

Europe-Africa Research & Innovation News

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[Delegation of the European Union to the African Union]



Horizon 2020: European Commission published 2016-2017 calls for proposals

14 October 2015 – Brussels: the European Commission has published 2016 and 2017 calls for proposals of the Horizon 2020 programme. The new calls amount to a budget of almost €16 billion.

Horizon 2020 is the European Union's main programme to support research and innovation. It was launched in 2014 with a total budget of €77 billion over 7 years. The programme is "*open to the world*", signifying that researchers from any country can collaborate with their European counterparts through this programme. Since its launch, some 38 projects have been funded that involve African researchers working alongside researchers from Europe and other parts of the world.

Opportunities for Africa-EU collaboration

In addition to the general principle of openness, which means that almost all calls are open to African participants collaborating with European researchers, the calls for proposals for 2016 and 2017 contain a number of targeted actions addressing issues specific to certain regions of the world. These include a several topics of particular interest to researchers in Africa:

- In **Health**: a topic on vaccine development for malaria and/or neglected infectious diseases.
- In **Agriculture & Food**, 3 complementary topics will support the implementation of the EU-AFRICA Partnership of Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture: 1) EU-Africa Research and Innovation partnership on food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture; 2) Promoting food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture in Africa: the role of innovation; 3) Earth observation services for the monitoring of agricultural production in Africa.
- In **Information Technology and Communications (ICT)**: International partnership building in low and middle income countries (target region: Sub-Saharan Africa) to address needs of end-user communities. This may include technological improvement and adaptations, as well as innovative service creation based on existing technologies.
- In **Transport**: a Euro-African initiative on road safety and traffic management.
- In **Energy**, a study on a comprehensive EU approach as regards international cooperation in the energy area – the Research and Innovation perspective (including Africa).
- In **Research Infrastructures**: policy and international cooperation measures.

In addition, the **Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA)** include Individual Fellowships (IF) and Research and Innovation Staff Exchange (RISE) measures. Individual Fellowships offer researchers from anywhere in the world the possibility to spend some time in a European research institution, or for European researchers to spend some time abroad.

Conditions:

Potential applicants should be aware of conditions that apply to EU research funding, such as:

- Only projects responding directly to the published calls for proposals can be funded;
- Grants are awarded mainly to collaborative research projects that must involve European researchers who can work with researchers from any other part of the world;
- Applications can only be submitted through the "Participant Portal" web site;
- All projects are peer-reviewed by independent experts as a basis to select the best ones for funding.
- Participants from African countries can receive full funding, like their European colleagues.

Further information:

All documents related to the calls for proposals, including the work programmes for each part of Horizon 2020, are available on the **Participant Portal**: <http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/>

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