

EU Direct Funds

Over the Period
2014 – 2020

Available
For-Profit Organisations

Presentation Prepared by the EU Direct Funds Unit
Funds and Programmes Division
MFEA

Environment, Energy, Climate Change and Sustainable Development



The LIFE Programme

Description: LIFE is the European Union's funding instrument for the environment and climate action. The general objective of LIFE is to contribute to the implementation, updating and development of EU environmental and climate policy and legislation by co-financing projects with European added value

Eligible Applicants: **Private Commercial Organizations** can apply for LIFE traditional, integrated, preparatory, and technical assistance projects under the sub-programmes for environment and climate action, amongst other type of applicants.

EU Co-financing Rate: From 55% to 75% depending on the funding strand.

Typical Maximum EU Assistance per Project: Rarely are projects under €500K awarded, however traditional LIFE projects may reach €5M. Integrated projects are generally around €17M

Example of Past Success MT Projects: Optimising the implementation of the 2nd RBMP in the Malta River Basin District with aims, amongst others to improve water conservation awareness locally, total project value: €17M. MT participant: Energy and Water Agency

Upcoming MFF: The funding programme will be retained - additional details will be released in 2021

Innovation Fund

Description: Focuses on highly innovative technologies and big flagship projects with European value added that can bring on significant emission reductions. Need to be close-to-market (not research).

Areas include: energy intensive industries, Carbon capture and utilisation , Construction and operation of carbon capture and storage, innovative renewable energy generation, energy storage

The projects are scored based on their innovation, amount of GHG emission avoidance, project maturity, scalability and cost efficiency. First call will be in June 2020

Eligible Applicants: any entity but note value for large scale projects are > 7.5 M€ and value for small scale projects < 7.5 M €

EU Co-financing Rate: 60%, pre-financing of 40% provided, payments based on milestones achieved

Typical Maximum EU Assistance per Project: not known yet but the June 2020 call will be 1BE and it is intended for large scale projects

Example of Past Success Projects (NER 300): VERTIMED project is a pilot floating offshore wind farm located in the French coast near Marseille at water depth from 90 to 100 m

Upcoming MFF: This fund will run from 2020 – 2030. Its predecessor was NER 300.

CEF (Connecting Europe Facility)

Description: Support the implementation of **projects of common interest** (Trans European Network Policy) which seek to develop and construct new infrastructure and services, or to upgrade existing infrastructure and services, in the transport, telecommunications and energy sectors. The end result is to strengthen the competitiveness of the EU economy and its transition to climate neutrality (low carbon).

- **CEF Transport** projects prepare for expected future transport flows, as well as enabling all modes of transport to be decarbonised. It supports alternative fuels, innovation and digitalisation of transport. It focuses on environmental friendly transport sector (incl non-road transport modes).

There are also calls that exclusively target MSs that are eligible for CF funding.

- **CEF Energy** enhances the security of EU energy supply while enabling wider use of renewables and development of smart energy networks. It supports key energy infrastructure projects uniting Member States. Boosts interoperability of electricity and gas networks across borders;
- **CEF Telecoms** projects contribute to the EU preparedness to deal with cyber threats, enhance connectivity and deployment of the necessary cross-border digital infrastructures across the EU in the areas like e-health, e-justice, or e-public procurement, improving the daily life of citizens, businesses and public administrations, and thereby contributing to the development of a Digital Single Market.

There is also the WiFi4EU initiative, which aims to provide free public Wi-fi

There are also specific calls in the 3 sectors that target strengthening the **synergies** between the three sectors

- **Eligible Applicants:** Calls are open to Member States but with the agreement of the Member States concerned, international organisations, Joint Undertakings, or public or private undertakings or bodies established in Member States, can also apply.

Wifi4EU: municipality or an association formed by municipalities

- **EU Co-financing Rate:** Varies according to the call in the WP for example Automated Translation under CEF Telecoms fund 75% of eligible costs while 50% under certain CEF Energy calls.

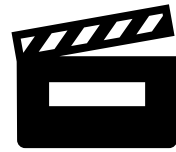
Financial instruments are also available in addition to grants.

- **Typical Maximum EU Assistance per Project:** Usually in the range of tens to hundreds of Millions for CEF Energy and Transport. Usually lower budgets for CEF Telecoms.

- **Example of Past Success MT Project:** The EU contribution to the CEF Transport project 'Upgrading modal interconnection on Malta's TEN-T (road) Core Network: Marsaxlokk-Luqa-Valletta' was €38.9M (85%). The coordinator being Infrastructure Malta. The 'Technical Study and Cost-Benefit Analysis' project received €350K EU funds under CEF Energy/Transport and is coordinated by GoM.

- **Upcoming MFF:** Synergies between the three sectors and enhanced cross-border cooperation in the field of renewable energy are among the key areas to be targeted by the post-2020 CEF to accelerate the digitalisation and decarbonisation of the EU economy. Moreover, the Commission proposes dedicating 60% of the total CEF budget to climate objectives.

Culture & Media



Creative Europe: Media/Culture

Description: The Creative Europe programme aims to support the European audio-visual, cultural and creative sector. The Programme is divided into two: Culture Sub-Programme and the Media Sub-Programme

Eligible Applicants:

For the **Culture Sub-Programme** : European cultural operators active in the cultural and creative sectors

For the Media Sub-programme: Profit making entities amongst others

EU Co-financing Rate: Depends on the funding strand but can vary from for example 50% to 80%

Typical Maximum EU Assistance per Project: Depends on the call but can vary from figures such as €30K to €2M

Example of Past Success MT Projects: AMuSE – standing for ‘Artistic Multi Sensorial Experience’ – is a project led by Malta’s oldest arts organisation, Malta Society of Arts, aiming to present new creative readings on the sense of sight, smell, touch, taste and hearing through various interpretations in the realm of visual arts.

Upcoming MFF:

- Safeguard develop and promote European cultural and linguistic diversity and heritage
- Increase the competitiveness of the cultural and creative sectors, in particular the audio-visual sector

Education, Youth, Sport and Mobilities



ERASMUS+ Funds (includes both Direct and Indirect Managed Options)

Description: Erasmus+ is the EU's programme to support education, training, youth and sport in Europe.

Eligible Applicants: Accredited Private Higher Education Institutions, private organisations active in the labour market or in the fields of education, **training** and youth, any Company active in the sectors prioritised in the funding programme

Additional Details shown in upcoming slides.

EU Co-financing Rate: The Erasmus + Programme works primarily through a system of pre-determined *Scale of Unit Costs*

Typical Maximum EU Assistance per Project: the maximum fund a project can apply for under this programme is €4M under the Sector Skills Alliance initiative

Example of Past Success MT Projects: Macdac Engineering Consultancy – Creation of Digital VET Toolkit for Promoting the 4th Industrial Revolution in the European Health Sector - €201.92K*

Upcoming MFF: The Erasmus + Programme will be retained and aims to increase the level of simplification for end users, integrate sports into the programme's mainstream structure, supports new areas of knowledge.

Private Entity participation In Relation to Erasmus +

Key Action 1 – Learning Mobility of Individuals

1. Mobility for Higher Education Students and Staff:

- a) Student mobilities (studies and traineeships)
- b) **Staff mobilities (teaching and training)**

Applicants (i.e. those applying for the mobility) can be both **private** and public, have to be either Higher Education Institutions in possession of a valid '*Erasmus Charter*' or entities holding a valid '**Consortium accreditation in Higher Education**' applying on behalf of Higher Education Institutions having a valid Erasmus Charter.

Private enterprises can also host students, recently employed graduates and staff [refer to further details in guidelines]

Usual deadline 5th February

2. Mobility Project for VET Learners and Staff:

- a) Learners Mobility
- b) **Staff Mobility:** this activity supports the professional development of VET staff in the form of a work placement or a job shadowing/observation period abroad in a company or any other VET provider.

Applicants must be any public or **private** organisation (or its subsidiary/branch) **active in the field of VET** or any public or **private organisation active in the labour market (referred to as a company)**. Participants from a company can be both the vocational workers (for ex engineers) and back-end (for ex HR).

Private enterprises can also host learners and staff [refer to further details in guidelines]

Usual deadline is 5th February unless the National Agency organises a second round on the 1st of October.

Other Mobility Strands:

3. Mobility Project for Young People and Youth Workers:

Allows for any **profit-making body active in Corporate Social Responsibility** to apply and organise a youth exchange or the mobility of youth workers between at least two different countries to live together for up to 21 days.

4. Mobility project for school education staff:

A school sending its staff abroad (individual application)

5. Mobility project for adult education staff:

A non-vocational adult education organisation sending its staff abroad can apply but only those staff in charge of adult education, in a working relation with the sending adult education organisation(s), as well as the staff involved in the strategical development of the organisation, can participate

Private Entity participation In Relation to Erasmus +

Key Action 2 – Strategic Partnerships in the Field of Educational and Youth

Allows for comparatively large multiannual projects of up to €450k lasting no more than 36 month on two fronts: those supporting **innovation** and those supporting **the exchange of good practice**.

Priorities: Amongst the general horizontal priorities that all projects should strive to address, one will find: Achieving environment and Climate Goals and Innovative Practices in a digital era.

Within the specific horizontal priorities for VET one will find promotion of work-based learning in all its forms as well as strengthening key competences such as languages and digital entrepreneurship and supporting the uptake of innovative approaches and digital technologies for teaching and learning.

Activities: Strategic Partnerships may also organise transnational learning, teaching and training mobilities of individuals as part of a wider project, in so far as they bring added value in the achievement of the overall project's objectives.

Applicants: Private, a small, medium or large enterprises are considered as eligible applicants.

Once annual deadlines are scheduled on the 24th March.

Private Entity participation In Relation to Erasmus +

Key Action 2 – Knowledge Alliances

Knowledge Alliances are transnational, structured and result-driven projects of up to a maximum of 3 years and €1M notably between **higher education and business**.

Knowledge Alliances are open to any discipline, sector and to cross-sectoral cooperation.

Among the intended goals for Knowledge Alliances one will find the stimulation of entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial skills of company staff. **Private, small, medium or large enterprises may serve as both applicants and participating organisations**. Project must have a minimum six independent organisations from at least three Programme Countries, out of which at least two higher education institutions and at least two enterprises.

Key Action 2 – Sector Skills Alliance

Sector Skills Alliances are transnational projects of up to a maximum of 4 years and €4M **identifying or drawing on existing and emerging skills needs in a specific economic sector and/or translating these needs into vocational curricula to respond to those needs**.

Sector Skills Alliance must cover at least 8 Programme Countries and include at least 12 full partners, out of which at least 5 are companies, industry or sector representatives (e.g. chambers, trade unions or trade associations), and at least 5 are education and training providers.

Projects within the 6 following disciplines are eligible:

1. Blockchain
2. Cultural heritage
3. Cybersecurity
4. Rail supply and transport industries
5. Work integration Social Entreprises
6. Software services

Aquaculture & Fisheries



EMFF – European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (Direct)

Description: The European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) aims to implement a sustainable fishery at European level and to improve the socio-economic context on the coasts.

There are calls that specifically target SMEs eg the Blue Economy Window* which addresses the development and bringing to market new products, services, and business models – only **SMEs** can participate.

Eligible Applicants: private entities, public entities, or international organisations- depending on the call

EU Co-financing Rate: Varies according to call, the last call had a co-financing rate of 70%

Typical Maximum EU Assistance per Project: Varies according to call, for eg the Blue Economy Window was expecting project sizes between €700 000 and €2,500,000

Example of Past Success MT Projects: DIVESAFE Project - Integrated system for scientific and environmental underwater surveys, with advanced health & safety features. EU Contribution is 928,020 €. The MT partner was Divers Alert Network (MT)

Justice & Fundamental Rights



Rights, Equality and Citizenship (REC)

Description: Contributes to the creation of an area, where the rights of persons, as enshrined in the TFEU and in the Charter of Fundamental Rights, are promoted and protected. In particular it should promote the rights deriving from European citizenship, the principles of non-discrimination and equality, the right to the protection of personal data, the rights of the child, the rights deriving from the Union consumer legislation and from the freedom to conduct a business in the internal market.

Eligible Applicants: Applicants and partners must be public entities or **private organisations**, duly established in one of the countries participating in the Programme, or international organisations. Organisations which are profit-oriented must submit applications in *partnership* with public entities or private non-profit-oriented organisations

EU Co-financing Rate: 80% (for the projects which private sector can target.)

Typical Maximum EU Assistance per Project: depends on the specific call for proposal.

Example of Past Success MT Projects: In 2017 Malta received € 276,739 for the project ‘Breaking the Cycle of Violence’, a programme aimed mainly to raise awareness and encourage victims . The MT participant was OPM .

Another example is ‘Victim support online- improving support structures for victims of gender based violence’ in which several MT entities participated including a private entity AEA Ltd participated. The Commission contribution to the project was 110,044 €.

Upcoming MFF: The Commission proposes creating instead a new *Justice, Rights and Values Fund* that would comprise the Rights and Values Programme (bringing together the Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme and the Europe for Citizens Programme) and the Justice Programme. The Rights and Values programme on its own will consist of € 600 Million.

The Justice Programme

Description: The Justice programme promotes judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters, helps train judges and other legal practitioners and facilitates effective access to justice for individuals and businesses throughout Europe. The programme also supports EU action to tackle drugs.

Eligible Applicants: Vary According to the funding call but are generally the following:

- Be a public entity or a private organisation or an international organisation;
- Be a partnership involving at least two organisations from at least two eligible countries;
- **Profit-oriented organisations** must submit applications in **partnership** with public entities or private non-profit-oriented organisations;
- Be established in the Member States of the European Union except for Denmark and the United Kingdom or in Albania and Montenegro

EU Co-financing Rate: Depends on the funding strand but the maximum possible rate of co-financing of eligible costs is 90%

Typical Maximum EU Assistance per Project: Varies according to the call however most calls request that minimum project sizes are of €75,000

Example of Past Success MT Projects: Europe for notaries - notaries for Europe / training programme 2018-2020 with an EU contribution of 613,600€. The MT participant is the Kullegg nutarili ta malta

Upcoming MFF: The programme will be maintained and the total allocation for the programming period is €305 Million

Employment & Social Affairs



EASI - EU Programme for Employment and Social Innovation Programme

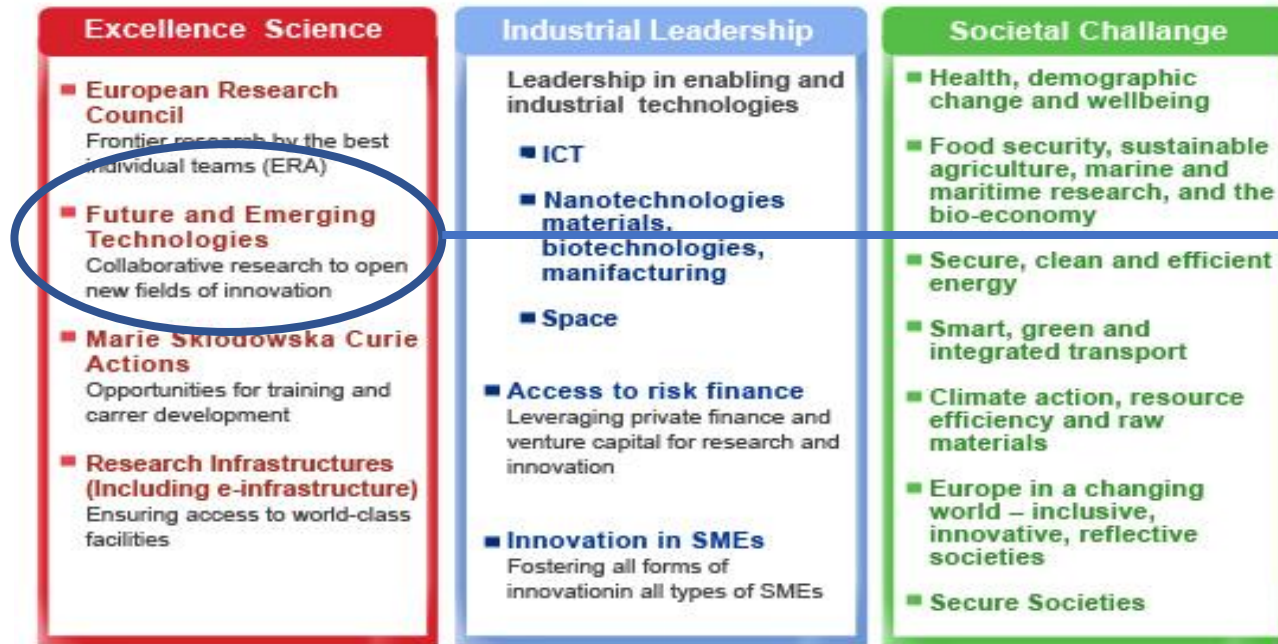
- **Description:** EASI is a financial instrument at EU level to promote high level of quality and sustainable employment, guaranteeing adequate and decent social protection, combating social exclusion, poverty and improving working conditions.
- **Eligible Applicants:** public and/or private bodies, actors and institutions in particular: national, regional and local authorities, **Employment Services, Specialist bodies provided for under union law, Social Partners, NGOs, higher Education institutions and research institutes, Experts in evaluation and impact assessment, National Statistics Offices and The Media**
- **EU Co-financing Rate:**
 - Activities under the Progress Axis are financed following a call for proposals, the union co-financing of which shall not exceed 80% of the total eligible expenditure.
 - Under the EURES axis co-financing shall not exceed 95%.
 - In the case of joint actions, the financial appropriations allocated to the Microfinance and Social Entrepreneurship axis shall cover the full cost of the actions implemented through financial instruments.
- **Typical Maximum EU Assistance per Project:** varies according to the call.
- **Example of Past Success MT Projects:** Labour force survey 2017 ad hoc module on self-employment – NSO Malta – Commission contribution of €34,395K
- **Upcoming MFF:** The second strand of the new ESF+ will cover initiatives promoting employment and social innovation (EaSI).

Research and Development
(cross-cutting into a lot of sectors)



Horizon 2020

Description: It provides research and innovation funding for multi-national collaboration projects as well as for individual researchers and supports SMEs with a special funding instrument. The sections indicated below are of most interest to industry:



Future and Emerging Technologies: Funds towards radically new future technologies that are in their early research stages:

FET Open:

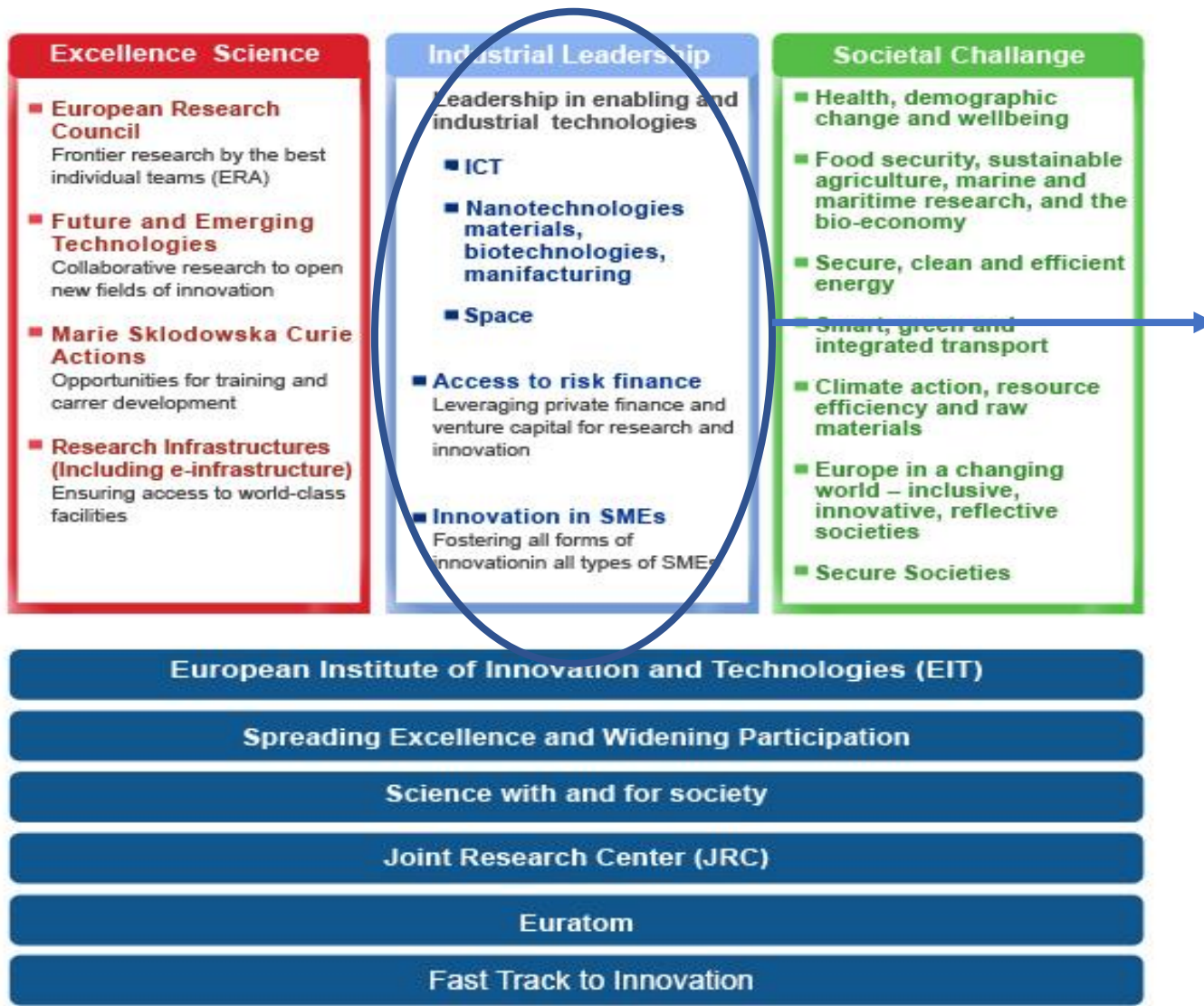
- Up to €4M per project
- Requires collaborative interdisciplinary R&I
- science inspired
- bottom-up calls (TRL 1 – 4 or coordinate support actions)

FET Proactive:

- stimulating research communities and developing research themes.
- these are through targeted calls (example AI, implantable autonomous devices and zero emission energy generation).

The above now form part of the 'European Innovation Council (EIC) pathfinder pilot'





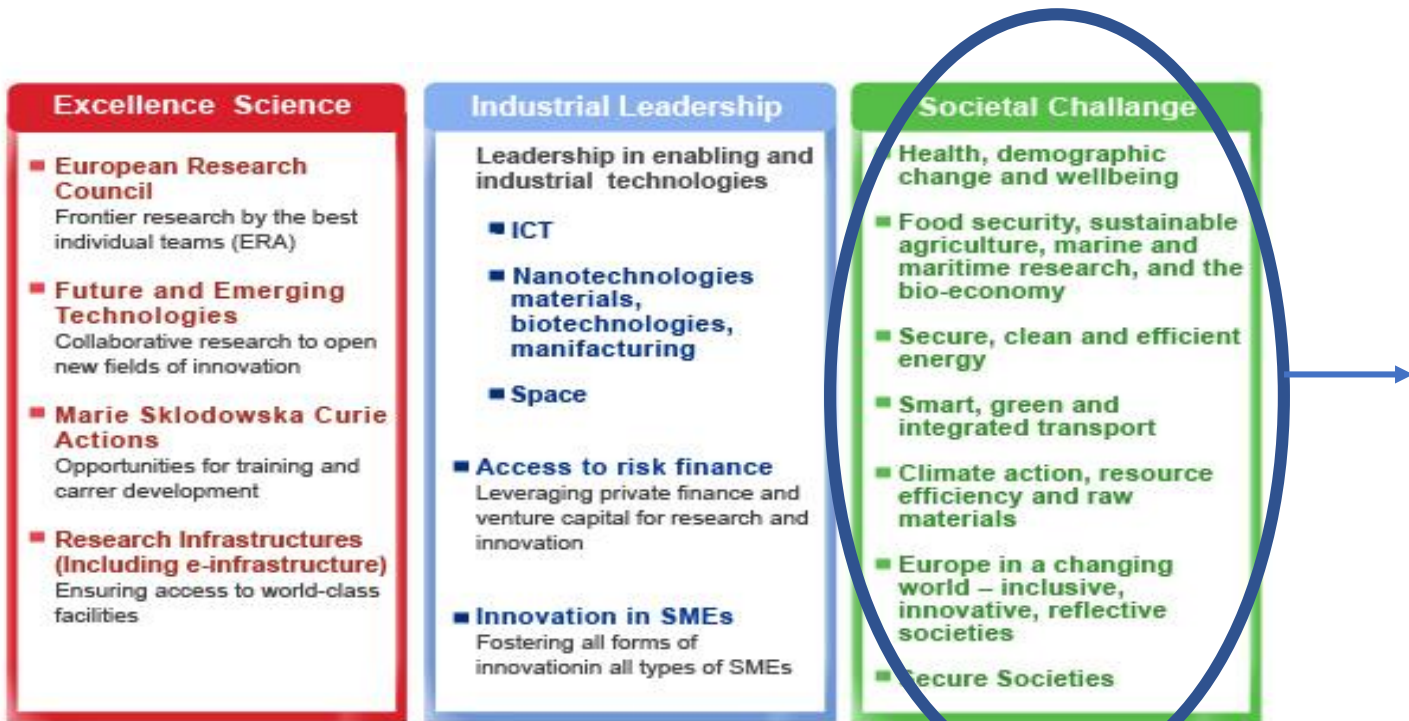
Industrial Leadership: Speed up development of the technologies and innovations for tomorrow's businesses and help innovative European SMEs to grow into world-leading companies:

- Leadership in Enabling and Industrial Technologies (LEITs): Specific emphasis on the research, development and demonstration of the industry enablers:

- ICT, nanotechnology, advanced materials, biotechnology, advanced manufacturing, and processing (robotics, advanced computing, future internet, etc) and space.
- Involvement of industry and SMEs is crucial.

- Access to Risk Finance: via financial instruments (example InnovFin from EIB), to loans, guarantees, equity finance.

- Innovation in SMEs (INNOSUPs): create an R&D&I ecosystem for SMEs for example through support services (innovation management capacity building, IPR management), networking, mobilisation actions, etc.



Societal Challenges: a challenge based approach that funds activities addressing the Europe 2020 policy and major concerns by the EU citizens and worldwide.

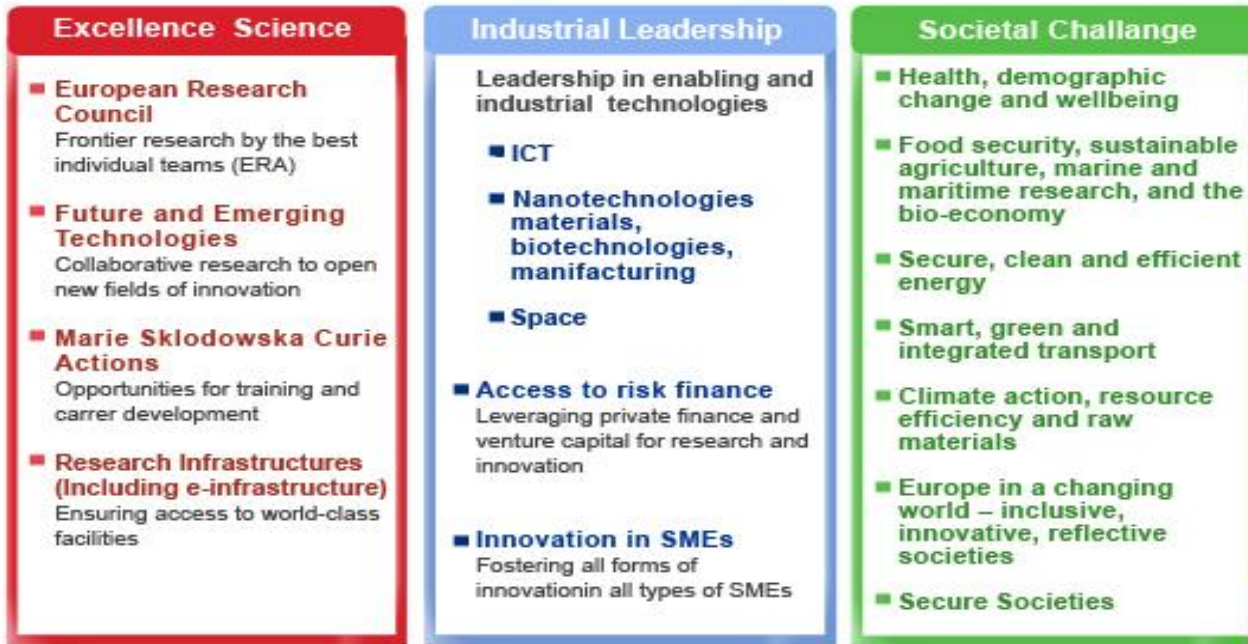
Funds all levels from research to market in the areas of:

- Health, demographic change and wellbeing
- Food security, sustainable agriculture and forestry, marine and maritime and inland water research, and the Bioeconomy
- Secure, clean and efficient energy
- Smart, green and integrated transport
- Climate action, environment, resource efficiency and raw materials
- Europe in a changing world - inclusive, innovative and reflective societies
- Secure societies - protecting freedom and security of Europe and its citizens

Private entities are 100% for R&I Actions (TRL 1 – 4) and coordinate support actions but 70% financed for Innovation Actions (higher TRLs)

Science with and for Society (SwafS): aimed at inclusion of the societal actors including citizens towards the development of technology Examples include Gender Equality in Research Policy, making society more scientific literate, etc..

Enhanced European Innovation Council (EIC) Pilot – recently introduced



Supports researchers and innovators developing high-risk, breakthrough innovations with the potential to create new markets and boost jobs, growth and prosperity in Europe.

It finances ideas from any area of technology or business sector, including novel combinations of technologies and business models and covers all stages from feasibility (FET Open) to development to scale-up (SME instrument)

- EIC Pathfinder pilot (grant only), comprising FET-Open and FET-Proactive, as described before, targets bottom up novel research and stimulation of research communities

- the **EIC Accelerator pilot** building upon the **SME Instrument**:

- finances close-to-market projects with a potential to scale up. start-ups and SMEs from any sector – post 2019 only single SMEs can apply (until end MFF)
- At this stage (post June 2019), only ground breaking concepts at the last stage before scale up can be funded.
- SME instrument also provides business coaching and networking.
- No set topics however in 2019 topics related to the Green Deal will follow

- **Fast track to innovation (now forms part of EIC):**

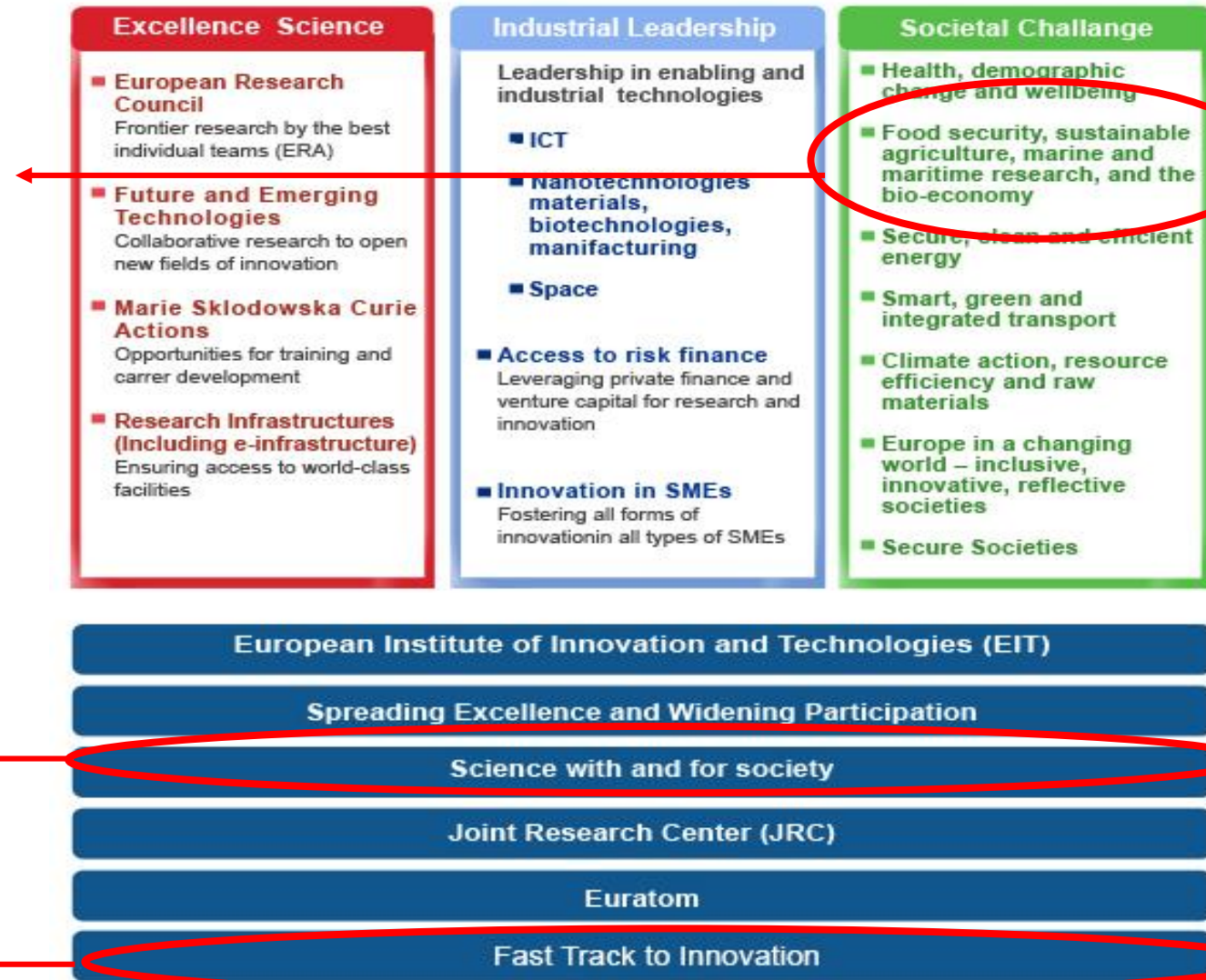
- Fully bottom-up
- Close-to-market projects. Funding to test, demonstrate and validate innovation with users before full commercial roll-out.
- consortia with three to five entities from
- Industry must participate.
- The maximum EU contribution per action is €3 million

Examples of Successful MT Projects

- The project 'IFISHIENCI' (Intelligent Fish Feeding Through Integration of Enabling Technologies and Circular principle) worth € 7.131 M is funded by the Horizon 2020 Programme in which Malta is participating together with 16 other European partners. The Maltese company, **AquaBiotech Ltd**, is actually the coordinator of this project receiving a share of €663.7 K from the EU. This project is an IA so 70% funded for industry.

- 'ER4STEM' (Educational robotics for stem) is another successful project worth € 1.63M. **Across Limits Ltd** received an EU contribution of € 213.4 K. This project is a RIA so 100% funded.

- BrainTrip Ltd won the funding of € 50K for the SME instrument strand (now called **EIC Accelerator pilot**) for project 'The EEG Dementia Index – Fast and Affordable Dementia Diagnosis' valued at € 71.429 K



Support to SMEs



COSME

Description: To encourage and increase the sustainable competitiveness of European Union enterprises and **SMEs**. Its support activities will focus on the following four areas:

- Facilitating access to finance for SMEs, in the form of loan guarantees and equity facility
- Improve access to markets, inside the Union and also global level, such as providing information on existing barriers to market entry and business opportunities, awareness raising of Union law, etc.
- Promoting entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial culture for example the European Network of Mentors for Women Entrepreneurs, and Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs
- Creating more favourable conditions for business creation and growth through enhancement of national and regional policies, for example through the reduction of the administrative and regulatory burden

The Enterprise Europe Network (EEN) is part of COSME and provides integrated business support services eg facilitation of cross border cooperation.

Eligible Applicants: Depends on the call but may include: public and private entities

In a recent call 'Training for SME-Friendly policies in Central Purchasing Bodies', the eligible applicants were: Central Purchasing Bodies (CPBs) operating at national level, International organisations with a specific mission in the field of public procurement and Universities or educational institutions operating in the field of training of public procurement. In the example of another recent call - Erasmus for young entrepreneurs – the eligible applicants were public or private whose core activity is in the field of business support.

EU Co-financing Rate: Up to 95% of the total eligible costs. Co-financing rates depends on type of actions. Example in the recent call – Training for SME-Friendly policies in Central Purchasing Bodies , the co-financing rate was 90%.

Typical Maximum EU Assistance per Project: Varies with call

Example of Past Success MT Projects : SEEK - Sharing entrepreneurial experience and knowledge Creolabs LTD received €34.7k

Upcoming MFF: COSME will form part of the Single Market Programme

Agriculture



Grants to Information provision and promotion measures concerning agricultural products implemented in the internal market and in third countries (Multi Programmes)

Description: to promote campaigns about EU farm products: increasing awareness, competition and consumption, knowledge of quality schemes and market shared in third countries (like the US, China, Mexico, etc). NB: list of products can be explored in respective regulation.

Measures include promotion targeting third countries and the promotion of balanced and proper dietary practices (the other measures are similar to M3.2 of the Rural Development Programme – shared)

Eligible Applicants: producer organizations, trade or inter-trade organisations and agri-food sector bodies (objective of which is to provide info/promo agri products and has been entrusted by the MSs). These need to be representative of the sector or product concerned.

EU Co-financing Rate: varies between 70 – 85%

Typical Maximum EU Assistance per Project:

Example of Past Success EU projects:

- EcceOlio is a 3-year, € 4,943 million – ‘Eccellenze dell'olivicoltura europea’ targeting countries France, Germany, Italy
- Promotion of fruit consumption in the internal market (Greece, Germany, Poland) is another campaign under the multi-programme.

Other Useful EU Instruments and Initiatives (not necessarily centrally managed)



- ESIF – European Structural and Investment Funds
- EFSI – European Fund for Strategic Investment
 - Works on a system of loans managed by the EIB.
 - To be replaced by InvestEU in upcoming programming period
- EEN – Enterprise Europe Network
 - A support network for SMEs providing advice on access to finance, international partnerships and growth and support on innovation.
- Eureka
 - An intergovernmental network aimed at supporting innovation driven entrepreneurship in the EU. Projects need to be nationally funded.
- SOLVIT
 - Mainly an online service by national administration. It provides knowledge on EU rights when one works, lives or does business in another EU country.
- COST
 - A funding organisation for the creation of research networks
 - Open space for collaboration amongst scientists
 - Funds travel when participating in COST Actions

End

