



Horizon 2020

ERA-NET Cofund actions

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Definition of ERA-NET in Horizon 2020 (Article 26)

Public-public partnerships may be supported either within, or across, the priorities set out in Article 5(2), in particular through:

(a) an **ERA-NET instrument using grants** to support public-public partnerships in their preparation, establishment of networking structures, design, implementation and coordination of joint activities as well as Union topping up of no more than one joint call a year and of actions of a transnational nature;

For the purposes of point (a), top-up funding shall be conditional on the **demonstration of added value of the action at Union level** and on prior indicative **financial commitments in cash or in kind of the participating entities to the joint calls and actions**. The ERA-NET instrument may include, where possible, an objective to harmonise rules and implementation modalities of the joint calls and actions. It may also be used in order to prepare for an initiative pursuant to Article 185 TFEU.

Type of action used for ERA-NET: Programme Cofund

(Rules for participation, Article 2 – Definitions)

*(16) 'programme co-fund action' means an action funded through a grant **the main purpose of which is supplementing individual calls or programmes** funded by entities, other than Union funding bodies, managing research and innovation programmes.*

*A programme co-fund **action may also include complementary activities** of networking and coordination between programmes in different countries;*

FP6: ERA-NET

Funding of costs related to the coordination of national research programmes, 100% reimbursement rate for coordination and management costs



FP7: ERA-NET and ERA-NET Plus

ERA-NET: as under FP6
ERA-NET Plus: co-funding of a single joint call for trans-national proposals, 33% reimbursement rate for the costs of funding the projects



Horizon 2020: ERA-NET Cofund

Co-funding of a single joint call for trans-national proposals, in addition other joint activities including other joint calls without Union co-funding, 33% reimbursement rate

ERA-NET Cofund – main features

ERA-NET Cofund: implementation of a co-funded joint call for proposals (compulsory, one co-funded call per Grant Agreement)*

EU contribution: mainly a proportional contribution to total public funding of the joint call

Additional EU contribution to coordination costs on the basis of a unit costs for additional activities including additional calls without top-up funding

Stable reimbursement rate: ERA-NET Plus reimbursement rate from FP7 (33%) applies

Co-funded calls: proposal evaluation and selection according to Horizon 2020 standards

* ERA-NETs based on a Coordination and Support Action (CSA) are no longer possible. Only in exceptional cases it might be considered to support the preparation and structuring of specific emerging P2Ps that demonstrate clear European added value.

Who can participate ?

- **Eligibility conditions ERA-NET Cofund similar to ERA-NET under FP7.**
- Participation is limited to entities that can fully participate in joint calls and other actions between national and regional programmes.
- Participants in ERA-NET Cofund actions must be research funders: legal entities owning or managing public research and innovation programmes.
- **Programme Owners** are typically national/regional ministries/authorities responsible for defining, financing or managing research programmes carried out at national or regional level.
- **Programme Managers** are typically research councils or funding agencies or other national or regional organisations that implement research programmes under the supervision of the programme owners. Their participation has to be mandated by the national/regional authorities in charge (normally the responsible Ministry).
- Only in addition to the minimum conditions, and if justified by the nature of the action, **programmes funded by other entities** (international programmes, foundations or other non-public programmes) may participate.

A. Implementation of a single joint call (MS contribution in cash)

- Call for proposals organised by national/regional funding agencies
- Activities: call preparation, implementation and follow-up
- **Eligible costs:** financial support paid to third parties

B. Implementation of a single joint call (MS contribution in cash) and additional activities

- Call and activities as in A.
- Additional joint activities including additional joint calls without Union top-up funding.
- **Eligible costs:** financial support paid to third parties and coordination costs for additional activities (unit costs per beneficiary per year).

C. Implementation of a single joint call (MS contribution in kind)

In exceptional cases

- Call for proposals organised by governmental research organisations
- Beneficiaries carry out the projects resulting from the call themselves
- **Eligible costs:** costs of trans-national projects on the basis of Horizon 2020 rules
- In-kind contributions: non-reimbursed expenditure

Co-funded call: Rules for providing support to or implementation of trans-national projects

(Important: these are conditions for costs to be eligible!)

The beneficiaries must

provide financial support to trans-national projects

or

implement such projects (partially or fully) themselves

The proposals/projects must

- be **transnational projects** (at least two independent entities from two different EU Member States or associated countries)
- be selected following a joint transnational **call for proposals, two-step procedure**
- be evaluated in step 2, with the assistance of at least **three independent experts**, on the basis of excellence, impact, quality and efficiency of the implementation
- be ranked according to the evaluation results, and **selected in the order of the ranking list(s)**

Co-funded call – conditions & deliverables

After the end of the evaluation the consortium must submit to the Commission the following:

- (a) the ranking list(s) of the projects;
- (b) the observers' report on the evaluation;
- (c) the joint selection list of the projects to be funded, and
- (d) from each consortium partner participating in the joint call, a formal and duly signed commitment on availability of funds for the selected projects.

In addition:

- a) After the **end of evaluation** information on each project selected for funding (data on each participant and abstracts of the project proposal),
- b) At the **end of the action**: information on each funded project (data on each participant and overview of results).

Important: The conditions for call implementation for the co-funded call do not apply to additional calls without Union top-up funding.

Co-funded call – practical issues

- **Choice of the funding mode** to ensure selection according to ranking
 - good practice: mixed mode
 - real common pot: possible
- Use of **step 1 to balance requested and available funding**
- Possibility to use **more than one call topic**
 - dedicated budgets per topics, multiple ranking lists or
 - use expert panel to adjust scores and create single ranking list
- Only **proposals with identical scores at the threshold of available funding** may be selected according to the availability of funds in order to maximise the number of selected projects.
 - choice of half scores / vs. full scores
- **Independent expert as observer**: appointed by the consortium, to assess the conformity of the implementation of the joint call and, in particular, review the proper implementation of the independent international peer review and the establishment of the ranking list of trans-national projects.
- Possibility of **centralised management** of grant agreements
- **Make use of good practice documented by ERA-LEARN!**

ERA-NET Cofund: optional additional activities

- ERA-NET Cofund consortia **may carry out other activities in addition** to the call receiving top-up funding.
- **Option is normally defined in the call text**, e.g.: *"Proposers are encouraged to implement other joint activities including additional joint calls without EU co-funding"*.
- **Activities have to be related to the coordination of public research and innovation programmes** and should focus on the preparation and implementation of joint activities including additional calls without Union top-up funding (**typical ERA-NET FP7 activities**).
- **Additional partners might be involved** which do not participate in co-funded calls.
- The coordination cost for the other activities takes the form of a **unit cost per beneficiary year** and is limited to those beneficiaries that carry out activities that go beyond the co-funded call.
- Proposers have to **demonstrate the appropriateness of the overall coordination costs** for the proposed additional activities.

ERA-NET Cofund: unit costs for additional activities

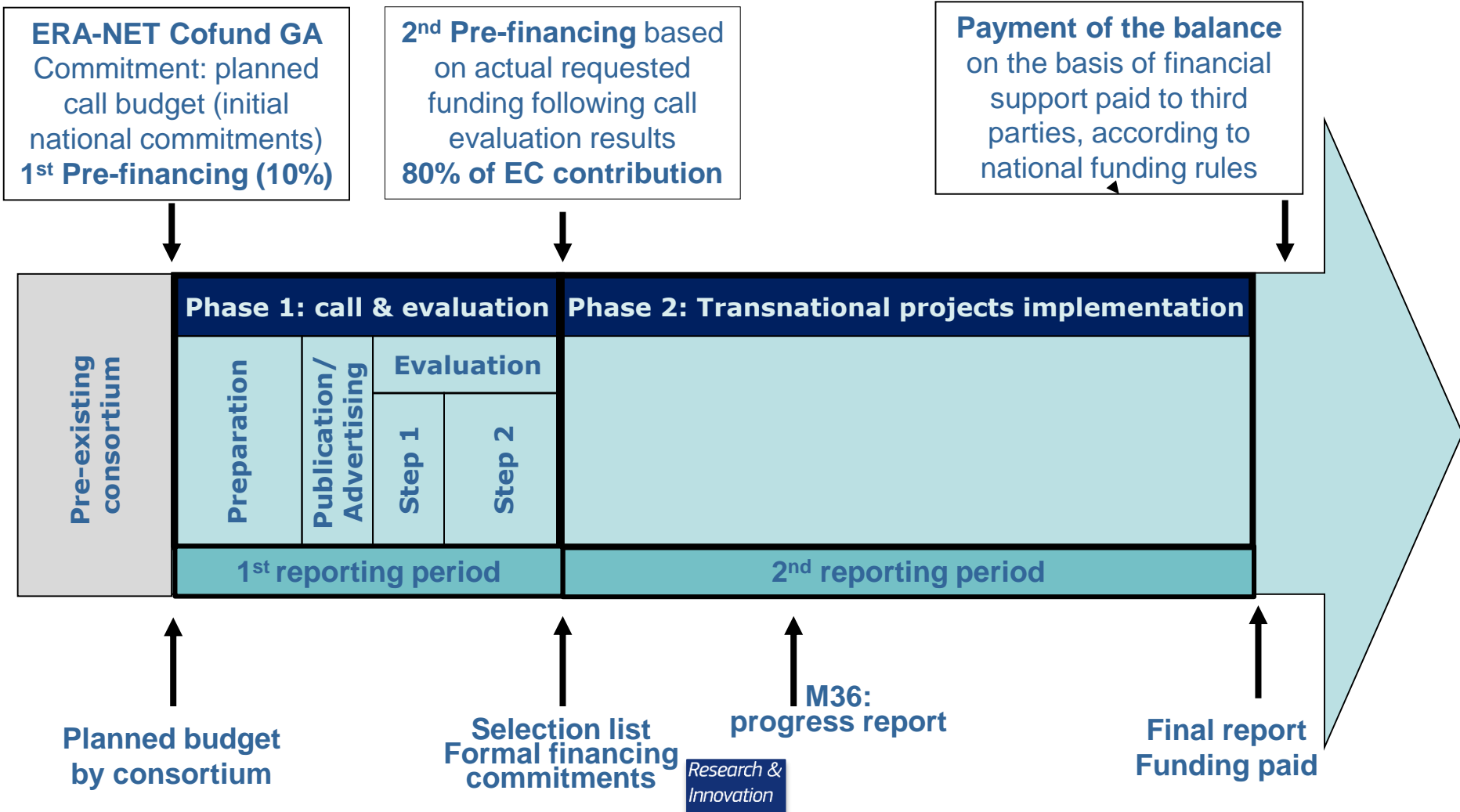
- Based on historical data of a representative sample (around 30%) of the 71 ERA-NET projects under FP6 (Coordination costs declared and approved for the final payment).
- 7% indirect costs were deducted, extreme amounts were excluded
- Resulting average amount of direct costs for coordination is EUR 29 783., which includes marginal costs for subcontracting of around 4,5%
- **Unit costs for coordination costs per beneficiary per year: EUR 29 000**
- The flat rate of 25% for indirect costs under Horizon 2020 is applied as well as the reimbursement rate applicable to ERA-NET actions (normally 33%).

→ **Maximum reimbursement per beneficiary per year of EURO 11 962,50.**

→ **Annex WP H2020:** Union contribution to coordination costs for additional activities should not exceed 20% of the total Union contribution to the project.

→ Beneficiaries carrying out the trans-national project themselves cannot claim coordination costs.

Default: 2 reporting periods



Thank you for your attention!

Any questions?

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