

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Call for Proposals Mobility for Growth 2014 – 2015

*(Document updated on 28 Feb. 2014)*

As a general rule, we suggest that every applicant carefully reads all the documents of the information package relevant to the topic and type of action they are applying for in the webpage of the participant portal dedicated to the calls that can be accessed by clicking in the following links:

1. [H2020-MG-2014\\_SingleStage\\_A](#)
2. [H2020-MG-2014\\_SingleStage\\_B](#)
3. [H2020-MG-2014\\_TwoStages](#)
4. [H2020-MG-2015\\_SingleStage-A](#)
5. [H2020-MG-2015-Singlestage-B](#)
6. [H2020-MG-2015\\_TwoStages](#)

This is important in order for applicants to have a complete picture and a good understanding of what is required before even starting to draft a proposal.

The following questions and answers are relevant to call [H2020-MG-2014\\_TwoStages](#). They are published in order to answer specific questions and to ensure transparency and equal treatment of potential applicants.

#### **GENERAL**

**Q: I need to add the partners in the admin form. But I do not find a button "Add partners". According to the manual I should find such a button on a specific page. Can you help me?"**

**A:** At stage 1 of a two-stage call only the name of the coordinator is needed in the administrative form. The list of the partners is included in part B. This is visible once you have downloaded the template of part B.

**Q: Can you confirm that the 25% flat fee for claiming indirect costs is 25% of staff costs + travel and accommodation + any other costs related to services and materials purchased to carry out the project. If so, can you also state whether there is a 15% limit on the amount of other costs claimable?**

**A:** The flat-rate of 25% to calculate indirect costs is applied to the eligible direct costs excluding costs for subcontracting, costs of in-kind contributions provided by third parties which are not used on the beneficiary's premises and, where applicable, costs of providing financial support to third parties and indirect costs already covered by unit costs or lump sums. Indirect costs may be declared in the form of a lump sum or unit costs when provided

for in the work programme or work plan. This is stated in Article 29 of the Rules for Participation and in Article 6.2.E of the general model grant agreement - which are available on the participant portal at;

[http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/legal\\_basis/rules\\_participation/h2020-rules-participation\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/legal_basis/rules_participation/h2020-rules-participation_en.pdf) ;

[http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/funding/reference\\_docs.html#h2020-mga-gga](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/funding/reference_docs.html#h2020-mga-gga).

Further explanations to this article can be found in the Annotated Model Grant Agreement ([http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants\\_manual/amga/h2020-amga\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants_manual/amga/h2020-amga_en.pdf))

There is no general rule concerning the application of a 15% limit to other costs.

**Q: Has the Commission established minimum and maximum duration for the projects to be funded?**

**A:** There is neither mandatory minimum nor maximum duration. The average is 36 months.

**Q: Could you provide us with names and e-mails of the responsible persons in the Commission for various topics?**

**A:** The National Contact Points have in general the necessary information and they can contact further the Commission if needed.

**Q: According to the proposal template that we downloaded from the portal, we see that regarding the proposal budget there is the indication that "only the total requested amount has to be filled in for stage 1 proposals".**

**What does it mean exactly? Should we indicate a total for every partner, or total for every cost category, or just a total requested amount for the whole project?**

**A:** What is needed is the overall figure of the requested amount. Your project may be more expensive if you want to cover a number of costs yourselves. If you wish you can provide more details in the part B when you introduce the partners.

**Q: Are Russian partners eligible in Horizon 2020 projects?**

**A:** Russian partners can participate but they will not receive funding from the EU. See the general annexes. In part A, you will see that Russia is not listed as eligible for funding. It is said:

"Legal entities established in countries not listed above will be eligible for funding when such funding is explicitly foreseen in the relevant call text".

"In addition, legal entities established in countries not listed above and international organisations will be eligible for funding:

- When funding for such participants is provided for under a bilateral scientific and technological agreement or any other arrangement between the Union and an international organisation or a third country;
- When the Commission deems participation of the entity essential for carrying out the action funded through Horizon 2020".

See also: [http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/docs/h2020-funding-guide/cross-cutting-issues/international-cooperation\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/docs/h2020-funding-guide/cross-cutting-issues/international-cooperation_en.htm)

## WATERBORNE

**Q: MG.4.2 topic. A coordinator is planned to be a SME with about 10 employees. The planned project is in the range of 9M€. Does the SME need special bank guarantees? Do the guarantee costs need to be included in the project costs? What will be the criteria to accept an SME as coordinator for large projects?**

**A:** The SME has to make a self-assessment based on its 2013 balance sheet and profit-loss account: <http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/organisations/lfv.html> .

In case it does not have the financial capacity, it is better to change the coordinator. No financial (bank) guarantees can be accepted in H2020.

Attention: in case the coordinator does confirm to be viable, and during grant preparation, the audited accounts show the contrary (financially weak), either the change of coordinator or termination of grant preparation will have to be decided.

## URBAN MOBILITY

**Q: MG 5.2-2014 - Topic: Reducing impacts and costs of freight and service trips in urban areas. The topic description states: "This topic complements the work under topic MG.6.1 of this work programme".**

**Does this mean there should be clear indication in the 5.2 proposal that we are aware of how we complement the themes in 6.1?**

**In the same description: "In line with the Union's strategy for international cooperation in research and innovation international cooperation is encouraged, in particular with the United States."**

**Can you please indicate if having a USA partner is a pre-requisite for this call? Also please clarify the percentage EU co-financing a USA partner would receive - if any. And if project meetings are planned, do we really incorporate costs for flying to from USA into our proposal?**

**A:** Concerning your first question, we can confirm that your interpretation is correct.

Regarding the second question, what is encouraged is not necessary the participation of US entities in the Consortium, but more a "coordination" with similar projects in the US. Indeed it stems from the Implementation Agreement signed by the EC with the American DoT. The scheme is called "twinning of projects": it means that the EC has its project with EU partners, and the Federal Highway Administration will fund similar projects in the States. If the projects have similarities or complementarities, they can be 'twinned', and costs for coordination are supported in their reciprocal budget. The contact in the US is Debra Elston (Debra.Elston@dot.gov) from the Federal Highway Administration.

**Q: Considering the topic MG 5.2 2014 "Reducing impacts and costs of freight and service trips in urban areas" I read in the eligibility criteria (General Annexes C-D) that only Research and Innovation actions are eligible for the grant. Does it mean that only three independent entities of three different Member States can ask for funding? You suggest that projects covering €2-5 million will be preferred but Research and Innovation actions are about limited demonstrations and small-scale pilots.**

**A:** The type of action of the topic MG.-5.2-2014 referred to "Reducing impacts and costs of freight and service trips in urban areas" is a Research and Innovation Action. See the end of the topic description of the specific call page.

As written in the text of the topic, the Commission 'considers that proposals considering a contribution from the EU of between EUR 2 to 4 million each would allow this specific challenge to be addressed appropriately. Nevertheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of proposals requesting other amounts'.

Regarding the emphasis on research and/or demonstration actions, you are invited to read the section of the topic text on 'expected impact' carefully, as 'impact' will be one of the evaluation criteria.

According to Annex C of the General Annexes the eligibility conditions for Research and Innovation actions are indeed, three legal entities. Which each shall be established in a different Member State or associated country, and be independent of each other. If you are a SME under the Horizon2020 definition, you may also look at IT.1-2014-2015 'small business innovation research for transport'

### **INFRASTRUCTURE:**

**Q: Do you think that a proposal focusing on new technologies to support Road Safety Audits fits better in topic "MG.8.1a-2014: Smarter design, construction and maintenance" or "MG.8.2a-2014: Next generation transport infrastructure: resource efficient, smarter and safer" ?**

**A:** It will depend on where the focus will be put: if on the design, construction phase it will be more suitable for MG.8.1, if on the "inspection" (more than "audit") of existing infrastructure, than it will be more suitable for 'operation/management', in this case MG.8.2 would be more suitable.

**Q: The topic "MG.8.2a-2014: Next generation transport infrastructure: resource efficient, smarter and safer" includes in scope the following: "Methods for preventing disruption of critical infrastructure from malicious acts". Could you please confirm that the term "malicious" shall be interpreted on the sense of the European Programme for Critical Infrastructure Protection (EPCIP) and in particular the Council Directive 2008/114/EC, that means "terrorism and other Safety related risks?"**

**A:** In this case "disruption" is not confined to terrorism, but also includes criminal activities that can affect the normal operation of the infrastructure. 'Infrastructure' is not meant in the sense of Dir 2008/114, but the scope is restricted to "transport infrastructure" (and its equipment).

**Q4: Should innovative technologies expected for proposals for topic "MG.8.1a-2014: Smarter design, construction and maintenance" emphasise a specific mode infrastructure or should they take into account all transport modes?**

**A:** Both options would fall in the scope of this topic. Technologies can vary and be either suitable for only one transport mode (e.g. asphalt) or include methodologies (of construction and maintenance) applicable to different transport modes (e.g. self-monitoring equipment);

**Q: Should all the bullet points described in the expected impact of topic "MG.8.1a-2014: Smarter design, construction and maintenance" be covered by a single proposals? Can a specific part of the network (bridge, tunnel) be the focus of the proposal?**

**A:** Not all points must be included in the proposal. Tunnels and bridges can be considered as a focus of the project (and they could be either road or rail transport).

**Q: Is the validation of innovation solutions foreseen by topic "MG.8.1a-2014: Smarter design, construction and maintenance" expected to be carried solely in real case scenarios?**

**A:** Validation is not necessarily done in real cases, but could be applied to pilot or demonstration projects.