

FAQ for Expression of Interest SC1-PHE-CORONAVIRUS-2020

For the expression of interest SC1-PHE-CORONAVIRUS-2020, are Chinese and/or US partners eligible for funding?

Applicants from non-EU countries are free to take part in Horizon 2020 programs, alongside European participants. However, they are not always automatically entitled to funding. For example, the USA and China (and other industrialised countries) may be granted funding if their participation is considered essential for carrying out actions in the grant. It has to be demonstrated that participation by the applicant has clear benefits to the consortium such as outstanding expertise/competence, access to research infrastructure, particular geographical environments and/or data.

Further information on Annex A:

https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/other/wp/2018-2020/annexes/h2020-wp1820-annex-ga_en.pdf

For the expression of interest SC1-PHE-CORONAVIRUS-2020, given the short deadline, what is the expected length of the proposal?

The rules of regular Horizon 2020 calls for proposals are applicable for this expression of interest. However, considering the limited timeframes, we understand that proposals cannot be as elaborate as usual. Therefore, we ask applicants to provide in their proposals the information that they consider necessary/essential to allow a proper evaluation (all sections foreseen in the proposal should be filled out). The more information that can be given, the better, but the evaluators will bear in mind constraints.

For the expression of interest SC1-PHE-CORONAVIRUS-2020, what should be the duration of a project?

In terms of number of years for the project to cover, there is no guidance provided. However, please note that the main evaluation criterion for this particular request for expressions of interest, in the context of the emergency, is impact.

For the expression of interest SC1-PHE-CORONAVIRUS-2020, will one proposal per topic be funded?

There is no intention of funding one proposal per "topic" identified in the scope. It is the panel of evaluators that will review all proposals and provide advice on the best proposals to be funded – as per usual for the Horizon 2020 evaluation procedure. For example, the topic "Therapeutics" is referred to as a broad concept, i.e. the development of countermeasures that treat/cure the infection. Proposals are free to combine different avenues of therapeutics, or to focus on one single approach.

What rules apply to the UK as a participant in this expression of interest?

The Withdrawal Agreement as agreed between the European Union and the United Kingdom entered into force on 1 February 2020. In overall terms, on the basis of the Withdrawal Agreement, the UK-based legal entities will continue to be fully eligible to participate and receive funding in the current 2014-2020 EU programmes, including Horizon 2020, as if the UK were a member state until the closure of these programmes, unless security considerations apply. This means that UK beneficiaries can continue – without interruption - to receive grants awarded under the current and previous MFFs until their end dates, even if these are after 2020.

What will be the start date for a successful proposal under this expression interest?

As specified in the Funding & Tenders Portal, the signature of grant agreements (GA) for this topic is anticipated to be maximum 2 months from the deadline for submission (i.e. mid-April 2020).

The starting date is usually the first day of the month following the date when the GA is signed by both parties. Exceptionally, a fixed, retroactive starting date before the entry into force of the GA - but NEVER before the submission of the proposal - may also be agreed between the Commission and the consortium, if the consortium requests it (usually in its proposal).

However, as indicated in the description of the request for expressions of interest, expenditures can be covered from the date of submission of the proposal, but at the applicant's own risk. Therefore, if the consortium requests a fixed starting date before the entry into force of the GA, **it assumes the risks implied by starting the action before the GA is signed**; in particular not being reimbursed for the costs incurred, e.g. if the proposal is not successful or if the GA is not signed.

For more information please see H2020 Annotated Model Grant Agreement (Article3):

https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants_manual/amga/h2020-amga_en.pdf.”