



## European Funding Update – Friday, 21 February 2020

Registration is now open for UEA's 2020 Annual UKRO Visit (from the UK Research Office in Brussels) on Friday, 6 March 2020. The 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. **Two identical plenary sessions for UEA researchers/academics will be held from 11am to 12.30pm, and from 2.30pm to 4.00pm, focused on the enduring opportunities for UEA in 2020, given that we now know the UK will remain an eligible participant in 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. **Please e-mail [rin.euteam@uea.ac.uk](mailto:rin.euteam@uea.ac.uk) to book your place (confirming whether am or pm session preferred).**

### Brexit

As part of a post-Brexit reshuffle, Prime Minister Boris Johnson sacked highly regarded Universities Minister Chris Skidmore. He was replaced by Michelle Donelan, MP for Chippenham. Donelan becomes the fifth Universities Minister in little over two years, following two spells each for Chris Skidmore, Jo Johnson, and Sam Gyimah. The universities ministerial brief formerly included responsibility for science, a priority for the new Government, which has pledged to double research investment. However, responsibility for science has now been separated from the universities brief for the first time since 2010, with Amanda Solloway, the MP for Derby North, named as the new Science Minister. The last time the universities and science brief was split, at least both ministers were within the same Government department. Now, the universities brief sits in the Department for Education, and the science brief sits within the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS). This has led to concerns amongst universities that the interdependency between Higher Education and research will be less represented in Whitehall, at time when the UK is about to enter crucial talks with the EU on whether the UK will join the next EU research framework programme, Horizon Europe (2021-2027), as an 'associated country'.

The new President of the European Research Council, Professor Mauro Ferrari, has said he is "*optimistic*" that there will continue to be close scientific collaboration with the UK after Brexit, as both sides of the Channel want close existing links to continue. However, he also acknowledged that the future relationship with the UK was his biggest challenge at the ERC. Professor Ferrari made his comments at the American Association for the Advancement of Science Meeting in Seattle. He added: "*The stakes are so high. It is in everybody's interest that a solution that is as good as the current one or better is found.*" The UK currently wins more than a fifth of all the ERC's grants, accounting for more than £3bn.

### Key Calls for Research Proposals

Seven Horizon 2020 Calls are currently open 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.

The Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI2) Call 20 is now open. The new Call will be looking to fund projects focussing on cancer, tuberculosis, vaccines, psoriatic arthritis and drug based on proteins. The Calls are for 'Research and Innovation Actions' (RIAs), and include the following 6 topics:

- *Topic 1: Early diagnosis, prediction of radiographic outcomes and development of rational, personalised treatment strategies to improve long-term outcomes in psoriatic arthritis;*
- *Topic 2: Innovations to accelerate vaccine development and manufacture;*
- *Topic 3: Academia and industry united innovation and treatment for tuberculosis (UNITE4TB) This topic is part of the IMI AMR Accelerator Programme. Applicants should also read the Questions and Answers on the programme (document last updated November 2019);*
- *Topic 4: Tumour plasticity;*
- *Topic 5: Proton versus photon therapy for oesophageal cancer – a trimodality strategy;* and
- *Topic 6: Handling of protein drug products and stability concerns.*

This is a two-stage call, with the first deadline on 21 April 2020. Proposals must be submitted via the electronic submission system of the Funding and Tenders Portal. More information can be found [here](#).

Seven Horizon 2020 Calls are currently open 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.

Two Horizon 2020 Calls are currently open 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.*

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

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*.

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

**\*NEW\*** On 5 May 2020, six Horizon 2020 Calls will open up under the banner ‘*Building a low-carbon, climate resilient future*’. Part of societal challenge 3 (‘*Secure, clean and efficient energy*’), the Calls are for ‘Research & Innovation Actions’ (RIAs), and comprise the following topics:

- *Geological Storage Pilots*;
- *European Energy and Climate Modelling Forum (2020-2024)*;
- *Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH) aspects of the Clean-Energy Transition*;
- *International Cooperation with USA and/or China on alternative renewable fuels from sunlight for energy, transport and chemical storage*;
- *International cooperation with Japan for Research and Innovation on advanced biofuels and alternative renewable fuels*; and
- *International cooperation with Canada on advanced biofuels and bioenergy*.

(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 are all single-stage, with a deadline of 1 September 2020.

On 8 April 2020, the €328m **Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowships Call 2020** will open up. As the UK has now departed the EU with a ‘deal’, the agreed transitional period will see the UK remain a full participant within Horizon 2020 for the remainder of the programme until 31 December 2020. As a result, **the UK is fully eligible for this MSCA IF Call, and will be treated as if it were an EU Member State**. Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowships aim to enhance the innovative potential of experienced researchers through advanced training, international and inter-sectoral mobility. There are two types: *European Fellowships* (1-2 years, undertaken at a host institution and open to researchers currently within or outside Europe); and *Global Fellowships* (which involve a 1-2 year secondment to a Third (non-EU) Country followed by a mandatory 12 month return phase at the host institution). Potential fellows must, at the deadline for the submission for proposals, be in possession of a doctoral degree or have at least four years full-time equivalent research experience. **Ian Beggs will be running a RIN Info Session on the afternoon of Wednesday, 19 February 2020 on this Call, which has a deadline of 9 September 2020. It will be held in the ARTS Building 2.06, at 2.30pm (for one hour max).** Please e-mail [rin.euteam@uea.ac.uk](mailto:rin.euteam@uea.ac.uk) to book a place on this session.

**\*NEW\*** On 8 April 2020, the €100m **Marie Skłodowska-Curie COFUND Call 2020** will also open. MSCA COFUND can support post-doctoral fellowship programmes or doctoral training programmes and the scheme aims to stimulate regional, national or international programmes to foster excellence in researchers' training, mobility and career development. This is achieved by co-funding new or existing regional, national, and international programmes to open up to, and provide for, international, intersectoral and interdisciplinary research training, as well as transnational and cross-sectoral mobility of researchers at all stages of their career. COFUND is a bottom-up scheme, meaning that the

research training programmes can be on any topic. **The maximum co-funding rate is 50%. The upcoming Call will have a single-stage deadline of 29 September 2020.**

**On 5 February 2020, the European Research Council (ERC) Consolidator Grant 2020 Call closed. The ERC received 2,506 proposals, an increase of 2.2% compared to the 2019 Call when 2,452 applications were submitted.** The ERC is now starting evaluation of the proposals. **The selected projects will be announced at the end of 2020.** The ERC supports proposals that will drive substantial advances in the frontiers of knowledge - in any research discipline - and encourage new, innovative thinking. 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.

### **Key Calls for Networking and/or Dissemination Activities**

**Five Horizon 2020 Calls are currently open 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.***

*(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 are single-stage, with a deadline of 21 April 2020.**

**Two Horizon 2020 Calls are currently open 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.**

**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](#).**

*If you have any questions or queries on EU funding, or no longer wish to receive this fortnightly update, please contact:*

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**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.*

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

### **Key Calls for ‘Close to Market’ Activities**

**Four Horizon 2020 Calls are currently open 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;*

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

**Two Horizon 2020 Calls are currently open 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 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

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- *Prevention, detection, response and mitigation of combined physical and cyber threats to critical infrastructure in Europe.*

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

**\*NEW\*** On 5 May 2020, four Horizon 2020 Calls will open up under the banner ‘*Building a low-carbon, climate resilient future*’. Part of societal challenge 3 (‘*Secure, clean and efficient energy*’), the Calls are for ‘Innovation Actions (IAs), and comprise the following topics:

- *Demonstration of innovative and sustainable hydropower solutions targeting unexplored small-scale hydropower potential in Central Asia;*
- *Industrial (Waste) Heat-to-Power conversion;*
- *Low carbon industrial production using CCUS;*and
- *Efficient combination of Concentrated Solar Power and desalination (with particular focus on the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) region.*

The Calls are all single-stage, with a deadline of 1 September 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.

### Key Calls for Action Grants

The France (Channel) England Interreg programme has announced that, post the UK’s departure from the EU on 31 January 2020 with a ‘deal’, the programme still has €50m of funding to commit, and successful proposals are guaranteed for partners on both sides of the Channel for the lifetime of future projects (through to 2023). The Programme will be launching some new call dates for 2020 and beyond. **Further information will be posted [here](#).** FCE Interreg programme funds cooperation projects between the coastal regions of France and England, with a maximum co-funding rate of c69% of total eligible costs. The projects they are looking for should aim to bring about improvements in one of the following areas: innovation, social innovation, low carbon technologies, natural and cultural heritage, or coastal and transitional water ecosystems.

**In April 2020, the EU LIFE Programme is expected to launch its 2020 Calls for Proposals.** LIFE is the EU’s funding instrument for climate action, nature conservation and the environment. The general objective of LIFE is to contribute to the implementation, updating and development of EU environmental policy and legislation through the co-financing of pilot or demonstration pan-European projects. The programme has two sub-programmes; one for ‘Environment’, which covers three priority areas of environment and resource efficiency, nature and biodiversity, and environmental governance and information; and one for ‘Climate Action’, which covers climate change mitigation, climate change adaptation, and climate governance and information. **The 2020 Calls, which cover both LIFE sub-programmes – ‘Environment’ and ‘Climate Action’ – have a variety of deadlines, ranging from June 2020 through to September 2020. Outline dates can be found [here](#).** The Environment Programmes operates a two-stage application process, whereas the ‘Climate Action’ Calls are single-stage.

### Other European Funding Opportunities

**\*NEW\*** The Velux Foundation invites applications for its research grants. These support innovative projects addressing the effects of daylight on humans and nature, healthy ageing or ophthalmology research. Basic and applied research projects are eligible. The Velux Foundation encourage applications that would not be eligible for funding to

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national Research Councils but follow the Velux Foundation values, found [here](#). Grants are worth between CHF 50,000 (c£39,000) and CHF 100,000 (c£78,000) each per year, for between one and four years. More information is available [here](#).

### International Prizes and Awards to Bid for

**The Ludvig Holberg Memorial Fund invites nominations for the Holberg prize.** The Holberg Prize was established by the Norwegian Parliament in 2003, and has a monetary value of NOK 6 000,000 (approx. EUR 620,000). This recognises contributions to research in the arts and humanities, social science, law or theology, either within these fields or through cross disciplinary work. Self-nominations and posthumous nominations are not accepted but the nominated scholar can be from anywhere in the world. **Nominations close on 15 June 2020, further information is available [here](#).**

**\*NEW\* The Banco Bilbao Vizcaya Argentaria (BBVA) Foundation invites nominations for its 'Frontiers of Knowledge Awards'.** These recognise contributions in a broad number of areas of scientific knowledge, technology, humanities and artistic creation fields. Awards are available in eight categories:

- *Basic Sciences (Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics);*
- *Biology and Biomedicine;*
- *Information and Communication Technologies;*
- *Ecology and Conservation Biology;*
- *Climate Change;*
- *Economics, Finance and Management;*
- *Humanities and Social Sciences;* and
- *Music and Opera.*

The BBVA Foundation Frontiers of Knowledge Awards consist of €400,000, a diploma and a commemorative artwork in each of their eight categories. Self-nominations are not permitted. Please contact RIN's EU team in the first instance. **Nominations are due by 30 June 2020, more information is available [here](#).**

### Key Consultations

**The European Commission have launched a consultation on 'Europe's Beating Cancer Plan'.** The Commission invites all interested individuals or organisations to share their views and experiences to feed into a European cancer plan that puts European citizens at its centre. The Commission intends to design the plan to cover the entire cycle of the disease starting from prevention and early diagnosis to treatment and quality of life of patients and survivors. **The consultation period will come to a close on 28 April 2020. Further information is available [here](#).**

### Key Events and Workshops That May Be of Interest

**Registration is open for a Conference entitled "The Role of Cultural Heritage in Socio-Economic Development and Preservation of Democratic Values - HERItage", being held Opatija, Croatia on 11-13 March 2020.** Part of Croatia's Presidency of the Council of the European Union in the first half of 2020, the Conference is being organised in collaboration with the Croatian Ministry of Science & Education and is financed through Horizon 2020 societal challenge 6 'Europe in a changing world – inclusive, innovative and reflective societies'. **The three-day HERItage conference will focus on research and innovation in the field of the social sciences and the humanities, with particular dedication to the domain of cultural heritage, including the role of digitalisation and the importance of education. More information can be found [here](#). There is no Conference fee but all participants must register in advance, and the deadline to do so is 29 February 2020. More information can be found [here](#).**

**The BLACKSWAN Foundation and the International Rare Diseases Research Consortium (IRDiRC) have announced that the 'RE(ACT) Congress' and 'IRDiRC Conference 2020' are being held on 11-14 March 2020 in Berlin, Germany.** At this joint event, young and professional scientists, patients and patient representatives, and other rare diseases stakeholders will discuss the latest cutting-edge research, innovation, and policy with the rare disease leaders. The scientific program encompasses topics like diagnosis and artificial intelligence, molecular epidemiology, innovative clinical trials, patient engagement and drugs for all. **More information can be found [here](#).**

**Registration is now open for the [Information and Brokerage Event](#) being held on 12-13 March 2020 in Brussels on Horizon 2020 Societal Challenge 7 ('Secure Societies - Protecting freedom and security of Europe and its citizens').** The event is being organised by the Network of [Secure Societies National Contact Points 'SEREN4'](#), in collaboration with the European Commission and will provide details of the 2020 SC7 calls due to be published in March 2020. There will therefore be a particular focus on the following security-related themes:

- *Critical Infrastructure Protection;*
- *Disaster Resilience: Safeguarding and securing society;*
- *Fight Against Crime and Terrorism;*
- *Border Security and External Security;*
- *General Matters on Security;*
- *Artificial Intelligence and Security;* and
- *Digital Security.*

The event will provide background information on each Call topic as well as details of legal and financial considerations. There will also be ample opportunity for networking with other stakeholders and to discuss issues with call coordinators. **Registration for the event is open until 6 March 2020, and can be accessed [here](#).**

**The 11th International Conference on Improving Energy Efficiency in Commercial Buildings and Smart Communities (IEECB&SC'20) will be held in Frankfurt, Germany on 12 to 13 March 2020.** The IEECB&SC Conference seeks to bring together all the key players in these sectors, including commercial buildings investors and property managers, academia and experts, equipment manufacturers, service providers, urban planners and local and national policymakers, with a view to exchange information and to network. **More Information can be found [here](#).**

**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](#).**

**The European Commission will be holding an '[Information and Networking Day](#)' on 30 April 2020 in Brussels on the 2020 LIFE Call for project proposals.** The LIFE Programme is the EU's principal funding programme for environmental, nature conservation and climate action projects throughout Europe. The event is open to potential applicants presenting project proposals on green technology, nature protection and climate action. Participants will be invited to a morning information session on the 2020 LIFE Call. The afternoon will be dedicated to networking with fellow participants to share experiences, match with potential new partners and meet representatives of the LIFE programme from the European Commission. Registration will open in Spring 2020. **More information and the draft agenda will follow in February [here](#).**

**The INSPIRE 2020 Conference will take place in Dubrovnik, Croatia from 12-15 May 2020.** The conference will focus on sustainable digitalisation and digital sustainability. The Conference will look at digital developments and how they interact with data ecosystems, as well as the trade-offs and negative effects of digitalisations and how to mitigate them can also be raised, in particular when the link to the data themes is made. **More information is available [here](#).**

**The European Maritime Day (EMD) 2020, organised jointly by the European Commission, the City of Cork and the Our Ocean Wealth Summit, will be held on 14 and 15 May 2020 in Cork City Hall.** ('Our Ocean Wealth' is Ireland's flagship annual event for the marine sector and will be held back-to-back with the 'SeaFest', Ireland's largest free family-friendly maritime celebration.) The EMD aims to be an interactive experience to catch up on the current state of play on a broad range of issues concerning the blue economy and the marine environment and discuss ways of moving forward. **More information is available [here](#).**

**The European Food Safety authority (EFSA) is holding a scientific colloquium on 8-9 June 2020.** The topic of the event is '*A coordinated approach to assess the human health risks of micro- and nanoplastics in food*'. **Online registration is not yet available, however further information can be found [here](#).**

**\*UPDATE\*** **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 2020's overarching title is "*The Green Deal for a Sustainable Future*" with the two themes '*A Green Economy for People and Nature*' and '*Protecting Biodiversity and People*'. **Further information about the EDD 2020, including the theme, will be provided [here](#) shortly.**

**\*NEW\*** **The European Commission, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation (DG R&I), and the European Space Agency (ESA) are jointly organising the Earth Observation (EO) for Polar Science Workshop from 17 to 19 June 2020 in Copenhagen, Denmark.** The objective of the workshop is to review the latest advances in the use of EO technology for Polar research and to move forward with the definition of a scientific agenda that may drive future ESA and DG R&I coordinated R&D investments. The workshop will be structured as a combination of state-of-the-art scientific talks in plenary and break-out working sessions. The working sessions will be dedicated to identifying key scientific challenges for the future. **More information is available [here](#).**

**The next annual 'EU Sustainable Energy Week' will take place in Brussels from 22 to 26 June 2020.** As part of the 2020 event, a Policy Conference will take place from 23 to 25 June 2020 - the biggest European conference dedicated to renewables and efficient energy use in Europe. Sessions organised by the European Commission and energy stakeholders will focus on sustainable energy issues, debate new policy developments, best practices and sustainable energy ideas. Past speakers and participants have come from city councils and the European institutions, private companies and research organisations, citizen groups and NGOs. **Registration for the conference will be launched in April 2020. Further information will be posted [here](#).**

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

**The European Commission, in collaboration with University of Milan-Bicocca, Brunel University London and University of Ca' Foscari, is organising the 7th 'Health Econometrics workshop' (HEW 2020) in Ispra, Italy on 13-17 July 2020.** The workshop welcomes research empirical (applied econometrics) papers that evaluate current or past health policies and undertake analyses which shed light on important health policy questions. The workshop will

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consist of plenary sessions only, which will host keynote speakers, along with the presentation of selected papers submitted through a call for papers. **More information can be found [here](#).**

**The European Commission, has announced that European Research & Innovation Days will be organised in Brussels on 22-24 September 2020.** More information will be available soon. The event was organised for the first time last year and video recordings of the individual sessions are available [online](#).

### **Other European Funding News and Developments**

**Crunch talks between the 27 EU Member States on the 2021-2027 EU Budget are proving difficult, with no agreement yet reached.** The future overall budget includes the allocation for Horizon Europe, the success research framework programme to Horizon 2020. There are disagreement over how to fill a €60bn-€75bn funding gap created by the UK's departure from the EU. Brexit has left the EU struggling to finance ambitious policies to fight climate change, aid poorer regions and subsidise farmers without placing a heavier financial burden on richer northern European countries. A key barrier to progress has been proposals from Brussels to phase out the rebates granted to Germany, the Netherlands, Denmark, Sweden and Austria — all of which are among the largest net payers into the EU budget (these five countries' rebates were worth €6.4bn in 2020, according to European Commission figures, with Germany the biggest recipient at €3.76bn). Poland's Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki described the discussions as *"the most difficult negotiations in history"* in relation to the EU budget. It may be that no agreement can be reached this weekend, and another summit it needed. **Any delay in finalising the EU Budget for 2021-2027 raises the prospect of future EU programmes such as Horizon Europe and Erasmus not launching on time next year.**

**The United States has issued a warning to the European Union that it is currently minded to reject its overtures to join the Horizon Europe research framework programme (2021-2027).** The Director of the US State Department's Office of Science and Technology, Constance C. Arvis, said this month that EU-US cooperation in research *"is not where we would like it to be"* and that the terms the European Commission has offered for joining its programme *"give us pause."* As part of EU efforts to expand the international reach of Europe, due to start next January with a proposed seven-year budget of €94.1bn, the Commission is discussing the possibility of 'associate membership' with a broader range of non-EU countries, such as the US, Canada, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore and South Korea. However, the Commission is proposing that in the future, all non-EU countries, including longstanding partners like Switzerland and Israel, only get out of Horizon Europe as much money as they put into it, a change from the previous formula that saw some countries ending up with more money than they committed (net-recipients). Director Arvis said these budgetary terms were *"not an incentive to associate"*. Other issues of concern to the US include a lack of control over how the money is spent, and concerns over Intellectual Property Rights.