

HOW TO GET INVOLVED IN
THE FCH JU PROGRAMME
UNDER HORIZON 2020



FUEL CELLS AND HYDROGEN
JOINT UNDERTAKING

The European Union is committed to transforming its transport and energy systems as part of a future low carbon economy. Fuel Cell and Hydrogen (FCH) technologies hold great promise for energy and transport applications from the perspective of meeting Europe's energy, environmental and economic challenges.

The FCH JU programme of research and innovation is structured around two research and innovation pillars dedicated to **Transportation and Energy Systems**. Overarching projects integrating both transport and energy technologies and a cluster of **cross-cutting** research activities complement these two pillars.

ENERGY

- Fuel cells for power and combined heat & power generation
- Hydrogen production and distribution
- Hydrogen for renewable energy storage (incl. blending in natural gas grid)

CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

(e.g. standards, consumer awareness, manufacturing methods, studies)

TRANSPORT

- Road vehicles
- Non-road mobile vehicles and machinery
- Refuelling infrastructure
- Maritime, rail and aviation applications

The second phase of FCH JU is established for the period **2014 to 2020**, with a total budget of EUR 1.33 billion (EUR 665 million from the Horizon 2020 (H2020) Programme and EUR 665 million from private members through contributions in kind for operations and additional activities contributing to its objectives).

The FCH JU will provide financial support mainly in the form of **grants** to participants following **open and competitive Calls for Proposals**. Other instruments foreseen in Horizon 2020 may also be used (e.g. a fraction of the budget might be used for studies through a public procurement procedure).

The scope and the objectives of the research, technological development and demonstration activities for the time frame 2014-2020 are outlined in the framework document, **Multi Annual Work Plan (MAWP)**. At least one Call for Proposals will be published each year based on the **Annual Work Plan (AWP)**.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Any natural or legal persons (e.g. any company, big or small, research organisations, universities, non-governmental organisations, etc.) regardless of their place of establishment or residence.

They must possess the operational and financial viability to carry out the research tasks that they propose.

WHICH COUNTRIES ARE ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING?

Legal entities established in the following countries are eligible to receive funding in FCH JU:

- **Member States of the European Union**, including their overseas departments
- **Associated Countries** – Check the list of H2020 Associated Countries¹.
- **Third Countries** – see 'Annex A' of the Annual Work Plans.
- **International European interest organisations**² are also eligible to receive funding.

1 http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants_manual/hi/3cpart/h2020-hi-list-ac_en.pdf

2 http://ec.europa.eu/research/fp7/index_en.cfm?lg=en&pg=faq&sub=details&idfaq=14471

Most of the FCH JU funded projects are collaborative projects with **at least 3 organisations from different EU Member States or Associated countries.**

Additional conditions might apply on a Call basis for strategic topics, where **participation of Industry Grouping and/or Research Grouping members is required.** Assistance can be provided by their secretariats.

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COORDINATION WITH MEMBER STATES, ASSOCIATED COUNTRIES AND REGIONS

The FCH JU aims at a better alignment and coherence between E.U. national and regional programmes. It looks at synergies with national and regional initiatives to leverage their actions at the European scale, in particular through large demonstration projects. It aims to foster jointly funded actions (for example with other European Industry Initiatives (EIIs), Key Enabling Technologies (KETs) and Smart Specialisation activities³ in regions).

3 <http://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/home>

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

The budget for Calls for Proposals of the FCH JU will be covered through the financial contribution of the Union from the Horizon 2020 programme⁴.

Horizon 2020 is the new EU funding programme for research and innovation running from 2014 to 2020.

On the European Commission's Participant Portal⁵ you can find FCH JU call information under H2020/Funding opportunities⁶. Its simplified rules and submission and grant management tools should facilitate participants' tasks.

⁴ <http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/>

⁵ <http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/home.html>

⁶ <http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/index.html>

⁷ http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/docs/h2020-funding-guide/grants/applying-for-funding/find-a-call_en.htm

01 FIND a call

02 FIND partners

03 CREATE your account

04 REGISTER your organisation

05 SUBMIT a proposal

01

FIND A FCH JU CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The H2020 online manual⁷ helps you choose the most suitable programme/Call/topic for your area and profile. You can also search using FCH keywords on the Participant Portal. Choose your **relevant topic**, and then read carefully the related documents or templates.



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CALL PAGE

→ latest **information and updates** to the Call

→ **key documents** for preparing your proposal that includes both common documents for all topics and those specific to each topic.

A Call is considered 'open' until the **deadline** stated in the Call.

02

SELECT YOUR PARTNERS FOR THE PROJECT

Partner search can be facilitated by the service in the Participant Portal: it helps you find organisations that would like to participate in the proposals. You can also post your collaboration offers there.

03 / 04

CREATE AN ACCOUNT AND REGISTER AN ORGANISATION

If you want to participate in a project proposal, your organisation needs to be registered by the Commission.

05

SUBMIT A PROPOSAL

PLAN YOUR PROJECT

follow the requirements for the technical annex (see template on the Call/topic conditions page), e.g. divide the work into work packages, assign responsibilities and resources within the consortium, set out a project time schedule, main milestones and deliverables, describe the project management structure, describe the communication and exploitation plans.

BUDGET

The FCH2 JU applies all of the **H2020 Rules for Participation**⁸, which normally provides information about the standard budgetary conditions. The **FCH JU model grant agreement** provides detailed explanations on the budgetary items, e.g. new budgetary rules in Horizon 2020 for indirect cost: unique flat rate of 25%.

TOPIC PAGE

- description of the topic scope, expected impact of projects and its **type of action**
- topic conditions including its **eligibility and evaluation criteria**, PDF templates of the forms that you will have in the **electronic submission system**.

⁸ http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/legal_basis/rules_participation/h2020-rules-participation_en.pdf

TYPES OF ACTION

RESEARCH & INNOVATION ACTIONS

FCH JU FUNDING RATE → 100%

Activities aiming to establish new knowledge and/or to explore the feasibility of a new or improved technology, product, process, service or solution (e.g. applied research, technology development and integration, testing and validation on a small-scale prototype in a laboratory or simulated environment).

Projects may contain closely connected but limited demonstration or pilot activities aiming to show technical feasibility in a near-to-operational environment.

TECHNOLOGY READINESS LEVELS (TRL)

The topic descriptions specify which level of technology readiness the funded projects are expected to cover and they are normally linked to the type of action.

Nine technology readiness levels are distinguished, please see their descriptions in the annual work plans; FCH JU is normally supporting activities beyond TRL3 (proof-of-concept).

FCH JU Calls can have different types of actions (funding schemes).

The type of action specifies:

- the **scope** of what is funded
- the **reimbursement rate**
- **specific evaluation criteria** to qualify for funding.

INNOVATION ACTIONS

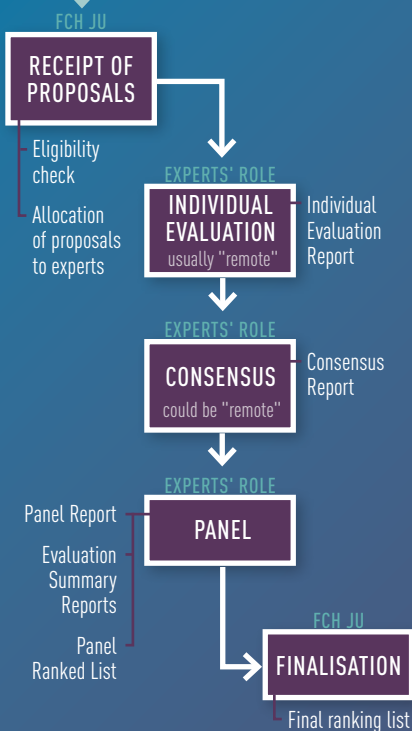
FCH JU FUNDING RATE → 70%
(EXCEPT NON-PROFITS, WHICH ARE STILL FUNDED 100%)

Activities directly aiming at producing plans and arrangements or designs for new, altered or improved products, processes or services (e.g. prototyping, testing, demonstrating, piloting, large-scale product validation, and market replication).

COORDINATION & SUPPORT ACTIONS

Accompanying measures such as standardisation, dissemination, awareness-raising and communication, networking, coordination or support services, policy dialogues and mutual learning exercises and studies.

EVALUATION PROCESS



EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS

Once you have submitted a proposal, the FCH JU:

- checks it is admissible (complete and properly put together) and eligible
- asks independent experts to evaluate it.

In the evaluation process, proposals are given scores for

- **excellence**
- **impact**
- **quality and efficiency of implementation.**

Coordinators are informed by the Evaluation Results Letter of how their proposal did in the evaluation. A positive result does not constitute a confirmed offer of a grant.

Following the evaluation round, grant preparations are opened for the highest-scoring proposals.

The FCH JU recruits experts from a central Commission database, where you can register⁹ at any time. Registration is open to experts of any nationality including those outside of the EU and Associated Countries.

⁹ http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/experts/index.html?utm_content=buffer0f1be&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter.com&utm_campaign=buffer

WORKING AS AN EXPERT

Working as an independent expert, you could:

- **evaluate proposals to select the best ones for funding**
- **monitor the progress of on-going projects**
- **evaluate the FCH JU programme.**

As an expert you would perform this work as an independent individual and would not represent a company, an organisation or a state.



**CLEAN
SECURE
ENERGY**

ABOUT US

The public and private sectors came together to form the first Fuel Cells and Hydrogen Joint Undertaking (JU) in 2008 to promote coordination and collaboration across Europe's FCH sector and accelerate the commercialisation of FCH technologies.

Under Horizon 2020 the JU will continue as the FCH 2 JU to build on the success to date and to achieve more efficient and effective operations focused on a long term, integrated, pan-European research and innovation agenda, sector strategy and market approach.

The Members of the FCH JU are the European Union represented by the European Commission, New Energy World Industrial Grouping (NEW-IG) and the New European Research Grouping for Hydrogen and Fuel Cells (N.ERGHY), representing Europe's FCH private sector and research community respectively.



Contacts

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