



EU Insight - Work programmes for 2016-2017: over EUR 16 bn for research and innovation

On 13 October, the European Commission (EC) published the second Horizon 2020 work programme for the next two years, 2016 to 2017. Aligned with the agenda of Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker, the work programme aims to **boost competitiveness and support Europe's growth and jobs** with an **investment of nearly EUR 16 billion in research and innovation**.

Selected key priorities for 2016-2017

To boost Europe's **growth and increase the number of jobs** without creating new debt is a top priority for the next two years. Research and innovation investments will cover both the immediate need to engage the re-industrialisation of Europe as well as the longer-term objective of building solid knowledge needed for the next wave of innovative breakthroughs. This includes, amongst others, funding of around EUR 2 billion to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs); nearly EUR 1.7 billion for outstanding researchers through **European Research Council** (ERC) grants to work on the best ideas that could lead to innovative growth-enhancing breakthroughs; and nearly 10.000 fellowships for young researchers under the **Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions** to receive high-quality training and career development opportunities abroad.

Other priorities will be the contribution to a connected digital single market; a forward-looking climate change policy for secure, affordable and climate-friendly energy; maintaining and reinforcing the internal market as well as European industrial base; and the tackling of cross-cutting issues, such as improving synergies with other EU funding programmes, i.e. the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF). Last but not least, **international cooperation** calls and targeted initiatives will help boost research and innovation cooperation with countries outside Europe and effectively tackle common societal challenges. The work programme is in line with Commissioner Moedas' strategic priorities '**openness to innovation, to science and to the world**'.

Sources and further information

European Commission. "Horizon 2020: new Work Programme supports Europe's growth, jobs and competitiveness". Fact Sheet. 13 October 2015. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-15-5832_en.htm. Accessed 26 October 2015.

European Commission. "Commission invests €16 billion in funding for research and innovation over next two years". Press release. 13 October 2015. Accessed 26 October 2015.

European Commission. Horizon 2020 webportal: <http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en>. Accessed 27 October 2015.

What is a work programme?

Funding opportunities under Horizon 2020 are set out in multiannual work programmes, which cover the large majority of support available. The work programmes are prepared by the European Commission within the framework provided by the Horizon 2020 legislation and through a strategic programming process integrating EU policy objectives in the priority setting.

The **European Research Council work programme** can be found [here](#).