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Horizon 2020 funding for agriculture and forestry

Horizon 2020 (H2020) is the largest source of public funding for research and innovation from the European Commission. It has a budget of around €3.7 billion for the Societal Challenge 2 (SC2) on 'Food security, sustainable agriculture and forestry, marine, maritime and inland water research and the bioeconomy' for 2014-2020.

Through the SC2, H2020 aims to create solutions for problems which farmers and foresters currently face. It funds projects in which researchers and stakeholders build solutions together, sharing knowledge and producing results that are ready to be put into practice. The projects are actively supported by the European Innovation Partnership 'Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability' (EIP-AGRI) network. The H2020 calls are open to all organisations and individuals, including applicants from outside the EU.

Horizon 2020 also works across different areas and themes to boost innovation. This is why relevant opportunities for agriculture also appear in other parts of the H2020 work programme as well as in SC2. This brochure should help you find your way through the different calls for 2019.

Please be aware that only the officially published <u>Work Programme</u> text, budget and deadlines should be taken as a reference for any proposal preparation. All applicants should consult the <u>Participant Portal</u> to find the latest version. This brochure is based on the official version of the Work programme published on 24 July 2018. If you started working on your proposal earlier, check the updated topic description on the Participant Portal







The 2018-2020 Work Programme at a glance

With this final <u>Work Programme</u>, the EU is investing €30 billion in research and innovation. The <u>SC2</u> part of this Work Programme provides €1.3 billion of new funding opportunities, out of which around **€1 billion are of interest to agriculture, food and rural areas** and €500 million are dedicated to multi-actor projects over three years.

The main opportunities for agriculture and forestry can be found in two main calls:

- Sustainable Food Security (SFS)
- Rural Renaissance (RUR)

With these calls, the EU aims to:

- improve the management of resources and ecosystems to provide healthier and more diverse food to people while safeguarding the environment and adapting to climate change;
- develop smarter, greener and more circular rural economies through modernised policies, generation renewal, more innovative value chains and enhanced uptake of digital opportunities.

There are also opportunities for agriculture and forestry in other parts of the Horizon 2020 work programme, such as the calls on "Digitising and transforming European industry and services" (LEIT-ICT), "Building a low-carbon, climate-resilient future" (SC3), "Greening the economy in line with Sustainable development goals" (SC5) or the "European Innovation Council Pilot".

Others have succeeded in the past. Have a look at the factsheets describing the <u>150 agriculture and forestry research and innovation projects</u> already selected under Horizon 2020: your proposal should go beyond the state of the art!







Multi-actor research projects involving the agricultural community

The Horizon 2020 Work Programme 2018-2020 will invest €500 million in over 80 multi-actor projects selected from over 30 topics flagged with the **multi**actor approach (MAA). MAA proposals need to demonstrate that they target the actual needs of farmers, foresters, agribusinesses or other "end-users". In fact, the MAA requires that those who will apply the solutions help to shape them by being involved right from the start: from defining the questions to implementing activities, and then participating in demonstrations and dissemination. The crossfertilisation of ideas and complementary knowledge between farmers, foresters, agribusinesses, farmers' groups, advisers, enterprises, researchers and others should lead to demand-driven innovative solutions that are more likely to be applied in the field.

The resulting **practical recommendations** must be presented in an easily understandable and accessible way. As part of their communication activities, MAA projects will also produce short **"practice abstracts"** which outline their main findings. Practice abstracts will make it easier for projects to share their findings with those who will apply them.

Produced **throughout the project's life-cycle**, practice abstracts will be shared at the EU level following the "EIP common format" which is made available on the <u>EIP-AGRI website</u>. The EIP common format for sharing practice abstracts includes a short and understandable **title**, a **succinct summary** of the issue tackled and the main outcomes and recommendations as well as further **contact details** to get in touch with the project. The <u>common EIP-AGRI format</u> will be used by both H2020 multi-actor projects and EIP-AGRI Operational Groups.

Guidance for drafting practice abstracts:

- Focus on usable results: do not summarise the project, but split it into short and concise pieces of information that can be put into practice immediately
- Choose the right topics: information which farmers/ foresters or other "end-users" really need
- Use of language: put yourself in the place of the reader when writing: is this **attractive** to read?

More information on multi-actor projects, practice abstracts and Operational Groups:

- <u>List of ongoing MAA projects on the EIP-AGRI website</u>
- EIP-AGRI Brochure: Horizon 2020 Multi-Actor projects
- Common EIP-AGRI format detailed information
- Biohorizon Webinar on Practice Abstracts
- Interactive innovation in action Multi-Actor projects learning from each other
- Information on already existing Operational Groups on the EIP-AGRI website







Thematic networks - compiling knowledge ready for practice

Thematic networks are a particular type of multiactor project. They collect and develop existing scientific knowledge and best practices which are close to being put in practice but which are not yet sufficiently ready for farmers and foresters to implement. The specific themes of the projects are chosen by the project partners, focusing on needs identified by farmers, foresters, or agribusinesses. Thematic networks should:

- focus on existing best practices and applicable research results that are not well known by farmers, foresters and agribusinesses.
- translate this knowledge into easily understandable material for end users such as short, informative recommendations and solutions (practice abstracts), leaflets, guidelines and audiovisual material (photos, video clips, etc.). This material should be made available beyond the lifespan of the project, through the main existing dissemination channels that farmers and foresters commonly use, as well as through the EIP-AGRI website.

Between 2018 and 2020 the EU will invest in around five new thematic networks per year (€10 million) (see RUR-15-2018-2019-2020). 23 thematic networks have been selected since 2015 and around 6 are expected to start by the end of 2018.

More information on thematic networks

- Find all ongoing thematic networks on the EIP-AGRI website
- Download the <u>EIP-AGRI brochure on</u> thematic networks
- Example of a thematic network in progress: <u>www.eupig.eu</u>









Sustainable Food Security (SFS)

The call on <u>Sustainable Food Security</u> dedicates €753 million to the challenge of using our resources more wisely and feeding people more sustainably.

This call focuses on how we can produce healthier and more diverse food from better-managed ecosystems. It seeks to improve resource efficiency and the environmental performance of food systems. It puts a particular emphasis on better understanding the impact of climate change and designing adequate adaptation strategies.

In continuity with previous work programmes, it invests €112 million in international cooperation between Europe and China and Africa.



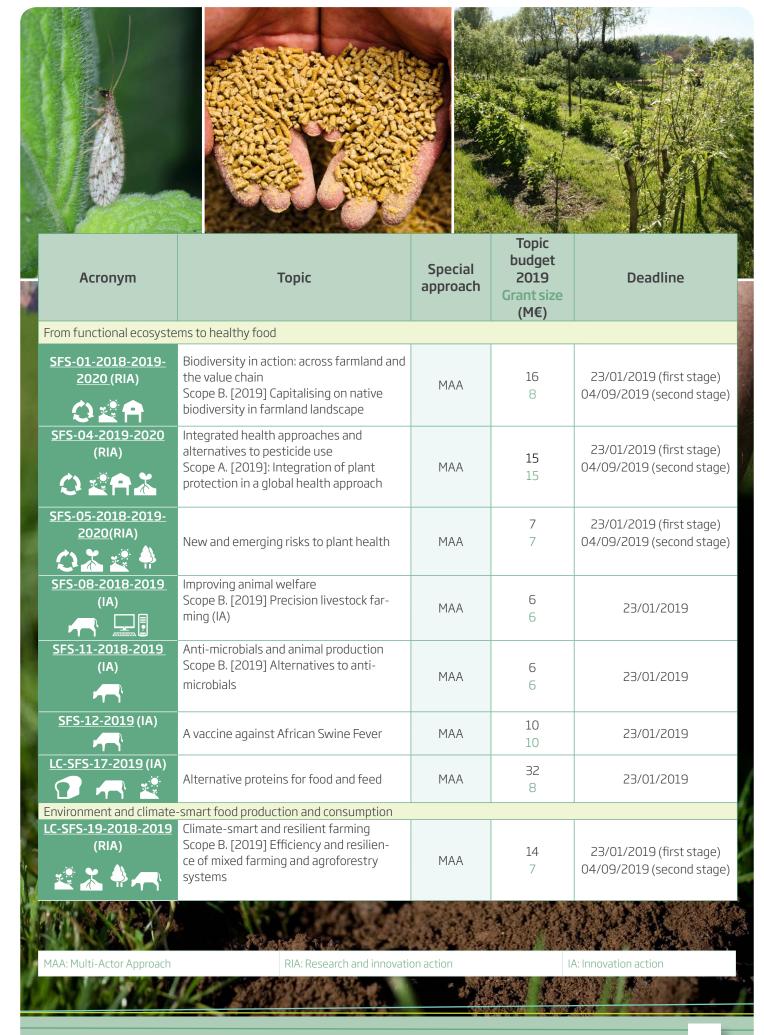
Remember, only the officially published <u>Work Programme</u> should be taken as a reference for any proposal preparation.

| List of icons: | | | | | |
|----------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|--|--|
| | Horizontal | International cooperation | | | |
| | Environment & Climate Change | 2 | Food | | |
| | Livestock | 0 | Circular bioeconomy | | |
| | ICT | | Forestry | | |
| * | Crops | Socio-economics | | | |
| 7 | Knowledge exchange | | | | |

Focus Areas

In the new Work Programme, 3 focus areas have been identified which address major political priorities of interest to agriculture, and which cut across different parts of Horizon 2020. The idea is to increase impact by creating links between calls, and ensuring synergies and shared information between the future projects. The topics which are covered by these focus areas have an extra 2 letters in their call acronym:

- Building a **low-carbon, climate resilient future** (LC)
- Connecting **economic and environmental gains** the **Circular Economy** (CE)
- Digitising and transforming European industry and services (DT)



| LC-SFS-20-2019 (COFUND-EJP) | European Joint Programme on agriculture soil management | | 40 40 | 23/01/2019 | |
|--|--|-----|------------------|---|--|
| SFS-23-2019 (RIA) | Integrated water management in small agricultural catchments | MAA | 14 7 | 23/01/2019 (first stage) 04/09/2019 (second stage) | |
| CE-SFS-24-2019 (IA) | Innovative and citizen-driven food system approaches in cities | | 15 7,5 | 23/01/2019 | |
| Building capacities | | | | | |
| DT-SFS-26-2019 (IA) | Food Cloud demonstrators | | 10 10 | 23/01/2019 | |
| SFS-28-2018-2019- 2020 (RIA) | Genetic resources and pre-breeding communities Scope B. [2019]: Adding value to plant GenRes | | 14 7 | 23/01/2019 (first stage) 04/09/2019 (second stage) | |
| SFS-30-2018-2019- 2020 (RIA) | Agri-Aqua Labs Scope B. [2019]: Looking behind plant adap- tation | | 10 5 | 23/01/2019 (first stage) 04/09/2019 (second stage) | |
| SFS-31-2019 (ERA- NET) | ERANETs in agri-food - Scope A. [2019] ICT-enabled agri-food systems | | 5 5 | 23/01/2019 | |
| SFS-31-2019 (ERA- NET) | ERANETs in agri-food - Scope B. [2019] Climate change and food systems | | 5 5 | 23/01/2019 | |
| SFS-31-2019 (ERA- NET) | ERANETs in agri-food - Scope C. [2019] International coordination of research on infectious animal diseases | | 5 5 | 23/01/2019 | |
| Targeted international co | operation | | | | |
| LC-SFS-34-2019 (RIA) | Food Systems Africa | MAA | 21 7 | 23/01/2019 (first stage) 04/09/2019 (second stage) | |
| SFS-35-2019-2020 (RIA) | Sustainable intensification in Africa Scope A. [2019]: African Farming Systems, sustainable intensification pathways | MAA | 7,5 | 23/01/2019 (first stage) 04/09/2019 (second stage) | |
| SFS-35-2019-2020 (RIA) | Sustainable intensification in Africa Scope B.[2019]: Soil system for Africa | | 5 | 23/01/2019 (first stage) 04/09/2019 (second stage) | |
| SFS-37-2019 (RIA) | EU-China FAB Flagship initiative: Integrated approaches to food safety controls across the food chain | MAA | 8 | 23/01/2019 (first stage) 04/09/2019 (second stage) | |
| CE-SFS-39-2019 (IA) | EU-China FAB Flagship initiative : High quality organic fertilisers from biogas digestate | | 5 5 | 23/01/2019 | |
| MAA: Multi-Actor Approach | MAA: Multi-Actor Approach RIA:Research and innovation action IA: Innovation action | | | | |
| COUFUND-EJP: European Joint Programme ERANET: European Research Area Network | | | | | |
| | More information: <u>EU-Africa Partnership</u> - <u>EU-China Flagship initiative</u> | | | | |



More possibilities: ERA-NETs

Similarly to the calls that are published in the Horizon 2020 Work Programme 2018-2020, **European Research Area Networks (ERA-NETs) and Joint Programming Initiatives (JPIs) publish their own calls.**

An overview of the active ERA-NETs and JPIs can be found on the <u>ERA LEARN 2020 website</u> and on the <u>ERA PLATFORM</u>.
 You can also find more information on ERA-NETs and project examples in the <u>EIP-AGRI brochure 'Research and Innovation across EU borders'</u>.

New in WP 2018-2020: the "Circular bioeconomy thematic investment platform"

This new platform is a risk-sharing financial instrument which will provide **access to finance for innovative bioeconomy projects**, including in the agricultural sector. It focuses in priority, but not exclusively, on circular approaches.

These projects should use terrestrial or aquatic biomass for innovative bio-based products or processes, or to valorise it for other innovative purposes such as food, feed, fertilisers or soil improvers. Projects focusing mainly on renewable energy generation are excluded.

The thematic investment platform will be set up under the InnovFin Holding Fund, managed by the European Investment Bank, during the second half of 2018 (budget: 100M€).

More information about INNOVFIN.







Rural Renaissance (RUR)

The <u>Rural Renaissance call</u> offers €263 million to design ways for rural territories to become smarter, greener, more circular and better connected.

This call focuses on how to favour generation renewal, greater resilience and public goods delivery through modernised policies. It seeks to make the promises of the digital revolution come true for farmers and rural inhabitants. The call will also invest in new, more innovative and more circular value chains to improve welfare in rural areas.

In continuity with the previous calls, it will boost innovation systems, co-creation and better use of knowledge by investing in networks, skills development and advisory systems.

| Acronym | Topic | Special approach | Topic budget 2019 Grant size (M€) | Deadline | |
|------------------------------|--|-----------------------|---|---|--|
| From farm to society: unders | tanding dynamics and modernisi | ng policies | | | |
| RUR-01-2018-2019 (RIA) | Building modern rural policies on long-term visions and societal engagement Scope C. [2019] Building resilient mountain value chains delivering private and public goods | MAA | 6 6 | 23/01/2019 (first stage) 04/09/2019 (second stage) | |
| RUR-01-2018-2019 (CSA) | Building modern rural policies on long-term visions and societal engagement Scope D. [2019] Rural society-science-policy hub | MAA | 5 5 | 23/01/2019 | |
| RUR-04-2018-2019 (RIA) | Analytical tools and models to support policies related to agriculture and food Scope B. [2019] Modelling international trade in agri- food products | | 5 5 | 23/01/2019 (first stage) 04/09/2019 (second stage) | |
| | | | | | |
| MAA: Multi-Actor Approach | RIA: Research and innovation action | IA: Innovation action | | CSA: Coordination and support action | |

| Organising sustainable food and non-food value chains under changing conditions | | | | |
|---|--|-----|-----------------|------------|
| CE-RUR-08-2018-2019-2020 (IA) | Closing nutrient cycles Scope B.[2019] Bio-based fertilisers from animal manure | MAA | 8 8 | 23/01/2019 |
| CE-RUR-10-2019 (IA) | Circular bio-based business models for rural communities | MAA | 20 10 | 23/01/2019 |
| LC-RUR-11-2019-2020 (IA) | Sustainable wood value chains Scope A. [2019] Building with wood | | 20 10 | 23/01/2019 |
| | g the human and social capital in rural areas | | | |
| RUR-15-2018-2019-2020 (CSA) | Thematic networks compiling knowledge ready for practice | MAA | 10 2 | 23/01/2019 |
| RUR-16-2019 (CSA) | Fuelling the potential of advisors for innovation | MAA | 5 5 | 23/01/2019 |
| RUR-17-2019 (CSA) | Reinforcing the EU agricultural knowledge base | MAA | 2,5 2,5 | 23/01/2019 |
| RUR-18-2019 (CSA) | Support to the BIOEAST initiative: boosting knowledge and innovation- based bioeconomies | | 3 3 | 23/01/2019 |
| RUR-20-2018 (IA) | Digital solutions and e-tools to modernise the CAP | MAA | 10 10 | 11/09/2018 |





Interested in digitisation?

If you are interested in digital technologies, have a look at the Work Programme chapter on Information and Communication Technologies:

- <u>ICT-09-2019-2020</u> (RIA-IA-CSA) Robotics in application areas (deadline 28/03/2019)
- <u>ICT-11-2018-2019</u> (IA) HPC and big data enabled large-scale test-beds and applications (deadline 14/11/2018)
- <u>ICT-15-2019-2020</u> (RIA-CSA) cloud computing (deadline 28/03/2019)
- <u>DT-ICT-08-2019</u> (IA) Agricultural digital integration platforms (IA) (deadline 14/11/2018).

If you are interested in the impact of digital transformation, look at the call on "<u>Socioeconomic and cultural transformations in the context of the fourth industrial revolution</u>" within the Societal Challenge 6.



Interested in sustainable aguaculture?

Two topics in the SC2 call "Blue-growth" may be of interest:

- <u>DT-BG-04-2018-2019</u> (IA) Sustainable European aquaculture 4.0: nutrition and breeding (Deadline 23/01/2019).
- <u>BG-08-2018-2019</u> (RIA) All Atlantic research alliance Flagship: C. "New value chains for aquaculture production" (Deadline 23/01/2019 first stage; 04/09/2019 second stage)





More funding opportunities under Horizon 2020

New! The European Innovation Council pilot

The European Innovation Council (EIC) pilot forms part of the H2O20 work programme since 2018. It gathers support measures for close-to-market, bottom-up innovations. Under the EIC you will find, for example, the SME instrument (\leq 1,6 billion), fast-track to innovation – FTI (\leq 300 million) as well as Horizon prizes. Horizon 2020 will also support coaching and mentoring for businesses winning an FTI or SME call.

In addition, the call <u>"For a better innovation support to SMEs"</u> includes interesting topics such as:

- <u>INNOSUP-01-2018-2020</u> (IA) Cluster facilitated projects for new industrial value chains (22,85 M€ in 2019)
- INNOSUP-02-2019-2020 (CSA) European SME innovation Associate pilot (4 M€ in 2019)
- <u>INNOSUP-05-2018-2020</u> (CSA) Peer learning of innovation agencies (0.5 M€ in 2019)
- IP pre-diagnosis action for Horizon 2020 participants (1,5 M€ in 2019)

Further information on funding for SMEs can be found on the <u>dedicated SME page</u> in the Participant Portal and on the <u>European Innovation Council webpage</u>.

Did you know?

Fast-track to innovation can help projects of relevance to agriculture. <u>RICHWATER</u> for example has commercialised an innovative water management solution thanks to this support.

SC5: Climate action, environment, resource efficiency and raw materials

| Acronym | Торіс | Topic budget 2019 Grant size (M€) | Deadline |
|-----------------------------|--|--|---|
| <u>LC-CLA-02-2019</u> (RIA) | Negative emissions and land-use based mitigation assessment | 22 5-7 | 19/02/2019 (first stage) 04/09/2019 (second stage) |
| LC-CLA-06-2019 (RIA) | Inter-relations between climate change, biodiversity and ecosystem services | 25 5-7 | 19/02/2019 (first stage) 04/09/2019 (second stage) |
| CE-SC5-04-2019 (IA) | Building a water-smart economy and society | 72 10-15 | 19/02/2019 (first stage) 04/09/2019 (second stage) |
| <u>SC5-20-2019</u> (IA) | Transforming historic urban areas and/or cultural landscapes into hubs of entrepreneurship and social and cultural integration | 25 7-8 | 19/02/2019 (first stage) 04/09/2019 (second stage) |





Interested in research about biomass, biofuels or renewable technologies?

Have a look at the calls of Societal Challenge 3 "Secure, clean and efficient energy". These topics in particular may be of interest:

Global leadership in renewables

- <u>LC-SC3-RES-1-2019-2020</u> Developing the next generation of renewable energy technologies (RIA) (Deadline 16/10/2018 first stage; 25/04/2019 second stage; Topic Budget: 20 M€)
- <u>LC-SC3-RES-16-2019</u> Development of solutions based on renewable sources that provide flexibility to the energy system (RIA) (Deadline 27/08/2019; Topic budget 15 M€)



The most interesting funding opportunities can, however, be found in the calls for projects from the **Bio-based industries joint undertaking**. The 2018 call is open for applications until 6/09/2018 and the 2019 call is expected in the first semester of 2019.

More information: www.bbi-europe.eu/participate/call-proposals-2018



Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions (MSCA)

MSCA cover all themes focusing on innovation skills. This fund supports the career development and training of researchers, by allowing them to work in other countries while also encouraging them to explore other sectors and disciplines. In 2019, MSCA will invest €470 million in Innovative Training Networks, €295.62 million in Individual Fellowships and €80 million in Research and Innovation Staff Exchange.

More information on Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions.





Practical information

The Horizon 2020 calls are open to all organisations and individuals, including applicants from outside the EU. However, for most of the topics presented in this brochure, consortia must have at least three partners from three different EU Member States or associated countries. Check the rules for the specific call you are interested in to make sure you are eligible. You can find all information on the Horizon 2020 calls, the application procedure and application forms in the Participant Portal set up by the European Commission.



All applications must be made via the <u>Participant Portal</u>. Please note that deadlines for the submission of proposals are specific to each call. Make sure you pick the right topic and subtopic.

- General information on how to apply can be found in the video "Horizon 2020 - How to apply".
- The Horizon 2020 <u>online manual</u> offers information and support to develop your proposal.
- The <u>reference documents page</u> gives you access to Work Programmes, legal and guidance documents.
- Within the Participant Portal you can also check out the <u>frequently asked questions (FAQ)</u>.
- The <u>IT Helpdesk</u> answers your questions about the Participant Portal tools.
- Do you have a specific question? <u>Contact your National Contact Point</u> or the <u>Horizon 2020 Helpdesk</u> for guidance, practical information and assistance on all aspects of Horizon 2020.
- If you use social media, please do not forget to use #H2020 in your tweets.

You need to contact the EIP-AGRI service Point? Contact details on our website

Find project partners:

Join the EIP-AGRI Service Point LinkedIn group

To help you find partners for multi-actor projects or thematic networks, the EIP-AGRI Service Point has set up a <u>LinkedIn group</u>. You can use it to introduce yourself, your organisation and your innovative project proposal to the other members.

Since the launch of this discussion group, many applicants looking for Horizon 2020 opportunities have joined. Come and join this community!

To stay informed on all H2020 news, connect to our LinkedIn EIP-AGRI Service Point profile and company page as well. Scan this QR code to go to our LinkedIn group directly. Talk to you soon!



Join the EIP-AGRI network

By registering to the EIP-AGRI website at www.eip-agri.eu, you can search and find potential project partners, interesting projects, best practices and other funding opportunities in the EIP-AGRI Meeting Point.

Did you know?

All projects will now be "open data" by default. All information on how to manage data and open access in your projects is available here.





Evaluation tips and tricks



Proposals are evaluated by independent experts, who only have a limited amount of time to evaluate several proposals.

- ☐ **Read the criteria** by which your proposal will be assessed.
- Write clearly and concisely. Ask someone with experience in drafting proposals but from outside your consortium to proofread your proposal.
- ☐ **Impact matters!** During evaluation, impact will be evaluated first.
- ☐ Check the **expected impacts and scope of the topic in detail**. Make sure you read
 properly what is expected of you, and
 demonstrate how you will deliver, detailing
 partner assets and using quantified activities
 and targets whenever possible.
- ☐ Make sure that the **chosen objectives are coherent** with the foreseen project activities,
 the competences of the partners and the
 planned budget per activity.
- Avoid **"recycling"** of former projects or project partners which do not have a specific contribution to the topic.

Communicate ... and disseminate

Communication and dissemination are not just "tick boxes"! Together with ensuring the uptake of project results, these activities are key to successful project management.

- Communication and dissemination activities each have a specific scope. Check here to understand the difference.
- Together they ensure that project results are widely known and used by those interested, including policy makers.
- They also ensure that project results are aligned with the needs of users.
- Ensuring uptake of project results enhances the added value of research and innovation funding and means that the newly generated knowledge does not just stay on a dusty shelf.
- The dissemination and exploitation plan is mandatory for your project and will help evaluators assess the potential impact of the project.
- Communication and dissemination about the project and its results should start as soon as possible and be adapted throughout the project's lifetime.
- Consider including the right skills for communication and dissemination in the project consortium from the start.

Check out the <u>Guidelines for your dissemination</u> and exploitation activities and the <u>Guidelines on communicating about your project</u>.

Other useful tools:

- Strengthen social science and humanities (SSH) in your project: <u>SSH page</u> of the H2020 manual, NET4SOCIETY website.
- Engage the public in your research activities:
 EIP-AGRI brochure on participatory approaches,
 Engage 2020 project.

Horizon 2020 funding possibilities for agriculture and forestry

Horizon 2020 pillars



Excellent science

Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions



Industrial leadership European Innovation Council pilot

SME Instrument

Fast-track to innovation



Societal challenges (SC)

Horizon Prizes

LEIT-ICT

Call on Information and Communication Technologies

Call on Digitising and transforming European industry and services

SC 2 - Food, agriculture, forestry, bioeconomy

Call on sustainable food security

Call on rural renaissance

Call on Blue Growth

SC 3 - Energy

Call on building a low-carbon and climate resilient future: secure, clean and efficient energy

SC5 - Climate action and environment

Call on building a low-carbon and climate resilient future: climate action

Call on greening the economy in line with Sustainable Development

Innovation for SMEs

Call on Better innovation support to SMEs



Multi-actor approach



Thematic networks