



European Funding Update – Friday, 10 January 2020

Registration is now open for UEA's 2020 Annual UKRO Visit (from the UK Research Office in Brussels) on Friday, 6 March 2020. This year's event will be held in the Queens Building 1.03. UKRO European Adviser Jennifer Morgan will travel across from Brussels and will be on hand throughout the day to offer advice and answer questions related to European funding. **A plenary session for UEA researchers/academics will be held from 11am to 12.30pm, focused on the enduring opportunities for UEA in 2020, given that we now expect the UK to remain an eligible participant Horizon 2020 for the remainder of the programme.** We would encourage anyone at UEA who is interested in learning more about current and forthcoming EU funding opportunities to come along on the day. **There are also a number of 20-25 minute slots available for a 1:1 conversation with Jennifer, should there be anything bespoke you'd like an UKRO perspective on - whether in relation to a new bid, or an existing project.** Please contact rin.euteam@uea.ac.uk to book your place or to request a 1:1 meeting.

Brexit

The Brexit Withdrawal Bill has now passed its remaining stages in the House of Commons and will pass to the House of Lords for scrutiny next week. It is expected to complete its legislative progress by the middle of this month, and be ratified by the European Parliament on 29 January 2020. The UK would then leave the EU at 11pm on 31 January 2020, but a 'transition period' would see the UK continue to pay into the EU budget, abide by EU laws, remain in the Single Market and the Customs Union, and remain an eligible participant in all EU funded programmes, through to 31 December 2020. What happens after that will depend on the success of negotiations with Brussels, which cannot start until after the UK has left the EU and will not commence in earnest until March. New European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen has said the UK should reconsider its refusal to seek an extension to this 11-month transition period, and expressed "serious concern" about the limited time available for the talks, saying "we must ask ourselves seriously if all these negotiations are feasible in such a short time".

In an interview in the immediate aftermath of the General Election victory for the Conservatives, Minister of State for Universities, Science, Research and Innovation, Chris Skidmore gave a positive outlook for future UK participation in EU research framework programmes. Skidmore said: "**When it comes to projects like Horizon Europe, I want us to continue with European research partnerships, I've not met anyone who doesn't. I honestly think that we're going to be able to get around the table and pay into the budget. The one thing is that the actual association articles aren't open for negotiations yet because they are still agreeing the overall budget for Horizon Europe. I think they've come [the EU] to a settlement now on €84billion about two days ago. But they need more than ever to achieve that because we are currently the largest contributors financially into Horizon 2020. So I'm assuming we will get full access to all the programmes and I'll be lobbying for that. Horizon Europe's framework is different to Horizon 2020, before, if you were a third-party country [a Third Country], you couldn't participate in certain core things like the European Research Council. That's not the same with Horizon Europe, I've been told by the Commissioner that if we stump up the money we will be able to get full access. I think there's a really strong case for continuing [in the research framework programme as a whole], we already put in about £1billion a year and get £1.3billion back, so it's net beneficial. So if we're going to be putting in £18billion into research and development, we can easily afford to buy into the programme. As soon as we get Brexit done, I want to be straight back into having those discussions.**"

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On Wednesday, 8 January 2020, as part of voting through the Withdrawal Agreement Bill, MPs voted *against* New Clause 10 to the Bill, which would have required the Government to seek to negotiate continuing full membership of the Erasmus+ programme. **Although this means that negotiations on Erasmus+ will not be included in legislation, it does not mean that the Government cannot or will not seek full association.** In response to the vote, MPs were heavily criticised on social media, forcing Universities Minister Chris Skidmore to issue a statement yesterday saying that the vote does not end or prevent the UK participating in Erasmus+ after leaving the EU. He said: *"We remain open to participation and this will be part of future negotiations with the EU - we highly value international student exchanges."* Vivienne Stern, Director, Universities UK International, said: *"The public response....shows just how important the Erasmus+ programme is to thousands across the country and we urge the Government to consider this as it moves forwards. We are pleased that the Universities Minister has confirmed that the Government is still open to participation in the programme, and that this will form part of future negotiations with the EU."*

Key Calls for Research Proposals

As part of the transition from the Horizon 2020 research framework programme (2014-2020) to its successor 'Horizon Europe' (2021-2027), the European Research Council (ERC) has announced that:

- **The scheduling of ERC Calls in the initial year of Horizon Europe may differ from the traditional calendar of Calls seen under Horizon 2020.** All mono-beneficiary ERC calls (Starting, Consolidator, Advanced Grants, PoC) are expected to be launched in 2021 and 2022, but their opening and closing dates will be shifted so that the first Calls will be launched only in January 2021. **This means there will be no ERC Starting Grant Call launched in July 2020, and no ERC Consolidator Grant Call launched in October 2020.** The ERC expects its Call schedule to be back to the usual opening and closing timeframes by mid-2022. **Furthermore, the ERC does not expect to launch its next Synergy Grant Call until the summer of 2021.**
- **It is going to introduce two new evaluation panels from 2021.** Currently, ERC has evaluation panels in three broad scientific fields; nine panels cover the life sciences, six cover social sciences and humanities, while there are ten physical sciences and engineering panels. The ERC plans to add an eleventh physical sciences panel on materials engineering and a seventh social sciences panel on human mobility, environment and space. This will cover research on demography, population health, sustainability science, territorial planning and spatial analysis.
- **It will introduce face-to-face interviews in the evaluation process of ERC Advanced Grants from 2021** (interviews are currently only used for Starting and Consolidator Grants).

On 12 March 2020, eight new Horizon 2020 Calls will open up under the banner '**Boosting the effectiveness of the Security Union**'. Part of Societal Challenge 7 (*'Secure societies – Protecting freedom and security of Europe and its citizens'*), the Calls are for 'Research and Innovation Actions' (RIAs), and include the following topics:

- **Intelligent security and privacy management;**
- **Human factors, and social, societal, and organisational aspects of border and external security;**
- **Human factors, and social, societal, and organisational aspects for disaster-resilient societies;**
- **Technologies to enhance border and external security;**
- **Technologies for first responders;**
- **Chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) cluster;**
- **Human factors, and social, societal, and organisational aspects to solve issues in fighting against crime and terrorism;** and
- **Technologies to enhance the fight against crime and terrorism.**

(RIAs are for activities aiming to establish new knowledge and/or to explore the feasibility of a new or improved technology, product, process, service or solution. They may include basic and applied research, technology development and integration, testing and validation on a small-scale prototype in a laboratory or simulated environment.)

The Calls will be single-stage, with a deadline of 27 August 2020.

On 10 December 2019, five new Calls opened up under the ‘Science with and for Society’ (SwafS) part of Horizon 2020. The ‘SwafS’ programme aims to build research capacities in Europe and develop innovative ways of connecting science to society. This includes making science more attractive (especially to young people), raising the appetite of society for science and innovation, and pairing scientific excellence with social awareness and responsibility. The Calls are for ‘Research and Innovation Actions’ (RIAs) and are **entitled:**

- ***Bottom-up approach to build SwafS knowledge base;***
- ***Taking stock and re-examining the role of science communication;***
- ***Science education outside the classroom;***
- ***Gender-based violence including sexual harassment in research organisations and universities;*** and
- ***Hands-on citizen science and frugal innovation.***

The European office of the UK Research Councils, UKRO, has made available online slides from information session organised by a network of National Contact Points. The talks covered 2020 SwafS calls for proposals, best practice from successful projects, and hints and tips from an evaluator. These are available [here](#).

All five Calls are single-stage and have a deadline of 15 April 2020.

On 3 December 2019, seven new Horizon 2020 Calls opened up under the banner ‘Building a low-carbon, climate resilient future’. The first four Calls were launched under Societal Challenge 3 (‘Secure, clean and efficient energy’) and the latter three under the ‘cross-cutting activities’ part of Horizon 2020. The Calls are for ‘Research and Innovation Actions’ (RIAs) and are **entitled:**

- ***Development of next generation renewable fuel technologies from CO2 and renewable energy (Power and Energy to Renewable Fuels);***
- ***Developing the next generation of renewable energy technologies;***
- ***Offshore wind basic science and balance of plant;***
- ***Combined clean biofuel production and phytoremediation solutions from contaminated lands worldwide;***
- ***Next-generation batteries for stationary energy storage;***
- ***Hybridisation of battery systems for stationary energy storage;*** and
- ***Reducing the cost of large batteries for waterborne transport.***

The Calls are single-stage, with a deadline of 21 April 2020.

On 3 December 2019, seven new Horizon 2020 Calls opened up under the banner ‘Mobility for growth’. Part of Societal Challenge 4 (‘Smart, green and integrated transport’), the Calls are for ‘Research and Innovation Actions’ (RIAs) and are **entitled:**

- ***Next generation multifunctional and intelligent airframe and engine parts, with emphasis on manufacturing, maintenance and recycling;***
- ***Towards sustainable urban air mobility;***
- ***Innovative electric network architectures and systems, optimising global energy, electrical power, data and communication for aviation;***
- ***Digitalisation of the transport system: data sharing;***
- ***Advanced research methods and tools in support of transport/mobility researchers, planners and policy makers;***
- ***Under water noise mitigation and environmental impact;*** and
- ***Towards global environmental regulation of supersonic aviation.***

The Calls are single-stage, with a deadline of 21 April 2020.

On 19 November 2019, two new Horizon 2020 Calls opened under the banner ‘Digital transformation in Health and Care’. Part of Societal Challenge 1 (‘Health, demographic change and wellbeing’), the Calls are for ‘Research and Innovation Actions’ (RIAs) and are **entitled:**

- ***International cooperation in smart living environments for ageing people;*** and
- ***Personalised early risk prediction, prevention and intervention based on Artificial Intelligence and Big Data technologies.***

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The Calls are single-stage, with a deadline of 22 April 2020.

'NEW': The Joint Programming Initiatives (JPIs) on Water, Oceans and Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) have pre-announced a joint transnational Call, entitled 'Aquatic Pollutants'. The Call will support research and innovation projects that establish integrated and cross-sectoral approaches for risk-management combining the research areas of contaminants of emerging concerns (CECs), pathogens and antimicrobial resistance. **The Call is two-stage and expected to open 17 February 2020, additionally there is a budget of €25 million. More information is available [here](#).**

Key Calls for Networking and/or Dissemination Activities

'NEW': JPI Urban Europe has launched a Call entitled 'Urban Migration' with the intention of creating transdisciplinary and cross-sectoral consortia. Successful projects should address the following objectives:

- *Build upon already existing knowledge on migration;*
- *Contribute to sustainable urban development;*
- *Have transdisciplinary collaboration with active cooperation between all stakeholders throughout the project;*
- *Relate to gender and diversity aspect; and*
- *Show the added value of European collaboration.*

This is a two-stage Call with a deadline of 26 March 2019. More information is available [here](#).

Throughout much of 2020, COST – 'European Cooperation in Science and Technology' – is running one Open Call, with two 'Collection Dates' when all the submitted proposals are gathered and considered for evaluation. The next Collection Date is planned for 29 April 2020, and a second collection date is planned for Autumn 2020. Founded in 1971, COST is an intergovernmental framework and is the longest-running European framework supporting transnational cooperation between researchers across Europe. COST funds pan-European, bottom-up networks of researchers and scientists across a wide range of research fields, including social sciences and humanities. **It does not fund research activities. Instead, it provides support for networking activities.** COST draws funding from Horizon 2020 and each COST Action has a four-year duration. Participants are invited to submit 'COST Action' proposals contributing to the scientific, technological, economic, cultural or societal knowledge advancement and development of Europe, and multi- and interdisciplinary proposals are encouraged. **More details about COST can be found [here](#).**

On 12 March 2020, three new Horizon 2020 Calls will open up under the banner 'Boosting the effectiveness of the Security Union'. Part of Societal Challenge 7 ('Secure societies – Protecting freedom and security of Europe and its citizens'), the Calls are for 'Coordination & Support Actions' (CSAs), and include the following topics:

- ***Human factors, and ethical, societal, legal and organisational aspects of using Artificial Intelligence in support of Law Enforcement;***
- ***Developing a research roadmap regarding Artificial Intelligence in support of Law Enforcement;*** and
- ***Pan-European networks of practitioners and other actors in the field of security.***

(CSAs are primarily for accompanying measures such as standardisation, dissemination, awareness-raising and communication, networking, coordination or support services, policy dialogues and mutual learning exercises and studies, including design studies for new infrastructure and may also include complementary activities of strategic planning, networking and coordination between programmes in different countries.)

The Calls will be single-stage, with a deadline of 27 August 2020.

On 10 December 2019, nine Calls opened up under the 'Science with and for Society' (SwafS) – part of Horizon 2020. The 'SwafS' programme aims to build research capacities in Europe and develop innovative ways of connecting science to society. This includes making science more attractive (especially to young people), raising the appetite of society for science and innovation, and pairing scientific excellence with social awareness and responsibility. The Calls are for 'Coordination & Support Actions' (CSAs) and are entitled:

- ***Innovators of the future: bridging the gender gap;***

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- *Responsible Open Science: an ethics and integrity perspective;*
- *The ethics of technologies with high socio-economic impact;*
- *The ethics of organoids;*
- *Grounding RRI in society with a focus on citizen science;*
- *Supporting the development of territorial Responsible Research and Innovation;*
- *Supporting research organisations to implement gender equality plans;*
- *Research innovation needs & skills training in PhD programmes;* and
- *Open schooling and collaboration on science education.*

All Calls are single-stage and have a deadline of 15 April 2020.

The European office of the UK Research Councils, UKRO, has made available online slides from an Info Session organised by a network of National Contact Points (NCPs). The talks covered 2020 SwafS Calls for Proposals, best practice from successful projects, and hints and tips from an evaluator. These are available [here](#).

On 3 December 2019, five new Horizon 2020 Calls opened up under the banner ‘Mobility for growth’. Part of societal challenge 4 (*‘Smart, green and integrated transport’*), the Calls are for Coordination & Support Actions (CSAs) and is entitled:

- *The effects of automation on the transport labour force, future working conditions and skills requirements;*
- *Coordination and support for an integrated freight transport and logistics system;*
- *Enhancing coordination between Member States’ actions in the area of infrastructure research with a particular focus on biodiversity and ameliorating environmental impacts and full automated infrastructure upgrade and maintenance;*
- *Improving impact and broadening stakeholder engagement in support of transport research and innovation;* and
- *‘First of a Kind’ solutions for sustainable transport and mobility: EU initiative for accelerating EU-wide market access, scale up and derisking.*

The Calls are single-stage, with a deadline of 21 April 2020.

On 3 December 2019, two new Horizon 2020 Calls opened up under the banner ‘Building a low-carbon, climate resilient future’. Part of societal challenge 4 (*‘Smart, green and integrated transport’*), the Calls are for Coordination & Support Actions (CSAs) and are entitled:

- *Setting up a common European research and innovation strategy for the future of road transport;* and
- *Cities as climate-resilient, connected multimodal nodes for smart and clean mobility: new approaches towards demonstrating and testing innovative solutions.*

The Calls are single-stage, with a deadline of 21 April 2020.

Key Calls for ‘Close to Market’ Activities

On 12 March 2020, nine Horizon 2020 Calls will open up under the banner ‘Boosting the effectiveness of the Security Union’. Part of Societal Challenge 7 (*‘Secure societies – Protecting freedom and security of Europe and its citizens’*), the Calls are for ‘Innovation Actions’ (IAs), and include the following topics:

- *Information and data stream management to fight against (cyber)crime and terrorism;*
- *Cybersecurity in the Electrical Power and Energy System (EPES): an armour against cyber and privacy attacks and data breaches;*
- *Intelligent security and privacy management;*
- *Pre-normative research and demonstration for disaster-resilient societies;*
- *Demonstration of applied solutions to enhance border and external security;*
- *Chemicals: intelligence, detection, forensics;*
- *Cybersecurity in the Electrical Power and Energy System (EPES): an armour against cyber and privacy attacks and data breaches;*

- *Secure and resilient Artificial Intelligence technologies, tools and solutions in support of Law Enforcement and citizen protection, cybersecurity operations and prevention and protection against adversarial Artificial Intelligence*; and
- *Prevention, detection, response and mitigation of combined physical and cyber threats to critical infrastructure in Europe*.

(IAs are for 'close to market activities' e.g. actions directly aimed at producing plans and arrangements or designs for new, altered or improved products, processes or services - including prototyping, testing, demonstrating, piloting, large-scale product validation and market replication. Such project proposals may include limited research and development activities, however.)

All Calls will be single-stage, with a deadline of 27 August 2020.

On 5 March 2020, a new Horizon 2020 Call will open up under the banner: '**Building a low-carbon, climate resilient future**'. Part of Societal Challenge 3 ('Secure, clean and efficient energy'), the Call will be for 'Innovation Actions' (IAs) and is entitled:

- *Upgrading smartness of existing buildings through innovations for legacy equipment*.

The Call will be single-stage, with a deadline of 10 September 2020.

On 3 December 2019, several new Horizon 2020 Calls opened up under the banner '**Building a low-carbon, climate resilient future**'. The first three were launched under Societal Challenge 4 ('Smart, green and integrated transport', and the latter one was launched under the 'Cross-cutting activities' part of Horizon 2020. The Calls are for 'Innovation Actions' (IAs) and are entitled:

- *Reducing the environmental impact of hybrid light duty vehicles*;
- *Advanced light materials and their production processes for automotive applications*;
- *Next generation electrified vehicles for urban and suburban use*; and
- *Next generation and realisation of battery packs for BEV and PHEV*;

The Calls are single stage, with a deadline of 21 April 2020.

On 3 December 2019, two new Horizon 2020 Calls opened up under the banner '**Digitising and transforming European industry and services**'. Part of Societal Challenge 4 ('Smart, green and integrated transport'), the Calls are for 'Innovation Actions' (IAs) and is entitled:

- *Efficient and safe connected and automated heavy-duty vehicles in real logistics operations*;
- *Large-scale, cross-border demonstration of connected and highly automated driving functions for passenger cars*;

The Calls are single-stage, with a deadline of 21 April 2020.

On 19 November 2019, a new Horizon 2020 Call opened up under the cross-cutting '**Information and Communication Technologies**' part of Horizon 2020. The Call is for 'Innovation Actions' (RIAs) and is entitled:

- *Artificial Intelligence on demand platform*.

The Call is single-stage, with a deadline of 22 April 2020.

Key Calls for Action Grants

'NEW': The ERA-NET Cofund Urban Accessibility and Connectivity invites researchers, cities, municipalities, businesses, civil society and other stakeholders to build transnational consortia to create innovation and research projects that address the challenges of sustainable urban passenger mobility, freight, transport and connectivity as integral and essential parts of sustainable urban development. Each proposal must be attached to at least one of the following challenges;

- *Evolving solutions for an integrated approach on sustainable urban physical mobility and transport, land use and digital connectivity;*
- *Develop and support the implementation of innovative mobility systems and services with a potential to contribute to sustainable urban mobility;*
- *Transform and re-organise urban spaces to pave the ground for sustainable urban mobility and accessibility at local level, from the street scale to the district;*
- *Develop effective policy options for achieving a shift towards sustainable urban accessibility and connectivity; and*
- *Change behaviours and perspectives towards sustainable urban accessibility and connectivity.*

This call is open for proposals referring to a broad range of project types, from basic research to innovation. **This is a two-stage Call with a deadline of 17 March 2020. Further information can be found [here](#).**

Other European Funding Opportunities

‘NEW’: The British Academy is organising a series of activities entitled ‘Knowledge Frontiers Symposia’ to enhance the skills and capabilities of early career researchers in the UK and overseas. The symposia seek to encourage the formation of long-term collaboration and new networks. The following symposia for researchers looking to benefit from collaborating with EU colleagues are;

- *[UK-Netherlands Knowledge Frontiers Symposium on ‘The Anthropocene’](#), London, 19-20 March 2020 (a partnership with the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts & Sciences); and*
- *[UK-Germany Frontiers of Humanities Symposium on ‘Rupture’](#), Lübeck, 2-4 May 2019 (a partnership with the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation).*

Each symposium has a dedicated application deadline so please check the specific symposium’s details. **More information can be found [here](#).**

International Prizes and Awards to Bid for

‘NEW’: The Royal Foundation have announced their Earthshot Prize to reward progress across all sectors of industry, technology and society. The Prize could be awarded to a wide range of individuals, teams or collaborations- anyone who is making a substantial development or outstanding contribution to solving environmental challenges. The Royal Foundation will be awarding The Prize to 5 winners per year over 10 years. An annual awards ceremony will take place in different cities across the world each year between 2021 and 2030. More information will be released throughout the year. **More information is available [here](#).**

Key Consultations

‘NEW’: The European Commission has launched two public consultations entitled ‘[Financial services- EU regulatory framework for crypto assets](#)’ and ‘[Financial services – improving resilience against cyber attacks](#)’. The feedback given to both consultations will be considered when developed the EU’s new Digital Finance Strategy. Key areas of reflection include deepening the Single Market for digital financial services, promoting a data-driven financial sector in the EU while addressing its risks and ensuring a true level playing field, making the EU financial services regulatory framework more innovation-friendly, and enhancing the digital operational resilience of the financial system. **Both consultation periods close 19 March 2020.**

Key Calls for Tenders

‘NEW’: The Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture, is inviting tenders for a study on the ‘[Health and Well-being of Music Creators](#)’. The objective of this Call is to deliver a study that provides an overview of the occupational health risks musicians and music creators face, and an EU-wide mapping of existing initiatives

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contributing towards the prevention and treatment of adverse health issues related to performance and musical creation. This study should identify best practices, successful interventions and experiences. Through the analysis of these cases, the study should identify possible solutions on how to improve the health and working conditions and career longevity of musicians and music creators. **This 14 month contract has an estimated value of €150,000 (excluding VAT). The Call has a deadline of 3 February 2020, more information is available [here](#).**

Key Events and Workshops That May Be of Interest

‘NEW’: The Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI2) will run a [series of webinars for Call 20](#), which is expected to open on **21 January 2020**. The webinars will take place between 22-31 January. Participation is free of charge, but registration via the webinar page is obligatory and can be done [here](#). The presentations, recordings and participant lists will be published on the IMI website after each event. **Details of the sessions are as follows;**

- *IMI's rules and procedures (29 January);*
- *Opportunities for SMEs (30 January);*
- *Early diagnosis, prediction of radiographic outcomes and development of rational, personalised treatment strategies to improve long-term outcomes in psoriatic arthritis (22 January);*
- *Academia and industry united innovation and treatment for tuberculosis (UNITE4TB) (23 January);*
- *Tumour plasticity (24 January);*
- *Innovations to accelerate vaccine development and manufacture (27 January);*
- *Innovations to accelerate vaccine development and manufacture (28 January);* and
- *Handling of protein drug products and stability concerns (31 January).*

Further information on Call 20 can be found [here](#). Further information will be available after approval by the IMI Governing Board.

On 4 February 2020 in Brussels, the Science Business Annual Framework Conference ‘Horizon 2050: Towards a greener, smarter world’ will bring together over 300 stakeholders. The event aims to take stock of latest developments around the key pillars of the European Commission’s new agenda; and to explore their implications for the science, technology and innovation communities which will have a critical role to play in driving progress. It will also seek to address the challenge of developing the next generation of researchers, innovators and entrepreneurs who will have a leading role to play in delivering a climate-neutral, sustainable Europe by 2050. **Registration is now open and available [here](#).**

‘UPDATE’: TRA (Transport Research Arena), is holding the largest [European research and technology conference on transport and mobility, from 27-30 April 2020 in Helsinki, Finland](#). Themed *‘Rethinking transport – towards clean and inclusive mobility’*, TRA2020 brings together experts from around the world to discuss the newest innovations and future of mobility and transport. **Registration can be found [here](#) and the full four day programme can be found [here](#). An early bird rate applies until 16 January 2020.**

SAVE THE DATE: The European Commission has announced that the **2020 edition of its ‘European Development Days’ (EDD) will be organised in Brussels on 9 and 10 June 2020**. EDDs bring the development community together each year to share ideas and experiences, to inspire new partnerships and innovative solutions to the world’s most pressing challenges. Since 2006, EDD has established itself as a key fixture in the world's development calendar and is now widely considered as the 'Davos of Development'. EDD 2019's overarching title was *“Addressing inequalities: building a world which leaves no one behind”*. **Further information about the EDD 2020, including the theme, will be provided [here](#) shortly.**

The North Sea Interreg programme has announced that its next [North Sea Conference](#) will take place during the week 22-26 June 2020 in Rotterdam, the Netherlands. More information about the event and how to register will be

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provided in due course. The North Sea Programme supports cooperation projects between Denmark, Flanders, northern Germany, the Netherlands, western Sweden, the eastern half of the UK, and non-EU Member State Norway across four priority areas. **The maximum rate of funding is 50% of the total eligible costs of the project. More information can be found [here](#).**

Other European Funding News and Developments

Poland's Supreme Court has warned that the country could be forced in the future to leave the EU as a result of a series of measures introduced by Poland's ruling Law and Justice Party (PiS) granting the government greater control over the selection and discipline of the judiciary. The legislative proposals currently before the Polish parliament would make it easier to dismiss judges critical of the government's judicial policies. Judges say the proposals threaten the primacy of EU law and could be an attempt to gag the judiciary. Polish judges are nominated by the National Judicial Council (NCJ), a body that is supposed to safeguard the independence of the judiciary, and which until recently consisted of a majority of judges selected by their peers. However, in 2018 the ruling party changed the law so that the majority of judges sitting on the NCJ were appointed by the lower House of Parliament, which is controlled by PiS. The Polish Supreme Court said in a statement that the PiS party was undermining the principle of the primacy of EU law over national law: *"Contradictions between Polish and EU law.... will in all likelihood lead to an intervention by EU institutions regarding an infringement of EU treaties, and in the longer run [will lead to] the need to leave the European Union."*