



European Funding Update – Friday, 24 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. 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 expect the UK to 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 to book your place (confirming whether am or pm session preferred).

Brexit

This week saw the Brexit Withdrawal Agreement Bill successfully complete its legislative passage through the UK Parliament. Earlier in the week, the Bill had been agreed by the House of Lords, but with five amendments that MPs subsequently rejected. The Bill was then sent back to the House of Lords, where Peers backed down and reluctantly accepted the Government's provisions within the Bill. The Bill is now awaiting Royal Assent. Then, the European Parliament needs to give its approval next week. After that, the UK can formally leave the EU on 31 January 2020 (at 11pm) with a 'deal' and then enter a 'Transitional Period' through to 31 December 2020.

However, this week also saw the same Brexit Withdrawal Bill rejected by all three devolved Parliaments – the Scottish Parliament, the Welsh Assembly and the Northern Ireland Assembly. Although none of the devolved Parliaments have granted approval for this particular piece of legislation, **their actions have not stopped the Bill from passing through the UK Parliament.**

The Government this week issued a letter to all Managing Authorities of European Territorial Co-operation (ETC) Programmes, such as Interreg, to let them know that the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) *"has stood down the preparations for leaving the EU without a deal for ETC Programmes..."* and that *"ETC Programmes will continue as originally planned to the end of the current Programme."* The letter also presents clear advice for project partners: *"You and all UK project partners should continue to deliver project activities and make claims to the Joint Secretariat / Managing Authorities in accordance with the rules and requirements set out by your Programme and Joint Secretariat until your project end date. This also means that there should be no change for UK lead partners or the claims and payment processes. In addition, you are also eligible to apply for further ETC (Interreg) funding as part of this current 2014-2020 Programme period."*

The Industrial Communities Alliance (ICA) – a body that represents local authorities in the industrial areas of England, Scotland and Wales – has published a [report](#) setting out its own proposals for the 'UK Shared Prosperity Fund' (SPF), which will replace current EU Structural & Investment Funding (ESIFs). The ICA is demanding that the new SPF (the as yet to be unveiled, post-Brexit replacement for the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), European Social Fund (ESF) and the European Agriculture Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)) receives funding of

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

Ian Beggs, European Funding Manager I.Beggs@uea.ac.uk or 01603 593399

at least **£1.8bn a year from the Treasury**. The UK currently receives around £1.4bn a year from ESIFs. However, the ICA said that after adjusting for inflation, and for a broadening of the scope of the Fund so that it can tackle a wider range of regeneration issues than allowed under current EU rules, the budget for the SPF needs to be £1.8bn a year.

Key Calls for Research Proposals

'NEW': The Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI2) Call 20 launched on 21 January 2020. 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.***

(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.)

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](#).**

'NEW': The European Research Council (ERC) have funded a further 17 Consolidator Grant applications from the Reserve List for the €600m 2019 Call, taking the total number of grants awarded to 318. Five of these additional awards are to UK host institutions. **In total, 2,453 proposals were evaluated, meaning that the final success rate is 13.0%. The UK will host 55 successful projects**, the highest number (ahead of Germany (54), and France (45)). **More information can be found [here](#).**

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 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.

The Joint Programming Initiatives (JPIs) on 'Water', 'Oceans' and 'Antimicrobial Resistance' (AMR) have pre-announced a joint transnational Call, entitled '**Aquatic Pollutants**'. The collaboration will seek to develop a common strategy between the three JPIs dealing with emerging pollutants, pathogens and antimicrobial resistance in the whole water cycle. This transnational call will support research and innovation projects that establish integrated and cross-sectoral approaches for risk-management under one of three main themes:

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

Ian Beggs, European Funding Manager I.Beggs@uea.ac.uk or 01603 593399

1. *Measuring – Environmental behaviour of contaminants of emerging concern (CECs), pathogens and antimicrobial resistant bacteria in aquatic ecosystems;*
2. *Evaluating – Risk assessment and management of CECs, pathogens and antimicrobial resistant bacteria from aquatic ecosystems (inland and marine) to human health and environment; and*
3. *Taking Actions – Strategies to reduce CECs, pathogens and antimicrobial resistant bacteria in aquatic ecosystems (inland and marine).*

The Call is two-stage and expected to open 17 February 2020, additionally there is a budget of €25m. More information is available [here](#).

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

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

Ian Beggs, European Funding Manager I.Beggs@uea.ac.uk or 01603 593399

- [Towards global environmental regulation of supersonic aviation.](#)

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

Key Calls for Networking and/or Dissemination Activities

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;](#)
- [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;](#)

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

Ian Beggs, European Funding Manager I.Beggs@uea.ac.uk or 01603 593399

- *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

‘NEW’: On 10 January 2020, the European Research Council (ERC) announced the results of the third and final 2019 Call for Proof of Concept grants (top-up funding awarded to ERC grantees to explore the innovation potential of their scientific discoveries and bring the results of their frontier research closer to market). **In total, 76 researchers will receive grants of €150,000 each, with UK-based researchers winning 11 of these (14.5% of awards made).** This further funding of €11.4m pushes the total number of ERC Proof of Concept funded projects for 2019 to 200, with **UK-based applicants accounting for 34 of the total (17% of all successes, and far ahead of any other country, with researchers in the Netherlands winning 24 awards, while Italy 20).** Overall, the ERC evaluated 498 Proof of Concept proposals in 2019, making awards to 40% of them. **More information can be found [here](#).**

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;*

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

Ian Beggs, European Funding Manager I.Beggs@uea.ac.uk or 01603 593399

- *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.

Key Calls for Action Grants

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 European Foundation for the Study of Diabetes (EFSD) and Boehringer Ingelheim invite applications for their European research programme. The aim of the Call is to accelerate basic or clinical research on the inter-organ crosstalk and related pathophysiology in diabetes and its complications. Research will be supported through the award of research grants up to €100,000 for basic and/or clinical research projects with the exclusion of clinical trials, but €300,000 could be awarded in exceptional circumstances. All projects need to provide comprehensive justification of their budget and a clear description of both the requested amount from EFSD as well as alternative funding the project has received. **The Call has a deadline of 1 April 2020, more information can be found [here](#).**

‘NEW’: The European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology (ESHRE) have launched their Research Grant Call for 2020. ESHRE Research Grants are designed to support investigators by funding proposals in basic and clinical research in the field of reproductive medicine. ESHRE are accepting expressions of interest on the following topics;

- *Protecting and Treating Male Fertility (worth €200,000); and*
- *Sperm Freezing and Function (worth €75,000).*

Applicants must be already working in the field of reproductive medicine and biology and ESHRE member. Projects will be selected for funding based on scientific excellence, originality and feasibility. **More information on memberships can be found [here](#). Expressions of interest are due on 1 April 2020, further details for the Call can be found [here](#).**

International Prizes and Awards to Bid for

From 11 February 2020, the European Commission will be inviting applications for its annual *‘EU prize for women innovators’*, under the *‘Science with and for Society’* part of Horizon 2020. This prize aims to raise awareness of the need for more female entrepreneurs and honour the achievements of female entrepreneurs running innovative companies. Female residents of an EU Member State or H2020 Associated Country may apply. **Applicants must be founders or co-founders of an existing and active company registered before 1 January of the year previous to the contest (i.e. before 1 January 2019). Up to four prizes are awarded. Three prizes, worth €100,000 each, are available. Additionally, one prize worth €50,000 is available for a young innovator under the age of 35. The deadline for applications is 21 April 2020. More information can be found [here](#).**

Key Consultations

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 Events and Workshops That May Be of Interest

'NEW': 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 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 etiology, innovative clinical trials, patient engagement and drugs for all. **More information can be found [here](#).**

'NEW': 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](#).**

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](#).**

NEW: SAVE THE DATE: 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](#).**

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.

NEW: 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](#).**

'NEW': 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) being held in Ispra, Italy on 13-17 July. 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 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](#).**

Other European Funding News and Developments

At Prime Minister's Questions (PMQs) in the House of Commons on 15 January 2020, Labour MP Debbie Abrahams said that dementia is the biggest cause of death in the UK, and asked the PM to commit to more research into this. Boris Johnson said that the Government is doubling funding on this and that he wants a "moonshot" and to be able to cure this, if possible. Research moonshots or 'Missions' are a concept being built into the new EU Horizon Europe research framework programme for 2021-2027. They are high-ambition, high-profile initiatives, to find solutions to some of the major challenges faced by European citizens, with a clear target that captures the imagination of citizens at large. 'Horizon Europe' is initially focussing efforts on the following five:

- *Adaptation to climate change including societal transformation;*
- *Cancer;*
- *Healthy oceans, seas, coastal and inland waters;*
- *Climate-neutral and smart cities;*
- *Soil health and food.*

The European Commission has published two factsheets with the latest information on Horizon Europe and its Strategic Plan. The [Horizon Europe factsheet](#) provides basic information about the future EU programme, including its structure and main priorities, novelties and financing. The second [Strategic Plan factsheet](#) focuses on the strategic planning process and the multiannual Strategic Plan. In particular, the factsheet explains how the first Strategic Plan (2021-2024) will be used to set the main priorities for Horizon Europe and how these will be translated into work programmes adopted by the Commission.