientated Research and Innovation in the European Union” authored by Prof Maria Mazzucato. This report outlines a problem solving approach to fuel innovation led growth. The synopsis below aims to provide an overview of the key concepts of this approach.

### *What are Missions?*

Missions are initiatives:

- orientated toward achieving faster scientific and technological advancements (accelerators)
- targeting societal challenges implying transformational changes (transformers)

with varying components of both types (hybrid).

### *What Characterises a Mission:*

Selecting missions that matter to society and stimulate innovation across multiple sectors is a highly complex task. European research and innovation missions should fulfil some key criteria outlined below.

### *Mission are:*

- Ambitious
- Exploratory
- Ground-breaking
- Cross-disciplinary

They should address a concrete problem and produce concrete results, e.g. population ageing, aims to increase average age population 2 years. Missions should be very clearly framed through directionality and intentionality. From the outset there should be with a clearly defined timeframe (long-term but time-limited), quantified targets and strict monitoring along predefined milestones. Missions should be defined in such a way as to engage many categories of stakeholders including academic disciplines, industrial sectors and wider society. They should go beyond research and innovation and link to policy.

### *Why propose a mission oriented approach as the way forward?*

The mission-approach aims to address some of recommendations of interim evaluation of H2020 which describes some of the key shortcomings of this framework programme. The missions approach should:

- Promote greater citizen engagement and understanding of the value of investment in research and innovation.
- Maximise the impact of investments by setting clear targets and expected impact when addressing global challenges.

### *Policy objectives:*

Successful implementation of a mission oriented approach will require a strong commitment to align policy objectives and missions. This will ensure:

- a high and visible impact
- better communication & citizen engagement
- concentration and better alignment of research and innovation investment
- support for the development of innovative solutions
- link missions to non-research and innovation policy and regulatory measures
- adapt current policy instruments to the missions.

This will lead to greater cross-sectoral and cross disciplinary research and innovation and accelerate the uptake of innovations.

*How to define a mission?*

The next step in defining a mission is to move from broad challenges to a specific mission. Missions should be informed by the grand challenge and make a clear and concrete contribution to addressing that challenge (Figure 1). Thus maximising the EU contribution to the global challenges. Three specific examples are set out in the report:

Grand Challenge	Mission
Citizen Health and Well-being	Decreasing the burden of dementia
Clean Oceans	Plastic free Oceans
Climate Change	100 Carbon neutral cities by 2030

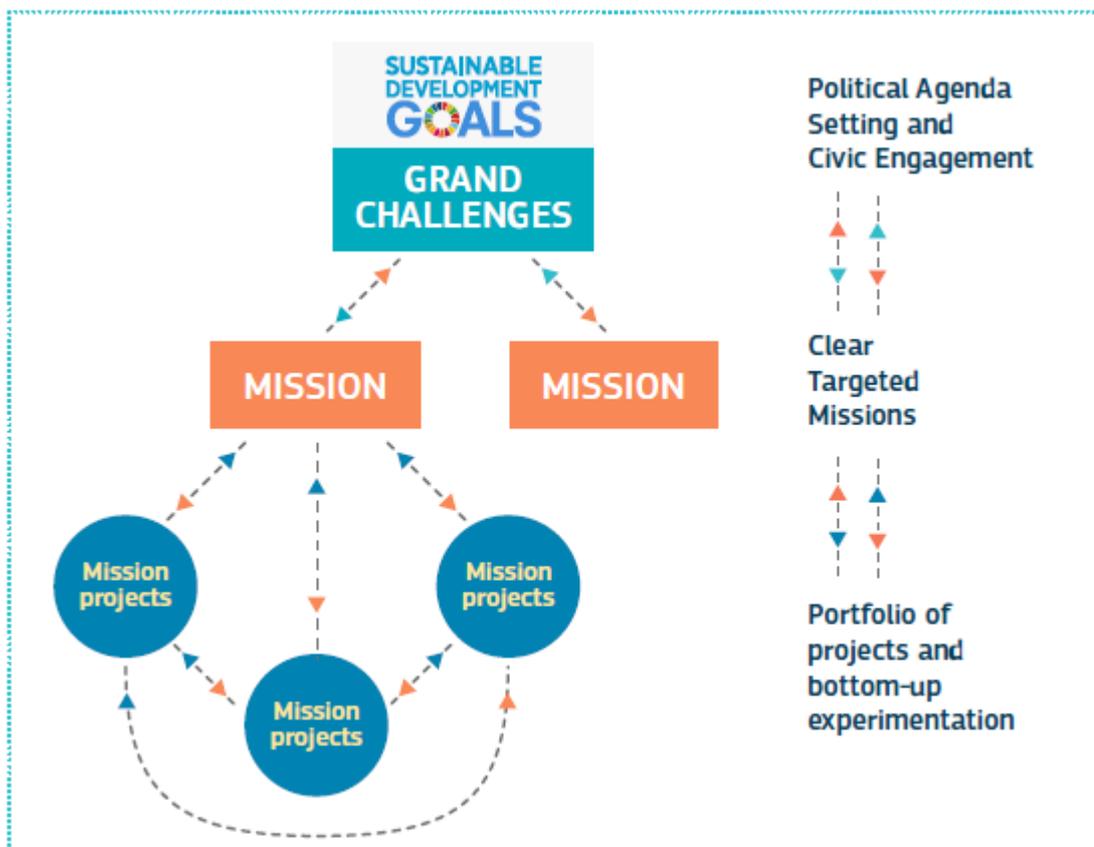


Figure 1 – From challenges to missions (Mazzucato, 2017).

*Criteria that define a mission:*

1. Bold and inspirational with societal relevance
2. A clear direction: that is targeted, measurable and time bound
3. Ambitious but realistic research and innovation actions

4. Cross disciplinary, cross-sectoral, cross actor (science, citizens, policymakers) innovation
5. Multiple, bottom up solutions

*International experience suggest that successful implementation of missions is dependent on a number of pre-conditions:*

1. Legitimacy and endorsement by the various stakeholders
2. Vertical and horizontal coordination of stakeholders – break any existing silos
3. Long term direction towards and commitment
4. Coherent policy across a number of policy areas and levels
5. Clear and empowered governance structure
6. A sense of urgency that is shared
7. Reflective and flexible enough – can be reassess and adapted
8. Balanced system with separation of powers between steering, strategic and financial decision making and day to day management

*Current Challenges:*

- Problem of shared policy competences and of collective ownership
- Hybrid model
- Restricted to a few themes in which largely commonly agreed challenges exist in a first period
- Basic research is a pre-requisite
- Research and innovation policy of most EU13 does not include any mission or challenge orientated approach
- Having one mission is not having another mission another way – need to tailor make the approach for each

*Reference documentation and additional information:*

[https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/mazzucato\\_report\\_2018.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/mazzucato_report_2018.pdf)

[https://ec.europa.eu/info/designing-next-framework-programme/mission-oriented-policy-next-research-and-innovation-framework-programme\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/designing-next-framework-programme/mission-oriented-policy-next-research-and-innovation-framework-programme_en)

## **Societal impact: How to guide researchers into presenting the public benefits of their research**

Vesna Bozanic from Instituto Superior de Agronomia, Lisboa, held a presentation about social impact of the scientific research.

She described that social impact is defined as an effect on change or benefit the economy, society, culture, public policy or services, health, the environment or quality of life, beyond academia.

*Types of the societal Impact listed below:*

- Impacts on creativity, culture and society
- Economic, commercial, organizational impacts
- Impacts on the environment
- Health and welfare impacts
- Impacts on practitioners and professional services

- Impacts on public policy, law and services

The categories of the social impact can be combined and lot of beneficiaries can be included.

### *Beneficiaries:*

Scientific study can have more than one group of beneficiaries such as professional groups or institutions, age groups, genders groups, national, international or territorial etc. It is important to choose beneficiaries that have strong impact in research and from the evidence you collect you can define who benefited from scientific study.

### *Collecting Evidence & Verification:*

When you collect all the evidence you can prepare report of the social impact, and the first thing you need to do is to choose one topic and elaborate it. Specify the case study title and underpin research with references, provide details of what research was undertaken and when, names of the key researchers and positions they held at the institution at the time of the research. It is also very important to describe details and provide all the evidence in order to get information on social impact such as: the nature and extent of the impact, contribution to the impact, how it was disseminated, how it came to influence users or beneficiaries, or how it came to be exploited, taken up or applied. Also it is necessary to specify the particular contributions and acknowledge of other contributions, evidence or indicators of the extent of the impact described and when the impact occurred.

To verify the social impact it is necessary to collect list of external sources such as reports, reviews, web links or other documented sources of information but also some individuals who can be contacted to provide certain information which may be useful for a research. It is very important to pay attention to writing style which should be understandable and appropriate for the broad audience with the limited knowledge of the specific scientific theme.

### *Presenting:*

In the end researchers should be encouraged to present the social impact reports of their research because of increased focus on the societal benefit in the international or national funding programmes, evaluation of the scientific institutions but also those kind of research is attractive to the young audience and potential future scientists.