

## FAST TRACK TO INNOVATION PILOT

Scene-setter: full details on this pilot are provided in the separate call for proposals under the Horizon 2020 Work Programme Part – Fast Track to Innovation Pilot (Part X of this Work Programme).

Budget: 3.03 million in 2016

## OTHER ACTIONS

### ***I - Monitoring and assessing research and innovation performance and policies***

#### a) *Development of the Innovation Scoreboards*

Preparation of the Innovation Union Scoreboard report to assess countries' overall research and innovation performance on the basis of key indicators.

**Type of action:** Public procurement

**Indicative timetable:** 2017

**Indicative budget:** EUR 0.60 million from 2017 budget

#### b) *Innobarometer survey*

Implementation of the annual Innobarometer survey of businesses and general public on innovation-related policies and issues.

**Type of action:** Public procurement through a framework contract

**Indicative timetable:** 2016, 2017

**Indicative budget:** EUR 0.4 million from the 2016 budget and EUR 0.4 million from the 2017 budget

#### c) *Industrial R&D Scoreboard*

Preparation of the annual European Industrial R&D Investment Scoreboard analysing R&D investment patterns using company reporting, complemented by a survey of top R&D spending companies in Europe and a series of analytical studies and conferences. The work should exploit the dataset that has been collected since 2003, improve information on the location of company R&D activities, ensure a minimum coverage of all Member States, and deepen the analysis by linking to other data sources (patents, trademarks, etc.)

**Legal entity:** Joint Research Centre

**Type of action:** Grant to identified beneficiary - Coordination and support actions

**Indicative timetable:** 2016 - 17

**Indicative budget:** EUR 2.4 million from the 2016 budget

#### d) *Provision and analysis of key indicators in research and innovation*

This action should provide a full set of indicators for monitoring research and innovation activities across all Member States and associated countries and other major countries cover investment patterns (public, private, type of investment), scientific outputs (publications, other outputs), technological outputs (patenting, licensing data, etc.) and also cover researcher mobility, cross-border cooperation, and impacts. Analysis should also be provided drawing together different sets of indicators to provide new insights on issues relevant to EU research and innovation policies.

**Indicative budget:** EUR 0.8 million from 2016 budget

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**Type of action:** Public procurement

**Indicative timetable:** 2016 – 17

e) *Evaluation of the Policy Support Facility and expert support to R&I policy analysis*

Expert support will be used to analyse and evaluate R&I policies and programmes, both at national and EU level, and their impact. Such support will notably contribute to assessing the appropriateness and effectiveness of Policy Support Facility services to Member States and Associated Countries. It will also contribute to the scientific and economic analysis supporting the 2017 edition of the Innovation Union Competitiveness Report, as well as to its overall quality assurance.

The specialist skills required and demanding nature of the work requires highly qualified experts, which will be selected on the basis of objective criteria. Therefore, a special allowance of EUR 450/day will be paid to the experts appointed in their personal capacity who act independently and in the public interest.

**Type of action:** individual expert contracts

**Indicative timetable:** 2016-2017

**Indicative budget:** EUR 0.10 million from 2016 budget and EUR 0.10 million from 2017 budget

f) *Support to the development and analysis of a R&I policy taxonomy and questionnaire*

In the context of the preparation of the joint Commission and OECD questionnaire on research and innovation investments and reforms in the Member States and associated countries, support the analysis relevant to the European R&I policy framework, in particular with respect to developing the common policy taxonomy.

**Legal entity:** The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

**Type of action:** Grant to identified beneficiary - Coordination and support actions

**Indicative timetable:** 2016

**Indicative budget:** EUR 0.50 million from 2016 budget

g) *Econometric analyses and indicators on the impact of R&I*

Further development and regular production of a composite indicators (on e.g. innovation output, research excellence, knowledge circulation and structural changes), and econometric analyses on firm level data to evaluate e.g. the effect of innovation on growth, competitiveness and employment.

**Legal entity:** Joint Research Centre

**Type of action:** Grant to identified beneficiary - Coordination and support actions

**Indicative timetable:** 2016

**Indicative budget:** EUR 0.40 million from 2016 budget

***II - Support for the strategic programming of Horizon 2020 and support to the High Level Group of Research, Innovation and Science Policy Experts (RISE)***

a) *Support for the strategic programming of Horizon 2020*

This line of activity aims to support strategic programming in EU research and innovation (R&I) policy and in particular in Horizon 2020 through strategic intelligence and sense-making, by bringing together and building upon existing forward looking activities in the EU with regard to R&I priority setting through expert advice and analysis of available knowledge.

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One expert group will be set up to perform horizon scanning and sense-making activities that are important for strategic programming in Horizon 2020 and for longer term R&I policy development including the next Framework Programme (post-2020). These activities involve harvesting evidence and evaluating their relevance, validity and reliability, in addition to performing highly specialized analyses, preparing contributions and exposing those contributions to debate, through which the group will develop their foresight reports. Therefore, a special fee of EUR 450 per working day will be paid to the experts appointed in their personal capacity acting independently and in the public interest. The experts will be highly qualified, specialised, independent experts selected on the basis of objective criteria, following an open call for expressions of interest.

In areas where there is a lack of existing data, and which therefore would not be appropriate for the work of expert groups, public procurement will be used to support specific studies which will include data collection, including to develop foresight input for the next Framework Programme.

In this context the organisation of a major foresight conference bringing together insights from major foresight projects in the Member States and at EU level is foreseen to capitalise available foresight knowledge towards the preparation of the discussions on the next Framework Programme.

**1) Type of Action:** Expert contracts

**Indicative timetable:** 2017

**Indicative budget:** EUR 0.3 million from 2017 budget

**2) Type of Action:** Public procurement

**Indicative timetable:** 2016 and 2017

**Indicative budget:** EUR 0.40 million from 2016 budget (includes the conference) and 0.4 million from 2017 budget

b) *Support to the High Level Group of Research, Innovation and Science Policy Experts (RISE)*

The High Level Group of Research, Innovation and Science Policy Experts (RISE) provides strategic support to the European Commissioner for research, innovation, and science and to the European Commission, essential for the development of research and innovation policy. It contributes directly to the achievement of the Innovation Union initiative, the Europe 2020 strategy and the Innovation Union flagship initiative.

The activities carried out by the group will be essential to the development of the mentioned policy areas, and without them the EU reference policy framework concerned would not be achieved.

The high level experts will draw on their professional networks to develop, through thorough analysis of evidence and synthesis of state of the art knowledge, specialized policy briefs on pertinent issues. Therefore a special daily allowance of EUR 450 will be paid to the experts appointed in their personal capacity who act independently and in the public interest. The experts will be highly qualified, specialised, independent experts selected on the basis of objective criteria, following an open call for expressions of interest.

**1) Type of action:** Expert contracts

**Indicative timetable:** 2016 and 2017

**Indicative budget:** EUR 0.10 million from 2016 budget and 0.50 million from 2017 budget

**2) Type of action:** Public procurement

**Indicative timetable:** 2016 and 2017

**Indicative budget:** EUR 0.30 million from 2016 budget and 0.30 million from 2017 budget

### ***III– Open Science***

#### **a) Support to Open Science<sup>1</sup>**

This line of activities aims at supporting actions for the development of a European Open Science Agenda through public procurement and expert advice to support up to five specific fields, e.g. support awareness raising and the uptake by stakeholders, removing barriers for better dissemination of research results, addressing legal uncertainty on the (re)use of research results, quality assurance and impact of scientific results in an Open Science framework and exploring incentives for researchers to engage in Open Science and for institutions to support it.

The ‘Expert Group on Open Science’ will be set up to support the R&I policy development on Open Science. This involves harvesting evidence and evaluating their relevance, performing specific analyses, and developing reports on Open Science issues. Therefore, a fee of EUR 450 per working day will be paid to the experts appointed in their personal capacity acting independently and in the public interest. The experts will be highly qualified, specialised, independent experts selected on the basis of objective criteria, following an open call for expression of interest.

**1) Type of action:** Expert contracts

**Indicative timetable:** 2016 and 2017

**Indicative budget:** EUR 0.10 million from 2016 budget and 0.10 million from 2017 budget

**2) Type of action:** Public procurement

**Indicative timetable:** 2016 and 2017

**Indicative budget:** EUR 0.20 million from 2016 budget and 0.20 million from 2017 budget

#### **b) Open Science monitor<sup>2</sup>**

The action aims to determine the scope and the benefits of Open Science in Europe and globally across the Research and Innovation cycle, based on a sound operationalization of the concept. The action has four main objectives:

- To deliver a monitoring system (for Europe) and (global) observatory for Open Access trends;
- To set up a global reference point for the Open Science community to interact with;
- To determine the impacts of Open Science in the scientific domain;
- To provide structured analysis of policy-relevant trends in Open Science.

The action will build on existing evidence collected via the Open Science Monitor (running in 2016) and in other studies. The Open Science Monitor provides a first analysis of trends, drivers, barriers and incentives to Open Science in Europe. It also makes available, tests and applies a methodology for the collection of hard empirical data on Open Science trends. Based on this preparatory work, the contractors will design, draft, execute and deliver a full-fledged monitoring system in order to

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<sup>1</sup> This action supports SC6 specific objective 6.2.1 and is linked to the Call Co-creation for growth and inclusion.

<sup>2</sup> This action supports SC6 specific objective 6.2.1 and it is a continuation of the action "c) Development of the Science 2.0 Observatory" under the SC6 2014-2015 work programme.

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determine Open Science scope, nature, impacts on science and scientific knowledge, and its socio-economic impacts. In turn, this will provide an evidence-based view of evolution of Open Science, facilitating policy steering.

Practically, contractors will identify, define, monitor and analyse the state-of-play for Open Science trends in EU28 and, where data is available, in Associated Countries (AC). In addition, they will identify, define, analyse and monitor the tangible and intangible benefits of Open Science at micro and macro level (output, outcomes and impact in scientific, social and economic terms). The action will scope the global literature and practices in Open Science to fill possible gaps, and set an integrated strategy for global Open Science monitoring. Overall, it will finalise a set of quantitative and qualitative indicators and metrics and collect and analyse relevant data in order to monitor the global evolution of Open Science over time. The resulting monitoring will allow the Commission to propose sound evidence-based policy proposals and action in the field of Open Science and R&I overall.

To meet the general objectives, the action will also build an online, interactive repository of resources on Open Science trends and impacts; it will scope the global Open Science expertise and set up an international Advisory Committee to assist the work of the action; it will host an interactive Open Science platform for debate. In close collaboration with the Commission, the contractor will analyse the European R&I system to help identify additional factors that are related to Open Science trends, such as for instance big data analytics, cloud computing, novel social computing trends. Finally, the action will provide indication on the scalability and sustainability of Open Science monitoring. The action shall help the Commission determine whether long-term monitoring of Open Science and other breakthroughs in science is required. The foreseen duration of the action is 24 months.

**Type of action:** Public procurement

**Indicative timetable:** 2016

**Indicative budget:** EUR 0.7 million from the 2016 budget

#### ***IV- Prizes***

a) European Open Science prize<sup>3</sup>

Open Science describes the on-going transitions in the way research is performed, researchers collaborate, knowledge is shared, and science is organised. It is driven by digital technologies, the globalisation of the scientific community, and the need to address grand societal challenges. Open Science has the potential to strengthen and enhance science by facilitating more transparency, openness, networking, collaboration, and by fostering interdisciplinary research. Europe needs to reap the benefits of Open Science to ensure the excellent performance of its research system in the future.

Open Science impacts the entire research cycle and its organisation. Research organisations such as universities are significantly affected. They have addressed the challenges stemming from these transitions and have taken different initiatives.

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<sup>3</sup> This action supports SC6 specific objective 6.2.2 and is linked to the Call Co-creation for growth and inclusion.

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The Commission plans to award research organisations for their excellent and innovative bottom-up initiatives Open Science The prize shall aim at stimulating the further development of these initiatives by which research organisations intend to enable their students and/or researchers to benefit the most from Open Science.

The Commission wants to recognise outstanding initiatives of research organisations to conduct Open Science in the following three categories:

1. Initiatives in providing services and support to researchers to conduct Open Science e.g. supply access to infrastructures for open access to research outcomes and data sharing; review and adapt curricula to include knowledge on specific fields of Open Science such as data.
2. Initiatives in rewarding researchers for conducting Open Science e.g. review evaluation criteria for hiring and promoting researchers, acknowledge Open Science activities in internal funding allocation processes
3. Initiatives to conduct research under the conditions of Open Science e.g. mission oriented research projects that involve a broad knowledge coalition<sup>4</sup>

The High Level Jury evaluation submissions will consist of a group of independent experts representing the key stakeholder groups (which includes e.g. research organisations, libraries, learned societies, industry and businesses as well as public authorities) appointed by the Commission. The High Level Jury will submit to the Commission a shortlist of up to three initiatives in each category. In each of the three categories, monetary prizes of EUR 0.3 million will be awarded to the best initiative.

The Commission will manage the award. An information campaign will be launched to encourage contestants to apply.

Expected results: By awarding the “European Open Science prize” the Commission will showcase novel initiatives to foster Open Science and give visibility to the most dynamic, forward-looking and innovative universities or research performing organisations and their initiatives in the field of Open Science. The winners’ innovative initiatives will have a strong potential for replicability and scaling up and should be used as role model for other universities and research performing organisations in Europe.

The awarded money is expected to be used by the winning research organisation to scale up and expand their initiative. The Commission will remain in close contact with the winners and ensure follow-up for the implementation of the subsequent stages of their initiatives.

Launch of contest: XX/XX/2016

Type of action: Recognition prize (3 prizes)

Total amount of prize: EUR 0.90 million - 3 prizes each 0.30 million

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<sup>4</sup> Based on a quadruple helix model of innovation, in which civil society organisations, industry, government and academia work together.

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The specific rules of the contest will be published in [Year] by the European Commission<sup>5</sup>, which will directly launch and manage the contest and award the prize based on the judgement of independent experts.

Eligibility Criteria:

1. The research organisation must be established in an EU Member or in Associated Country
2. The initiatives must relate to completed or on-going initiatives started after 1 January XXXX
3. The achievements have not been previously awarded with a monetary prize by an EU institution.

The common Rules of Contest for Prizes, including processing of personal data, sole liability of contestants, applicable law and competent jurisdiction, conditions for participation, applicability of penalties and exclusion criteria, are provided in part F of the General Annexes.

Essential award criteria:

The winners of the “European Inducement Prize for Open Science” will be selected according to the following award criteria, which will be assessed by a High Level Jury:

1. The originality and replicability

Initiatives must be highly innovative and will be judged on the level of quality of actions proposed or already taken and the potential for being replicated by other research organisations.

2. The relevance for the researchers and the research system

Initiatives will be assessed on their potential to encourage, enable and support researchers to engage in Open Science.

3. The planned use of the prize money

Plans to use the prize money to scale-up or expand the initiative will be judged based on their ambition and feasibility and on the expected impact and benefits for researchers and the research system as a whole.

Further details on the evaluation criteria, thresholds, weighting for award criteria will be specified in the rules for this contest published at the launch of the contest.

Indicative budget: prizes: EUR 0.90 million and expert contracts - EUR 0.03 million from the 2016 budget

b) European capital of innovation prize

With their capacity to connect people, places, public and private actors, urban areas can substantially enhance innovation in Europe. Building on the success of this award first as a pilot and then as a full scale action in 2015, the award will continue for 2016 and 2017 with a deeply renewed approach.

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<sup>5</sup> On its 'participant portal' (<http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/page/home>) but also actively publicised elsewhere to maximise participation.

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As in the first editions, it will aim to provide European level recognition to those cities that make the most to promote innovation within their communities and thereby improve the quality of their citizens' lives. It will again address the challenge of fostering innovation through actions at city level, by acknowledging innovative solutions to build up an innovation ecosystem and ideas to further expand and scale up these initiatives. Building on these features, the new award will strengthen its bottom-up approach by turning into a scheme to pilot citizens-led initiatives.

The leading idea is therefore a focus on experimentation, i.e. the competition will reward 2 cities willing to propose themselves as test-beds and run citizens-driven 'pilots' to find solutions for their relevant societal challenges.

For the purpose of this award, cities are considered as a whole system, including built environment, municipal authorities and citizens, organizations and public structures, as a platform capable of facilitating the growth and development of creativity and innovation in its different meanings.

The proposals should be focused on:

- Developing an effective innovation ecosystem that captures the five I's of an innovative, inclusive, inspiring, interactive and integrated city;
- Identifying a specific future oriented challenge relevant for the city and putting in place mechanisms to solve the challenge in the year of the award.

The actions will include innovation activities, scaling up past or on-going achievements, thus contributing to the city's innovation ecosystem, European policy implementation or innovation capacity building, as well as support activities. All the activities mentioned in the proposals will have to focus on clear and tangible impact, and visible progress in implementing the activities will be requested.

The award will illustrate at the European level the commitment to innovation at the city level and to establishing a network of iCities that can inspire and share best practice with other cities in Europe and act as innovation ambassadors further afield. At the city level, the first impact will be the recognition of successful innovation policies within a city which raises the profile of the team and the political leaders that have developed and implemented these policies. Secondly, the award will help the city open up connections with other cities that would wish to learn from the city and analyse which policies and activities could be transferable. This will allow the city to attract international interest in its activities. Thirdly, the prize should encourage and contribute to enabling the city to develop new innovation activities made possible only by the access of funding from the prize and by attracting investors, industry, top class researchers as well as talented and entrepreneurial individuals and, in this way, strengthen the innovative potential of the city in general.

The specific rules of the contest will be published in [Year] by the European Commission<sup>6</sup>, which will directly launch and manage the contest and award the prize based on the judgement of independent experts.

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<sup>6</sup> On its 'participant portal' (<http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/page/home>) but also actively publicised elsewhere to maximise participation.



**Eligibility Criteria (tbc)**

**Award Criteria (tbc)**

The prizes will be awarded in 2016 and in 2017 (for the European Capital of Innovation 2017 and for the European Capital of Innovation 2018). The winning cities will be entitled to hold their title for the year of the award.

**Type of action:** Inducement Prize. The common Rules of Contest for Prizes are provided in part F of the General Annexes.

**Timing:** European Capital of Innovation 2017: Publication: 15 July 2016; opening of contest: 15 July 2016 at 12:00:00 Brussels local time; Deadline to submit applications: 30 October 2016 at 12:00:00 Brussels local time;

European Capital of Innovation 2018: Publication: 15 July 2017; opening of contest: 15 July 2017 at 12:00:00 Brussels local time; Deadline to submit applications: 30 October 2017 at 12:00:00 Brussels local time.

**Budget:** prizes of EUR 1 million (1 million for prize for European Capital of Innovation 2017, 2 million for the 2 prizes for European Capital of Innovation 2018) + EUR 0.10 million for the two juries of external experts evaluating the proposals.

c) European social innovation competition

Social innovation may come from any stakeholder and primarily from the society taking its responsibility. The latest innovation policies in Europe make explicit reference to innovation for or by the society. Prestigious business and engineering schools have their own social innovation centres. Some corporations have their own support schemes. Yet too often social innovators and entrepreneurs remain isolated and encounter difficulties to find support, partners or investors. Too often they do not tap enough into the capacities of all types of businesses which could help with the development or commercialisation of such innovations. Too often their solutions do not translate into larger-scale projects, do not trigger significant changes in public policies, or do not inspire similar projects elsewhere. There is still the need to make the case for social innovation, to encourage cooperation across borders and to build capacities of those change makers.

The European Social Innovation Competition, which the Commission launched in 2012, met a real demand and prizes were awarded over three editions in 2013, 2014 and 2015. Two more editions are to be launched in 2016 and 2017. The present work programme provides for the launch of the 2016 and 2017 Competitions and for the prizes which will be awarded in that context.

The 2016 and 2017 Competitions are based on the 2-step process which has been used so far. First the most promising solutions are selected amongst all entries, which are received over the open call for ideas. Those solutions qualify as 'semi-finalists' and their development is supported with mentoring and coaching. In a second phase, the 'challenge prizes' are awarded to the solutions which best meet the award criteria.

In order to accelerate the implementation of the ideas and maximize their impact, it is also foreseen to embed a follow-up scheme of previous 'semi-finalists' and award one 'impact prize' a year later (e.g. in 2016 for the 2015 semi-finalists and in 2017 for the 2016 semi-finalists). This impact prize will incentivize the achievement of greater results and offer a second chance to semi-finalists, thereby encouraging them to take full advantage of the connections made throughout the Competition. It

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may be awarded to a winner of a challenge prize or to a non-winning semi-finalist irrespectively. This second round will operate rather as a recognition prize competition. The impact prize will be foreseen in the rules of contest from the outset, to ensure full transparency and equal treatment amongst contestants.

There will be open access to ideas submitted throughout the contest. No protection of intellectual property is foreseen within the evaluation process or in communication activities.

**Eligibility Criteria:**

Any legal entity (including single persons or group of legal entities except public administrations) established in EU Member States or Associated Countries to Horizon 2020.

**Award Criteria:**

The three challenge prizes to be awarded each time in 2016 and 2017 (or six challenge prizes as a whole) will be ruled by the following criteria:

(1) Degree of innovation (2) Impact against the challenge/theme chosen for the Competition (3) sustainability and scale.

More specifically, 'degree of innovation' will be understood in this context as (i) including both disruptive and incremental innovations; and as (ii) innovations in a given context.

The impact prize to be awarded each time in 2016 and 2017 (or two prizes as a whole) will only be based on the sole 'impact' criteria as described above, but no longer for the potential of the idea. The impact prize will be awarded to the project having achieved the most substantial results amongst those which were selected the year before as 'semi-finalists'.

Type of action: Prize

**Timing:** Social innovation Competition (2016): Publication: 15/02/2016; Opening of contest: 15/02/2016 at 12:00:00 Brussels local time; Deadline to submit applications: 15/04/2016 at 12:00:00 Brussels local time.

Social innovation Competition (2017): Publication: 15/02/2017; Opening of contest: 15/02/2017 at 12:00:00 Brussels local time; Deadline to submit applications: 14/04/2017 at 12:00:00 Brussels local time.

**Budget:** There should be 3 challenge prizes of EUR 50,000 and 1 impact prize of EUR 50,000 in 2016 or a total of prize money of **EUR 0.20 million from the 2016 budget**. There should be 3 challenge prizes of EUR 50,000 and 1 impact prize of EUR 50,000 in 2017 or a total of prize money of **EUR 0.20 million from the 2017 budget**.

***V - Pan European supplementary pension funds (2014-2018): RESEAVER ("Retirement Savings Vehicle for European Research Institutions")***

**Specific challenge:** Mobility of researchers is a driver of excellence in research. Nevertheless, researchers currently face many difficulties in preserving their supplementary pension benefits when moving between different countries. To overcome this problem, the EC conducted a feasibility study in 2010 on a Pan-European pension arrangement for researchers. As a follow up, DG Research and

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Innovation invited a group of interested employers and employer representatives to prepare the ground for the establishment of the “Retirement Savings Vehicle for European Research Institutions” or RESEVER. The initiative was one of the priorities of the 2012 ERA Communication.

**Scope:** A Framework Contract (2014-2018, EUR 4 million) was launched in 2014 to provide four years of technical support to a consortium of employers for the setting up of RESAVER. Services covered by the second specific contract of EUR 2.5 million will include: enrolling additional countries, support services for potential participants and communications.

**Expected impact statements:** Once the pension arrangement is in place, researchers will be able to move freely without having to worry about preserving their supplementary pension benefits. The tailor-made scheme will assist employers in attracting researchers in an increasingly competitive environment. By participating in RESEVER, employers will be able to sponsor a single European pension arrangement to deliver:

- Cross-border pooling of pension plans;
- Continuity of the accumulation of pension benefits as professionals move between different organisations and countries during their career;
- Lower overhead costs (and therefore improved member benefits) through economies of scale;
- Access to high quality investments regardless of the country where the employee is based (where legally possible), thereby improving overall member benefits;
- A pan-European risk pooling solution covering death benefits;
- A centralised portal for tracking and administering pension contribution.

The cross-border pension arrangement will remove pensions as a barrier to researchers’ mobility and as a result contribute to the establishment of a genuine European labour market for research professionals.

**Type of Action:** specific contract under the FWC RESEVER -2014-2018

**Indicative budget:** EUR 0.68 million from the 2016 budget and EUR 0.68 million from the budget 2017

***VI - Horizontal support to joint programming (ERA-LEARN 2020) <sup>7</sup>***

Continuation of the ERA-LEARN 2020 platform for the period 2018 to 2022. ERA-LEARN 2020 provides a web-based information, learning and support platform on ERA-NETs, Art.185 initiatives and JPIs, a toolbox for the wider activities of joint programming including the alignment of national research policies in the context of JPIs and a systematic process for monitoring and impact assessment of P2P networks, including their impacts at both the policy, programme and RTD project-level. The central services provided for the broader community of stakeholders involved in Public-Public Partnerships include furthermore a central database of transnationally funded R&I projects (compulsory requirement for the project resulting from co-funded calls of ERA-NET actions).

**Legal entity:** [ERA-LEARN 2020 consortium, to be listed entity by entity, to be added later]

**Type of action:** Grant to identified beneficiary - Coordination and Support Actions

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<sup>7</sup> This activity is directly aimed at supporting the development and implementation of evidence base for R&I policies and supporting various groups of stakeholders. It is excluded from the delegation to Research Executive Agency and will be implemented by the Commission services.

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The standard evaluation criteria, thresholds, weighting for award criteria and the maximum rate of co-financing for this type of action are provided in parts D and H of the General Annexes.

**Indicative timetable:** 2017

**Indicative budget:** EUR 3 million

***VII - Service Facility in support of the strategic development of international cooperation in research and innovation<sup>8</sup>***

The objective is to provide services that support the policy development, priority setting, follow-up and implementation of the strategy for international cooperation in research and innovation.

Services will include: awareness raising and training activities (including a common web portal and repository of information and use of social media), support to National Contact Points and other multipliers (including a platform for cooperation between NCPs in international partner countries and NCPs in Member States and Associated Countries), organisation of meetings and events (including workshops in support of bilateral, multilateral and bi-regional policy dialogues, brokerage, networking and twinning events, and an international cooperation conference), and analysis and monitoring activities (including identifying areas where targeted international cooperation could be of mutual benefit and examining solutions to eliminate barriers for cooperation).

The provision of services will be judged based on the extent to which the services will provide added value to the target audience, and the tasks will be performed and the results will be delivered in an economical, effective and professional way.

The services should result in: in-depth and well-informed policy dialogues and strategic priority setting for research and innovation cooperation with the Union's international partners, effective implementation of joint commitments, reinforced international cooperation, improved framework conditions for cooperation, enhanced impact of research and innovation project results, improved profile of EU research and innovation policy, programmes and strengths.

**Type of action:** Public procurement

**Indicative timetable:** first half of 2016

**Indicative budget:** EUR 4 million from the 2016 budget and EUR 8 million from the 2017 budget

***VIII – Information and Communication Technology - enabled public sector innovation related studies, conferences and other events***

In addition to calls for proposals, other actions are also expected to be undertaken on specific activities that the European Commission, Directorate General for Communications Networks, Content & Technology (DG CONNECT) will support. These include:

- Studies including socio-economic and impact analysis studies, policy support activities, benchmarking activities as well as studies to support the monitoring, evaluation and strategy definition for e-Government and ICT-enabled public sector innovation;
- The organisation of events related to e-Government and ICT-enabled public sector innovation;

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<sup>8</sup> This activity is excluded from the delegation to the Research Executive Agency and will be implemented by the Commission services.

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- Publications and support to other events (e.g. information, communication, dissemination etc.), either through the use of existing Framework Contracts, or the launch of new calls for tenders.

Details will be provided in the texts of the relevant calls for tender.

**Instruments:** Public Procurement

**Indicative budget:** EUR 1 million in 2016 and EUR 1.3 million in 2017

***IX - Presidency events (Slovakia and Malta)***

The objective is to support events during Slovakia's (second half 2016) and Malta's Presidency (first half of 2017), the latter on an event on strengthening Euro-Mediterranean cooperation through research and innovation.

**Legal entity:** Slovakian government, The Malta Council for Science and Technology, Malta.

**Type of action:** Grant to identified beneficiaries - Coordination and Support Actions. The standard evaluation criteria, thresholds, weighting for award criteria and the maximum rate of co-financing for this type of action are provided in parts D and H of the General Annexes.

**Indicative timetable:** 2016.

**Indicative budget:** EUR 0.20 million from the 2016 budget

***X - External Expertise***

- a) Support for independent experts assisting in proposal evaluations of the parts of Call "Engaging Together Globally" (ENG-GLOBALLY-7-2016/2017 and ENG-GLOBALLY-8-2016/2017)

**Type of action:** Expert contracts

**Indicative timetable:** 2016

**Indicative budget:** EUR 0.15 million from the 2016 budget

- b) Experts to assist in project reviews

The objective is to perform an assessment of the outcomes of international cooperation projects in support of policy dialogue in view of drawing lessons for future activities.

**Type of action:** Expert contracts

**Indicative timetable:** throughout 2016 and 2017

**Indicative budget:** EUR 0.1 million from the 2016 budget and EUR 0.1 million from the 2017 budget

- c) Experts to assist in the review of Science and Technology Cooperation Agreements

The objective is to perform reviews of S&T Cooperation Agreements with international partner countries, as appropriate. Independent experts will be appointed to review these Agreements.

**Type of action:** Expert contracts

**Indicative timetable:** throughout 2016 - 2017

**Indicative budget:** EUR 0.10 million from the 2016 budget and EUR 0.10 million from the 2017 budget

d) Meta-evaluation Art.185 initiatives

The experts will perform a comparative analysis of the final evaluations of the initiatives from FP7 and the interim evaluations carried out for the first four Art.185 initiatives under Horizon 2020, in order to develop good practice approaches for future interim and final evaluations as well as recommendations for the ex-ante impact assessment of future initiatives.

**Type of Action:** Individual Expert contracts

A special allowance of EUR 450/day will be paid to the experts appointed in their personal capacity who act independently and in the public interest.

**Indicative timetable:** 2017

**Indicative budget:** 0.10 million

e) Independent external assistance

This action will support the use of appointed independent experts for the evaluation of proposals and, where appropriate, for the monitoring of running projects, as well as for the evaluation of entries submitted to prize contests

**Indicative budget:** EUR 2.58 million in 2016 and EUR 2.54 million in 2017

***XI - Support to COST***

Scene-setter: COST was established as an intergovernmental framework in 1971 for promoting cooperation among researchers across Europe. Within COST, research carried out at national level is funded by the COST Member States, while the EU funds central administration and coordination.

Starting from 2003, under FP6 & FP7, support to COST was provided through a grant agreement between the Commission and an external legal entity designated by COST as its implementing agent, whose identity was communicated to the Commission by the General Secretariat of the Council.

COST has now established its own dedicated implementation structure (COST Association, an AISBL under Belgian law) under the direct governance of the Committee of Senior Officials (CSO) in order to handle directly EU support to COST activities. It is therefore through this entity that support to COST under Horizon 2020 is expected to be channelled. Such governance is expected to lead to increased efficiency in management and lower administrative expenditure levels.

**– Support to COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology) <sup>9</sup>**

COST, as an integral part of the Innovation Union and the European Research Area shall contribute to the delivery of the Europe 2020 agenda and the Innovation Union goals through efficient implementation of the COST networking activities.

COST has a long experience in networking European researchers and a high leverage power. In fact, a recent review concluded that the COST Action portfolio corresponds to nationally funded research inputs estimated in excess of EUR 2 billion. Furthermore, through its openness and inclusiveness policies, COST has a significant role in bringing new partners, notably outstanding younger researchers or researchers from less research-intensive countries, into contact with excellent researchers elsewhere in Europe.

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<sup>9</sup> This activity directly aimed at supporting the promotion of coherent and effective cooperation with third countries is excluded from the delegation to REA and will be implemented by the Commission services.

***HORIZON 2020 – WORK PROGRAMME 2016-2017***  
**Europe in a changing world - Inclusive, Innovative and Reflective Societies**

During Horizon 2020, COST will receive EU funding from two different lines, but shall manage it in an integrated manner to consistently contribute to both:

- **A) Scientific and Technological Cooperation.** COST will reinforce its networking activities carried out by COST actions. This part will be funded under “Societal Challenges 6 – Inclusive Societies”.

- **B) Widening Activities.**

COST will contribute to fostering inclusive research and innovation policy by bringing together "pockets of excellence", outstanding researchers who are not yet well integrated in European and global research, also enhancing capacity building. Moreover, COST will include a set of measures aimed at providing structural support to ERA, widening the European research base and promote S&T cooperation with other countries, beyond COST current membership<sup>10</sup>. This second component will be funded under the “Widening Participation” heading.

It is expected that both components are implemented in an integrated manner whereby half of the overall COST budget available under Horizon 2020 will be spent at the benefit of participants from countries with relatively low research and innovation performance according to the definition outlined in the work programme on Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation 2016-2017.

**Legal entity:** COST Association AISBL, Belgium

**Type of action:** Specific grants awarded to identified beneficiary for Coordination and Support Action under the 7-year Framework Partnership Agreement

**Indicative timetable:** 2016 & 2017

**Indicative budget:** EUR 21.43 million in 2016 and EUR 21.43 million in 2017

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<sup>10</sup> Current COST members are: Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Israel is a Cooperating State, non-voting member of COST Committee of Senior Officials (CSO).