

H2020 Focused Group Training

Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation

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SCOPE



- Twinning aims at significantly strengthening a defined field of research in a university or research organisation from a Widening country by linking it with at least two internationally-leading research institutions in other Member States or Associated Countries. Twinning will:
- Enhance the S&T capacity of the linked institutions with a principal focus on the university or research organisation from the Widening Country;
- Help raise the research profile of the institution from the Widening country as well as the research profile of its staff.



SCOPE



- Successful Twinning proposals will have to clearly outline **the scientific strategy for stepping up and stimulating scientific excellence and innovation capacity** in a defined area of research as well as the scientific quality of the partners involved in the twinning exercise. If relevant, any links with sustainable development objectives are to be outlined.
- Such a strategy should include a comprehensive set of measures to be supported. These should include at least a number of the following: short term staff exchanges; expert visits and short-term on-site or virtual training; workshops; conference attendance; organisation of joint summer school type activities; dissemination and outreach activities.
- In general, costs relating to administration, networking, coordination, training, management, travel costs **are acceptable** under a Twinning project.



SCOPE

- Therefore, for grants awarded under this topic the following cost categories will **be ineligible** costs:
 - - infrastructure costs;
 - equipment;
 - - research costs (including consumables).
- The duration of a Twinning project can be up to 3 years.
- The Commission considers that proposals requesting a contribution from the **EU of EUR 1 million**, would allow this specific challenge to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of proposals requesting lower amounts.



Expected Impact



- Increased research excellence of the coordinating institution in the particular field of research as a result of the twinning exercise.
- Enhancing the reputation, attractiveness and networking channels of the coordinating institution.
- Improved capability to compete successfully for national, EU and internationally competitive research funding.
- Illustrate **quantitatively and qualitatively** the expected potential impact of the twinning exercise within the coordinating institution (and possibly at **regional/national** level) based on indicators like expected future publications in peer reviewed journals, collaboration agreements with businesses, intellectual property, new innovative products or services.
- Benefits will also accrue to the institutions from the more intensive research and innovation performers, in terms of access to new research avenues, creativity and the development of new approaches, as well as a source for increased mobility (inwards and outwards) of qualified scientists.



Evaluation Criteria, Excellence (3/5)



- Clarity and pertinence of the objectives
- Soundness of the concept, and credibility of the proposed methodology
- Quality of the proposed coordination and/or support measures



Evaluation criteria-Impact (3/5)

Impact Note: The following aspects will be taken into account:



- The extent to which the outputs of the project would contribute to each of the expected impacts mentioned in the work programme under the relevant topic;
- Quality of the proposed measures to:
- Exploit and disseminate the project results (including management of IPR), and to manage research data where relevant
- Communicate the project activities to different target audiences



Evaluation criteria-Implementation (3/5)



- Quality and effectiveness of the work plan, including extent to which the resources assigned to work packages are in line with their objectives and deliverables;
- Appropriateness of the management structures and procedures, including risk and innovation management;
- Complementarity of the participants and extent to which the consortium as whole brings together the necessary expertise;
- Appropriateness of the allocation of tasks, ensuring that all participants have a valid role and adequate resources in the project to fulfil that role.



Evaluation Criteria

Total score (1+2+3) Threshold 10/15

But, granted project proposals are above 14

Proposals above 14 are with 4 or 5 partners.

Very good proposal gets high grades from all the evaluators mostly,

If the proposal is in the medium quality, it may get very different grades from each evaluator.



Granted Projects Examples,

http://cordis.europa.eu/search/result_en?q='h2020'%20AND%20'twinning'%20AND%20programme/co de%3D'H2020'*&p=3&num=10&srt=Relevance:decreasing



HORIZON
2020

[PROJECT] **CENTRE-PD** - [TWINNING for a Comprehensive Clinical Centre for the Diagnosis and Treatment of Parkinson's Disease](#)

ID: 692320

Start date: 2016-03-01, **End date:** 2019-02-28

Unlike other EU member states, Luxembourg lacks a tradition for translation of fundamental research into clinical practice, which hampers health innovation and its adoption in cutting-edge medicine. During the last years, the Luxembourg Government made substantial efforts to...

Programme: H2020-EU.4.b.

Record Number: 199982

Last updated on: 2016-12-23

 [Booklet](#)

HORIZON
2020

[PROJECT] **SynaNet** - [Neurologic and Psychiatric Disorders: from synapses to networks](#)

ID: 692340

Start date: 2016-01-01, **End date:** 2018-12-31

Neurologic and Psychiatric Disorders: from synapses to networks (SynaNet) aims to promote collaborative multidisciplinary and translational research by enhancing effective knowledge transfer, exchange of best research practices, and the mobility of early stage researchers...

Programme: H2020-EU.4.b.

Record Number: 199992

Last updated on: 2016-12-15

 [Booklet](#)

HORIZON
2020

[PROJECT] **SEARMET** - [Scientific Excellence in Animal Reproductive Medicine and Embryo Technology](#)

ID: 692299

Start date: 2016-01-01, **End date:** 2018-12-31

The aim of the SEARMET project is to improve the scientific knowledge and innovation capacity of the Estonian University of Life Sciences (EMU) in the linked fields of animal reproductive medicine and embryo technology. This will be done by strengthening collaboration with two...

Programme: H2020-EU.4.b.

Record Number: 199981



Granted Projects Example



HORIZON
2020

[PROJECT] **RBI-T-WINNING** - [Ruđer Bošković Institute: Twinning for a step forward of the Theoretical Physics Division](#)

ID: 692194

Start date: 2016-02-01, **End date:** 2019-01-31

Research topics in theoretical physics at Ruđer Bošković Institute (RBI) are broad, from understanding the basic constituents of the Universe, to the study of new materials and complex systems. The research is performed within the Division of Theoretical Physics (DTP)...

Programme: H2020-EU.4.b.

Record Number: 199365

Last updated on: 2016-12-15

[Booklet](#)

HORIZON
2020

[PROJECT] **ENHANCE** - [Building an Excellency Network for Heightening Agricultural ecoNomic researChand Education in Romania](#)

ID: 691681

Start date: 2016-01-01, **End date:** 2018-12-31

The project coordinator is among Romania's most competitive agricultural universities, yet at international level and in the agricultural economics discipline still struggles to become fully competitive. Three extremely innovative and well-known Western institutions of...

Programme: H2020-EU.4.b.

Record Number: 199359

Last updated on: 2016-12-15

[Booklet](#)

HORIZON
2020

[PROJECT] **MultiCoop** - [Multidisciplinary approach to strengthen cooperation and establish novel platform for comprehensive assessment of food and feed safety](#)

ID: 692195

Start date: 2016-01-01, **End date:** 2018-12-31

MultiCoop is aimed at promoting new opportunities for participating partners (VSCHT, QUB and BOKU) by development of levels of excellence and expertise of all three institutions in the field of comprehensive food and feed safety assessment. A major focus will be in enhancing...

Programme: H2020-EU.4.b.

Record Number: 199325



Good Proposal Writing –Excellence1

- Explain **the need** of Project idea
- How will the Project solve this need
- Key Training elements, topics and activities.
- Twinning activities,
 - Exchange missions
 - Papers
 - Summer schools
 - Stakeholder and policy interface
- State of the art-provide literature survey
- Related policies
- Overall goal, how will they achieve to this goal
- Relation to the work program (How the proposal address the call priorities)
 - Challenge
 - Scope,
- SWOT analysis, To evaluate perspectives for the project impact
 - Strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats
 - Relate expected impact with SWOT analysis considering the weaknesses and opportunities



Good Proposal Writing-Impact-1

- Smart Specialisation strategies
- What is the problem and how is the Project outcomes solve the need and gaps
- Related to WP, how the Project answer the call expectations
- Impact for weaknesses and opportunities in SWOT
- Economical and social contributions
- Quantified impact indicator evaluation with schedule considering publications;papers, books, thesis and considering industry partners if applicable.
- Communication activities in consortium, scientific, policy and stakeholders community and public.



Good Proposal Writing –Impact-2

- Dissemination activities explained for different levels,
- Knowledge management,
- Communication activities,



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Good proposal writing-Implementation

- Work Plan
 - Management/Coordination
 - Science and knowledge coordination
 - Coordination of training and outreach within the consortium
 - Specific knowledge topics
 - Dissemination and exploitation
 - Gender, provide detailed information for the specific tasks and related WPs for F and M
 - Provide links among the WPs schematic
 - Communication strategy
 - Decision making
 - Conflict resolution
 - Risk assessment
 - References



Good proposal writing-Part B-Members of the consortium

Operational capacity of participants

Relevant experience, relate the experience with the activities proposed.

Publications and projects experience.

Letter of support from the organizations possibly use the output of Project

Agreement letter between the partners



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FAQ

6a. Is there a maximum or preferred number of partners in a Twinning proposal?

There is no maximum number of partners as long as the minimum eligibility requirements are respected. The Commission however considers that the number of partners in a Twinning project has to be kept to the minimum possible, in order to have the optimal effect on the low performing partner institution in the Widening Country. The intention of Twinning is not to create large networks, as this would risk diluting the expected effect on the low performing institution.



FAQ

7. Where should the internationally-leading (advanced) institutions be established? Can the internationally leading institutions be established in the same country as the coordinator from the Widening country?

The internationally-leading (advanced) institutions can be established in any EU Member State or Associated Country to Horizon 2020.

As long as the minimum eligibility requirements are respected (i.e. there are at least two internationally-leading (advanced) institutions from two different countries other than that of the coordinator) then additional partners established in the same country as the coordinator are allowed.



FAQ

12. Is there any specific requirement on the nature of the organisation acting as the coordinator from the Widening Country?

No proposal will be disqualified on grounds of non-eligibility for having a coordinating organisation of an incorrect nature. However, as also described in the Work Programme, the coordinator is strongly encouraged to be a public or private research active university or a public or private non-profit research organisation.

14. Can enterprises (incl. research intensive companies and SMEs) participate in a Twinning proposal? Can they act as coordinators of Twinning proposals?

According to the Work Programme the main partners of a Twinning proposal are normally universities, research organisations, or private not for profit research institutions. However, once the minimum eligibility requirements are met, bringing in a company as an additional partner if properly justified is also possible.

Applicants should pay attention to the fact that a private, for profit, company should not be the coordinator of a Twinning project.



FAQ

17. Can an internationally leading (advanced) institution from a third country (e.g. USA) participate as an additional partner?

An internationally leading (advanced) institution from a third country (e.g. USA) can participate as an additional partner (as long as the minimum requirement of two partners from two MS or AC is respected) under the rules governing the participation of third countries in H2020 (i.e. for the case of an institution from the USA which is classified under the category of "industrialized countries and emerging economies" they would normally need to cover their own costs of participation).

Further details on third country participation in H2020 can be found in the following link:

http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/docs/h2020-funding-guide/cross-cutting-issues/international-cooperation_en.htm#countries



FAQ

19. Are research costs eligible under a Twinning action?

No. As this action is a Coordination and Support Action (CSA), action tasks should not include any research tasks. This applies for all beneficiaries, i.e. both to costs of beneficiaries which are an internationally-leading (advanced) institution and to costs of the coordinating entity established in the Widening Country.

20. The Work Programme states that the twinning activities “will provide no support for hiring new permanent research staff”. What does this mean? Are personnel costs (i.e. salaries) eligible in a Twinning project?

Twinning is not aimed at hiring new researchers (permanent or temporary), as its objectives, amongst others, focus on raising the existing staff's research profile.

However, personnel costs (i.e. salaries) are eligible as follows:

for personnel of all beneficiaries (from Widening or non-Widening countries),

regardless of their function (researchers, administration, management),

regardless of their status at the organizations (permanent or temporary or newly recruited)

provided that these personnel costs are directly attributed to the eligible activities (non-research) indicated in the Work Programme text and

subject to the cost eligibility conditions in Article 6 of the Model Grant Agreement.



FAQ

21. What are the typical costs in a Twinning project?

The Work Programme, refers to a non-exhaustive list of measures to be supported under Twinning projects: staff exchanges, expert visits, short-term on-site or virtual trainings, and workshops; conference attendance, organisation of joint summer school type activities, dissemination and outreach activities.

In general, costs relating to administration, networking, coordination, training, management, travel costs etc. are typical costs that could be funded under a Twinning project.



23. Will hiring PhD students be eligible since they are not considered as “permanent” staff?



Twinning should not be used as a vehicle for increasing the population of PhD students of the coordinating institution. However, using existing or new PhD students partly for tasks of the Twinning programme is possible: in this case the relevant costs (remuneration of the PhD students for concrete project tasks but also travel and communication expenses associated to the project) are eligible, subject to the cost eligibility conditions in Article 6 of the Model Grant Agreement.

FAQ

29. Regarding "short-term expert visits and on-site or virtual training" - The visits and lectures can be held only by the professors from the institutions within the consortium? Or may one invite also professors from other prestigious institutions that are not in the consortium?



Invitation of professors from other institutions is considered as subcontracting and is therefore only allowed if it is on a small scale and if the expertise cannot be provided by the internationally-leading (advanced) partners.

30. Cost of experiments performed at third party laboratories. Is it possible to get financing for experiments that should be performed in specialized laboratories?

Costs for research activities are not eligible.



FAQ



33. The Work Programme specifies that "twinning activities will not provide support to infrastructure and equipment." In this context, can one still purchase supplies / software / database subscriptions / PCs / laptops? Does this mean that use of existing infrastructure or equipment cannot be supported even where normal accounting practices are to charge these to an individual project?

Costs for consumables as well as software related to the training and subscription fees to online services, may be eligible, however this does not apply to equipment (PCs, or laptops) or infrastructure. No consumables will be reimbursed for research activities.



FAQ

34. The one of the specific evaluation criteria mentioned in the Work Programme refer to the “Level of potential impact of a project proposal at regional/national level defined in terms of expected publications in peer reviewed journals...”. How can the consortium show and prove that publications will be published in high impact journals, if the research activities are not funded?



As this is a Coordination and Support action (CSA) no research activities are funded. In particular the aim is to enhance the R&I capacity of the coordinating institution and to raise the research profile of its research staff. It is therefore up to the proposer to convince evaluators how the Twinning exercise will help the coordinating institution advance in terms of expected impact both on future publications and enhanced participation in EU and national R&I funding programmes.



FAQ

38. What kind of the main project outputs does the Commission expect from a Twinning action?



The main idea of this call as explained in the work programme is to enhance the R&I capacity and to raise the research profile of the staff of the applicant entity. This is done through interaction of the institution located in the Widening country with the internationally leading partners through conferences, workshops, seminars, exchange of best practices etc. but NOT through research projects funded by Twinning (Twinning cannot support research projects).



FAQ

41. What is the expected duration of short-term staff exchanges and/or expert visits? Are they limited to a few weeks? A few months?



There is no pre-defined duration for short term staff exchanges or expert visits. They should however, add value to the project and they should last for a reasonable timeframe of a few weeks or a few months; more than 9 months would probably be considered as too long.

Excellence- Negative comments of evaluation

- The objectives are not clear....
- The approach is generally described and lack clarity in why and how to solve challenges and capture opportunities.
- The concept is sound on what concern the training and involvement of governmental structures but does not fully address the added scientific value.
- The proposed coordination and/or support measures are not sufficiently detailed beyond the training part.
- Proposed coordination and support actions are too generic, the name of journals and conferences have not been identified for planned publications.



Excellence- Negative comments of evaluation



- Measure of the activities impact has not been quantified.
- The expectation concerning evolution beyond the state of the art is not discussed.
- Gaps and key outcomes for the partners involved is not illustrated strongly
- It is not enough information given on educational and training courses content

Impact- Negative comments of evaluation

- Mismatch between the problem described and the design of the project and partner consortium.
- Limited impacts due to a rather constrained focus on preparing
- Limited information about short term staff exchanges to consortium partners and how this is envisioned to strengthen scientific quality
- Dissemination and awareness strategy and actions are not convincing
- Performance indicators are not quantified, impacts also not - it is not known how many people are involved in trainings, and courses, etc.



Impact- Negative comments of evaluation

- The proposal insufficiently identifies probable barriers/obstacles to achieve the expected impacts.
- The proposed long lasting partnership with industry is too generically described.
- The expected national and regional impact is not fully considered.



Implementation- Negative comments of evaluation



- Risk management is presented, however consist only of few risks and not strong solutions are given.
- The wp timing is not differentiated enough...
- The timing of workshops are not known...
- Lack of synergies between institutions
- There is a lack of focus on innovation management.
- Members of the Advisory Board are not specified.
- IPR management is not detailed to an adequate level.
- The risk management approach is not adequate
- Gender equality



THANK YOU

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