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# Information Note

## Title

**International Participation in Horizon 2020**

## Action

This note provides information about the different opportunities for international collaboration under the Horizon 2020 programme.

Institutions should be aware of the different eligibility criteria when devising their engagement strategies.

## Audience

Pro-Vice-Chancellors Research, Teaching and International/Europe,  
Directors of International/Europe

## Executive Summary

Horizon 2020 offers a variety of possibilities to collaborate with institutions outside the EU. However, different rules are applicable depending on region, legal and economic status. Platforms to find collaboration partners can be of use for both UK and non-UK institutions.

## General rule

1. Applicants from non-EU countries (you may also encounter the term "third country" to describe these countries) are always free to take part in Horizon 2020 programmes – even if the call for proposals or topic text do not state this explicitly. However, they are not always automatically entitled to funding. All applications must meet the minimum conditions set out in the [Rules for Participation](#). These include that at least three institutions from three different EU Member States, or Associated Countries, have to participate in any Horizon 2020 project.

## Associated Countries

2. Associated Countries are non EU Member States that contribute financially to the Horizon 2020 budget so that they can participate and receive funding on exactly the same basis as EU countries. While it is possible to include partners from the above-mentioned countries in Horizon 2020 proposals at this stage, the Association Agreements will have to be signed before grants can be awarded to entities in prospective Associated Countries.
3. Following Croatia's accession to the EU in July 2013, and Liechtenstein's announcement that it will not seek to associate to Horizon 2020, some 12 countries are expected to be Associated Countries to Horizon 2020. The process of renewing the Association Agreement is underway for many of them. The list is likely to include

- Israel
- Norway
- Iceland
- Turkey
- Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM)
- Serbia
- Albania
- Montenegro
- Bosnia & Herzegovina
- Faroe Islands
- Moldova

The [status of Switzerland](#) is currently unclear, in 2014 Swiss institutions will not be able to participate.

## Non-EU countries / Third countries

4. This refers to any country/territory that is not an EU country or an overseas country or territory linked to an EU country. Applicants from non-EU countries fall into two categories: those automatically eligible for funding and those not automatically eligible for funding (though they may still be funded in exceptional cases).

## Automatically eligible non-EU applicants

5. Applicants based in any of the countries listed here are automatically eligible for funding under the Horizon 2020 budget:

- Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, American Samoa, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan
- Bangladesh, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi
- Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Congo (Democratic Republic), Congo (Republic), Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba
- Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic
- Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia
- Fiji
- Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana
- Haiti, Honduras
- Indonesia, Iran, Iraq
- Jamaica, Jordan
- Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Korea (Democratic Republic), Kosovo, Kyrgyz Republic
- Lao, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya
- Macedonia FYR, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Micronesia, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar/Burma
- Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria
- Pakistan, Palau, Palestine, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines
- Rwanda
- Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic
- Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu
- Uganda, Ukraine, Uruguay, Uzbekistan
- Vanuatu, Venezuela, Vietnam
- Yemen
- Zambia, Zimbabwe.

## Non-EU applicants that are NOT automatically eligible

6. This category includes the USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Brazil, Russia, India, China and Mexico.

7. Applicants from other non-EU countries may be granted funding if:

- Funding is provided for in a bilateral scientific/technological agreement or similar arrangement between the EU and the country where the applicant is based.
- The call for proposals clearly states that applicants based in such countries are eligible for funding.
- Their participation is deemed essential for carrying out the action by the Commission or the relevant funding body because it provides:

- outstanding competence/expertise
- access to research infrastructure
- access to particular geographical environments
- access to data.

## **Funding for international organisations**

8. International organisations, the majority of whose members are Member States or associated countries, and whose principal objective is to promote scientific and technological cooperation in Europe, are automatically eligible. Other organisations may be eligible if:
- Funding is provided for in a bilateral scientific/technological agreement or similar arrangement between the EU and the organisation.
  - Their participation is deemed essential for carrying out the action as outlined above.

## **When is it mandatory for a consortium to include non-EU participants?**

9. Some calls require a consortium to include participants based in specific non-EU countries in order to be eligible. If so, this requirement (and the countries concerned) will be specified in the applicable call for proposals and topic description.

## **Finding international research partners for Horizon 2020**

10. The European Commission's [Horizon 2020 Participant Portal provides information](#) on the different means available to find partners for bids. It is worth keeping in mind that:
- Horizon 2020 represents EU funding for research and innovation on a larger scale. It does not provide funding for occasional travel for research meetings, or smaller stand-alone conferences or workshops.
  - EU funding has become more and more competitive over recent years, and Horizon 2020 is predicted to be highly popular.
  - The most successful links are often initiated on the researcher level. Researchers usually know where the excellence in their particular field lies and where colleagues suitable for fruitful collaboration work.
11. Global networks like the [Vision 2020 Network](#) also provide an opportunity to find partners. However, there is a charge for institutions wanting to join the network.