MINSTERIO
DE ECONOMÍA, INDUSTRIA
Y COMPETITIVIDAD

CSIC
CONSEJO SUPERIOR DE INVESTIGACIONES CIENTÍFICAS

THE CSIC[1] POSITION PAPER ON HORIZON 2020 MID-TERM REVIEW

[1] **The CSIC: facts and figures. See Annex**

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Preamble

In July 2012, while the 8th Framework Programme discussions were in full swing, the President of the CSIC, Professor Lora-Tamayo, had the opportunity to introduce the CSIC's position paper "**Horizon 2020: The Future of European Research and Innovation"** to the Director General of Research and Innovation, Mr. Robert-Jan Smits**. At that time**, the **CSIC** was deeply concerned about ***"…the unclear distinction between basic concepts, such as innovation and research and their effects on the work programmes and work plans",*** and that was one of the CSIC key messages delivered to the Commission staff.

Now, the Commission is on the verge of the **H2020 mid-term review** and in spite of the efforts made by European Institutions to improve and simplify participation, to bring together different instruments and revamp others, to face the economic crisis with a new financial strategic investment plan or to propose or support the creation of new ones, the truth of the matter is that ***excellence in science has been confined to H2020 Pillar I.*** Unfortunately, our initial approach regarding ***the need of a clear conception of the suitable linkage between research and innovation is still alive***.

We must not forget that excellent research performed in academia represents the ultimate state-of-the-art and is the basis and the crucial instrument for transferring high quality knowledge. By doing so we will ensure a bona fide multiplying effect that will result in the mutual benefit of citizens and businesses throughout the EU.
In the light of our concerns, the purpose of the ideas and proposals expressed below is to contribute to an essential debate on articulating the intertwined role of research and innovation, not only for the H2020 last-three-year period but also looking forward to the future under the 9th Framework Programme

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Horizon 2020 streamline and messages for the future

1. The role of the pilot stage of the European Innovation Council (EIC) within H2020

The CSIC greatly welcomes the Commission's proposal to put in place a pilot phase (2018-2020) for the creation of a European Innovation Council primarily **based on the budgetary envelope of the H2020 SME Instrument, the Fast Track to Innovation scheme, and the Future and Emerging Technologies Open programme.**

During this phase the Commission services may provide a new scenario for markets creating high quality innovation but not another instrument for funding SMEs or big industry.
The EIC should have its own budget, identify gaps in different disciplines and markets; analyse maps of capacities and expertise within Europe, set out clear conditions of funding, making special emphasis on avoiding duplications with standing instruments, supports entrepreneurs and improve Internet accessibility for stakeholders.

It is of utmost importance to explore all the possibilities provided by the existing funding instruments dedicated to innovation, in whole or in part, within and outside H2020 and, especially, the synergies among different mechanisms should be better linked, unambiguously in the case of European Investment Bank support and the European Investment Fund actions.

It is for the Commission services to propose the appropriate ways to address current problems, but it is our understanding that we could not afford a situation where the conception, establishment and implementation of the actions envisaged for a potential EIC accentuate the gap between R & I by overriding the research carried out by European RPOs.
In addition, and in an entirely different forum, the Commission and the Member States should remove institutional and structural obstacles to innovation and deepen the Single European Market to make Europe more attractive to worldwide business, not only in the sector of Information and Communication Technologies but in areas such as Food Safety, Renewable and Green Energies or Climate Change.

2. H2020 Evaluation of Proposals to date

According to the **H2020 Rules for Participation** the evaluation of proposals submitted to calls will be carried out by the Commission with the help of independent external experts and will be guided by principles such as excellence, transparency, fairness and impartiality, efficiency and speed, and ethics and security. In respect of the application of these mandatory guidelines, the CSIC has identified a number of situations which may undermine the initial purpose:

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- ***One-stage versus two-stage evaluation procedure***

The Commission intention is that a two-stage evaluation procedure will become the norm as a mechanism, among others, to overcome the decrease in the success rate and to reduce the participants' workload. In general terms, our scientists favour this option because of considerable time and cost savings in the elaboration of the proposal.

However, we have noted that not all the calls for proposals or expressions of interest are adequately designed. Thus, the information requested for the first stage in 6-10 pages cannot reflect the true potential of an idea or project, compromising the access to a second phase shortlist for excellent proposals and, conversely, leading to a positive evaluation in the first stage not substantiated by the content of a full proposal under the second one. As a result, there is a growing understanding among academia that the key to success is to elaborate the full project proposal from the start, which may nullify or impair two-stage evaluation benefits.

The Commission services should streamline the information required in the calls for proposal topics description adapting it to the pillar, the type of action and any other relevant aspect.

The content of the project sent to the first of two-phase evaluations should include the full consortia or at least most of its members; only minimum changes should be acceptable from phase one to phase two; a three-month period to elaborate full proposals should be consistently applied and calls for proposals and deadlines should be timed to take into account major holiday periods.

- ***The scoring and the non-negotiation policy***

Under H2020 the time from submission of a proposal, evaluation and signature of the grant agreement is 8 months and the evaluation should be based on the proposal as submitted. Thus, if experts detect weaknesses, these should result in a lower score for the relevant criterion.
The CSIC welcomes and it is totally in favour of the principle of reducing the so-called time to grant. However, in the light of the outcome after two years of evaluations we have noted an increasing mechanistic approach to the issue. The aftermath is that minor shortcomings have led to the rejection of potentially excellent proposals.

The briefing for expert evaluators should further clarify the differences between shortcomings, minor shortcomings and clerical errors. The experts should identify any shortcoming but this cannot be automatically translated into lower scores. The evaluators should explain the weaknesses found and, depending on their level of seriousness, assess if they may impede or jeopardise the implementation of the project. In all calls for proposals shortcomings that can be easily corrected during phase-two or grant preparation phase should be mentioned in the consensus report and the Commission should invite the participants to correct them during grant agreement preparation.

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- ***The quality of external experts***

In most of the calls the panels are designed to include expertise from scientists but also from a significant number of consultants, industry related experts and policy-makers. As a result, experts in evaluation panels are probably not completely well suited with the content of the call and true specialised scientific knowledge capable of identifying ground-breaking projects is lacking.

We strongly encourage the selection of the best qualified experts for the evaluation of proposals, avoiding a prevailing quota system that could harm the sole selection criterion, that is, excellence in research and innovation.

- ***The information given to experts and participants***

In general, the quality of Evaluation Summary Reports greatly depends on the quality of the panels but the Commission should pay more attention to ensure high quality reviews. Currently, the format and the information provided is minimal and highly deficient or the proposal is rejected with comments that are negative in items that nothing have to do with the project or idea in itself but more with information that is lacking or is not adequately addressed in the proposal and refers to minor questions. This questions not only the experts' work but also the evaluation moderators' role.

The scientific and technical part lays the foundation of the project. Therefore, scientific development and innovation should be priorities in the experts' evaluations and not other minor items which would lead to low quality funded projects.

For this purpose, the Commission should improve the briefing given to moderators and experts on the work programme content and the interpretation of the evaluation criteria, addressing which factors should be considered as a priority during the assessment process.
In addition, terminology should be clarified, especially for what concerns trans-disciplinary and multidisciplinary aspects as well as proper integration of Social Sciences and Humanities.

In all cases, it is essential to improve feedbacks but it is imperative in the case of two-phase calls: the evaluators should provide a much more detailed feedback for the first stage, facilitating the improvement of full proposals to those participants who will pass to stage two or a potential re-submission in case of failure. In this context, the appointment by the Commission of dedicated rapporteurs for stage one with good writing skills, would be very helpful.

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3. The Drafting of the H2020 Work Programme 2018-2020: basic issues

➢ *The practical integration of Social Sciences and Humanities issues into H2020*

The **Lund Declaration** (2009), the **Aarhus Declaration** (2012) and specifically the **Vilnius Declaration** (2013) have paved the ground for the integration of Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH) in interdisciplinary research programmes funded by the EU. That is why SSH research is a cross-cutting issue of broad significance in the general objectives of H2020. This mainstreaming into each of H2020 priorities entails a completely different approach relative to FP7 where SSH had their own dedicated area and, most important, their own budget line.

Key European institutions have repeatedly pointed out that the inclusion of a human and social dimension in all stages of research and research policy development is an important precondition for the ultimate success of H2020 actions. In spite of this, up to now H2020 work programmes have systematically failed to facilitate this integration, which has been mainly drawn upon translational means and not through actual scientific resources.
Although progress has been made in the 2016-2017 work programmes of certain Societal Challenges, there are obvious concerns regarding the required integration in others and in Leadership in Enabling and Industrial Technologies (LEIT), meaning that some fields are widely represented while others, such as humanities and arts, are practically absent.

The Commission Services should expand the scope of the topics included in Societal Challenges and LEIT calls by integrating a SSH dimension as an integral part of the topic description.

The 2018-2020 work programme topic description should be proactively drafted facilitating that SSH scientists recognise themselves as essential proposal participants. In other words, they should be involved in the initial formulation of the research and innovation problem and not "integrated" as an ultimate effort to improve the score in specific work packages, such as communication or bioethics.

To ensure that SSH-flagged topics are reliably assessed, the inclusion of SSH qualified experts in H2020 evaluation panels should be guaranteed. Interdisciplinary competence in both SSH and non-SSH disciplines would be very welcome.

It is essential that the Commission Services develop an effective communication campaign to raise awareness and engage all relevant stakeholders from both the scientific and the industrial/business communities in the importance of solving societal challenges under a multidisciplinary perspective that should encompass SSH disciplines.

➢ *Top-down versus bottom-up approach*

In principle, the CSIC supports the bottom-up approach in H2020 work programmes as a way to avoid that call topics are exclusively determined by certain stakeholders' interests.

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Nevertheless, under Pillar III and specifically under the Health, Demographic Change and Wellbeing Societal Challenge we believe that the open approach has gone too far and has given rise to a mixture of projects that requires vast expertise for evaluation (not always present in the panels as pointed out above).

Several topics have been designed in order to optimize the European Health System. That is to reduce costs, provide personalized solutions and implement ICTs, new diagnostics, treatments and vaccines. They are all objectives that involve very directly the patient and the solution of specific healthcare issues. Thus, we are neglecting ground-breaking science and European collaborative research at early phases of the innovation pipeline. This, in the long run, will result in few highly innovative projects that will necessarily require the input of basic science.

The same relates to the Chemistry field where much emphasis is given to sustainable and green chemistry and biotechnology. Other disciplines are not taken into account or the topics are so restrained and focused that there are limited areas of participation for many research groups and institutions.

Likewise, in the Societal Challenge **Environment and Climate Action** particularly relevant topics on conservation of ecosystems, sustainable exploitation of natural resources, global change monitoring and air quality improvement are almost completely excluded in H2020.
There are many important environmental problems -food supply, water supply and global change, among others- that cannot be properly tackled with the current tools. Applied science is not only producing patents and royalties, but supporting societal decisions. With its current structure and content, neither SC2 nor SC5 or any other SC properly tackles these issues

In addition, the explicit or implicit preference for certain methodologies removes from the process research areas whose contributions could be more indirect, less technical, but nevertheless relevant and probably more interesting from a scientific point of view.

Health research should remain a priority but not only via preclinical and clinical research but also through the identification and funding of projects that address early stage, cutting-edge issues on the molecular basis of disease and the identification of novel therapeutic strategies. Areas such as cancer, infectious diseases, neglected diseases, certain immune diseases and neurodegenerative diseases require increased attention and should be addressed from an open perspective.

Therefore, work programme and call topics have to be prioritized according to societal needs and have to consider that both basic scientific development and application lead to progress and well-being. Areas such as the decline in fertility, aging, the relationship between health and movement and migration policies or demography and population studies in health sciences, analytical, medical and biological chemistry, environmental and food chemistry and natural products should be included in call topics. For instance, new calls are required for drug discovery oriented projects where academic groups can take a leading role in the identification of novel therapeutic approaches.

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We also strongly suggest opening again the possibility of having scientific calls supporting DG Environment and other EC policies.

Descriptions and objectives must be broader and more open. However, the excessive implementation of extensive scientific and technological transversality under H2020 should be restrained. It should be taken into account that, under the limited scale of time and money of the projects funded by the EU, the very frequently oversized expected outcomes may not be always achieved.

The Work Programme should include open calls and within them open topic descriptions and objectives and give chances to the European scientific community to provide state-of-the-art knowledge on ground-breaking topics and new research.

Full embedment of Social Sciences and Humanities, Gender Issues, or International Cooperation will be always welcome. The Commission should reinforce this issue in the work programme and calls and require that the proposals show true integration of these cross-cutting matters.

Beyond ERC and MSC calls, the Commission should launch specific calls for emerging research groups in sectors continuously expanding in Europe well and resourced in young researchers.

- ***The increasing importance of economic impact under H2020: an excess of "market fundamentalism"?***

A prime example of this increasing trend is H2020 Pillar III. From the start its activities are focused to the market, which makes it quasi-compulsory that scientists generate knowledge with potential market added value. Added to this is the clear trend shown in the work programmes and work plans towards more and more economic impact in the content of the proposals. Therefore, the participants -if they want to succeed in a call- must be especially "creative" in business and financial strategy components.

In the case of H2020 Pillar II and its industry-driven research agendas the problem is that work programmes do not seem to take account of the fact that regardless the achievements made within the period of implementation, to bring a new innovative product on the market needs additional -and previously committed- investments. For instance, preliminary marketing tests are very expensive for a company and even in the case these are positive, a subsequently costly process is required. Most SMEs and a large part of industry cannot devote human and financial resources to address the requirements associated to these issues.

We fully accept that the inclusion of impact as an evaluation criterion is a necessary means of optimising and making progress in the search for new knowledge and innovation. However, the trends mentioned above show disproportionate focus on the immediate ***economic impact of research projects or even innovation projects*** which seems to be a major feature in successful projects and thus, forgetting the contribution that basic research and big science make in the

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medium term and their financial impact in the long term. Proof of this is the trend to require ***technology readiness levels*** **(TRL)** higher than 4-5 in the topics description, which is clearly inappropriate and cannot be assessed in projects where average EU funding duration is three to four years.

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Science and innovation performance should not be governed by economic competitiveness in a way that this should be the sole factor that finally moves scientists, technicians and engineers to elaborate projects under H2020 if they want to succeed. The H2020 implementation strategy should reward those proposals going the extra mile in terms of fostering the advancement of knowledge based on excellence science and innovation.

Moreover, as mentioned in the first bullet point (The practical integration of Social Sciences and Humanities issues into H2020) the mainstreaming of SSH research into each of H2020 priorities is a must; therefore, the scientific, political and societal impact expected in the proposals funded should be as essential as the economic impact.

Consequently, TRLs level should be substantially reduced within Pillar III. Not always societal impact can be measured in terms of economic impact or over a short time. Since basic science is essential to reach applicable knowledge, depending on the specific nature of the topic in question much lower TRLs should be promoted under the same call as a valuable alternative.

H2020 contribution to nurturing new entrepreneurs must be enhanced but the European Structural and Investment Funds with the help of the European Investment Bank should be the single contributor to provide the crucial source of finance to create more innovative European economies.

4. Budgetary envelope 2018-2020

- ***H2020 and the revision of the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF)***

In the last few years the EU has faced a growing number of crises and new priorities that have involved a substantial amount of additional funds or their reallocation from the EU budget. This is particularly relevant in the case of migration and refugee crises, backlog of unpaid bills or the funding of the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI).

H2020 has been one of the primary casualties (as well as Connecting Europe Facility) with an unprecedented 2016 budget bring down. And that happens after a frontloading of resources in 2014-2015 for ERC and MSC actions to compensate the decrease of appropriations in 2013-2014. Since this does not change H2020 overall budget, the result is less appropriations for the second half of MFF. To make matters worse, H2020 success rate has dropped after the second stage to 13% from the 20-22% average under FP7, what clearly means that many high-quality projects are rejected only due to a lack of funds.

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European Research and innovation Framework Programmes generate European added value and play a key role in contributing to European competitiveness and growth.

We understand that the Union has been challenged by different economic and financial emergencies and EFSI implementation and its continuation is a key priority, but we must strongly defend that EU large-scale political initiatives must not be supported in detriment of the existing Union policies.

The EU should reinforce the principle of partnership and increase the involvement of Member States, regional and local authorities as well as other research and innovation stakeholders.

The MFF mid-term revision is a clear opportunity to protect H2020 annual budgets starting by fully offsetting the EFSI-related cuts, which is the only way to accomplish the goals agreed for H2020 by the European institutions and the Member States on 11 December 2013.

- ***More flexible budgets in the calls for proposals***

In general, budgetary figures given in the work programmes are always indicative and the final ones may vary by up to 20% in the case of calls for proposals total expenditure. In calls where hundreds of proposals are submitted only one or two projects will be finally selected and in many occasions largely funded, which clearly discourages high-quality participation.

The call budget should be used in a much more flexible way, funding more than one project by topic if the result of evaluations so indicate.

At the same time, large-scale proposals that require huge budgets for their implementation should be limited to what is strictly necessary to guarantee scientific and innovative advancements and after proving their European added value and the application of the subsidiarity principle.

The Commission should reinforce monitoring measures for this type of fund-consuming projects.

5. **Simplification once again**

Simplification is the cornerstone: all the attempts to attract the best participants could fail if H2020 actual implementation does not include a substantial rationalisation in the rules for participation and dissemination.

In this respect, we acknowledge the improvements made by the Commission services specifically in what concerns the single IT platform, paperless system, the inclusion of VAT as an eligible cost or the reimbursement rate according to the type of activity.

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A single set of rules for the whole Framework Programme was one of the Commission's compromises. However, currently ***there are one general model grant agreement and eight different versions with specific derogations or modifications over the general one*** which clearly does not make it easier to "navigate" among these different administrative requests.

The CSIC has expressed in several fora its opinion in respect of the ***limiting percentage of indirect costs or the excessive control-based system***. On the one hand, the member states organisations, both public and private, have notably improved their accounting systems to meet the requirements established by the different framework programmes; on the other hand, the Commission is committed to develop a system that while guaranteeing the EU financial interests, is a real true-based system.

There is also an increasing legal uncertainty concerning the ***compulsory application of accounting rules coming from international accountancy standards*** that, in many cases, cannot be applied by public bodies' accountancy systems or even by SMEs.

At this stage, it is very clear that the ***25% flat-rate for indirect costs is inadequate and does not allow funding excellence research and innovation projects***. Even accepting its non-financial damages for some participants (only those ones using 60% for indirect costs under FP7 thus, no substantial simplification), the aftermath is that the total cost of the projects funded by H2020 is substantially less than under FP7, which, again, should have negative consequences on the quality of the results.

To sum up, we believe that the Commission should facilitate a simple and more rationalised toolkit of funding regulations under H2020. As indicated in the recently public consultation launched by the Commission concerning the mid-term review of the Financial Regulation, most answers are in favour of fewer rules and more clarity; and that means a single rule book and increased convergence of rules where there is not such measure. In addition, unit costs, flat-rates and lump sums should be maintained as the exception rather to become the norm.

Concerning the reimbursement of costs based on concrete objectives, results and outcomes we share the position taken by the vast majority of European stakeholders. This model raises a lot of complex questions: difficult to measure impact, both economic and societal, and, for instance, if failure should be counted as an outcome. Therefore, we will reserve our position until the Commission clearly explains all aspects included under this type of reimbursement, from the elaboration of the proposal to the justification of costs.

The financial contribution of the European Union to H2020 projects should respect the non-profit rule, in full compliance with the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the EU, but this does not mean that the actual costs of project implementation should be covered by the participants in terms of financial resources or by reducing the quality of the resources, human and material, provided.

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The Commission should insert a paragraph in the Annotated Model Grant Agreement clearly stating that this document is only a compilation of guiding principles and examples and not a compulsory document that must be followed to the letter.

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The Commission should clarify and limit the participation of third parties under H2020 projects, measure normally used to circumvent legal restrictions established for certain third countries. In any event, it would be very useful that, via H2020 Participant Portal, the beneficiaries' LEARs be notified about the participation of any third party in their proposals and funded projects under H2020.

Last but not less crucial, the cohesion policy should complement and play a key role in building capacity and providing a stairway to excellence to those participants needing an improvement in their management practices and accounting principles.

Final Remarks

Since their establishment, the European Union RTD Framework Programmes have encouraged and supported research and technological development and have been considered a true cornerstone to promote excellence through scientific collaboration among the EU members and wide-reaching. They have also been the main financial instrument to build the European Research Area. Therefore, its European added value is well-proven and a worldwide reference.

On the other hand, and as from Europe 2020 Strategy, the Union's main objective is the development of European competitiveness, growth and knowledge generation. One of the Europe 2020 Strategy goals remains to invest 3% of GDP in research and development. And again, a framework Programme, Horizon 2020, is an essential actor in the implementation of this target.

Europe is now more than ever situated at a crossroad of solutions for finding new paths to unlock the bottlenecks that are undermining our competitiveness. If research and innovation are to be part of the solution, an adequate joined-up policy is needed. For this aim to be achieved, European institutions, Member States, stakeholders and the European society should establish a permanent mechanism for fruitful dialogue.

Even despite prevailing situations caused by social and financial crises, science of excellence is the source of innovation, which in turn contributes to create new knowledge and capacity building for the future generations. European Science is one of the most valuable assets that the Union possesses and must be protected at all costs.

With all this in mind, the CSIC reaffirms its commitment to play an active role in fostering excellence in science and innovation and its willingness to work closely with both the Commission services and the other European research institutions to accomplish these objectives.

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ANNEX

The CSIC in facts and figures

The **Agencia Estatal Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC)** is Spain's largest public research institution and ranks among Europe's largest research organizations. The CSIC is attached to the Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness through the Secretary of State for Research, Development and Innovation, and plays a key role in scientific and technological policies in Spain and worldwide. For this purpose, our organisation fosters multidisciplinary scientific and technological research; transfers the knowledge learned to industry and society; enhances education and training of scientific and technical staff and promotes the establishment of technology-based companies. The values of the CSIC include the promotion of measures to achieve scientific and technical equality between women and men, research integrity -which has been over time one of the main concerns of CSIC hierarchy with the establishment of a dedicated ethic committee and a code of good scientific practices-, open access as means of open science… This illustrates the strong leadership of the CSIC and the commitment in pursuing a new era of excellence for European research.

- **Staff**:
  - 15.059 employees, of which 3.502 researchers, including scientists and technicians from joint research units with other Spanish institutions
- **Institutes**:
  - 122 spread across the country and cover different areas of Science and Technology. Among these, 70 are fully own institutes or centres and 52 are Joint Research Units with universities or other research institutions in Spain. There is also a permanent office in Brussels
- **Scientific and technical areas**
  - The CSIC expertise covers most of human knowledge, from the most basic or fundamental aspects of science to the most complex technological developments; from human and social sciences to food science and technology, including biology, biomedicine, physics, chemistry and materials, natural resources and agricultural sciences.
- **Scientific output**:
  - 20% of the national scientific output: more than 12.000 ISI papers in 2015
- **Patents:**
  - 155 patents in 2015, leading the patent ranking in Spain and an average of 50 licence contracts per year
- **Singular Scientific and Technological Infrastructures (ICTS)**
  - Doñana Biological Reserve
  - Integrated Micro and Nanoelectronics Clean Room
  - Hesperides, Sarmiento de Gamboa, García del Cid and Mitylus Oceanographic Vessels
  - Juan Carlos I Antarctic Base,
  - Calar Alto Astronomical Observatory (jointly with Max Planck Society),
  - European Synchrotron Radiation Facility (jointly operated by 18 European countries)
  - Max Von Laue-Paul Langevin Institute (jointly operated by 11 countries)
- **Non-European Union funding** (currently 2014):
  - 3.117 projects by Spanish national and regional sources
  - 5.171 contracts and agreements
  - 4.996 actions related to provision of services

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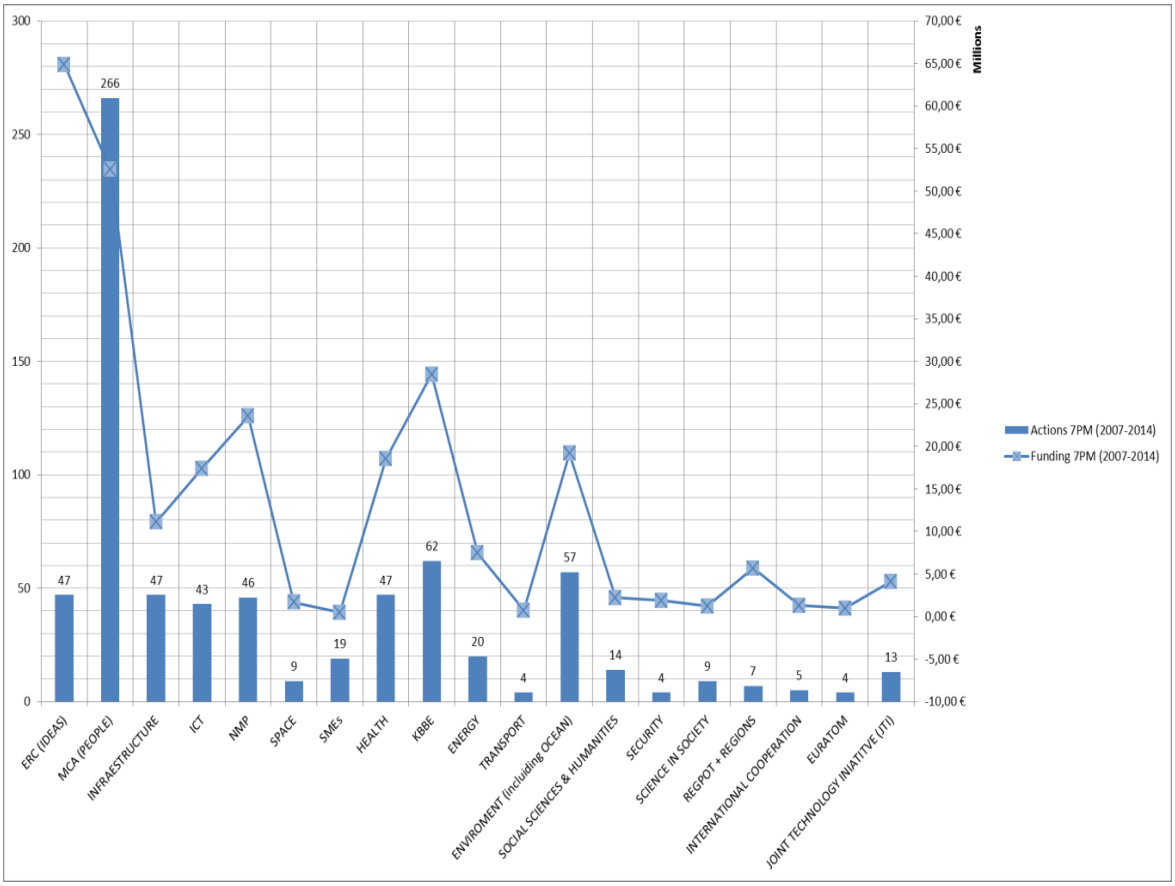
The CSIC performance under FP7

The **CSIC** signed 723 actions (97 coordinated and 47 ERC projects). With regard to the percentage of funding obtained by CSIC within each programme, the distribution is People 19 %, Cooperation 45%, Capacities 10 % and Ideas 26 %. The most relevant research areas in terms of funding have been Physical Sciences and Biology and Biomedicine. Regarding the number of projects, the CSIC is listed the first Spanish organisation and the 6th in Europe with a total EU contribution of over 264 million euros (E-CORDA).



The CSIC performance under H2020

Within the 2014-2015 Work Programme there has been a remarkable participation and success in certain programmes, such as Research Infrastructures, ERC (26 projects) and the Marie Sklodowska Curie Action, as well as in the Societal Challenge “Food Security, Sustainable Agriculture and Forestry”. Up to June 2016, the CSIC has obtained 203 projects with an EU financial contribution of 88.5 million euros. Success rate average is over 12%. It is also an active member in two Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KIC), Raw Materials and Health, of the European Institute for Innovation and Technology (EIT). As indicated in E-

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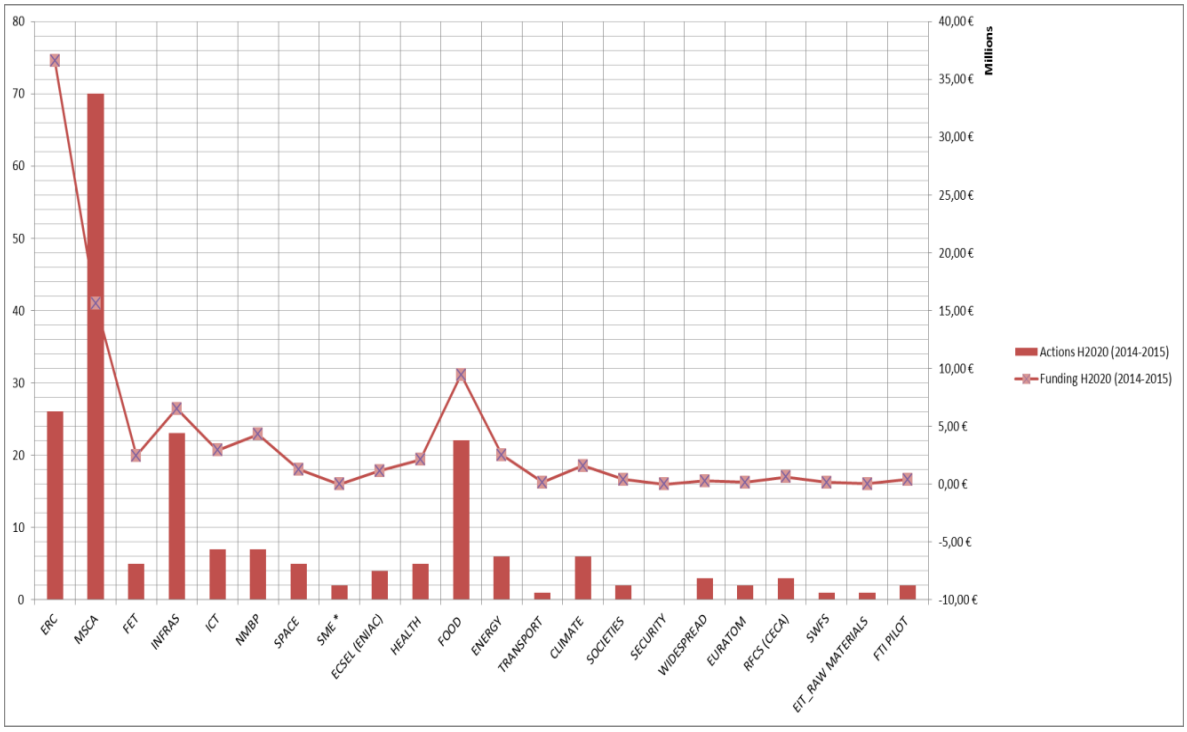
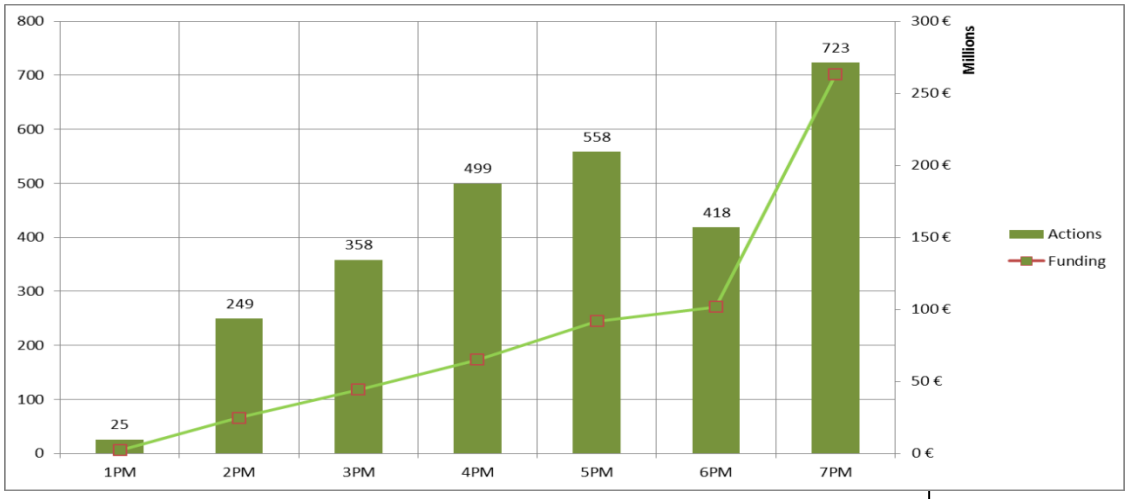
CORDA, the CSIC is listed as the 1st organisation in Spain and the 10th in Europe in H2020 funding.



The CSIC performance over time

As demonstrated by the above-mentioned data and our performance over the last 30 years, the CSIC has taken full advantage of the possibilities offered by the European Union and has made the best use of its potential as an active participant under RTD Framework Programmes and related actions at the EU level. The chart below shows an appreciable increase in the number of projects granted as well as in the funding received.



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But while these achievements are important and necessary steps forward, other goals are priorities for the institution. Thus, during this period of enriching experience we have improved not only our results regarding participation and funding but also our operating procedures. Moreover, the CSIC is contributing actively and with determination towards the implementation of the European Research Area through position papers, supporting the Commission via scientific experts, evaluators and seconded national experts and by signing collaboration agreements as a member of Brussels-based organisations like Science Europe.

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