Short EU funding guide for Singapore-based UMIs

As a member of a CNRS international joint unit (UMI), you are in principle eligible to EU funding. The main research funding programme of the EU is Horizon 2020, with €80bn to be invested in total.

ELIGIBILITY TO EU H2020 CALLS

To be eligible to most (but not all) calls, researchers must work in a lab of either:

- a Member State of the EU and their overseas territory
- an associated country (mainly neighbouring countries of the EU)
- a country that is listed as third country in this list. Singapore is not part of it to this day, but it may change in the short term.

Since UMIs are legally established in France, UMI-affiliated researchers can apply to EU funding (with the exception of some specific calls) regardless of their citizenship. The facts support this; we do have examples of UMI teams getting H2020 funding as project leaders or major partners (as teams, not individuals).

If you are part of a UMI (e.g. listed in the Reseda database – check with your UMI’s director), CNRS can be this host institution for you.

The case of ERC calls still needs to be clarified, since it requires the grantees to spend (at least) 50% of their time in a European lab. Whether this is a territorial (the lab has to be located in the EU or an associated/third country) or legal (established under EU law) restriction remains unclear.

FIND H2020 CALLS DEADLINES AND RELEVANT INFORMATION

If you are interested in one of the H2020 programmes mentioned above, this table keeps track of past, current and upcoming calls. Keep in mind that H2020 is the main but not the only funding programme in the EU.

CNRS & YOUR APPLICATION

Some of the calls do not require an affiliation to a European host institution (from an EU Member State or Associated countries), and you can submit your proposals directly following the call’s guidelines – but chances are you will have to mention CNRS at some point; in any case, do inform your UMI’s director and the person in charge of European affairs for your UMI’s institute at CNRS.

In most cases, a host institutions (HI) is required to back the proposal anyway. If you are part of a UMI (e.g. listed in the Reseda database – check with your UMI’s director), CNRS can be this host institution.

If you’d like to have CNRS’ assistance with your application, here are the next steps:

1. At least 6 weeks before your call’s deadline, inform the UMI’s director. He will then contact the Direction for European and International Affairs (DERCI) and send this form to demandeipe@cnrs-dir.fr. They will inform the relevant persons from your UMI’s institute of affiliation and from the Partnerships and Valorisation Service in Paris (SPV DR16). If your request is accepted, a European Projects Engineer will be in touch.

2. We encourage you to contact the person in charge of European affairs for your UMI’s institute as well. They also are the go-to persons for the most up-to-date information. Full list here

3. Depending on the type of call, you may want to contact the national contact points (NCPs, who are, in fact, actual people) for information and advice. Do check the main NCPs AND the full list of people in the consortium; some of the NCPs are CNRS staff.
HORIZON 2020 PROGRAMME IN A NUTSHELL

Find a call
Through the H2020 calls table

At least 6 weeks prior to the deadline
Inform your UMI director

Contact CNRS
UMI director will relay your application to SPV, to ask for a EU projects engineer’s assistance

At any point of the process
You can reach out to the National Contact Points for more information

Section I
Scientific Excellence
• European Research Council
• Marie Sklodowska Curie
• Future and Emerging Technologies
• Research infrastructures

Section II
Industrial leadership
• Key Enabling Technologies
• Nanotechnologies
• Advanced Materials
• Advanced Manufacturing and Processing
• Biotechnology
• ICTs
• Space
• Access to risk finance & SME innovation

Section III
Societal challenges
• Health, well-being, ageing
• Food security & bioeconomy
• Secure, clean, efficient energy
• Smart, green, integrated transport
• Climate action, environment, resource efficiency and raw materials
• Europe in a Changing world - Innovative, inclusive societies
• Secure societies

Euratom
Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation
Science with and for society
Fast Track to Innovation Pilot
European Institute of Innovation and Technology
Smart Cyber-Physical Systems