THE FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

HORIZON 2020

SwissCore
Contact Office for European Research
Innovation and Education

Rue du Trône 98
1050 BRUSSELS
BELGIUM

Phone +32 2 549 09 80
infodesk@swisscore.org
www.swisscore.org
Feedback analysis on questionnaire: ‘first experiences with Horizon 2020’

EARTO Working Group Horizon 2020
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Charlotte Geerdink (European Advisor for Innovation)
Adam Ouzeri (Student Trainee for Research)
Overview presentation

- Introduction and statistics
- Part I: Topic description
- Part II: Technical aspects of the Participant Portal
- Part III: Evaluations
- Part IV: Clarity of Legal issues, guidelines and MGA
- Conclusion
- Opportunities for the future collaboration
Introduction & statistics
Overview on questionnaire results

Questionnaires covered four distinct aspects of Horizon 2020 participation with several questions per aspects:

- Topic description in work programmes;
- Participant Portal;
- Evaluations;
- Clarity of legal issues, guidelines and Annotated Model Grant Agreement (AMGA).

Answers per questions have been compiled and summarised.

Total number of questionnaires analysed: 120.
Position of participant

- Research manager: 37%
- Researcher: 20%
- Project administrator: 12%
- Other: 25%
- Multiple: 3%
- N/A: 3%
Organisation type

- University: 59%
- RTO: 16%
- SME: 11%
- Industry: 4%
- Public Body: 4%
- Other: 4%
- N/A: 2%
PART I: Topic description in Work Programmes
Problems & Suggestions

• Broader topic means more intellectual freedom but also a lower success rate.
• Uncertain if proposals can cover parts of call text.
• Wording vague with Scope/Impact hard to assess.
• Budget range confusions.
• Interdisciplinarity leads to crucial consortium building.
• Clarification of the political thinking or aim from the EC.
• ‘Innovation’ and ‘Interdisciplinarity shouldn’t be the only guiding approaches to H2020 topics.
• NCPs, Infodays, Liaison Offices in Brussels and EC scientific officers were generally very helpful.
PART II: Technical aspects of Participant Portal
Problems & Suggestions

- Call and topic search function is still difficult to use. Participants actually used google.
- Necessary documents’ location inconsistent between topics or simply unexpected.
- IT requirements should be specified on PP.
- Still IT issues with omitted forms or submitted draft proposals disappearing immediately after submission.
- Helpdesk phone number.
- Mapping of European funded projects.
- Mitigated experiences with IT helpdesk and RES.
PART III: Evaluations
Problems & Suggestions

• Success rate 1\textsuperscript{st} stage to be kept to a minimum.
• Very few comments and score explanations were given in the ESR compared to the size of the proposal.
• Links are missing between scores and justifications in ESR.
• There seems to be a gambling effect on evaluation rather than serious evaluation.
• Clear matrices should be used for impact evaluation and points deductions to show clear link between the weakness of a proposal and the attributed score.
• Stricter selection of evaluators.
• Consensus evaluators’ meetings should be organised or become mandatory.
PART IV: Clarity of legal issues, guidelines and AMGA
Problems & Suggestions

• Very long documents.
• Inconsistencies between guidelines and online forms.
• Cost management and categories and financial support to third parties are still not very clear.
• All documents should be dated.
• AMGA should include a table of content, check list, user friendly media communications.
• ‘Financial guidelines’ as in FP7.
General observations

- Proposal preparation is very time consuming (for SMEs: loss of interest).
- ESR didn’t allow participants to improve their future proposals as the comments were very short and vague.
- Small differences in documentation between topics leads to confusion.
- Scientists were discouraged by the vocabulary.
- ‘Interdisciplinarity’ was confused with ‘multidisciplinarity’.
- More SMEs and Industry were involved.
Opportunities for future collaboration

• ERA in action.
• Future organisation.
Thank you!

Charlotte Geerdink (European Advisor for Innovation)
geerdink@swisscore.org