



Excellent Science in Horizon 2020.

Horizon 2020 info day, University of Auckland, 10th June 2014

Andy Cherry, Association of Commonwealth Universities, UK



Horizon 2020

**Excellent
science**

**Industrial
leadership**

**Societal
challenges**

European Research
Council

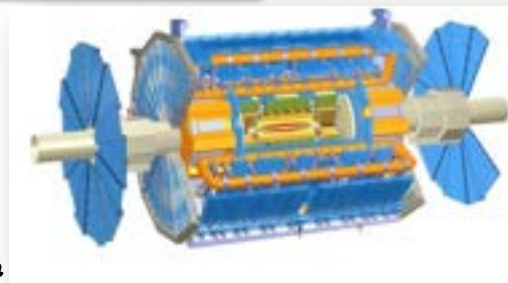


**Excellent
science**

Future and emerging
technologies



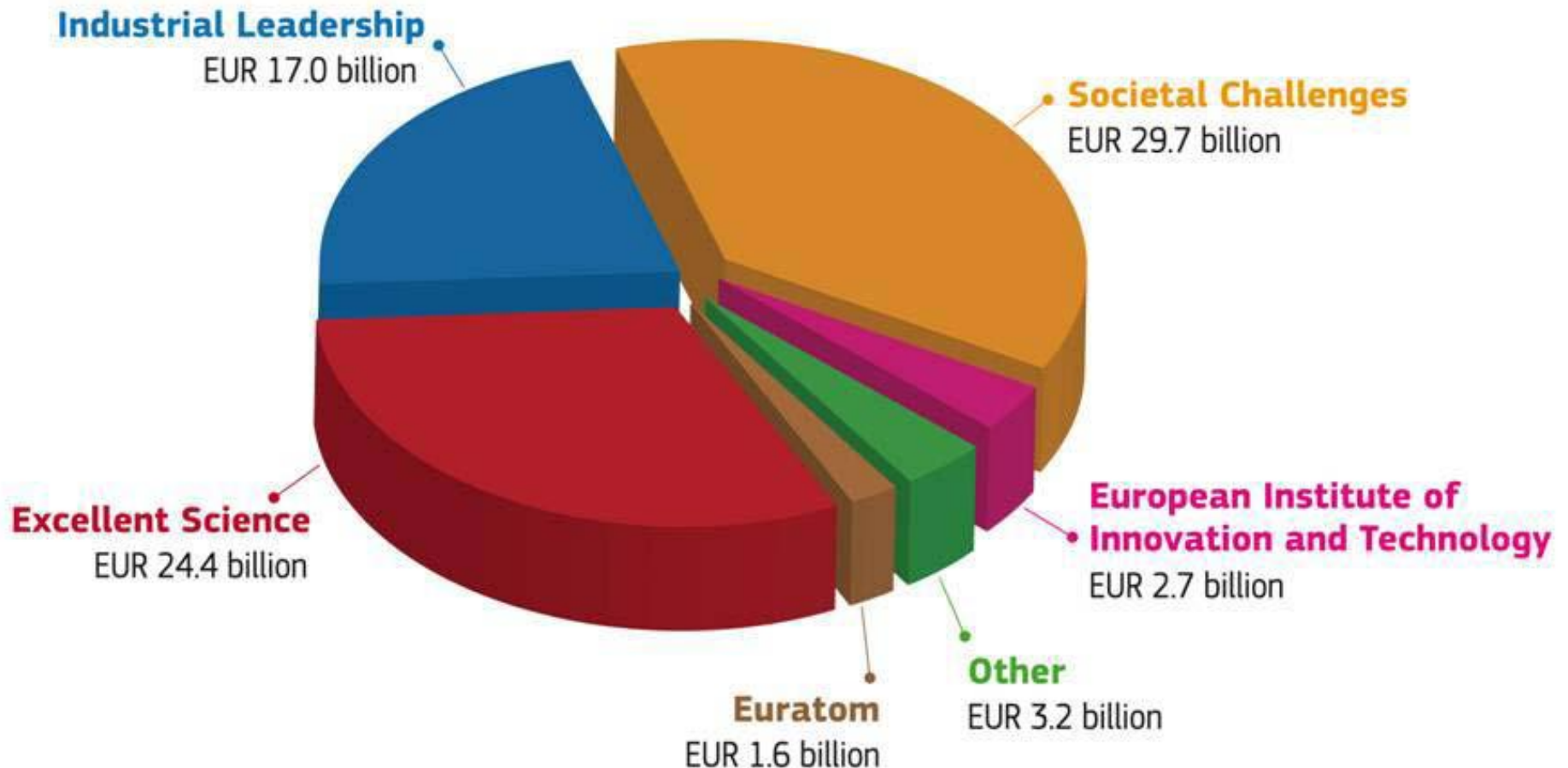
Research
infrastructures



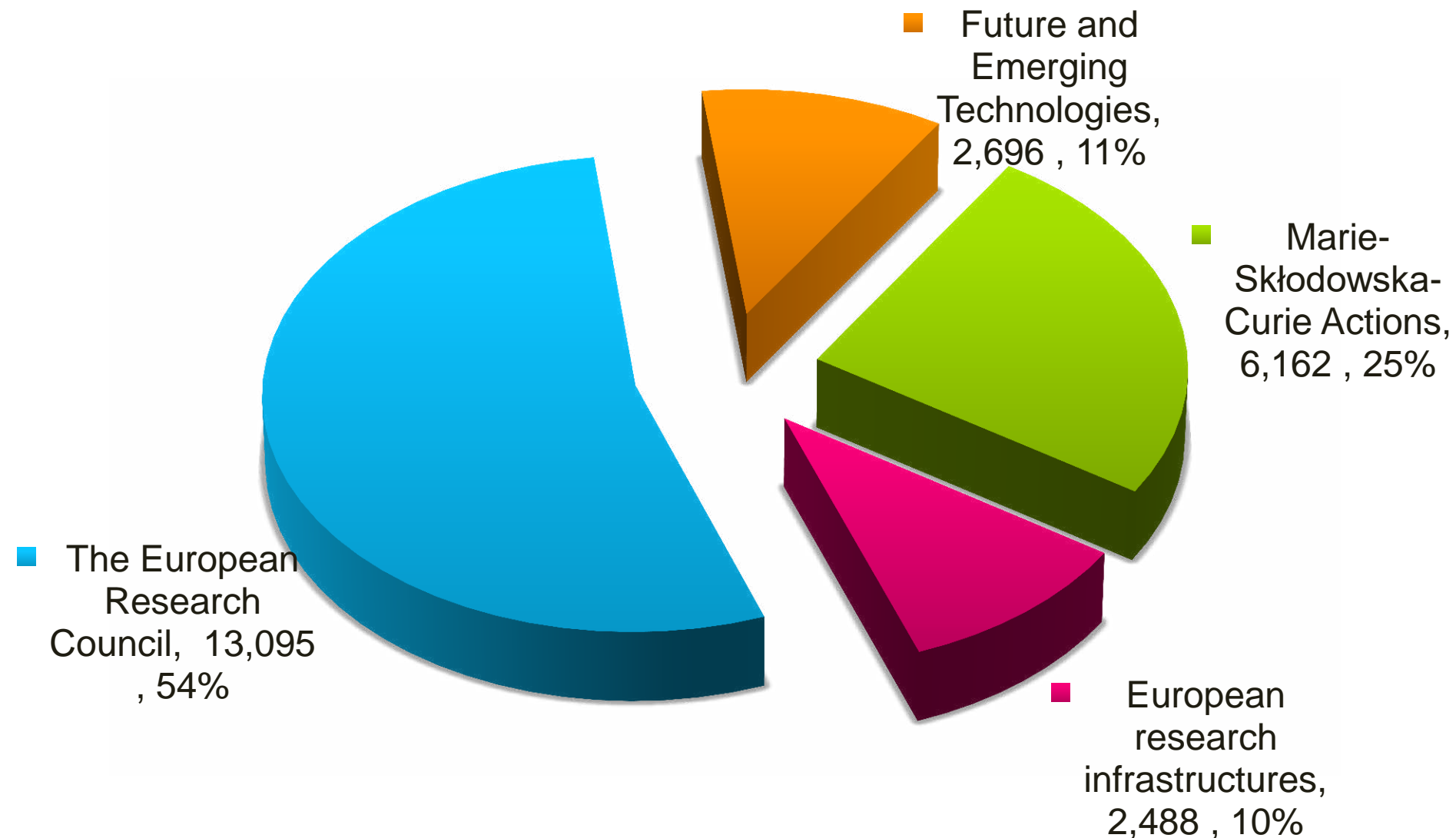
Skills, training and
career development



HORIZON 2020 BUDGET (EUR 78.6 billion, current prices)



Excellent Science budget (€m)



L 171/28

EN

Official Journal of the European Union

1.7.2009

AGREEMENT

on scientific and technological cooperation between the European Community and the Government of New Zealand

L 171/28

Official Journal of the European Union

1.7.2009

AGREEMENT

on scientific and technological cooperation between the European Community and the Government of New Zealand

THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY (hereinafter referred to as 'the Community'),

and

THE GOVERNMENT OF NEW ZEALAND,

hereinafter jointly referred to as 'the Parties',

CONSIDERING that the Parties are pursuing research, technological development and demonstration activities in a number of areas of common interest and being aware of the rapid expansion of scientific knowledge and its positive contribution to promoting bilateral and international cooperation,

NOTING that there has been cooperation and information exchange in a number of scientific and technological areas under the programme between the Commission of the European Communities and the Government of New Zealand for Cooperation in Science and Technology of 17 May 1990,

WISHING to broaden through the present

Agreement their co-operation and

desiring to work together in various

fields within the

and

Desiring

For the purposes of this Agreement

1. 'cooperative activities' means both direct cooperative activities and indirect cooperative activities;

2. 'direct cooperative activities' means cooperative activities carried out in the areas of science and technology between the Parties or their executive agencies;

3. 'indirect cooperative activities' means cooperative activities other than direct cooperative activities, in the areas of science and technology carried out between the Government of New Zealand or participants of New Zealand on the one hand, and the Community or participants of the Community on the other, through:

(a) the participation of the Community or participants of the Community in New Zealand research programmes or projects in science and technology fields similar to those covered by the Framework Programme;

4. 'national projects' shall have the meaning given in article 2 of the Convention establishing the World Intellectual Property Organisation, done at Stockholm on 14 July 1967;

European Union - New Zealand



- Innovation linkages: -SMEs in internationalisation
- Bio-economy: -Sustainable agriculture and blue growth
- Health: -Personalised health care
- Resilient cities: -Hazard prevention systems
- Research infrastructure: -Big data

Conditions for NZ participation

H2020 is open. Companies, universities, institutes from non-EU countries are **eligible to take part** in Horizon 2020 programmes, even as coordinator, to....

- Extend the frontiers of scientific knowledge
- Tackle the challenges that affect us all
- Make industries more competitive

NZ as an industrialised country is not normally eligible for funding unless:

- provided for under a bilateral scientific and technological agreement or any other arrangement
- Specific provision in the call text
- the participation is deemed essential for carrying out the action (case by case assessment by Commission)
- PACE-Net Plus

Joint funding between EU and MBIE exemplified by the FP7 support action 'FRIENZ' (Facilitating Research and Innovation Cooperation between Europe and New Zealand)



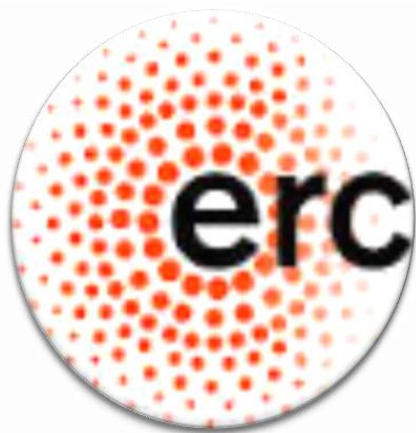
European Research Council



Features



ERC schemes



Starting Grant for young, early-career top researchers (2-7 years after PhD) - up to €2 m for 5 years.

Consolidator Grants for independent excellent researchers (7-12 years after PhD) - up to €2.75 m for 5 years.

Advanced Grants for senior research leaders with significant research achievements in the last 10 years - up to €3.5 m for 5 years.

Proof of Concept Grants for ERC grant holders to check the market and/or innovation potential of research results from ERC-projects - up to €150,000 for 12 months.

Synergy Grants for small groups of individual researchers - up to €15 m for up to 6 years.

New Zealand participation in ERC

Submitted proposals by researchers from New Zealand (starter grants and Advanced grants 2007- 2013)

Evaluated applications from NZ researchers

StG calls	AdG calls	All ERC calls	LifeSci	Phys&Eng	Soc&Hum
36	18	54	18	22	14

(all submitted for 2013 calls)

- None of the applicants with NZ nationality was resident in NZ at the time of application.
- 52 applied from various European countries (32 from UK, 5 from Sweden, 4 from Germany etc.), 1 from US and 1 from Thailand.
- 7 European researchers were resident in NZ at the time they applied to ERC. None of them obtained an ERC grant.

Country of Host Inst	
UK	34
Sweden	5
Germany	4
Italy	3
Netherlands	3
Austria	1
Belgium	1
Bulgaria	1
Switzerland	1
Spain	1
Total	54

Text and tables copied from a presentation by Prof Donald Dingwall, ERC Sec General, 2013:
http://ces.anu.edu.au/sites/ces.anu.edu.au/files/2013/Australia_NewZealand_trip_2013-09-24.pdf

New Zealand participation in ERC

Grantees with NZ nationality

Nationality*	Project main topic	HI country**	ERC call	Domain	ERC grantees
New Zealand	Parasitology	CH	StG-2012	Life Sci	1
	Social structure, inequalities, social mobility, interethnic relations	NL	AdG-2011	Soc&Hum	1
	Public health and epidemiology	UK	AdG-2010	Life Sci	4
	Conservation biology, ecology, genetics		StG-2011	Life Sci	
	Philosophy, history of philosophy		StG-2012	Soc&Hum	
	Formation of stars and planets		AdG-2013	Phys&Eng	
*) nationality as last declared by the principal investigator **) current host institution (as of 23/09/2013)				TOTAL	6

Copied from a presentation by Prof Donald Dingwall, ERC Sec General, 2013:
http://ces.anu.edu.au/sites/ces.anu.edu.au/files/2013/Australia_NewZealand_trip_2013-09-24.pdf

Want to find out more about ERC?

- H2020 participant portal:
<http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/index.html>
- ERC website: <http://erc.europa.eu/>
- Calls for proposals: <http://erc.europa.eu/september-update-erc-calls-proposals-2014>
- 2014 work programme:
http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/wp/2014_2015/erc/h2020-wp1415-erc_en.pdf
- Keep updated: <http://erc.europa.eu/keep-updated-erc>
- ERC national contact points: <http://erc.europa.eu/national-contact-points>
- Vimeo : <http://vimeo.com/94179654>

Features



FET mission

Emerging
Technologies

- ▶ About
- ▶ Brain research
- ▶ [Future & Emerging Technologies](#)
 - ▶ FET Open
 - ▶ FET Proactive
 - ▶ FET Flagships
 - ▶ [Projects Portfolio](#)
- ▶ Research Projects

Science & Technology

Emerging Technologies

- Language Technologies
- Digital Science
- Digital Futures
- Robotics
- Components & Systems
- Future Internet

FET Projects Portfolio



AI & Cognition



Bio- & Neuro-ICT



Complexity



Computer science



Computing architectures

Green Computing &
NetworkingHuman-Computer
Interaction

Information & Modeling



Practices & Communities



Quantum & Photonics



Robotics



Unconventional devices

Tags: FET FET proactive fet open FET Flagships

Blog

[@FET_eu, @FETFlagships](#)

FET

Tweets from a list by Fabio Zilberstein

Digital Agenda

@DigitalAgendaEU

2500 participants in #FET_eu scheme during #FP7 all over the world! Check your country! @fet_eu @FETFlagships
pic.twitter.com/BtAoGsaCZh
Retweeted by FET_EU

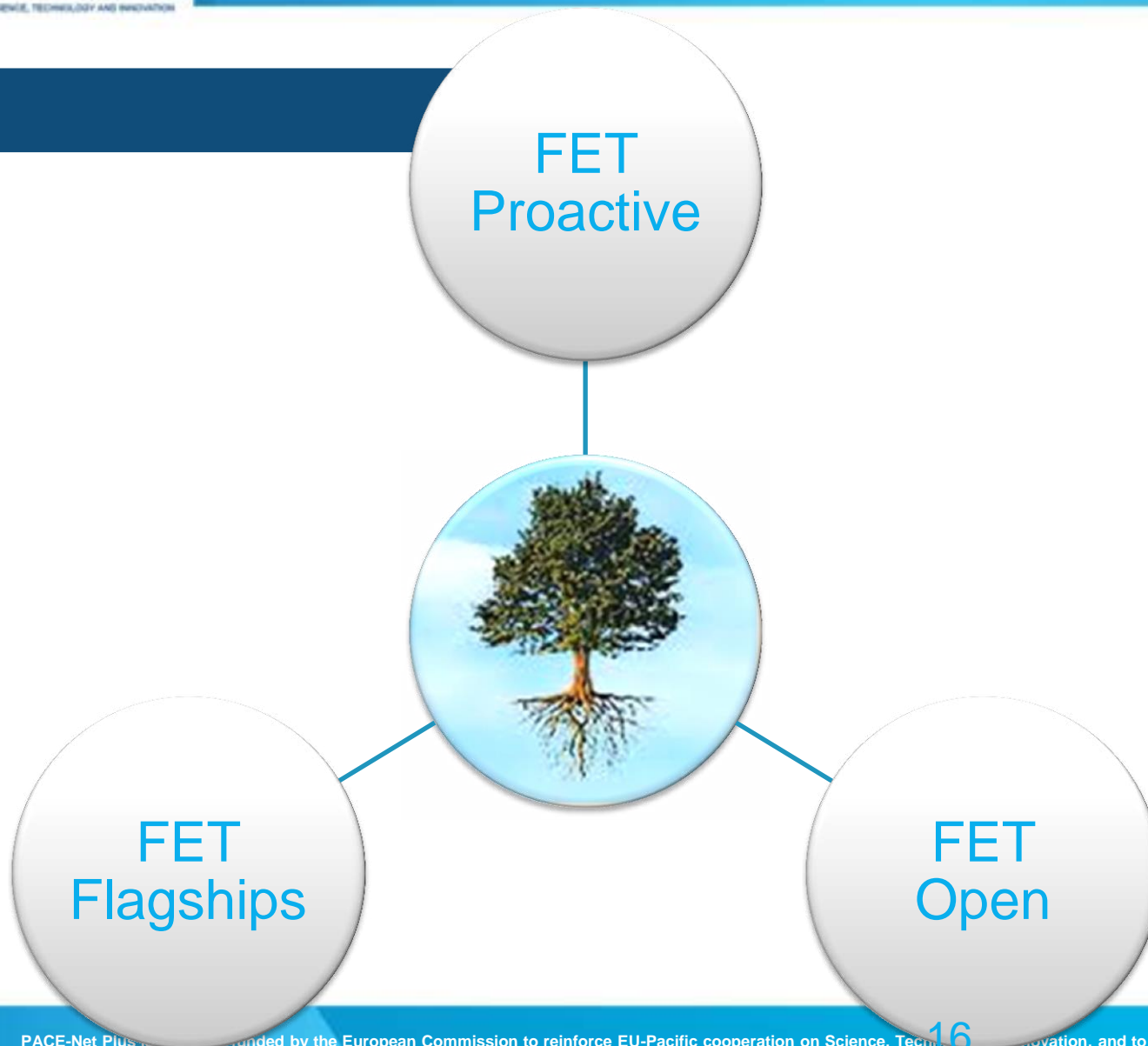
Number of participations



Expand

FET schemes

Schemes



Overview

Overview

Strategic Objectives

Research areas

Sub-projects

Platforms

FAQ

Understanding the human brain is one of the greatest challenges facing 21st century science. If we can rise to the challenge, we can gain profound insights into what makes us human, develop new treatments for brain disease and build revolutionary new computing technologies. Today, for the first time, modern ICT has brought these goals within sight.

Convergence of ICT and Biology

The convergence between biology and ICT has reached a point at which it can turn the goal of understanding the human brain into a reality. It is this realization that motivates the Human Brain Project – an EU Flagship initiative in which over 80 partners will work together to realise a new “ICT-accelerated” vision for brain research and its applications.

One of the major obstacles to understanding the human brain is the fragmentation of brain research and the data it produces. Our most urgent need is thus a concerted international effort that uses emerging ICT technologies to integrate this data in a unified picture of the brain as a single multi-level system.



Research Areas

The HBP will make fundamental contributions to neuroscience, to medicine and to future computing technology.

In neuroscience, the project will use neuroinformatics and brain simulation to collect and integrate experimental data, identifying and filling gaps in our knowledge and prioritising future experiments.



In medicine, the HBP will use medical informatics to identify biological signatures of brain disease, allowing diagnosis at an early stage, before the disease has done irreversible damage, and enabling personalized treatment, adapted to the needs of individual patients. Better diagnosis, combined with disease and drug simulation, will accelerate the discovery of new treatments, drastically lowering the cost of drug discovery.



In computing, new techniques of interactive supercomputing, driven by the needs of brain simulation, will impact a vast range of industries. Devices and systems, modelled after the brain, will overcome fundamental limits on the energy-efficiency, reliability and programmability of current technologies, clearing the road for systems with brain-like intelligence.

ITFOM – IT Future of Medicine

- **Aim:** Data-rich, individualized medicine poses unprecedented challenges for IT, in hardware, storage and communication. The project proposed a data-driven, individualised medicine of the future, based on molecular/physiological/anatomical data from individual patients. We shall make general models of human pathways, tissues, diseases and ultimately of the human as a whole. Individualized versions of the models, produced for each patient, will then be used to identify personalized prevention/therapy schedules and side effects of drugs.
- FP7-ICT-2011-FET-Flagship
- **From** 2011-05-01 **to** 2012-04-30
- **Total cost:** EUR 2 033 780
- **EU contribution:** EUR 1 480 000
- Led by MAX PLANCK GESELLSCHAFT ZUR FOERDERUNG DER WISSENSCHAFTEN E.V. (Germany) with 22 other EU partners plus the **University of Auckland, New Zealand**.
- <http://www.itfom.eu/>



MICREAgents - Microscale Chemically Reactive Electronic Agents

- **Aim:** The central idea of the project is to create a programmable microscale electronic chemistry, that employs circuit elements (including super capacitors and energy harvesting) on autonomous self-assembling microscale particles (target $\leq 100 \mu\text{m}$ maximal dimension) in solution, lablets, to direct reversible association (binding) between them and control access to and chemical reactions in the resulting enclosed reaction compartments.
- ICT-2011.9.6 (FET Proactive)
- **Total cost:** EUR 4 461 304
- **EU contribution:** EUR 3 400 000
- From 2012-09-01 to 2015-08-31
- Led by RUHR-UNIVERSITÄT BOCHUM (Germany), with five other European partners, plus Israel, and the **University of Auckland, New Zealand**.
- <http://www.micreagents.eu//index.html>



Want to find out more about FET?

- FET work programme 2014-2015:

http://ec.europa.eu/research/horizon2020/pdf/work-programmes/future_and_emerging_technologies_draft_work_programme.pdf#view=fit&page=mode=none

- FP7 FET website on CORDIS:

<http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ict/programme/fet/flagship/>

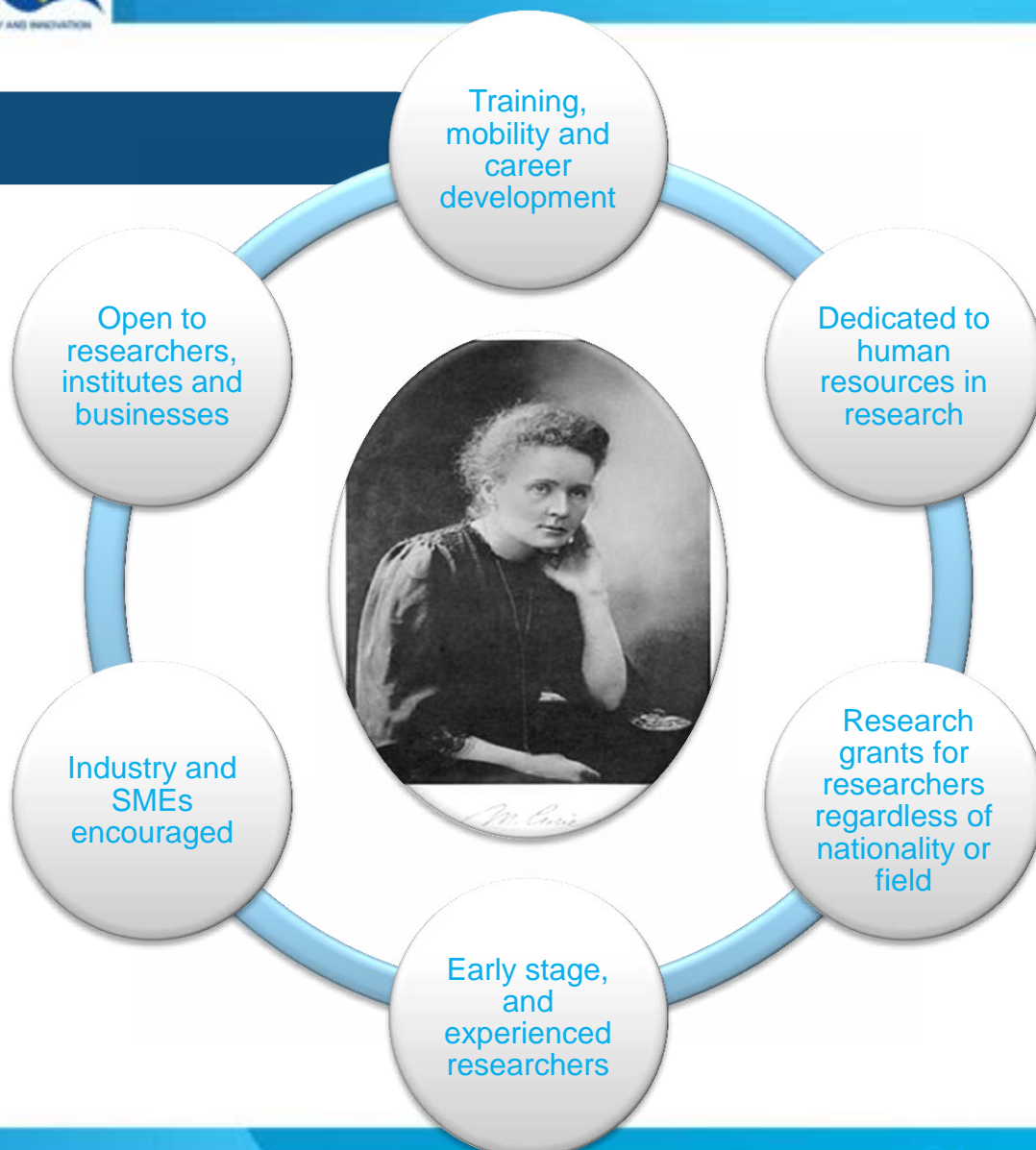
- FET compendium of projects 2007-2012:

http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ict/programme/fet/flagship/doc/fet-proj-comp-2012_en.pdf

- H2020 participant portal:

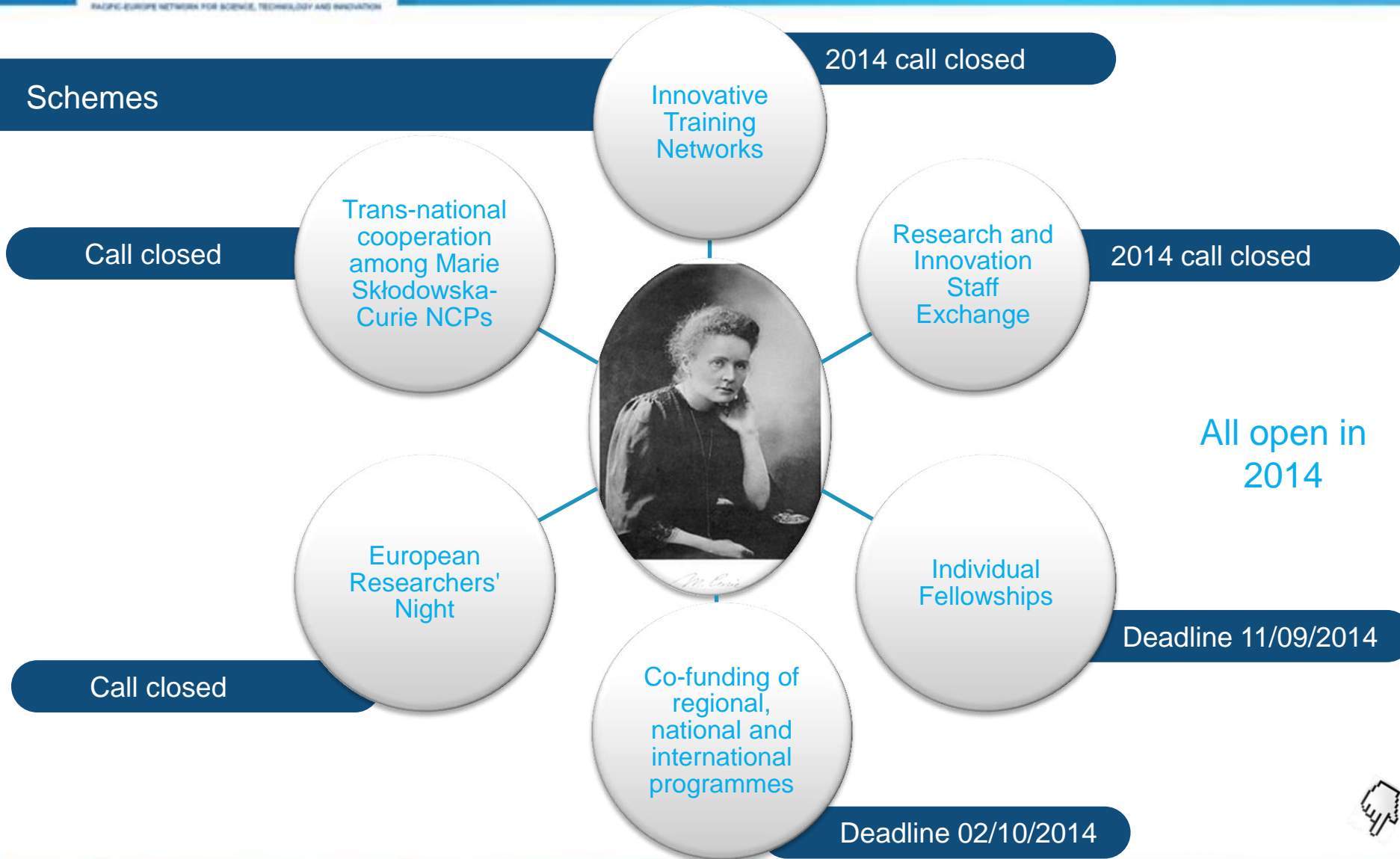
<http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/home.html>

Features



Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions

Schemes



Want to find out more about Marie Curie actions?

- H2020 participant portal:

<http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en/h2020-section/marie-sklodowska-curie-actions>

- MSCA website

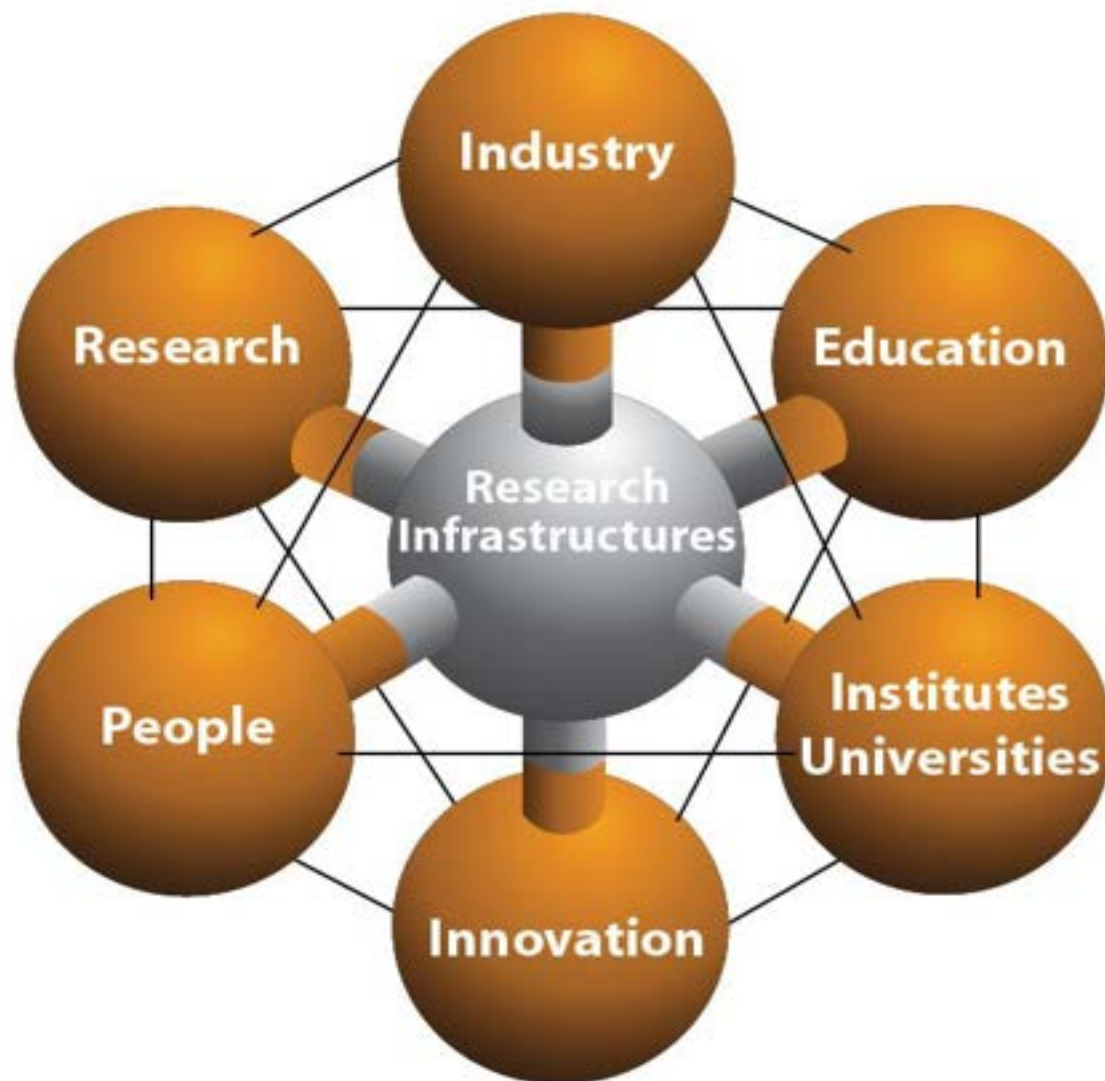
http://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/news-events/news/2013/info_update_en.htm



http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:SKA_dishes_big.jpg

SPOQ / Swinburne Astronomy Productions

Centrality of research infrastructure to innovation



Facilities, resources and services



Biological collections

CLARIN ERIC

Common Language Resources and Technology Infrastructure



RIs



Survey on Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe

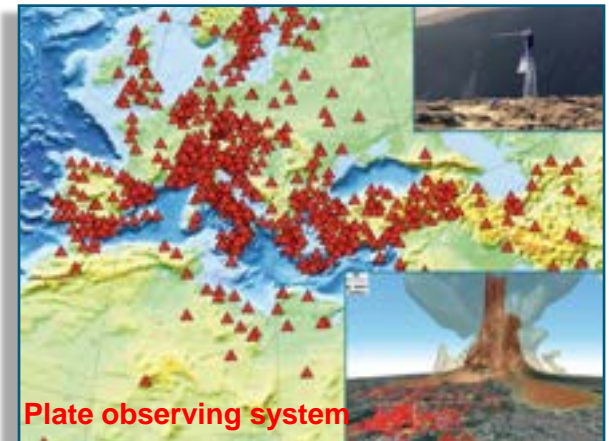


Plate observing system

- Developing new world class research infrastructures
 - facilitate and support implementation, long-term sustainability and efficient operation of RI identified by ESFRI as well as other world-class research infrastructures,
 - help EU respond to grand challenges in science, industry and society.
 - Identification of the next generation of new RI identified through design studies.
- Integrating and opening RI of European interest
 - opening up key national and regional RI to all European researchers from academia and industry (**participation by third countries specifically mentioned**)
 - all fields of science and technology.

- e-Infrastructures
 - Integrating e-I resources & services to provide seamless services tailored to user needs.
 - e-I to ride the wave of "big data", RDA ref EU-NZ S&T roadmap
 - support to e-I for Open Access (**participation by third countries specifically mentioned**)
 - Implementing the e-I part of the EU strategy on High Performance Computing
- Support to innovation, human resources, policy and international cooperation
 - fostering the innovation potential and developing the human resources of RI in areas that suffer from shortages in supply or where new skills and professions need to emerge, e.g. in 'data science'. **Third country openings**
 - reinforcing European RI policy and international cooperation

HORIZON 2020



Thank you for your attention

Andy Cherry, Association of Commonwealth Universities

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Australia

1. [PREPSKA](#) - A preparatory phase proposal for the square kilometre array. Start Date: 2008-04-01 End Date: 2012-03-31
(Department of Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education)
2. [OPTICON](#) - Optical Infrared Co-ordination Network for Astronomy. Start Date: 2013-01-01 End Date: **2016-12-31** **(Department of Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education)**
3. [RADIONET3](#) - Advanced Radio Astronomy in Europe. Start Date: 2012-01-01 End Date: **2015-12-31** **(CSIRO)**
4. [OPTI](#) - Optical infrared coordination network for astronomy. Start Date: 2009-01-01 End Date: 2012-12-31 **(Department of Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education)**
5. [EGI-INSPIRE](#) - European Grid Initiative: Integrated Sustainable Pan-European Infrastructure for Researchers in Europe. Start Date: 2010-05-01 End Date: **2014-04-30** **(University of Melbourne)**
6. [NEXPRES](#) - NEXPReS- Novel EXplorations Pushing Robust e-VLBI Services. Start Date: 2010-07-01 End Date: 2013-06-30
(CSIRO)
7. [ODIN](#) - ORCID and DATACITE Interoperability Network. Start Date: 2012-09-01 End Date: **2014-08-31** **(Monash University)**
8. [EPPN](#) - European Plant Phenotyping Network. Start Date: 2012-01-01 End Date: **2015-12-31** **(CSIRO)**
9. [EGEE-III](#) - Enabling grids for e-science III. Start Date: 2008-05-01 End Date: 2010-04-30 **(University of Melbourne)**
10. [EUASIAGRID](#) - Towards a common e-Science infrastructure for the European and Asian grids. Start Date: 2008-04-01 End Date: 2010-03-31 **(The Australian National University)**

II - Industrial leadership

- 1. Leadership in enabling and industrial technologies*
- 2. Access to risk finance*
- 3. Innovation in SMEs*

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III - Societal challenges

1. *Health, demographic change and wellbeing*
2. *Food security, sustainable agriculture, marine research & the bio-economy*
3. *Secure, clean and efficient energy*
4. *Smart, green and integrated transport*
5. *Climate action, resource efficiency and raw materials*
6. *Inclusive, innovative and secure societies*

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ERC Starting Grants in brief

For researchers of any nationality with 2-7 years of experience since completion of PhD (or [equivalent degree](#)) and scientific track record showing great promise

An excellent research proposal

Research must be conducted in a public or private research organisation (known as a Host Institution/HI) located in one of the EU [Member State](#) or [Associated Countries](#)

Funding per grant: up to € 1.5 million (in some circumstances up to € 2 million)

Duration: up to 5 years

Evaluation criterion: scientific excellence

Calls for proposals: published once a year

<http://erc.europa.eu/starting-grants>

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ERC Consolidator Grants in brief

For researchers of any nationality with 7-12 years of experience since completion of PhD (or [equivalent degree](#)) and scientific track record showing great promise

An excellent research proposal

Research must be conducted in a public or private research organisation (known as a Host Institution/HI) located in one of the EU [Member State](#) or [Associated Countries](#)

Funding per grant: up to € 2 million (in some circumstances up to € 2.75 million)

Duration: up to 5 years

Evaluation criterion: scientific excellence

Calls for proposals: published once a year

<http://erc.europa.eu/consolidator-grants>

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ERC Advanced Grants in brief

Research field: any field of science, engineering and scholarship

Researchers: any nationality, any age. Applicants must be scientifically independent and have a recent research track-record and profile which identifies them as leaders in their respective field(s) of research

Evaluation Criterion: scientific excellence

Host Institution: research must be conducted in a public or private research organisation (known as a Host Institution/HI) located in one of the EU [Member States](#) or [Associated Countries](#)

Funding: up to € 2.5 million per grant (in some circumstances up to € 3.5 million per grant)

Duration: up to 5 years

Calls for proposals: published once a year

<http://erc.europa.eu/advanced-grants>

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ERC Proof of Concept in brief

All PIs benefitting from an ERC Advanced or Starting Grant that is either ongoing, or where the project has ended less than 12 months before the publication date of an ERC Proof of Concept call are eligible. The PI must be able to demonstrate the link between the idea and the related ERC-funded project

Funding per grant: up to € 150.000

Duration: 12 months

Calls for proposals: published once a year with two deadlines

<http://erc.europa.eu/proof-concept>

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ERC Synergy Grants in brief

Research proposal: pioneering frontier research in any field of science, engineering or scholarship

Groups applying for the ERC Synergy Grant must be made up of a minimum of two and a maximum of four Principal Investigators (PIs) and, as necessary, their teams

One of the PIs acts as the 'Corresponding PI' with the ERCEA on behalf of the group

No specific eligibility criteria are foreseen for PIs applying for the ERC Synergy Grants, but only exceptional proposals are likely to be funded in what are expected to be extremely competitive calls

It is expected that in most cases ERC Synergy Groups will be interdisciplinary, often using multidisciplinary approaches. However this is not a requirement and colleagues from the same or similar disciplines bringing together complementary approaches, expertise and resources can apply

Similarly Synergy Groups are not required to be co-located but the PIs in the group will have to demonstrate their commitment to the group project including willingness to spend significant 'core time' together at the same physical location

The Host Institution that engages the Corresponding Principal Investigator for the duration of the grant should be a legally recognised public or private research organisation situated in one of the [EU Member States](#) or [Associated Countries](#)

Funding: up to a maximum of €15 million for a period up to 6 years (pro rata for projects of shorter duration)

Calls for proposals: published annually with one deadline

<http://erc.europa.eu/synergy-grants>

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- Proposed funding (million euro, 2014-2020)

<i>European Research Council</i> Frontier research by the best individual teams	13 095
<i>Future and Emerging Technologies</i> Collaborative research to open new fields of innovation	2 696
<i>Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions</i> Opportunities for training and career development	6 162
<i>Research infrastructures (including e-infrastructure)</i> Ensuring access to world-class facilities	2 488

FET mission

The mission of Future and Emerging Technologies (FET) is to turn Europe's excellent science base into a competitive advantage by uncovering radically new technological possibilities. It will help Europe to grasp leadership early on in new and emerging technology areas that promise to renew the basis for European competitiveness and growth and that will make a difference for society in the decades to come.

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FET Open

FET Open is a 'roots-up' approach for exploring promising visionary ideas that can contribute to challenges of long term importance for Europe. The scheme stimulates non-conventional targeted exploratory research cutting across all disciplines and acts as a harbour for exploring and nurturing new research trends and helping them mature in emerging research communities.

FET Open supports early-stage research on any idea for a new technology. There are no pre-defined themes. It encourages scientists and engineers from multiple disciplines to work together on game-changing science- and technology research, expanding well beyond the traditional technological disciplines.

Call date: 10/12/2013

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/calls/h2020-fetopen-2014-2015-2.html>

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FET Proactive

FET Proactive initiatives constitute clusters of interacting and collaborating projects. The thematic initiatives, defined in wide consultations with research communities, are focused on novel and non-conventional topics that aim to spearhead research and support maturing of new multidisciplinary research communities. Proactive initiatives involve a set of complementary and collaborating projects, supporting building of new multidisciplinary research communities and enhancing Europe's innovation potential.

FET proactive is a 'top-down' approach fostering novel non-conventional approaches and foundational research in selected themes in response to emerging societal and industrial needs. The scheme supports initial developments on long-term research and technological innovation, and helps related research communities to develop and mature.

Call publication date 10/12/2013:

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/index.html>

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Call FET Proactive –emerging themes and communities

Novel areas and themes need to be matured, by working towards structuring emerging communities and supporting the design and development of transformative research themes.

FETPROACT 1 - 2014: Global Systems Science (GSS)

Specific challenge: The ambition is to improve the way scientific knowledge can help inform and evaluate policy and societal responses to global challenges like climate change, global financial crises, global pandemics, and growth of cities – urbanisation and migration patterns.

FETPROACT 2 - 2014: Knowing, doing, being: cognition beyond problem solving

Specific challenge: This initiative addresses the interdisciplinary fundamentals of knowing, thinking, doing and being, in close synergy with foundational research on future artificial cognitive systems, robots, smart artefacts and large scale cyber-physical systems.

FETPROACT 3 – 2014: Quantum simulation

Specific challenge: Devices that exploit quantum phenomena such as superposition and entanglement have the potential to enable radically new technologies.

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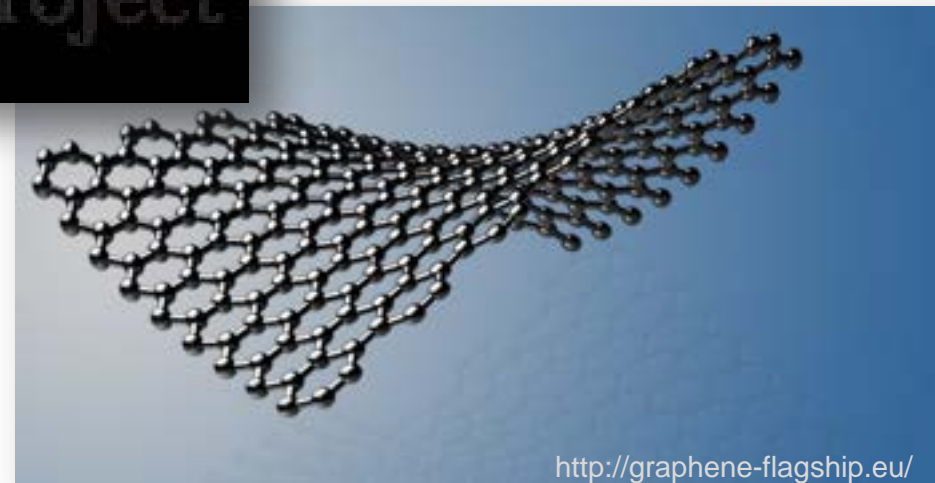
FET Flagships

FET flagships are ambitious large-scale, science-driven, research initiatives that aim to achieve a visionary goal. The scientific advance should provide a strong and broad basis for future technological innovation and economic exploitation in a variety of areas, as well as novel benefits for society.

Call publication date: 10/11/2013

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/calls/h2020-fetflag-2014.html>

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Objective:

The Innovative Training Networks (ITN) aim to train a new generation of creative, entrepreneurial and innovative early-stage researchers, able to face current and future challenges and to convert knowledge and ideas into products and services for economic and social benefit.

ITN will raise excellence and structure research and doctoral training, extending the traditional academic research training setting, and equipping researchers with the right combination of research-related and transferable competences. It will provide enhanced career perspectives in both the academic and non-academic sectors through international, interdisciplinary and intersectoral mobility combined with an innovation-oriented mind-set.

Scope:

ITN supports competitively selected joint research training and/or doctoral programmes, implemented by partnerships of universities, research institutions, research infrastructures, businesses, SMEs, and other socio-economic actors from different countries across Europe and beyond.

Partnerships take the form of collaborative European Training Networks (ETN), European Industrial Doctorates (EID) or European Joint Doctorates (EJD).

Call date 11/12/2013

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Individual fellowships (IF)

Objective:

The goal of Individual Fellowships is to enhance the creative and innovative potential of experienced researchers wishing to diversify their individual competence in terms of skill acquisition through advanced training, international and intersectoral mobility.

Individual Fellowships provide opportunities to acquire and transfer new knowledge and to work on research in a European context (EU Member States and Associated Countries) or outside Europe. The scheme particularly supports the return and reintegration of researchers from outside Europe who have previously worked here. It also develops or helps to restart the careers of individual researchers that show great potential, considering their experience.

Scope:

Support is foreseen for individual, trans-national fellowships awarded to the best or most promising researchers for employment in EU Member States or Associated Countries, based on an application made jointly by the researcher and host organisation in the academic or non-academic sectors.

Fellowships are either European Fellowships or Global Fellowships. European Fellowships are held in EU Member States or Associated Countries and are open to researchers either coming to Europe or moving within Europe. The researcher must comply with the rules of mobility in the country where the European Fellowship is held. Global Fellowships are based on a secondment to a third country and a mandatory 12 month return period to a European host. The researcher must comply with the rules of mobility in the country where the Global Fellowship secondment takes place, not for the country of the return phase.

Call date: 12/03/2014

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Objective:

The RISE scheme will promote international and inter-sector collaboration through research and innovation staff exchanges, and sharing of knowledge and ideas from research to market (and vice-versa) for the advancement of science and the development of innovation.

The scheme fosters a shared culture of research and innovation that welcomes and rewards creativity and entrepreneurship and helps to turn creative ideas into innovative products, services or processes.

Scope:

RISE involves organisations from the academic and non-academic sectors (in particular SMEs), based in Europe (EU Member States and Associated Countries) and outside Europe (third countries).

Support is provided for the development of partnerships in the form of joint research and innovation activities between the participants. This is aimed at knowledge sharing via international as well as intersectoral mobility, based on secondments of research and innovation staff (exchanges) with an in-built return mechanism.

The organisations constituting the partnership contribute directly to the implementation of the joint research and innovation activities by seconding and/or hosting eligible staff members.

Call date: 11/12/2013

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Objective:

The COFUND scheme aims at stimulating regional, national or international programmes to foster excellence in researchers' training, mobility and career development, spreading the best practices of Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions.

This will be achieved by co-funding new or existing regional, national, and international programmes to open up to, and provide for, international, intersectoral and interdisciplinary research training, as well as transnational and cross-sectoral mobility of researchers at all stages of their career.

Scope:

Each proposal funded under the COFUND scheme shall have a sole participant that will be responsible for the availability of the necessary matching funds to execute the proposal.

Participants submit multi-annual proposals for new or existing doctoral programmes or fellowship programmes that may be run at regional, national or international level. The evaluation is organised in two different panels: A) Doctoral programmes and B) Fellowship programmes. Support cannot be awarded to researchers who are already permanently employed at the host organisation.

Call date 10/04/2014

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European Researchers' Night (NIGHT)

Objective:

The European Researchers' Night aims to bring researchers closer to the general public and to increase awareness of research and innovation activities, with a view to supporting the public recognition of researchers, creating an understanding of the impact of researchers' work on citizen's daily life, and encouraging young people to embark on scientific careers.

Scope:

The European Researchers' Night takes place yearly, typically on the last Friday of the month of September, and is the occasion for a Europe-wide public and media event for the promotion of research careers, in particular towards young people and their parents. Supported events can start early Friday afternoon and last until early morning the following day.

Activities focus on the general public, addressing and attracting people regardless of the level their scientific background, with a special focus on pupils and students. Activities can combine education aspects with entertainment, especially when addressing young audience. They can take various forms, e.g. hands-on experiments, science shows, simulations, debates, games, competitions, quizzes, etc.

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Objective:

Facilitate trans-national co-operation between National Contact Points (NCPs) for the Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions (MSCA), with a view to identifying and sharing good practices and raising the general standard of support to applicants, taking into account the diversity of actors.

Scope:

Support will be given to a consortium of formally nominated NCPs in the area of MSCA. The activities will be tailored according to the nature of the area, and the priorities of the NCPs concerned. Various mechanisms may be included, such as benchmarking, joint workshops, enhanced cross-border brokerage events, training sessions linked to MSCA as well as to gender dimension of Research and Innovation, twinning schemes, etc. Special attention will be given to enhancing the competence of MSCA NCPs, including helping less experienced NCPs rapidly acquire the know-how accumulated in other countries. It will be also encouraged to build up cooperation with other networks to increase visibility to potential beneficiaries, especially in the non-academic sector.

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