



HORIZON 2020

Opportunities for Universities of Applied Sciences and Lessons Learned from First Calls

Brendan Hawdon
DG Research & Innovation



What is Horizon 2020? A quick reminder

- **The European Union programme for research and innovation for 2014-2020**
- **A core part of Europe 2020, Innovation Union & European Research Area:**
 - Responding to the economic crisis to invest in jobs and growth
 - Addressing people's concerns about their livelihoods, safety and environment
- **Key features:**
 - A single programme bringing together separate programmes/initiatives
 - Coupling research to innovation
 - Focus on societal challenges facing EU society
 - Simplified access

Horizon 2020: first year of operation

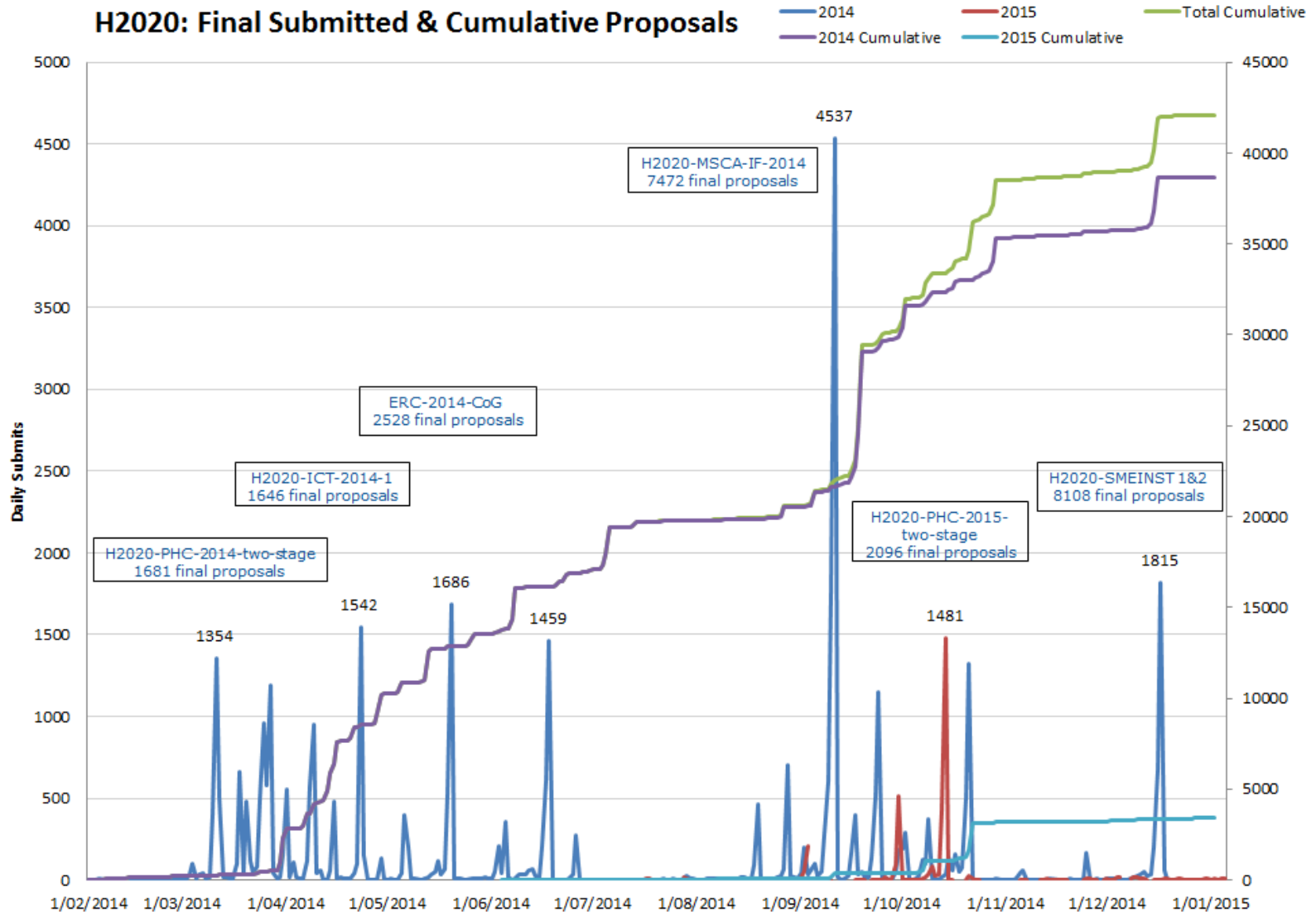
- Successful implementation of biennial strategic work programme with broader and fewer topics;
- Confirmation of WP 2015, including launch of FTI pilot & five inducement prizes;
- Calls/topics with total budget of over €8 billion closed;
- In total, more than 40,000 proposals submitted;
- Robust and user-friendly IT systems and Participant Portal;
- Simplified business processes helping to achieve implementation targets like shortened time-to-grant.



European Commission

H2020 proposal submission in 2014

H2020: Final Submitted & Cumulative Proposals



Lessons Learned from First Horizon 2020 Calls

Analysis of experiences with first calls based on:

- **Statistical analysis of 33 concluded calls** (approx. half of calls launched in 2014, but comprising only ca. 5,250 proposals) covering the first six months of operation;
- Feedback from **Commission services and Executive Agencies;**
- **Observers' reports** from evaluations;
- Feedback from some **Member States, stakeholders, and certain NCPs.**

First comprehensive statistics on 2014 calls/topics will be available at the end of March 2015.

Lessons Learned from First Horizon 2020 Calls

Further feed-back collected from

- Strategic Configuration of **Programme Committee**, plus written comments from 13 MS
- **NCP** Coordinators;
- Umbrella **stakeholder organisations**;
- **Observers** of evaluations.

as well as **additional stakeholder input** and continued monitoring.

Stakeholder communities appreciated occasion to provide early feedback as well as responsiveness of Commission services.



Result: Action Points

Lessons Learned from first H2020 Calls

Key findings and action points

Key features and novelties

Work programme has delivered on

- **Embedding key features** and novelties of Horizon 2020 reinforcing its integrated approach;
- **Opening up topic descriptions** in which horizontal priorities are integrated.



Address key features and novelties upstream in the work programme preparation cycle to ensure embedding in the **priority setting as well as implementation**; in particular enhance efforts to increase **international cooperation activities** and **SSH** embedding

Lessons Learned from First Horizon 2020 Calls

Key findings and action points

Response to calls

- **Great attractiveness of calls:** around 35,000 proposals submitted to calls closed in 2014 with requested total budget of €60.5 billion*.
- Average **over-subscription around 7 times the available budget** (5.5 times under FP7). However, picture remains largely diverse.
- **Increase in industry participation**, particularly in the Industrial Leadership and Societal Challenges pillars, and good **SME participation** with successful launch of SME instrument (8100 applications)



Maintain challenge-based approach in delivering topics while improving their clarity (esp. impact requirements); devise measures to manage large demand, notably in two-stage calls

Lessons Learned from first H2020 Calls

Key findings and action points

Evaluations

- **Overall excellent quality of evaluations** with a good mix of experts (disciplines, geographical background, organisational typologies etc.). Some concerns regarding interpretation of criteria and new concepts (e.g. innovation management).
- **Selection of expert evaluators:** lack of innovation expertise and women experts.

➔ Continued joint efforts to **attract experts; update the evaluation standard briefing and guidance documents**, including information for applicants.

Lessons Learned from first H2020 Calls

Further key action points

- ✓ **Improve presentation of calls** on Participant Portal Portal (better reflection of work programme);
- ✓ Make **better use** of the **whole toolbox** of funding instruments, including prizes and pre-commercial procurement (PCP) or public procurement of innovative solutions (PPI) co-fund actions;
- ✓ Conduct **further analysis of oversubscription**;
- ✓ **Continue monitoring the implementation of calls**, particularly when they affect applicants and develop corrective measures when necessary (e.g. information on evaluation results).

Lessons Learned from first Horizon 2020 Calls

Next steps

- **Implement** action points and **continue to listen** to stakeholders and **to improve**;
- Updated statistics and recommendations from the first Horizon 2020 calls will form the basis of Horizon 2020 **Annual Monitoring Report**.

Universities of Applied Sciences and Horizon 2020

Opportunities for universities in Horizon 2020

Universities are key players in Horizon 2020 across all of its priorities:

- **'Excellent Science'**

Support operates largely on a bottom-up basis; universities and their researchers in the lead in setting the research agenda through instruments such as the European Research Council or the Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions.

- **'Industrial Leadership'**

Universities to carry out partnerships with the private sector, e.g. development of key enabling technologies or in assisting SMEs to become more innovative.

- **'Societal Challenges'**

Focus on bringing together international and multidisciplinary teams, including universities, as providers of basic knowledge, to tackle challenges which are closely linked to EU's policy agenda in domains such as health, energy or transport.

Universities of Applied Sciences and Horizon 2020

- **Participation in FP7** (*N.B. no EU-wide definition of UAS*) as a starting base: 199 organisations (highest number from DE); 1.4 billion euro EU financial contribution, participation in 4 000 projects;
- Universities of applied science in **excellent position to benefit** from the new features of Horizon 2020;
- **Strengths:** could serve as link between research and innovation – focus on practical skills, partnership with business (incl. SMEs), close to market activities.

Conclusions:

- Research and Innovation trigger growth and jobs and will help us exit the crisis
- Need for continuous investment in research and innovation at regional, national and EU level
- Horizon 2020 is the largest funding programme for research and innovation in the world
- Horizon 2020 offers opportunities for universities across all priorities
- Universities of applied sciences in particular are in an excellent position to benefit from Horizon 2020 and should actively participate in Horizon 2020!

For further information

- **Participant Portal**

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/home.html>

- **Helpdesk**

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/enquiries>

- **Expert evaluators needed!**

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/experts/index.html>

- **Learn more about Horizon 2020**

<http://ec.europa.eu/horizon2020>

Thank you for your attention!