



EN

Horizon 2020

Work Programme 2016 - 2017

18. Fast Track to Innovation Pilot

Important notice on the second Horizon 2020 Work Programme

This Work Programme covers 2016 and 2017. The parts of the Work Programme that relate to 2017 are provided at this stage on an indicative basis. Such Work Programme parts will be decided during 2016.

(European Commission Decision C (2015)6776 of 13 October 2015)



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Introduction

The main source of growth in Europe is the capacity to create new knowledge and to transform new ideas into commercially attractive products, processes and services. The European Union is determined to revitalise its economy, and this means finding better ways to bring technological breakthroughs and service innovations quickly to the market. Scientific and technological advances must be turned into marketable products, services and processes faster and more fully so that Europe can face and profit from global competition.

Against this background, the Fast Track to Innovation (FTI) pilot is testing a new approach to give the development of innovations the last push needed before their introduction to the market. It is the only fully bottom-up measure in Horizon 2020 promoting close-to-market innovation activities and open to all types of participants.

The FTI pilot aims to reduce the time from idea to market and to increase the participation in Horizon 2020 of industry, and in particular of first-time industry applicants. It should stimulate private sector investment, promote research and innovation with a focus on value creation, and accelerate the development of innovative products, processes and services.

A particular aim of the FTI pilot is to nurture trans-disciplinary and cross-sector approaches. All kinds of innovation actors can work together to develop sustainable innovations addressing societal needs or areas under 'Leadership in enabling and industrial technologies' and, at the same time, create viable business opportunities. That is why FTI projects must be business-driven and clearly demonstrate a realistic potential for quick deployment and market take-up of innovations.

This constitutes the second year of operation of this pilot, following its launch in 2015. In line with the EU Regulation establishing Horizon 2020¹, continuation of the activity beyond 2016 will be determined on the basis of a full evaluation of the pilot carried out within the context of the interim evaluation of Horizon 2020.

¹ See Annex II of Regulation (EU) No 1291/2013.

Call - Fast Track to Innovation Pilot

H2020-FTIPilot-2016

Proposals are invited against the following topic(s):

FTIPilot-01-2016: Fast Track to Innovation Pilot

Specific Challenge: Innovation is fostered when new ideas can emerge and easily translate into socio-economic value. Working together, partners with complementary backgrounds, knowledge and skills, and in new and established value-chains, can turn these ideas into sustainable innovative products, processes and services that both address societal challenges and/or are highly competitive in global markets. FTI aims to accelerate this commercialisation process by providing extended funding opportunities through an open and agile scheme nurturing bottom-up ideas from innovative constituencies across Europe.

Scope: The FTI pilot supports projects undertaking innovation from the demonstration stage through to market uptake, including stages such as piloting, test-beds, systems validation in real world/working conditions, validation of business models, pre-normative research, and standard-setting. It targets relatively mature new technologies, concepts, processes and business models that need a last development step to reach the market and achieve wider deployment. To this end, if a proposal involves technological innovation, the consortium must declare that the technology or the technologies concerned are at least at Technology Readiness Level (TRL) 6, where appropriate². Projects can be interdisciplinary.

Proposals must relate to any field under the specific objective "Leadership in enabling and industrial technologies" and/or to any of the specific objectives under the priority "Societal challenges"³.

Proposals should specify the intended outcome of the project and describe its key performance indicators/success criteria.

Proposals must also include a business plan clearly describing the market potential (potential users/customers and benefits for them; targeted European/global markets, etc.), the business opportunities for participants, measures to enhance the probability of eventual commercial take-up and a credible commercialisation strategy that identifies next steps and specifies other actors to be involved. Particular attention should be paid to IP protection and ownership and to the possibility of commercial exploitation ('freedom to operate').

The expected impact should be clearly described in both qualitative and quantitative terms. Factors such as time sensitivity and the international competitive situation should be considered in the light of the technology/innovation fields and industry sectors concerned.

² For a definition of TRL, see Part G of the General Annexes.

³ For proposals which fall under the "Secure Societies" societal challenge, an additional specific procedure may apply (see Participant Portal – H2020 Grant Manuals – Horizontal issues – Security Issues).

Possible impacts on sustainability or climate change, in particular, or on other cross-cutting objectives of Horizon 2020⁴, should also be highlighted.

Consortia must involve participation from industry. Universities, research and technology organisations and further innovation actors may also participate. Actors that can play a key role in the commercialisation process are encouraged to take part, such as cluster organisations, end-users, industrial associations, incubators, investors, or the public sector. First-time industry applicants⁵ and SMEs are particularly welcome.

Expected Impact:

- Fast development, commercial take-up and/or wide deployment of sustainable innovative solutions (products, processes, services, business models etc.) in enabling and industrial technologies and/or for tackling societal challenges.
- Time to initial market take-up no later than 3 years after the beginning of the FTI project. In very well-justified cases linked to the specific characteristics of a particular innovation field or industry sector, the time to initial market take-up could be longer.
- Enhanced competitiveness and growth of business partners in the consortium, measured in terms of turnover and job creation.
- Increased industry participation, including SMEs, and more industry first-time applicants to Horizon 2020.
- Leveraging more private investment into research and/or innovation.
- Where appropriate, addressing transnational value-chains and/or EU-wide or global markets.

Type of Action: Innovation action

The conditions related to this topic are provided at the end of this call and in the General Annexes.

⁴ Please see Article 14 of the Horizon 2020 Regulation: http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/legal_basis/fp/h2020-eu-establact_en.pdf

⁵ In the context of the FTI pilot, a "first-time industry applicant" means a legal entity that is a private, for-profit organisation that has obtained a PIC (Participant Identification Code) for the first time under Horizon 2020. See step 4 of <http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/funding/>

Conditions for the Call - Fast Track to Innovation Pilot

Opening date(s), deadline(s), indicative budget(s):⁶

Topics (Type of Action)	Budgets (EUR million)	Deadlines
	2016	
Opening: 02 Dec 2015		
FTIPilot-01-2016 (IA)	100.00 ⁷	15 Mar 2016 01 Jun 2016 25 Oct 2016
Overall indicative budget	100.00	

The budget available will be divided equally between each cut-off date.

Indicative timetable for evaluation and grant agreement signature:

For the FTI pilot:

- Information on the outcome of the evaluation: Maximum 3 months after the corresponding cut-off date set out above; and

⁶ The Director-General responsible for the call may decide to open the call up to one month prior to or after the envisaged date(s) of opening.

All deadlines are at 17.00.00 Brussels local time.

The Director-General responsible may delay the deadline(s) by up to two months.

The budget amounts for the 2016 budget are subject to the availability of the appropriations provided for in the draft budget for 2016 after the adoption of the budget 2016 by the budgetary authority or, if the budget is not adopted, as provided for in the system of provisional twelfths.

⁷ of which EUR 13.70 million from the "Secure, Clean and Efficient Energy" WP part, EUR 7.15 million from the 'Climate action, environment, resource efficiency and raw materials' WP part, EUR 3.05 million from the 'Europe in a changing world – inclusive, innovative and reflective Societies' WP part, EUR 8.90 million from the 'Food security, sustainable agriculture and forestry, marine and maritime and inland water research and the bioeconomy' WP part, EUR 17.30 million from the 'Health, demographic change and well-being' WP part, EUR 17.85 million from the 'Information and Communication Technologies ' WP part, EUR 3.40 million from the 'Leadership in Enabling and Industrial Technologies - Space' WP part, EUR 10.10 million from the 'Nanotechnologies, Advanced Materials, Biotechnology and Advanced Manufacturing and Processing' WP part, EUR 3.90 million from the 'Secure societies – Protecting freedom and security of Europe and its citizens' WP part, EUR 14.65 million from the 'Smart, green and integrated transport' WP part.

- Indicative date for the signing of grant agreements: Maximum 6 months from the final date for submission.

Eligibility and admissibility conditions: The conditions are described in parts B and C of the General Annexes to the work programme. The following exceptions apply:

FTIPilot-01-2016	<p>A maximum of 5 legal entities can participate in a project. At least <i>one</i> of the following minimum conditions shall be met:</p> <p><i>either</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • at least 60% of the overall budget of the proposal must be allocated to consortium partner(s) from industry⁸ <p><i>or</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the minimum number of industry participants must be 2 in a consortium of 3 or 4 partners, and 3 in a consortium of 5 partners. <p>The <i>maximum</i> EU contribution per project is EUR 3 million⁹.</p> <p>Proposals shall relate to any field under the specific objective 'Leadership in enabling and industrial technologies' and/or to any of the specific objectives under the priority 'Societal challenges'.</p> <p>A proposal shall include a business plan¹⁰.</p> <p>Only applications involving entities all of whom are established in the EU Member States or countries associated to Horizon 2020 are eligible.</p>
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Evaluation criteria, scoring and threshold: The criteria, scoring and threshold are described in part H of the General Annexes to the work programme. The following exceptions apply:

FTIPilot-01-2016	<p>The criterion 'Impact' will be evaluated first, followed by 'Excellence' and 'Implementation'.</p> <p>The threshold for the criterion 'Impact' will be 4. The overall threshold, meaning the sum of the three individual scores, will be 12.</p> <p>The final consensus score of a proposal will be the average of the individual scores of the individual evaluators. The consensus</p>
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⁸ Private for-profit organisation.

⁹ The indicative EU contribution per project is expected to be between EUR 1 million and EUR 2 million.

¹⁰ The information to be captured in the proposal template on impact, excellence and quality and efficiency of implementation will together constitute the business plan. No separate business plan is to be submitted.

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	report will comprise the individual reports or key extracts from them. Where appropriate ¹¹ , a panel review will be organised remotely.
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Evaluation Procedure: The procedure for setting a priority order for proposals with the same score is given in part H of the General Annexes. The following exceptions apply:

FTIPilot-01-2016	For proposals with the same score, any further prioritisation will be based on the following factors applied in the following order: value of 'Impact' criterion; size of budget allocated to SMEs; number of first-time industry applicants; number of industry participants; gender balance among the personnel named in the proposal as primarily responsible for carrying out the research and/or innovation activities.
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The full evaluation procedure is described in the relevant [guide](#) published on the Participant Portal.

Consortium agreement: Members of consortium are required to conclude a consortium agreement, in principle prior to the signature of the grant agreement.

¹¹ For example, when the individual views of the evaluators are highly divergent.

Budget¹²

	Budget line(s)	2016 Budget (EUR million)
Calls		
H2020-FTIPilot-2016		See footnote ¹³
Estimated total budget		100.00

¹² The budget figures given in this table are rounded to two decimal places.

The budget amounts for the 2016 budget are subject to the availability of the appropriations provided for in the draft budget for 2016 after the adoption of the budget 2016 by the budgetary authority or, if the budget is not adopted, as provided for in the system of provisional twelfths.

The budget amounts for the 2017 budget are indicative and will be subject to a separate financing decision to cover the amounts to be allocated for 2017.

¹³ To which EUR 3.40 million from part 5 iii (budget line 02.040201) and EUR 1.49 million from part 12 (budget line 02.040301) and EUR 3.86 million from part 9 (budget line 05.090301) and EUR 4.39 million from part 11 (budget line 06.030301) and EUR 10.10 million from part 5.ii (budget line 08.020201) and EUR 14.70 million from part 8 (budget line 08.020301) and EUR 5.04 million from part 9 (budget line 08.020302) and EUR 6.85 million from part 10 (budget line 08.020303) and EUR 10.26 million from part 11 (budget line 08.020304) and EUR 5.66 million from part 12 (budget line 08.020305) and EUR 2.25 million from part 13 (budget line 08.020306) and EUR 17.85 million from part 5.i (budget line 09.040201) and EUR 2.60 million from part 8 (budget line 09.040301) and EUR 0.80 million from part 13 (budget line 09.040302) and EUR 0.98 million from part 14 (budget line 09.040303) and EUR 2.92 million from part 14 (budget line 18.050301) and EUR 6.85 million from part 10 (budget line 32.040301) will be added making a total of EUR 100.00 million for this call