



European Funding Guide for the Non-Profit Sector 2017



ECAS Guide to European Funding for the Non-Profit Sector

23rd edition

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FOREWORD

Dear ECAS Members, Colleagues and Friends,

We are pleased to present to you the 23rd edition of ECAS' Funding Guide for the Non-Profit Sector, which this year retains the two formats – an e-Book and a printed version – introduced for the 22nd edition in order to meet the different needs and preferences expressed by our readers.

The e-Book offers enhanced accessibility, as it can be consulted any time from any electronic device and can be in addition saved as a PDF file. On the other hand, the printed version remains the classic book for consultation, more suitable for those who are looking for a publication to which they can refer on a regular basis. The 2017 edition preserves the improvements made in the previous edition, both in terms of content and layout. These are:

- ✚ Increased user-friendliness through diagrams and images which summarise and highlight the main concepts of funding;
- ✚ An expanded list of tips and recommendations for preparing a project application;
- ✚ A more extensive list of non-EU funding sources, including international organisations, national and regional foundations and private donors, to diversify your funding matrix;
- ✚ An updated and expanded list of contacts at the European Commission and its executive agencies for the different funding programmes.

The e-Funding Guide is part of the upgraded package of services we offer to our Members. ECAS' online members' area (<http://members.ecas.org>), which was launched in January 2015, offers our Members access to:

- ✚ Individual and timely advice on EU funding opportunities and programmes;
- ✚ Monthly funding updates on open calls for proposals and tenders;
- ✚ Free access to the e-Funding Guide;
- ✚ Information about relevant EU information days and networking events;
- ✚ Opportunities to identify other members active in their policy fields and build partnerships for projects.

We hope that you will find this new edition useful and practical in terms of both content and accessibility. We would very much appreciate your feedback as providing quality services is one of our priorities, and kindly invite you to send us your comments or remarks to publications@ecas.org.

Sincerely Yours,

Assya Kavrakova
ECAS Director

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

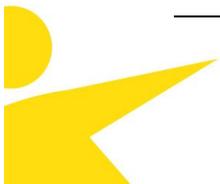
ACP	African, Caribbean and Pacific Countries
AMIF	Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
BRIS	Business Registers Interconnection System
CAP	Common Agricultural Policy
CBC	Cross-Border Cooperation Programme
CBSS	Country Based Support Scheme
CECIS	Common Emergency Communication & Information System
CEF	Connecting Europe Facility
CF	Cohesion Fund
CFP	Common Fisheries Policy
CFSP	Common Foreign and Security Policy
CHAPEA	Consumers, Health and Food Executive Agency
CIP	Competitiveness and Innovation Programme
CIR	Regulation on common rules for implementing the EU's external action funding
CISE	Common Information Sharing Environment
CLLD	Community-Led Local Development
CNECT	Communications Networks, Content and Technology (DG)
COD	Ordinary Legislative Procedure
CORDIS	Community Research and Development Information Service
COREPER	Committee of the Permanent Representatives of the Governments of the Member States to the European Union (Council of the EU)
COSME	EU programme for the Competitiveness of Enterprises and SMEs
CSA	Coordination and Support Action
CSF	Common Strategic Framework
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
CSO-LA	Civil Society Organisations and Local Authorities
CSP	Country Strategy Paper (IPA)
DAC	Development Assistance Committee (of the OECD)
DCI	Development Cooperation Instrument
DG	Directorate-General (of the European Commission)
EAC	Education and Culture (DG of the European Commission)
EACEA	Education, Audio-visual and Culture Executive Agency
EAFRD	European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development
EAGF	European Agricultural Guarantee Fund
EAO	European Audio-visual Observatory
EaSI	EU Programme for Employment and Social Innovation
EASME	Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises
EC	European Commission
ECI	European Citizens' Initiative
ECAS	European Citizen Action Service
ECHO	European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Department
ECR	European Research Council
EDF	European Development Fund

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who still prefer a hard copy for consultation, some copies have been printed and are available for purchase from ECAS' website and some European bookstores in Brussels.

As part of its mission to help bring Europe closer to its citizens, ECAS hopes to encourage greater levels of cooperation between civil society organisations and EU institutions. This is why we believe that EU programmes should not merely be perceived as a source of funding for projects, but rather as a promising framework for ideas and partnerships to emerge and for innovation to be stimulated to the benefit of millions of people while fostering interactions and opportunities to learn from one another. This is, ultimately, what the European project is all about.

It should be noted that, as a result of the EU referendum in the UK on 23 June 2016, UK-based entities may have only restricted access to EU funding programmes post-Brexit, or they may be excluded from participating altogether. In an attempt to provide some certainty to its UK-based members and more generally to CSOs cooperating with UK partners, ECAS has carried out a study that analyses the impact of different Brexit scenarios on the ability of UK-based entities to continue to access different funding streams post-Brexit. This study is available for free online at: <http://ecas.org/brexit-takeaways-study/>. See the chapter on access to EU funding (page 73 onwards for detailed information).

WHO ARE WE AND WHAT ARE OUR GOALS?

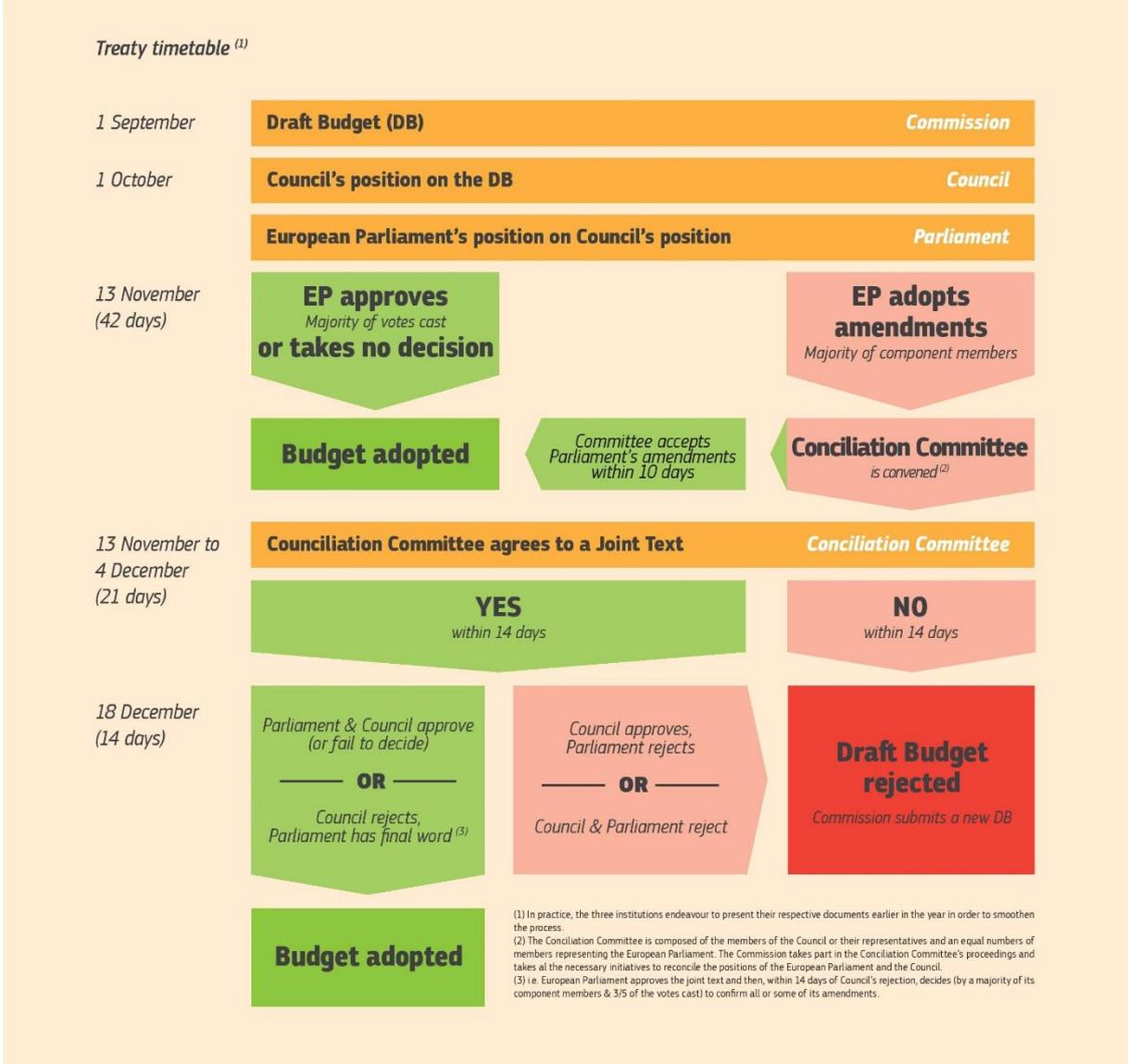
The European Citizen Action Service (ECAS) is a Brussels-based, international non-profit organisation with over 25 years of experience and a pan-European and cross-sectoral membership. ECAS chiefly operates within three focus areas:

- **EU Rights** – to empower citizens to exercise their rights and campaign for an inclusive, transparent and democratic Europe;
- **Digital Democracy** – exploring the democratic potential of information and communication technology (ICT) in reducing the gap between political elites and politicians, enhancing youth engagement in policy-making and fostering new ways of participating in EU decision-making; and,
- **Beyond the EU** – capacity-building for Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in EU accession countries, promoting models of cooperation between civil society and government, and facilitating civic monitoring in the EU reform process.

Interested in our organisation?

If you think that ECAS matches your interests, envisage a partnership with us and/or are thinking of joining our network of members, we invite you to visit our website for more detailed information about our fields of activity and the services we offer, or contact us directly via email at: info@ecas.org

the unanimous approval of all Member States and the assent of the Parliament to be accepted. Although the annual budget is determined in advance, final calculations of payments required from each Member State are not completed until after the budget year is over when information about revenue and expenditure is available and correction mechanisms have been applied.



Source: European Commission, DG Budget

The best time for influencing the annual budget is at the beginning of the budgetary procedure **before** the European Commission presents its draft budget based on the contributions from the other institutions. Any organisation looking to influence the budgetary process will need to identify the key persons in COREPER II¹⁰, DG Budget of the European Commission¹¹ and the Parliament's Committee on Budgets¹² (particularly the Rapporteur who

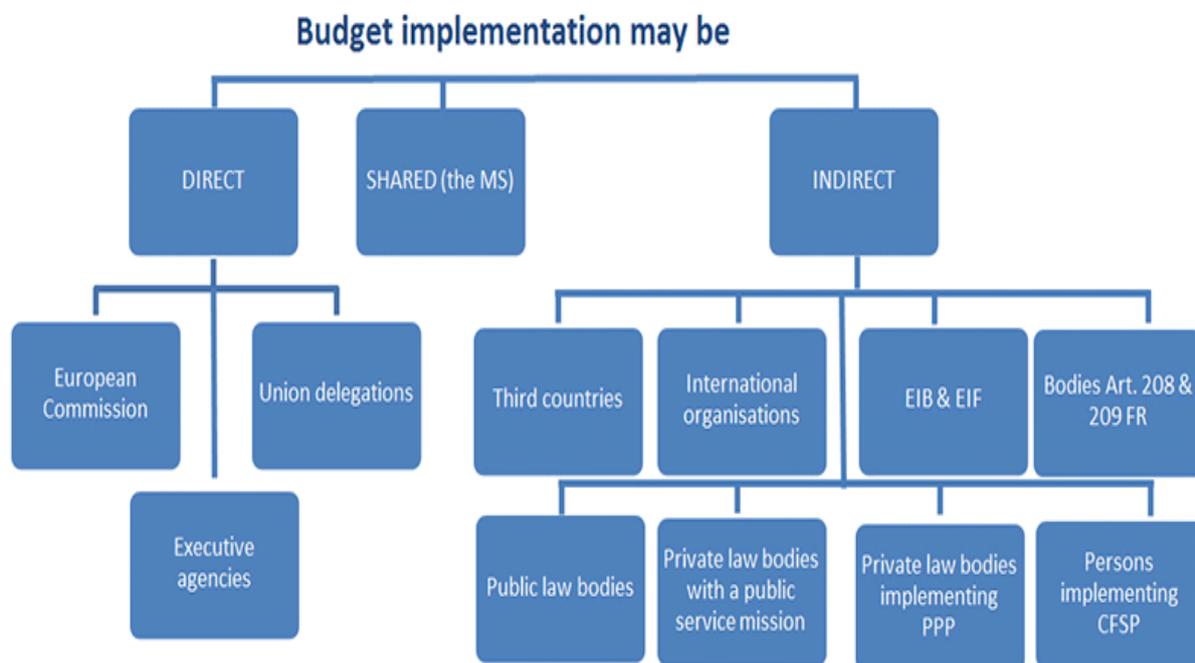
¹⁰ COREPER stands for 'Committee of the Permanent Representatives of the Governments of the Member States to the European Union'. It is the Council's main preparatory body and it is structured in two groups: COREPER I and II. COREPER II prepares the Council's position on economic and financial affairs, in addition to other dossiers.

¹¹ Key persons at DG Budget can be found here: http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/budget/org_chart/index_en.htm

Regulation), establishes internal control standards, manages the accounting system and prepares the annual accounts.

Finally, the EU budget can be expressed in two types of appropriations, namely:

- i) **commitments** or legally binding promises to spend money on specific initiatives that will not necessarily be paid out in the same year but may be disbursed over several financial years; and
- ii) **payments** or actual amounts authorised for disbursement in a given year.



Source: European Commission, DG Budget

THE EU BUDGET FOR 2017

On 28 November 2016, the Council approved the 2017 EU budget deal agreed by the Conciliation Committee on 17 November. The budget was adopted on December 1 after the European Parliament voted to approve the agreement. The budget for 2017 sets the total level of **commitments** at EUR 157.8 billion and the total level of **payments** at EUR 134.5 billion. This leaves a margin of EUR 1.1 billion under the expenditure ceiling set by the Multiannual Financial Framework for 2014-2020, allowing the EU to react to unforeseen needs.

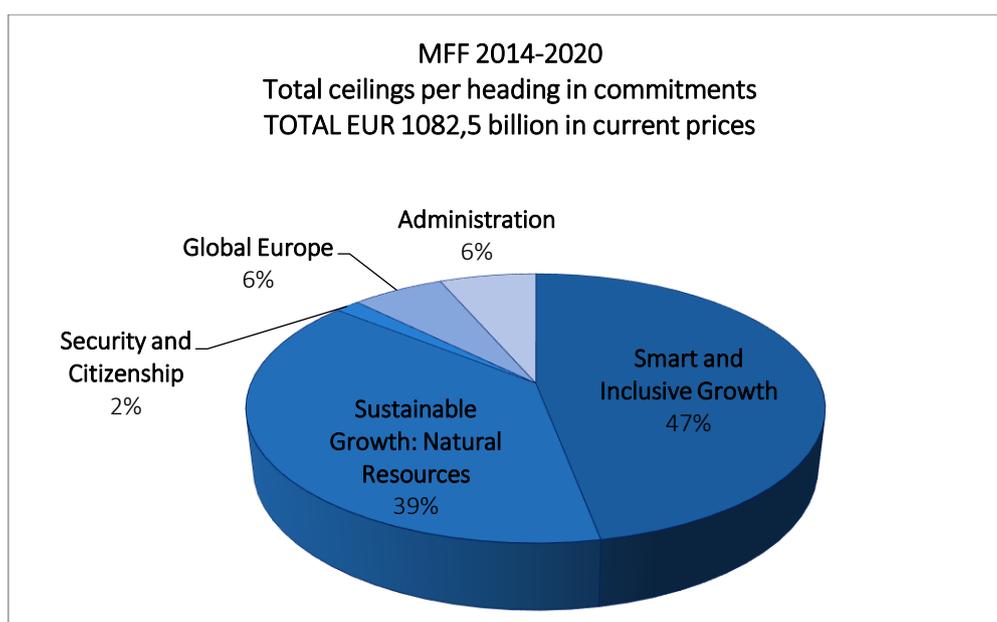
The 2017 budget¹³ aims to deliver on citizens’ main concerns by tackling the migration and security crises and boosting jobs and economic growth, as well as supporting programmes that benefit young people. Almost EUR 6 billion in commitments, a rise of 11.3%, has been set

¹³Documents relating to the 2017 budget can be found here: http://ec.europa.eu/budget/biblio/documents/2017/2017_en.cfm

MFF STRUCTURE AND CONTENT

The MFF 2014-2020 is divided into six headings or EU policy areas, corresponding to different spending categories for EU activities:

1. **Smart and Inclusive Growth**
 - a. **Competitiveness for Growth and Jobs** includes research and innovation; education and training; trans-European networks in energy, transport and telecommunications; social policy; development of enterprises, and so forth.
 - b. **Economic, Social and Territorial Cohesion** encompasses regional policy, which aims at territorial cohesion within the EU, strengthening the competitiveness of regions and developing inter-regional cooperation.
2. **Sustainable Growth: Natural Resources** covers the common agricultural policy, common fisheries policy, rural development and environmental measures.
3. **Security and Citizenship** comprises justice and home affairs, border protection, immigration and asylum policy, public health, consumer protection, culture, youth, information and dialogue with citizens.
4. **Global Europe** includes the external actions of the EU (foreign policy), such as development assistance and humanitarian aid, with the exception of the European Development Fund (EDF)¹⁸.
5. **Administration** contains the administrative expenditure of all European institutions, pensions and European Schools.
6. **Compensations** cover temporary payments designed to ensure that Croatia, which joined the EU in July 2013, does not contribute more to the EU budget than it benefits from in the first years following its accession.



¹⁸ As it is not funded from the EU budget but from direct contributions from EU Member States, the EDF does not fall under the MFF.

MAIN FUNDING INSTRUMENTS

HORIZON 2020: THE EU RESEARCH AND INNOVATION PROGRAMME

Overall Objectives

Horizon 2020 is the EU's Framework Programme for Research and Innovation. It runs from 2014 until 2020 and implements the Innovation Union flagship initiative²⁸ of the Europe 2020 Strategy²⁹. Horizon 2020 is aimed towards making Europe a world class science performer, removing obstacles to innovation and changing the way the public and private sectors work together by creating synergies between them.

It also plays a key role in the implementation of other flagship initiatives, such as *A Digital Agenda for Europe* and *Resource Efficient Europe*.

Horizon 2020 brings together previously separate programmes to fund research and innovation activities in Europe, including the 7th Framework Programme (FP7) and the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme (CIP), and possesses a significantly higher budget than the two previous programmes. Horizon 2020 supports the development of activities from idea to market, with a focus on excellent projects regardless of geographical location.

Horizon 2020 objectives:

- To integrate research and innovation by establishing continuous support throughout the entire process
- To use research and innovation funding to respond to major societal challenges
- To support innovation and activities close to the market in order to create new business opportunities

Legal Basis

Regulation (EU) No 1290/2013 laying down the rules for participation and dissemination in Horizon 2020 – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020)³⁰.

Regulation (EU) No 1291/2013 establishing Horizon 2020³¹.

Budget

Horizon 2020 has an overall budget of EUR 79.5 billion for the 2014-2020 programming period, and the programme's forecasted budget for 2017 is EUR 10.3 billion. This amount is split between the three main pillars into which Horizon 2020 is organised, in addition to two further specific objectives and a horizontal strand encompassing cross-cutting activities:

²⁹ See http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/europe-2020-in-a-nutshell/flagship-initiatives/index_en.htm.

³⁰ See <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2013:347:0081:0103:EN:PDF>.

³¹ See <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2013:347:0104:0173:EN:PDF>.

- **Pillar 1: Excellent Science** (EUR 3.2 billion): Supports world-class science in Europe, by developing, attracting and retaining research talent and supporting the development of state-of-the-art research infrastructure. Under this pillar, grants are offered to individual researchers from anywhere in the world who want to work in Europe;
- **Pillar 2: Industrial Leadership** (EUR 2 billion): Aims to speed up the development of the technologies and innovations that will underpin tomorrow's businesses and help innovative European SMEs to grow into world-leading companies;
- **Pillar 3: Societal Challenges** (EUR 2.98 billion): Supports research and innovation in areas of major concern to citizens in Europe and elsewhere, in order to develop breakthrough solutions. The priorities funded under this pillar are the most relevant for the non-profit sector, so this Guide particularly focuses on this pillar.
- **Specific Objective 1: Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation** (EUR 140.1 million³²): Supports low-performing Member States in terms of research and innovation through different measures.
- **Specific Objective 2: Science with and for Society** (EUR 58.5 million): Connects science to society by making it more attractive for young people, in particular, and by involving all stakeholders, including researchers, citizens, policy-makers, businesses and non-profit organisations, in the process in order to better align the innovation process and its outcomes with actual needs and values. This scheme is developed in more detail below.

Pillar I Excellent Science	Pillar II Industrial Leadership	Pillar III Societal Challenges
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European Research Council • Future and emerging technologies • Marie Curie Actions • European Research Infrastructures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leadership in Enabling and Industrial Technologies (LEIT) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICT • Nanotechnologies, Advanced Materials, Advanced Manufacturing, etc. • Space • Access to Risk Finance • Innovation in SMEs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health, demographic change and wellbeing • Food security and sustainable agriculture • Secure, clean and efficient energy • Smart, green and integrated transport • Climate action and environment • Europe in a changing world • Secure societies

³² As provided for in the Work Programme 2016-2017:

http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/wp/2016_2017/main/h2020-wp1617-sewp_en.pdf

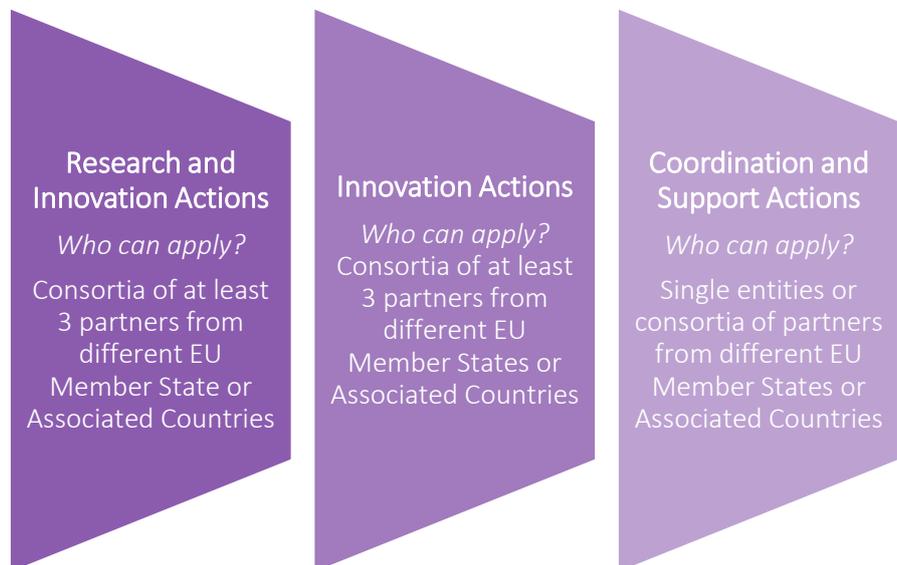
which can benefit from 100% financing (see pages 10 onwards of the General Annexes of the 2016-2017 Work Programme for further details⁴¹).

Who can apply?

In addition to being a programme open to the world, Horizon 2020 is also open to a broad variety of organisations. In fact, any legal entity, including academia, research, industry, local authorities, NGOs, networks, and individual researchers (under Pillar I) established in an EU Member State, their Overseas Countries and Territories (OCT) or in the countries associated⁴² to this Programme are automatically eligible for funding. Research organisations in some 130 developing countries are also eligible, except where this is explicitly excluded in a call.

International organisations and legal entities established in other third countries are **not** automatically eligible for funding under Horizon 2020, but they may still be granted EU funding in some cases, provided they fulfil the following conditions:

- ✓ There is a bilateral agreement between that country and the EU;
- ✓ The country is explicitly identified in the relevant work programme and call for proposal as being eligible for funding;
- ✓ Their participation is deemed essential for carrying out the action by the Commission.



As for general eligibility criteria, for standard research projects the following minimum conditions will apply:

- ✓ At least three legal entities must participate in an action;
- ✓ Each of the three participating legal entities must be established in a different EU Member State or Associated Country (in addition to these, any legal entity from anywhere in the world can be included in the consortium);
- ✓ The legal entities must be independent from one another, according to the wording of Article 8 of the Regulation.

⁴¹ See http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/other/wp/2016-2017/annexes/h2020-wp1617-annex-ga_en.pdf.

⁴² See http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants_manual/hi/3cpart/h2020-hi-list-ac_en.pdf.

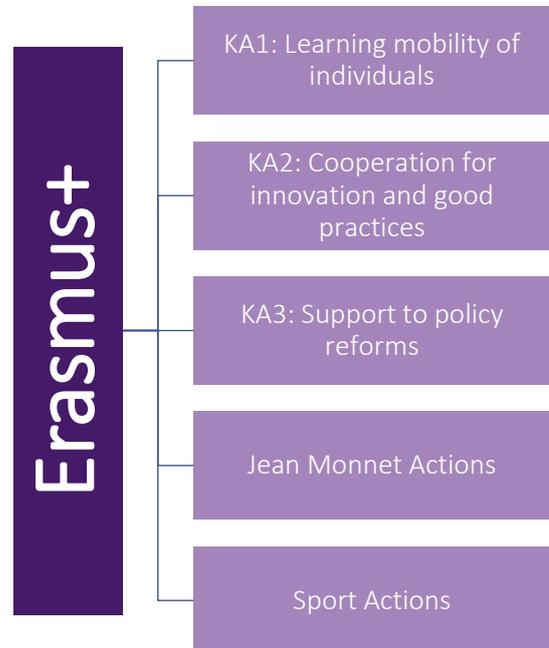
- **Erasmus+ Master Degree Loans:** higher education students from Programme Countries can receive a loan, backed by the Programme, to go abroad for a full Master's Degree. Students should address themselves to national banks or student loan agencies.

➤ **KEY ACTION 2 – COOPERATION FOR INNOVATION AND THE EXCHANGE OF GOOD PRACTICES** supports:

- **Transnational Strategic Partnerships** aiming to develop initiatives addressing one or more of the education, training, and youth fields, and promote innovation, exchange of experience and know-how between different types of organisations involved in education, training and youth or other relevant fields;
- **Knowledge Alliances** between higher education institutions and enterprises which aim to foster innovation, entrepreneurship, creativity, employability, knowledge exchange or multidisciplinary teaching and learning;
- **Sector Skills Alliances** supporting the design and delivery of joint vocational training curricula, programmes and teaching and training methodologies which draw upon evidence of trends in a specific economic sector and are informed by the skills needed in order to perform in one or more professional fields;
- **Capacity Building projects** supporting cooperation with Partner Countries in the fields of higher education and youth. Capacity Building projects aim to support organisations, institutions and systems in their modernisation and internationalisation processes;
- **IT support platforms**, such as eTwinning, the European Platform for Adult Learning (EPAL) and the European Youth Portal which offer virtual collaboration spaces,

Glossary: Civil Society Organisations

The EU considers CSOs as non-state, non-profit making actors operating on an independent and accountable basis. CSOs may include, among other entities, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), organisations representing national and/or ethnic minorities, local trade associations, citizens' groups, consumer organisations, teaching, research and scientific organisations, universities, the media, and any other non-governmental associations and independent foundations.



2017 General call for proposals:

http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ:JOC_2016_386_R_0009

Indicative funding and timetable for Erasmus+ centralised actions in 2017:

http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/sites/erasmusplus/files/files/resources/eplu-int-he-funding-2017_en.pdf

Documents for applicants and beneficiaries:

http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/discover/guide/documents-applicants_en.htm

Application form models:

http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/discover/guide/documents-applicants_en.htm

National Agencies for Erasmus+:

http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/tools/national-agencies/index_en.htm

Participant Portal:

<http://ec.europa.eu/education/participants/portal/desktop/en/home.html>

DG Education and Culture organigramme:

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/education_culture/docs/organisation_en.pdf

DG Education and Culture Website:

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/education_culture/index_en.htm

Erasmus+ new website:

<https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/>

EACEA website:

http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/index_en.php

For technical questions on the application forms:

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BEFORE STARTING THE APPLICATION PROCESS:

➤ Don't talk about money but ideas

The European Commission is not merely a funding organisation and the budget is there to further advance European integration and support the goals laid down in the Europe 2020 Strategy.

Reading Action Plans and Programmes, getting involved with Europe-related issues at training sessions and conferences, playing an active part in the life of a European association or network – all these types of preliminary investment are important. You then need to think about how the activities of your organisation could meet and help implement the objectives of the European programmes: by reducing the gap between Europe and its citizens? Fighting discrimination and social exclusion? Reaching parts of the world and society remote from the machinery of big institutions? Offering a particular and innovative formula? Supporting climate change mitigation? Remember, almost any good, innovative European idea can find a corresponding European budget line or programme.

➤ Make sure that you understand what the priorities and expectations of the European Commission are and whether your project idea addresses any of them

To be eligible for funding, a project idea must be placed in the context of the EU's legislative and policy strategy. In addition to the general framework (i.e. the EU 2020 Strategy), the Commission plans its long-term policy strategies through White Papers, Action Plans and Communications, which can be accessed through the link below¹⁹¹. Furthermore, the European Commission issues a general work programme on an annual basis¹⁹², announcing the priority policy areas of action for the forthcoming year.

The Commission especially values projects that:

- ✓ Highlight the European dimension;
- ✓ Have an innovative character;
- ✓ Have a multiplier effect or are exportable to other policy areas and countries/regions;
- ✓ Offer sustainability perspectives beyond the project itself.

➤ Identify the relevant programme and do not rush in – review all the options

EU programmes cover a wide-range of policy areas and different programmes can be used to fund a particular project idea, depending on the dimension you want to stress.

¹⁹¹ See http://europa.eu/publications/official-documents/index_en.htm.

¹⁹² See http://ec.europa.eu/atwork/key-documents/index_en.htm.

ALTERNATIVE FUNDING SOURCES AND CO-FUNDING

While this Guide has focused on funding from the European Union, it is useful for non-profit organisations to also be aware of other potential sources of funding for European projects. As mentioned previously, accessing EU funding is not easy and involves a substantial amount of administrative work. Additionally, even when access to EU funds is achieved, obtaining 100% of funding from the European Commission for a project is the exception rather than the rule.

As mentioned in the previous section, the European Commission usually provides part of the funding and expects applicants to cover the rest of the costs of the project. Securing co-funding prior to applying for a Commission grant is, therefore, crucial. Co-funding can either come from an organisation's own resources or from external subsidies. This section offers a list of international sponsors, national foundations and private foundations that might be worth exploring to complement and diversify your funding portfolio.

PRIVATE FOUNDATIONS

Addax and Oryx Foundation

Aim: To contribute to sustainable development projects addressing the root causes of poverty in Africa and the Middle East. The foundation focuses on education, health, community development, and environment. In order to achieve its mandate, the foundation provides grants to non-profit, non-governmental organisations designing, elaborating, carrying out or taking part in projects in the four core areas mentioned above. The Foundation gives preference to projects two or more of its core areas and to small organisations run by highly committed individuals who are directly involved in projects.

Geographic Focus: Africa and the Middle East

How to Apply: The first step to submitting a project is by filling out the Initial Funding Request form online at <http://www.addax-oryx-foundation.org/en/submit-a-project/submit-a-project-2/form.php?step=1>. This first level of review aims to identify projects that correspond to the Foundation's field of expertise and that appear the most structured. Upon receipt of your Initial Funding Request, the Foundation will review it and, should your project correspond to the stated mission, will contact you for more details concerning your proposal. The Foundation may request a meeting with the association leading the project to familiarise itself with its work in preparation for the finalisation of a funding application. As a partner, the Foundation willingly helps the applicant organisation with budget adjustments and in establishing an action plan. This partnership leads to a second stage: the creation of a funding application file¹⁹⁴. This file will be reviewed and submitted to the Foundation's Board of Directors for approval. More information

¹⁹⁴ <http://www.addax-oryx-foundation.org/en/submit-a-project/submit-a-project-2/form.php?step=u>

on selection and exclusion criteria can be found at: <http://www.addax-oryx-foundation.org/en/submit-a-project/selection-criteria.php>.

Contact Information:

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✉ <http://www.addax-oryx-foundation.org/en/contact.php>

Website: <http://addax-oryx-foundation.org/>

Adessium Foundation

Aim: To contribute to a world in which people live in harmony with each other and with their environment. The foundation works towards a balanced society, one characterised by integrity, justice, and a balance between people and nature. The foundation supports projects in the following areas: informed society, justice and security, people and nature, special interests such as the sustainable management of natural resources, and informed society. More information about their grant policy is available at <http://www.adessium.org/about/>.

Geographic Focus: Worldwide

How to Apply: The foundation actively selects potential partners and invites them to submit an application. Adessium does not accept unsolicited proposals.

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Website: <http://www.adessium.org>

Agropolis Foundation

Aim: To support and promote high-level research and higher education in agricultural sciences, with a focus on sustainability in temperate, tropical and Mediterranean regions. The Agropolis Foundation is a grant-making scientific foundation established in 2007 and committed to supporting and promoting research. The Foundation does not implement research, but provides funding that promotes innovation while ensuring that cutting-edge science responds to critical development challenges through an interdisciplinary and integrated approach to plant research,



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