



Department of Biotechnology
Government of India



EUROPEAN UNION

Updated on 08/08/2016

Research & Innovation Cooperation between DBT and the EU under HORIZON 2020

The *Department of Biotechnology* (DBT) and the *European Commission* (EC) will jointly fund certain India–EU collaborative projects under [Horizon 2020](#) (H2020).

H2020 is the biggest EU Research and Innovation programme ever with nearly €80 billion of funding available over 7 years (2014 to 2020). It is widely open to foreign participation, in particular of Indian teams, for which DBT co-funding is available in respect of specific calls for proposals (see below).

Indian researchers, enterprises (MSMEs), research institutions and universities will be able to team up with their European partners to participate in projects under H2020 and make best use of Europe's excellent opportunities in research and innovation. Through participation in H2020, beneficiaries can gain great benefits from access to excellent knowledge, access to research data and access and connection to world-leading scientific networks and research teams.

1. EU-INDIA CO-FUNDING MECHANISM FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION COOPERATION

While Indian participants (teams¹) are no longer automatically funded by the EC under H2020, the DBT and the EC have agreed to set up a co-funding mechanism to support joint projects between European and Indian universities, research institutions and companies.

Under this co-funding mechanism (CFM), a maximum of **three crore rupees** (₹ 30,000,000) per project will be made available by DBT to successful Indian participants in joint collaborative projects with European partners under Horizon 2020.

The CFM will be used for certain pre-identified Horizon 2020 calls for proposals (see list below). Several priority areas will be supported: agriculture (including food), biotechnologies, bio-energy, health, water resources, new materials and nanotechnology.

In addition to the topics eligible for DBT funding under the CFM, Indian participation is welcomed in all Calls for Proposals of Horizon 2020, where Indian partners can participate on their own funds, or by using other sources of funding.

¹ This does not apply to individual Indian researchers receiving a *Marie Curie* fellowship (MSCA) or a grant of the *European Research Council* (ERC).

2. CALLS FOR PROPOSALS CONCERNED

DBT has agreed – subject to their positive evaluation – to fund Indian participants in a number of calls for proposals of mutual interest, identified in the table below.

CALL NAME / TOPIC (<i>click topic name to follow link</i>)	PLANNED OPENING DATE	PLANNED CLOSING DATE
SC1-PM-06-2016 : Vaccine development for malaria and/or neglected infectious diseases <i>Health</i>		Closed 13.4.2016
SC1-PM-09-2016 : New therapies for chronic diseases <i>Health</i>		Closed 13.4.2016
SC1-PM-11-2016-2017 : Clinical research on regenerative medicine <i>Health</i>		Closed 13.4.2016
NMBP-15-2017 : Nanotechnologies for imaging cellular transplants and regenerative processes in vivo <i>Bio-Nano-Tech</i>	11.5.2016	27.10.2016
BIOTEC-07-2017 : New Plant Breeding Techniques (NPBT) in molecular farming: Multipurpose crops for industrial bioproducts <i>Biotech</i>	11.5.2016	27.10.2016
SC1-PM-07-2017 : Promoting mental health and well-being in the young <i>Health</i>	29.7.2016	4.10.2016
SC1-PM-08-2017 : New therapies for rare diseases <i>Health</i>	29.7.2016	4.10.2016
SC1-PM-10-2017 : Comparing the effectiveness of existing healthcare interventions in the adult population <i>Health</i>	29.7.2016	4.10.2016
LCE-06-2017 : New knowledge and technologies <i>Secure, Clean and Efficient Energy</i>	20.9.2016	5.1.2017
SFS-10-2017 : Research and approaches for emerging diseases in plants and terrestrial livestock <i>Biotech</i>	4.10.2016	14.2.2017
SFS-13-2017 : Validation of diagnostic tools for animal and plant health <i>Biotech</i>	4.10.2016	14.2.2017
SFS-16-2017 : Bee health and sustainable pollination <i>Biotech</i>	4.10.2016	14.2.2017
SFS-17-2017 : Innovations in plant protection <i>Biotech</i>	4.10.2016	14.2.2017
SFS-22-2017 : Smart fisheries technologies for an efficient, compliant and environmentally friendly fishing sector <i>Marine-Biotech</i>	4.10.2016	14.2.2017

CALL NAME / TOPIC (click topic name to follow link)	PLANNED OPENING DATE	PLANNED CLOSING DATE
SFS-34-2017 : Innovative agri-food chains: unlocking the potential for competitiveness and sustainability <i>Biotech</i>	4.10.2016	14.2.2017
SFS-35-2017 : Innovative solutions for sustainable food packaging <i>Biotech</i>	4.10.2016	14.2.2017
BG-08-2017 : Innovative sustainable solutions for improving the safety and dietary properties of seafood <i>Marine-Biotech</i>	4.10.2016	14.2.2017
BB-02-2017 : Towards a method for the collection of statistical data on bio-based industries and bio-based products <i>Biotech</i>	4.10.2016	14.2.2017
BB-03-2017 : Adaptive tree breeding strategies and tools for forest production systems resilient to climate change and natural disturbances <i>Biotech</i>	4.10.2016	14.2.2017
SC1-PM-16-2017 : In-silico trials for developing and assessing biomedical products <i>Health</i>	8.11.2016	14.3.2017
SC1-PM-17-2017 : Personalised computer models and in-silico systems for well-being <i>Health</i>	8.11.2016	14.3.2017

3. HOW DOES IT WORK?

For a given call for proposals identified above, the co-funding mechanism/procedure would work as follows:

- **The EU publishes its call** for proposals under Horizon 2020 (on the "Participant Portal" – to which clickable links are included in the table above).
- Proposals are submitted within the applicable deadline; **each proposal is submitted simultaneously both (1) to DBT** by the Indian participant(s) only, **and (2) to the EC** on behalf of all participants.
 - **The proposal submitted to the EC** is a classical, complete Horizon 2020 proposal, fulfilling all H2020 requirements² (it is thus extremely important that Indian participants as well are fully aware of all related administrative, legal and other aspects³). The H2020 proposal has to be submitted on-line by the *project coordinator* – usually this role is played by one of the EU participants, what considerably reduces

2 For instance, each proposal for a collaborative project ("*Research and Innovation Action*") under HORIZON 2020 must be submitted by a consortium including at least 3 legal entities (from the public or private sector) from 3 different EU member states (or countries associated to HORIZON 2020, such as Norway), as well as any number of additional participants from the EU or outside the EU, including India. On the DBT side, a key requirement is that funding is only available to public-sector institutions and MSMEs (including start-ups).

3 See the *H2020 Online Manual* (http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/docs/h2020-funding-guide/grants/applying-for-funding_en.htm) and/or the comprehensive brochure developed by the *EU Delegation to India* (http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/india/documents/h2020_brochure-india-aug_2014.pdf)

the administrative burden for Indian participants – on behalf of all participants, including Indian ones.

- **The proposal submitted to DBT** must include (1) 'Part B' of the H2020 proposal⁴ and (2) a 'financial plan' [in the prescribed format](#)⁵, identifying the planned expenditures (in Rupees) for all Indian partners involved. This proposal is submitted to DBT, by email, by one Indian participant ("*Indian project coordinator*") on behalf of all Indian participants (if there are more than one).
- The proposals are **evaluated** by DBT and by the EC. For proposals positively evaluated by both sides, DBT provides research grants to the Indian researchers, while the EU funds the EU participants (under a "grant agreement" signed by all participants, including the Indian ones), enabling the project to start. In some cases, project participants can be required to sign an additional Consortium Agreement before the start of the project.

4. TWO-STAGE SUBMISSION/EVALUATION

The procedure described above relates to the straightforward "one-stage" submission/evaluation procedure, that is applied in many calls for proposals under Horizon 2020.

However, other calls for proposals rely on a "two-stage" submission/evaluation procedure. In the first stage of this procedure, applicants only submit a short version of their proposal, while the full proposal will be required only if the evaluation of this first-stage proposal is positive. For phase 1 of such a two-stage evaluation, "Part B"⁴ is restricted to 10 pages, and not the usual 70-or-so pages as for a full proposal. This saves time for everybody.

- 5. TO ENSURE SYMMETRY AND AVOID ANY CONFUSION, THE SAME REQUIREMENTS APPLY TO THE INDIAN PARTICIPANTS: THEY WILL NEED TO SUBMIT "PART B" OF THE SHORT PROPOSAL TO DBT AT THE SAME TIME AS IT IS SUBMITTED TO THE EC (STAGE 1) AND, SUBJECT TO POSITIVE EVALUATION, INDIAN PARTICIPANTS WILL ALSO HAVE TO SUBMIT "PART B" OF THE FULL PROPOSAL TO DBT AT THE SAME TIME AS IT IS SUBMITTED TO THE EC (STAGE 2).DBT'S FINANCIAL MODALITIES**

DBT funding is granted for a **maximum of three years, up to ₹ 30,000,000 per project**. Indian applicants must refer and adhere to [national/regional regulations and scientific remits as detailed by DBT](#). They may contact DBT (see contact details below) to check their compliance with the national rules. Eligible costs depend on national regulations. In general, the following items can be applied for:

- **Mobility:** exchange research visits between Europe and India. Travel costs, living expenses and visa costs are eligible for funding. Eligibility is subject to national regulations. Accommodation and living costs of Indian participants travelling to Europe need to be borne by their European counterpart⁶ and vice-versa. The costs

⁴ 'Part B' is the research proposal as such, also called "technical annex", describing the scientific work to be conducted – as opposed to 'Part A' which relates to administrative data – see template: http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/call_ptef/pt/h2020-call-pt-ria-ia_en.pdf#page=14

⁵ http://www.dbtindia.nic.in/imageupload/Proforma_R&D.doc

⁶ This will have to be agreed at consortium level and reimbursement of costs will have to be in line with Horizon 2020 rules

need to be foreseen and planned in the project proposal. This needs to be taken into account in the budgets of both the H2020 proposal and the DBT proposal.

- **Workshops:** organisation costs, including rents for the event location, catering, communication materials and the invitation of external experts. Eligibility is subject to national regulations.
- **Research costs:** small equipment and consumables, project related miscellaneous expenses and project related larger equipment; the extent to which equipment costs are eligible for funding depends on national regulations.
- **Personnel costs:** extent of eligibility is according to respective national regulations.

It is not possible to apply for individual exchanges or single workshops.

6. FURTHER INFORMATION

INDIA

Dr. Shailja GUPTA, Director International Cooperation
Department of Biotechnology, Room No. 605, Block-2
CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi - 3
Tel: 91-11-24363748
Email: shailja@dbt.nic.in

Dr. Sanjay KALIA, Scientist-D
Room No. 814, Block-2
Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi - 3
Email: sanjay.kalia@nic.in

EUROPE

European Commission's "*Research Enquiry Service*":

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/index.cfm?pg=enquiries>

EU Delegation to India:

DELEGATION-INDIA-RI@eeas.europa.eu