



# Fast Track to innovation

Horizon 2020<sup>1</sup> (H2020) is the financial Framework program of R&D in Europe, which entered into force from 2014 to 2020.

H2020 defines three basic action aspects: 1) scientific excellence, 2) industrial leadership, 3) social challenges.

The European Innovation Council (EIC) has budgeted 300 M€ to fund close to market, business driven projects under the Fast Track to Innovation (FTI) scheme during the next three years: 2018-2020, 100M€ each.

## Fast Track to innovation (FTI)<sup>2</sup>

The Fast Track to Innovation (FTI) pilot is the only measure in Horizon 2020 that provides funding for close to market, business driven projects, that is open to proposals in any area of technology or application, without thematic restrictions. Due to this thematic openness is expected to contribute to build up trans-disciplinary teams and to deliver innovation onto the market and/or into society nurturing cross-sector cooperation. The aim is to reduce time from idea to market, stimulate the participation of first-time applicants to EU research funding and increase private sector investment in research and innovation. To this end, if a proposal involves technological innovation, the consortium must declare that the technology or the technologies concerned are at least at Technology Readiness Level (TRL) 6.

Actions funded have to be 'business-driven' because they are intended to give promising innovation ideas the last push before entering the market. Therefore, substantial industry involvement in FTI actions will be mandatory to ensure quick market take-up (within a 3 year period after the start).

Consortia must be comprised by between 3 and 5 legal entities established in at least 3 different EU Member States or countries associated to Horizon 2020.

Unlike the SME Instrument or the Eurostars programme, it is not restricted to SMEs but it does require strong business involvement, resulting in either 1) the allocation of at least 60% of

## Benefits for companies

Own strategic R&D funding with a high funding intensity at a rate of 70% (direct costs + 25% of indirect costs). It is a non-refundable funding (no loan)

Each Partner obtains the Intellectual Property of Results generated.

Corporate tax deduction for R&D costs.

Derived from its participation in EU projects:

Greater visibility: media, press release, articles in specialized press

Access to an advanced knowledge

Stand out from other competitors

Orientation to R&D activities

Network of contacts within EU

the budget to industry participants in the consortium, or 2) the presence of a minimum number of 2 industry participants in a consortium of 3 or 4 partners, or of 3 industry participants in a consortium of 5 partners.

The indicative EU contribution per action is expected to be between €1 million and €2 million; in duly justified cases, an EU contribution of up to €3 million can be considered.

Further information: [info@aimplas.es](mailto:info@aimplas.es) ■

1. <http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en/>
2. More information in [http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/wp/2018-2020/main/h2020-wp1820-eic\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/wp/2018-2020/main/h2020-wp1820-eic_en.pdf)
3. Technology demonstrated in relevant environment (industrially relevant environment in the case of key enabling technologies)

## Calendar

The FTI scheme will be open for applications and proposals can be submitted at any time as of that date, and they will be ranked following **three cut-off dates** in 2019: **21/02/2019 – 23/05/2019 – 22/10/2019**