



European Funding Update – Friday, 15 November 2019

SAVE THE DATE: UEA's 2020 Annual UKRO Visit (from the UK Research Office in Brussels) will take place on Friday, 6 March 2020. Please hold this date in your diaries. Next 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. 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. **Full details of the event programme will be made available in due course.**

Brexit

Prime Minister Boris Johnson has refused a request made by Ursula von der Leyen, incoming President of the European Commission, to nominate a UK Commissioner, as per the UK's legal obligation to the European Union. Given the delay to Brexit, a UK Commissioner ought to be in place as a matter of urgency so that MEPs can approve von der Leyen's full College of Commissioners before the end of November. However, Johnson has insisted the UK will not be nominating one, blaming so-called 'Purdah' rules, which apply in the run up to a General Election. As a result, the EU are seeking legal action.

On 5 November 2019, Sir Adrian Smith, Director of the Alan Turing Institute, and Graeme Reid, Chair of Science and Research Policy at University College London, published their long-awaited [report](#) for the UK Government on the future of international collaboration and research. The report states that the UK Government will need to find "substantial additional funding" for basic research if the UK cannot access the EU's 'Horizon Europe' research framework programme from 2021 onwards. In that event, the report finds the Government would have no choice but to replicate the European Research Council (ERC). Vice-Chancellor David Richardson contributed views on behalf of UEA earlier in the year, and we have created a two-page summary of the latest report, which is available through RIN's EU Team upon request.

Key Calls for Research Proposals

The €657m European Research Council (ERC) Consolidator Grant Call for 2020 has not yet formally opened on the EC Funding & Tenders Portal. Whilst this does not mean that bids cannot be developed, it prevents applicants from downloading the forms and beginning the process of building an application on the system. Once the Call does formally open, the deadline for proposals – 4 February 2020 – is not expected to change. The ERC supports proposals that will drive substantial advances in the frontiers of knowledge - in any research discipline - and encourage new, innovative thinking. They are, therefore, suitable for any School at UEA with an innovative research idea. Consolidator Grants are targeted at already independent, excellent researchers (7-12 years on from their PhD), and are designed to support PIs at the stage at which they are consolidating their own independent research team or programme in Europe. Up to €2m per grant is available for a maximum of 5 years. Usually, 100% of direct costs, plus flat-rate financing of indirect costs (based on 25% of direct costs), are awarded. In the event that the UK leaves the EU with a deal, it is

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expected that such bids would proceed and be evaluated as normal. In the event of 'no deal', the UK Government has said it plans to launch a domestic, alternative funding mechanism, covering such ERC grants. UEA researchers interested in this Call are advised to contact the EU Team at an early stage to discuss their potential options.

The EU-Korea Climate Action Project has launched its first call for proposals in the area of Renewable Energy and Energy-Efficient Buildings. The objective of this inaugural Call is to support Joint Research or Pilot Projects which can contribute to Korea's greenhouse gas emissions reduction and climate change adaptation targets. The call has two priority themes, both of which require the involvement of at least one European and one Korean entity. These priority themes also include two sub-topic areas:

- Renewable Energy:
 - Ensuring sustainability and security of Korea's power supply; and
 - Korean social acceptance of utility scale renewable energy power generation.
- Energy Efficiency in Buildings
 - Ensuring energy efficiency of new residential, commercial and industrial buildings; and
 - Improving the energy performance of the existing building stock.

Research Organisations are encouraged to apply, with funding of €20,000 available per project. The call is now open with no fixed deadline.

Further call documents and information are available [here](#) but in order to access these, registration with the EU-Korea Climate Action website is necessary.

On 12 November 2019, three Horizon 2020 Calls opened up under the banner '*Connecting economic and environmental gains - the Circular Economy*'. Part of societal challenge 5 ('*Climate Action, Environment, Resource Efficiency and Raw Materials*'), the Calls are for 'Research & Innovation Actions' (RIAs), and comprise the following topics:

- *Improving the sorting, separation and recycling of composite and multi-layer materials;*
- *Understanding the transition to a circular economy and its implications on the environment, economy and society;* and
- *Plastics in the environment: understanding the sources, transport, distribution and impacts of plastics pollution.*

All the above Calls are two-stage, and have an initial deadline of 13 February 2020, and (if successful at stage one) a final deadline of 3 September 2020.

On 12 November 2019, a total of ten Horizon 2020 Calls opened up under the banner '*Building a low-carbon, climate resilient future*'. Part of societal challenge 5 ('*Climate Action, Environment, Resource Efficiency and Raw Materials*'), the Calls are for 'Research & Innovation Actions' (RIAs), and comprise the following topics:

- *Scientific support to designing mitigation pathways and policies;*
- *Advancing climate services;*
- *Climate resilience of European coastal cities and settlements;*
- *Understanding climate-water-energy-food nexus and streamlining water-related policies;*
- *Forest Fires risk reduction: towards an integrated fire management approach in the EU;*
- *Multi-hazard risk management for risk-informed decision-making in the EU;*
- *Polar climate: understanding the polar processes in a global context in the Arctic and Antarctic Regions;*
- *Developing the next generation of Earth System Models;*
- *Integrated GEOSS climate applications to support adaptation and mitigation measures of the Paris Agreement;* and
- *Supporting the implementation of GEOSS in the Arctic in collaboration with Copernicus.*

All the above Calls are two-stage, and have an initial deadline of 13 February 2020, and (if successful at stage one) a final deadline of 3 September 2020.

On 12 November 2019, two Horizon 2020 Calls opened up under the banner ‘*Greening the economy in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)*’. Part of societal challenge 5 (‘*Climate Action, Environment, Resource Efficiency and Raw Materials*’), the Calls are for ‘Innovation Actions’ (IAs), and comprise the following topics:

- ***Strengthening international collaboration: enhanced natural treatment solutions for water security and ecological quality in cities;*** and
- ***Addressing wild pollinators decline and its effects on biodiversity and ecosystem services.***

The Calls are two-stage, and have an initial deadline of 13 February 2020, and (if successful at stage one) a final deadline of 3 September 2020.

On 5 November 2019, three new Horizon 2020 Calls opened up under the banner: ‘*Boosting the effectiveness of the Security Union*’. Part of societal challenge 6 (‘*Europe in a changing world – Inclusive, innovative and reflective societies*’), the Call is for Research & Innovation Actions (RIAs) and includes the following topics:

- ***Addressing radicalization through social inclusion;***
- ***Foreign and Security Policy and the expanding scope of the EU's external engagement;***
- ***Developing deliberative and participatory democracies through experimentation.***

(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.)

All the Calls are single stage, with a deadline of 12 March 2020.

On 5 November 2019, two new Horizon 2020 Calls opened up under the banner: ‘*Migration*’. Part of societal challenge 6 (‘*Europe in a changing world – Inclusive, innovative and reflective societies*’), the Call is for Research & Innovation Actions (RIAs) and includes the following topics:

- ***Inclusive and innovative practices for the integration of recently arrived migrants in local communities;***
- ***Narratives on migration and its impact: past and present.***

All the Calls are single stage, with a deadline of 12 March 2020.

On 5 November 2019, four new Horizon 2020 Calls opened up under the banner: ‘*Transformations*’. Part of societal challenge 6 (‘*Europe in a changing world – Inclusive, innovative and reflective societies*’), the Calls are for Research & Innovation Actions (RIAs) and include the following topics:

- ***Enhancing access and uptake of education to reverse inequalities;***
- ***Technological transformations, skills and globalization - future challenges for shared prosperity;***
- ***Curation of digital assets and advanced digitisation;***
- ***Evolving European media landscapes and Europeanisation.***

The Calls are all single stage, with a deadline of 12 March 2020.

On 19 November, a new Horizon 2020 call will open under the banner: ‘*Digital transformation in Health and Care*’. Part of societal challenge 1 (‘*Health, demographic change and wellbeing*’), the Call is for Research and Innovation Actions (RIAs) and is titled:

- ***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.***

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

Key Calls for Dissemination and/or Networking Activities

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On 12 November 2019, a Horizon 2020 Call opened up under the banner '**Connecting economic and environmental gains - the Circular Economy**'. Part of societal challenge 5 ('Climate Action, Environment, Resource Efficiency and Raw Materials'), the Call is for 'Co-ordination & Support Actions' (CSAs), and is entitled:

- **A common European framework to harmonise procedures for plastics pollution monitoring and assessments.**

The Call is single-stage and has a deadline of 13 February 2020.

On 12 November 2019, three Horizon 2020 Calls opened up under the banner '**Building a low-carbon, climate resilient future**'. Part of societal challenge 5 ('Climate Action, Environment, Resource Efficiency and Raw Materials'), the Calls are for 'Co-ordination & Support Actions' (IAs), and comprise the following topics:

- **Coordination of European Polar research;**
- **Enhancing the Belmont Forum Collaborative Research Action on Climate, Environment and Health;** and
- **Towards a comprehensive European mountain research strategy.**

All the Calls are single-stage and have a deadline of 13 February 2020.

On 12 November 2019, two Horizon 2020 Calls opened up under the banner '**Greening the economy in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**'. Part of societal challenge 5 ('Climate Action, Environment, Resource Efficiency and Raw Materials'), the Calls are for 'Co-ordination & Support Actions' (IAs), and comprise the following topics:

- **Sustainable management in extractive industries;** and
- **Monitoring ecosystems through research, innovation and technology.**

The Calls are single-stage and have a deadline of 13 February 2020.

On 5 November 2019, a number of Erasmus+ Calls opened which look to support mobility and knowledge exchange in Higher Education Institutions. The Calls which may be of interest to UEA colleagues are:

- **Jean Monnet Projects** with a deadline of 20 February 2020;
- **Jean Monnet Networks** with a deadline of 20 February 2020;
- **Jean Monnet Centres of Excellence** with a deadline of 20 February 2020;
- **Jean Monnet Chairs** with a deadline of 20 February 2020;
- **Social inclusion and common values: the contribution in the field of education and training** with a deadline of 25 February 2020;
- **Knowledge Alliances** with a deadline of 26 February 2020; and

The Calls are single-stage. In the event that the UK leaves the EU with a deal, it is expected that such bids would proceed and be evaluated as normal. In the event of 'no deal', there is no indication yet how the bids will be treated. UEA researchers interested in this Call are advised to contact the EU Team in RIN at an early stage to discuss their potential options.

In addition to the above Erasmus+ Calls, the second Erasmus+ **Call for 'European Universities'** has been launched with mixed feedback. While the increased budget for up to 24 newly funded alliances has been welcomed, there has also been criticism that the relatively low level of funding may not allow networks to be particularly ambitious. With a goal of 50% student mobility between universities, there are concerns that this target will be hard to achieve, as it would cost too much when compared to the funding on offer. **More information can be found [here](#). The deadline is 26 February 2020.**

On 5 November 2019, a new Horizon 2020 Call opened up under the banner: ‘Migration’. Part of societal challenge 6 (*‘Europe in a changing world – Inclusive, innovative and reflective societies’*), the Call is for Coordination & Support Actions (CSAs) and is **entitled:**

- ***Sustainable practices for the integration of newly arrived migrants into societies.***

(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 Call is single stage, with a deadline of 12 March 2020.

On 5 November 2019, a new Horizon 2020 Call opened up under the banner: ‘Governance’. Part of societal challenge 6 (*‘Europe in a changing world – Inclusive, innovative and reflective societies’*), the Call is for Coordination & Support Actions (CSAs) and is **entitled:**

- ***Support to the networking of national R&I Think Tanks for helping co-shape and share a common perspective on R&I policy across Europe.***

The Call is single-stage and has a deadline of 12 March 2020.

On 12 November 2019, two Horizon 2020 Calls opened up under the banner ‘Digital transformation in Health and Care’. Part of societal challenge 1 (*‘Health, demographic change and wellbeing’*), the Calls are for ‘Co-ordination & Support Actions’ (IAs), **and comprise the following topics:**

- ***Scaling up innovation for active and healthy ageing;*** and
- ***Supporting deployment of eHealth in low and lower middle income countries in Africa for better health outcomes.***

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

Key Calls for ‘Close to Market’ Activities

On 12 November 2019, a Horizon 2020 Call opened up under the banner ‘Connecting economic and environmental gains - the Circular Economy’. Part of societal challenge 5 (*‘Climate Action, Environment, Resource Efficiency and Raw Materials’*), the Call is for ‘Innovation Actions’ (IAs), **and is entitled:**

- ***Develop and pilot circular systems in plastics, textiles and furniture sectors.***

The Call is two-stage, and has an initial deadline of 13 February 2020, and (if successful at stage one) a final deadline of 3 September 2020.

On 12 November 2019, a Horizon 2020 Call opened up under the banner ‘Building a low-carbon, climate resilient future’. Part of societal challenge 5 (*‘Climate Action, Environment, Resource Efficiency and Raw Materials’*), the Call is for ‘Innovation Actions’ (IAs), **and is entitled:**

- ***Innovative nature-based solutions for carbon neutral cities and improved air quality.***

The Call is two-stage, and has an initial deadline of 13 February 2020, and (if successful at stage one) a final deadline of 3 September 2020.

On 12 November 2019, a Horizon 2020 Call opened up under the banner ‘Greening the economy in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)’. Part of societal challenge 5 (*‘Climate Action, Environment, Resource Efficiency and Raw Materials’*), the Call is for ‘Innovation Actions’ (IAs), **and is entitled:**

- ***Raw materials innovation actions: exploration and Earth observation.***

The Call is two-stage, and has an initial deadline of 13 February 2020, and (if successful at stage one) a final deadline of 3 September 2020.

On 5 November 2019, a new Horizon 2020 Call opened up under the banner: ‘Migration’. Part of societal challenge 6 (*‘Europe in a changing world – Inclusive, innovative and reflective societies’*), the Call is for Innovation Actions (IAs) and is entitled:

- **Mapping and overcoming integration challenges for migrant children.**

(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.)

The Call is single stage, with a deadline of 12 March 2020.

Key Calls for Tenders

Other European Funding Opportunities

The Laerdal Foundation invites applications for its ‘saving lives at birth in low-resource settings’ grants. These support practically oriented projects aimed at achieving the UN’s Sustainable Development Goal, which includes reducing infant mortality rates and maternal deaths by two-thirds from 2010 to 2030. Projects of particular interest include:

- Innovative approaches to more efficient education and implementation;
- Collaborative initiatives; and
- Regional efforts or selected focus countries such as Tanzania, Ethiopia, Malawi, Bangladesh, India and Nepal.

For applications with projects in developing countries, priority is given to those that have the potential to document long-term practical value, and benefit additional regions. Funding for up to 20 projects are available per year; with grants worth up to USD 50,000 each. Higher amounts may be awarded to proposals that are more ambitious. **The Call has a deadline of 1 April 2020, and is repeated annually. More information is available [here](#).**

International Prizes and Awards

The World Food Prize Foundation invites nominations for its ‘World Food Prize’. The World Food Prize is awarded for a specific, exceptionally significant, individual achievement that advances human development with a demonstrable increase in the quantity, quality, availability of, or access to food through creative interventions at any point within the full scope of the food system. Any academic institution, private or public organisation, or governmental unit may nominate. Nominees must be able to attend the award ceremony. The prize is worth \$250,000. **The deadline for submitting a nomination is 1 May 2020. More information is available [here](#).** To submit a nomination, please see [here](#).

Key Consultations

The European commission has called for responses to their consultation on EU competition rules on horizontal agreements between companies. The evaluation of the Horizontal Block Exemption Regulations was launched in September 2019 in order to gather evidence on their functioning, together with the Horizontal Guidelines. The evaluation will allow the Commission to determine whether it should let the Horizontal Block Exemption Regulations lapse, prolong their duration or revise them, together with the Horizontal Guidelines. **Contributions can be made [here](#) and further information is available [here](#).**

Key Events and Workshops That May Be of Interest

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Registration will close on 25 November 2019 for the Bio-based Industries Joint Undertaking Stakeholder Forum on Wednesday, 4 December 2019 in Brussels. The BBI-JU is a collaboration between industrial partners and the European Union. BBI JU produces an Annual Work Programme of calls focusing on feedstocks, biorefineries and markets, products and policies for the bioeconomy. This event is intended for those who have participated in BBI-JU calls before as well as for those who might be involved in the future or who are impacted by their work. The Forum will consist of a comprehensive programme of high-level speakers, with keynotes, panels and parallel sessions. There will also be networking opportunities and an exhibition of BBI-funded projects. **More details can be found [here](#) and the registration page is [here](#).**

Registration is now open for an information session on Horizon 2020 Societal Challenge 6: ‘Europe in a changing world - Inclusive, innovative and reflective societies’ (SC6), hosted by the UK National Contact Point, in London on 5 December 2019. The event will take place between 09.00-14.30 at King’s College London and will provide attendees with an opportunity to hear from current UK Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH) participants in Horizon 2020 projects, a Horizon 2020 evaluator, and will also provide information on upcoming SSH opportunities for UK researchers (focusing on SC6 topics but with an additional UKRO-led session on ERC calls). **A draft agenda and information on [how to register](#) are available on the event webpages.**

The International Conference on Forests for Biodiversity and Climate Change will be held on 4-5 February 2020 in Brussels, Belgium. The Directorate-General for Environment, responsible for EU policy on the environment, is hosting the Conference with the aim of discussing the pressures on EU forest ecosystems due to climate change and sustainable forest use. **For more information, please [email](#) the Directorate-General’s office.**

Save the date: The Atlantic Ocean Research Alliance’s ‘All-Atlantic Ocean Research Forum’ will be held on 6-7 February 2020 in Brussels, Belgium. The All-Atlantic Ocean Research Forum will gather political and community leaders, researchers, industry, Youth Ambassadors and, inspirational speakers from along and across the Atlantic, from the Arctic to Antarctica, to showcase the results of cooperation and their impact on the citizens living on the shores of the Atlantic. **More information can be found [here](#).**

Other European Funding News and Developments

The EU’s next research programme, Horizon Europe, faces a cut of €12bn, according to Christian Ehler, one of the MEPs who steered it through the European Parliament. Speaking at the Parliament Committee on Industry, Research, and Energy (ITRE) on Tuesday afternoon this week, Ehler said he had heard that morning from the European Commission about the Finnish Presidency’s latest proposal on the overall budget. It was already clear the proposed Horizon Europe budget was under threat due to the desire of Member State governments to prioritise funding elsewhere, but this is the first indication we have had of the potential extent of the threat. That said, if the budget reduction is realised, Horizon Europe would still have a slightly larger budget than Horizon 2020.