



Northern Ireland
Assembly

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Horizon 2020 Workshop

Introduction

Horizon 2020 is the European Framework Programme for Research and Innovation. The programme runs until 2020 with a budget of approximately €78 billion of funding available over 7 years (2014 -2020). On the 20th November, the Department of the Environment hosted a free workshop aimed at a range of sectors: local and central government, research bodies, NGOs, not for profit organisations, the agri-food sector, business/industry, and in particular, the SME sector.

The event was opened by the Environment Minister, Mark H Durkan, who was followed by talks from the Northern Ireland Horizon 2020 Manager (Dr Simon Grattan), InterTradeIreland, NI Contact Points (NICPs) who covered topic areas related to environment and climate change. The final part of the presentations involved hearing about case studies on successful projects.

The DOE stressed the importance of the networking in developing successful bids for EU funding. Participants were given the opportunity to meet potential project partners, organisations that offer help and support, and those involved in previous successful EU projects. The afternoon session offered the opportunity for one to one appointments with speakers and other /experts.

Key points

The main aim of the day was to show the support network that is available to companies and individuals, demonstrating how they can tap into it to explore the funding opportunities available to them. The areas covered were as follows:

Horizon 2020 (including 1 year review)¹

The NI Horizon 2020 Manager and NICP Network Coordinator, Dr Simon Grattan from DETI, gave a brief overview of Horizon 2020 aimed at those not familiar with the programme. It consists of three pillars:

1. Excellent Science – aimed at driving research particularly from research institutions and universities
2. Industrial leadership – to move away from the academic arena. More of a bottom up approach to drive industry to be more competitive by highlighting the areas industry should invest in.
3. Better Society – to address problems envisaged in the future in areas such as health, agriculture, energy, transport, climate action etc. The EU has identified seven priority challenges where targeted investment in research and innovation can have a real impact. Societal Challenge 5 (Climate Action, Resource Efficiency and Raw Materials) was the focus of this workshop.

The following diagram illustrates the seven priority challenges:

	Societal Challenge	Amount
SC1	Health, demographic change and wellbeing	€7.47 Billion
SC2	Food security, sustainable agriculture & forestry, marine and maritime and inland water research and the bio economy	€3.85 Billion
SC3	Secure, clean and efficient energy	€5.93 Billion
SC4	Smart, green and integrated transport	€6.34 Billion
SC5	Climate action, environment, resource efficiency and raw materials	€3.08 Billion
SC6	Europe in a changing world - inclusive, innovative and reflective societies	€1.31 Billion
SC7	Secure societies – protecting freedom and security of Europe and its citizen	€1.69 Billion

Source: Caroline Barry's presentation on Societal Challenge 5 at Horizon 2020 Workshop (20/11/2014)

¹ Information in this section was taken from Dr Simon Grattan's presentation on Horizon 2020 at DOE Horizon 2020 Workshop (20/11/2014)

It was explained that Horizon 2020 has taken over from FP7 (the EU's Seventh Framework Programme for Research)². The main differences being:

- Greater focus on SME's and the impacts & outcomes of research compared to FP7 i.e.a new SME instrument aimed at encouraging SME involvement in Horizon 2020
- more budget compared to FP7 i.e. increase of 30%
- simplification of the process by keeping funding rates the same i.e. everyone gets a flat rates – this reduces time and the number of audits.

1 Year Review

This was the 3rd Horizon 2020 workshop run by the Department in the past 20 months and this time included a short review of the first year of Horizon 2020:

- As of July 2014,a total of €88.5million drawn from 290 participations - with 70.4% going to academics
- NI successful bid rate of 20.7%
- €11.2m awarded to SMEs
- Top 5 funded areas: Marie Curie €18.0m, ICT €12.9m, Health €11.9m, ERC €8.4m, Security €7.7m

Cross border support³

This was delivered by Carrie Small, the EU Programme Manager at InterTradelreland. InterTradelreland offers support for North/South collaboration. Its European objective is:

To increase the number of North/South applications to EU research and innovation funded programmes.

New InterTradelreland Horizon 2020 Strategic Action Plan for North/South Collaboration to be launched December 2014. It lays out objectives/targets for 2015/16 for cross- border Horizon 2020 drawdown.

InterTradelreland offers support through:

- online guides and resources -e.g. InterTradelreland Guide to Horizon 2020, directory of contact points and potential partners through their online App
- travel schemes e.g. cross border collaboration voucher (up top £500/applicant) – covers travel and accommodation costs when meeting a partners in another

² For more details on FP7 see http://ec.europa.eu/research/fp7/index_en.cfm

³ All information in this section was taken from Carrie Small's presentation on Cross-Border Support delivered at DOE Horizon 2020 Workshop (20/11/2014)

jurisdiction. EU Travel scheme (up to £350) supports N/S partnerships to travel to meet partners throughout the EU.

More information available from: www.intertradeireland.com/horizon2020/

Societal Challenge 5 (Climate Action, Resource Efficiency and Raw Materials)⁴

This was the first time the new DOE resourced NI Contact Point for Societal Challenge 5, Caroline Barry, spoke at a public event and was available for consultations with stakeholders.

Dealing with Climate Change, a cross cutting priority in Horizon 2020, accounts for 35% of the overall budget across the programme.

The objective of Challenge 5 is

to achieve a resource – and water – efficient and climate change resilient economy and society, the protection and sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems, and a sustainable supply and use of raw materials, in order to meet the needs of a growing global population within the sustainable limits of the planet's natural resources and eco systems.⁵

Societal 5 Work Programme

35 calls in 2014 -2015 focused on the following areas:

- Waste: A Resource to Recycle, Reuse and recover Raw Materials
- Water Innovation: Boosting its Value for Europe
- Growing a Low Carbon, Resource Efficient Economy with a Sustainable Supply of Raw Materials

For more detail on calls still open and upcoming see Annex 1

How to apply – see short video:

<http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en/news/horizon-2020-video-how-apply>

Who can apply?

Horizon 2020 is open to everyone with the following set of rules and procedures to follow:

For Standard Research Projects:

⁴ All information from this section was taken from Caroline Barry's presentation on Societal Challenge 5 (20/11/2014)

⁵ Caroline Barry Presentation on Societal Challenge 5 (20/11/2014)

- A consortium of at least three legal entities
- Each entity must be established in an EU Member State or an associated country.

For other Programmes:

- European Research Council (ERC), SME Instrument, co-funding of national or public sector calls or programmes, coordination and support, training and mobility,
- Minimum condition for participation is one legal entity established in a Member State or in an Associated Country

Success to date

For calls up to end of June 2014 (snap shot of preliminary figures):

- NI participants submitted 140 applications
- 15 successful NI project proposals with 17 NI participants – 6 ranked top 10
- 8 projects listed on reserve lists
- €6.5m in funding over 15 projects – average £381k per project
- 12.1% success rate for NI (RoI 13%)
- 6 with NI project coordinators
- 9 RoI projects had NI participants

Main areas of support

- INVEST / InterTradeIreland
 - Financial support to develop proposals (£15k, DETI)
 - Travel vouchers to meet partners (£500, InterTradeIreland)
 - See <http://www.intertradeireland.com/horizon2020>
- H2020 NI Contact Point Network
 - Contact points, funded by DETI, DEL, DARD and DOE
 - Invest NI – contact point for SMEs
 - See <http://www.detini.gov.uk/deti-eco-dev-index/deti-eco-dev-ni-horizon-2020.htm>
- DOE NICP and Barroso Team
 - Small team based in DOE Environmental Policy Division
 - See: http://www.doeni.gov.uk/index/protect_the_environment/climate_change/barrroso_task_force_working_group.htm

SME Instrument⁶

The aim of the instrument is to:

- increase SME R&D and innovation capability;
- help SMEs access international networks and markets;
- help them access qualified staff; and
- increase their reputation and visibility on an EU level.

There are three stages to it:

Phase 1 (6 months): Concept and feasibility assessment of SME business plan – this includes a partner search and design study. A lump sum of €50k is available.

Phase 2 (12 to 24 months): R&D, demonstration, market replication. This includes the production of a revised business plan. Around €0.5-2.5M EU funding available.

Phase 3: Commercialisation- guidance and support to access further private finance e.g. Loans/ investors. No direct funding for this phase

Application Process

- EU Commission portal gives description of “work programmes” / closing dates for applications/ typical cost and budget.
- Register for Participant Identification Code (PIC).
- For SME Instrument complete SME questionnaire
- Complete application form online.
- Results: 2 months (Phase I) , 4 months (Phase II)

Evaluation

Project scored/monitored by 3 independent evaluators on:

- Impact (at European level / exploitation)
- Excellence (science/ technology)
- Implementation (the team/ process/dissemination)

Invest NI Horizon 2020 Innovation Voucher

- Helping SMEs to work with a knowledge provider in their field to engage in Horizon 2020
- SME applies directly to Invest NI
- £4000 (€5000) voucher to support SMEs to:

⁶ All information for this section is taken from Paul Matthews presentation on SME Instrument (20/11/2014)

- Understand structures
- Build consortia
- Prepare their contribution to proposals

See <http://www.investni.com/innovation-vouchers.html>

Team Contact Details – NICP’s for SMEs

Team Leader Horizon 2020 UK NCP SMEs

- Joanne Coyle Email: joanne.coyle@investni.com Tel. 028 9069 8807

R&D Collaboration and EEN Executives – Northern Ireland

- Paul Matthews (replacing Lisa O’Reilly) Email: Paul.Matthews@investni.com
Tel. 028 9069 8837
- Robert Bunn - Email: robert.bunn@investni.com Tel. 028 9069 8602

R&D Liaison Executive – Brussels

- Farha Brahmi - Email: farha.brahmi@investni.com Tel. 00 32 2 290 1345

Afternoon case studies

The afternoon focused on examples of previously funded projects in terms of illustrating the support they received, how they set up partnerships and projects, and applied for funding.

The case studies included:

- Examples of Marie Sklodowska-Curie projects delivered by the Irish Universities Association
- FP7 Case Study: GLANAM delivered by Dr Paul Dunlop, University of Ulster
- Horizon 2020 Case Study: GRAGE delivered by Prof. Neil Hewitt, University of Ulster.

The experts available for one to one appointments included:

Caroline Barry, DOE- Northern Ireland Contact Point (NICP) for Environment

Ciaran Prunty, QUB – NICP for Engineering

Dominic McLarnon, University of Ulster – NICP for Energy

Mark Sweeney, Enterprise Ireland- Environment European Adviser (Horizon 2020 Contact Point, Ireland)

Paul Mathews, Invest NI –NICP for SMEs

Simon Grattan, DETI/InterTradeIreland – NI Horizon 2020 Manager

Carrie Small, InterTradeIreland –North South support.

Conclusion

According to information supplied by the Barroso Team, from the evaluation of the workshop, on average 75% of the responses were very good or excellent. The event is not seen as an end in itself but as a first step in engaging with stakeholders. Since the event, meetings have been held with one organisation to discuss a potential project in more detail. The DOE hopes to continue engaging with stakeholders at future events with a focus to increase SME participation. Similar events are run for LIFE +, in partnership with DEFRA, and INTERREG V.⁷

⁷ Email correspondence with Barroso Team (04/12/2014)

Annex 1

Societal Challenge 5 Work Programme – Calls still open

Call identifier and topic	Call Action	Proposal Budget (Euro)	Submission Deadline(s)
WATER-2a-2014: Water cycle under future climate	R&I	6-8m	08/04/2014 16/09/2014
WATER-4a-2014: Dissemination and exploitation, ICT, knowledge, gaps, research needs, etc	CSA	1m	08/04/2014
WATER-4b-2015: Water management solutions for agricultural sector, thematic networks	CSA	3m	21/04/2015
WATER-5a-2014: Strategic cooperation partnerships	CSA	1m	08/04/2014
WATER-5b-2015: A coordination platform	CSA	3m	21/04/2015
WASTE-7-2015: Ensuring sustainable use of agricultural waste, co-products and by-products	R&I	5-7m	21/04/2015 08/09/2015
SC5-03a-2014: Economic assessment of climate change	R&I	6-8m	08/04/2014 16/09/2014
SC5-03b-2014: Linkages between climate change actions and sustainable development	R&I	3-5m	08/04/2014 16/09/2014

Call identifier and topic	Call Action	Proposal Budget (Euro)	Submission Deadline(s)
SC5-06-2014: Biodiversity and ecosystem services: drivers of change and causalities	R&I	5-10m	08/04/2014 16/09/2014
SC5-07-2015: More effective ecosystem restoration in the EU	R&I	5-7m	16/10/2014 10/03/2015
SC5-10a-2014: Enhancing mapping ecosystems and their services	CSA		08/04/2014
SC5-10c-2015: An EU support mechanism for evidence-based policy on biodiversity & ecosystems services	CSA		21/04/2015
SC5-17-2015: Demonstrating the concept of 'Citizen Observatories'	IA	3-5m	21/04/2015 08/09/2015
LCE-14-2014: Market uptake of existing and emerging sustainable bioenergy	CSA	1-2m	07/05/2014

Source: Societal Challenge 5 Presentation - Horizon 2020 DOE Workshop 20/11/2014

Upcoming Societal Challenge 5 (SC5) Calls (November 2014)

	Call Area	Call Topic	Call Code	Total Call Budget (euro)	Proposal Budget	Deadline	Link
Societal Challenge 5 – Climate action, environment, resource efficiency and raw materials	Growing a Low Carbon, Resource Efficient Economy with a Sustainable Supply of Raw Materials (SC5-1 to SC5-20)	Improving the air quality and reducing the carbon footprint of European cities	SC5-04-2015	50M	6-8M	21-04-2015 08-09-2015	http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/topics/2194-sc5-04-2015.html
		Earth-system modelling and climate services	SC5-05B-2015	11M		21-04-2015	http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/topics/2151-sc5-05b-2015.html
		More effective ecosystem restoration in the EU	SC5-07-2015	50M	5-7M	21-04-2015 08-09-2015	http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/topics/2195-sc5-07-2015.html
		An EU support mechanism for evidence-based policy on biodiversity & ecosystems services	SC5-10c-2015	116M		21-04-2015	http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/topics/2152-sc5-10c-2015.html#tab1
		Strategic international dialogues and cooperation with raw materials producing countries and industry	SC5-13f-2015	116M	Up to 1.5M	21-04-2015	http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/topics/2163-sc5-13f-2015.html
		Strengthening the European Research Area in domain of Earth Observation	SC5-15-2015	116m		21-04-2015	http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/topics/2156-sc5-15-2015.html
		Demonstrating the concept of 'Citizen Observatories'	SC5-17-2015	50M	3-5M	21-04-2015 08-09-2015	http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/topics/2196-sc5-17-2015.html
		Integrating North African, Middle East and Balkan	SC5-18b-2015	116M		21-04-2015	http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020

	Call Area	Call Topic	Call Code	Total Call Budget (euro)	Proposal Budget	Deadline	Link
		Earth Observation capacities in GEOSS					0/topics/2157-sc5-18b-2015.html
Societal Challenge 5- Climate action, environment, resource efficiency and raw materials	Waste: A Resource to Recycle, Reuse and recover Raw Materials (WASTE-1 to WASTE-7)	Raw materials partnerships	WASTE-4d-2015	4M	Up to 1.5M	20-04-2015	http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/topics/2113-waste-4d-2015.html
		Eco-innovative solutions	WASTE-6a-2015	54M		21-04-2015 08-09-2015	http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/topics/2114-waste-6a-2015.html
		Eco-innovative strategies	WASTE-6b-2015	54M		21-04-2015 08-09-2015	http://eco-innovative%20strategies/
		Ensuring sustainable use of agricultural waste, co-products and by-products	WASTE-7-2015	54M	5-7M	21-04-2015 08-09-2015	http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/topics/2115-waste-7-2015.html
Societal Challenge 5- Climate action, environment, resource efficiency and raw materials	Water Innovation: Boosting its Value for Europe (WATER-1 TO WATER-5)	Demonstration/pilot activities	WATER-1B-2015	75M	6-8m	21-04-2015 08-09-2015	http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/topics/2582-water-1b-2015.html
		Integrated approaches to food security, low-carbon energy, sustainable water management and climate change mitigation	WATER-2b-2015	75M	6-8m (or more)	21-04-2015 08-09-2015	http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/topics/2583-water-2b-2015.html

Source: Hand-out at DOE Horizon 2020 workshop (20/11/2014)

For more information see the following link: http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/wp/2014_2015/main/h2020-wp1415-climate_en.pdf