

Questions & Answers

EU-China Co-funding Mechanism for Research and Innovation Cooperation

Q: What is the Co-funding Mechanism?

A: The Co-funding Mechanism (CFM) is a joint initiative launched by the Chinese Government and the EU to support joint research and innovation projects between European and Chinese universities, research institutions and companies under the framework of Horizon 2020 in strategic areas of common interest. It was agreed at the 2nd EU-China Innovation Cooperation Dialogue, endorsed by the 17th EU-China Summit of June 2015, and announced in September 2015 at the occasion of the visit of European Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation Carlos Moedas to China.

The Implementation Guidelines of CFM were agreed on 30 October 2015 at the 12th EU China Joint Steering Committee Meeting on S&T Cooperation (JSCST) in Beijing co-chaired by the European Commission (EC) Director General for Research and Innovation Robert-Jan Smits and the Chinese Vice-Minister for Science and Technology Cao Jianlin. Through CFM, funds will be provided by the Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) for China-based participants in Horizon 2020 research and innovation projects including mobility of researchers.

Q: What is the scale of fund foreseen under CFM?

A: Building on the EU's Horizon 2020 and relevant research and innovation funding programmes on the Chinese side, CFM will mobilise over 500 million Euros from the EU and 1 billion RMB from China during the period from 2016 to 2020.

Up to 200 million RMB, or nearly 30 million euro, will be made available annually by MOST on the Chinese side for the benefit of China-based entities that will participate in joint projects with European partners under Horizon 2020. The EC expects to continue spending over 100 million Euros per year for the benefit of Europe-based entities in joint projects under H2020 with Chinese participants.

Q: What is the scale of fund per project?

A: In principle, the per-project ceiling of MOST grant under the CFM is 5 Million RMB.

The project duration should normally be not more than 3 years.

Q: Who can apply for fund under this mechanism?

A: For this first CFM Call, China-based participants in successful Horizon 2020 Work Programmes 2014/2015 proposals, and in proposals submitted in Horizon 2020 Work Programmes 2016/2017 for which the Horizon 2020 deadline (single-stage call or two-stage call second stage) is prior to 31 March 2016 for the first MOST deadline; respectively 31 July 2016 for the second MOST deadline can apply. Eligibility criteria for Chinese applicants can be found at the website of MOST. The application should be prepared in accordance with the template provided by MOST and submitted through respective institutions.

Europe-based entities will apply for Horizon 2020 fund following the rules and procedures of Horizon 2020.

The EC and MOST will fund selected applicants according to their respective rules, regulations and practices. MOST funds are solely for use by China-based selected applicants.

Q: How do I know if my proposal is successfully evaluated in Horizon 2020?

A: The EC will inform coordinators of the Horizon 2020 proposals if their proposals are positively evaluated and then invite China-based applicants in the proposal consortium to apply from MOST for possible co-funding, if need be, following the call for applications to be published by MOST.

Q: When will the CFM call be published?

A: The first CFM call launched by MOST on 16 December 2015 concerns the China-based entities participating in projects already selected under the Horizon 2020 Work Programmes 2014-15 as well as proposal submitted prior to the deadlines (31 March 2016, 31 July 2016) of the current Work Programme 2016/17.

Relevant Horizon 2020 calls are published in the [Horizon 2020 Participant Portal](#), with the most recent [Work Programme 2016/17](#) published on 14 October 2015.

Q: Will the CFM target specific priority areas?

The priority areas to be supported through the 2016 call focus on agriculture (including food), biotechnologies, ICT, space, aviation, energy, health, transport, water resources, energy saving and emission reduction, advanced manufacturing, new materials, sustainable urbanisation, and exchange of young scientists. In practice, all topics under the Horizon 2020 ‘Leadership in Enabling and Industrial Technologies’, ‘Societal Challenges (except the Security one)’, ‘Future and Emerging Technologies’, ‘Research Infrastructures’ and ‘Research and Innovation Staff Exchange’ as well as the Euratom Nuclear Energy topics are expected to be eligible for the CFM.

Q: How to apply for funding under CFM?

A: Please visit the website of MOST ([EU China Co-funding Mechanism](#)) for details of procedures to submit applications.

Q: How is the evaluation organised, and what are the evaluation criteria?

A: MOST will evaluate and select the proposals from China-based applicants for funding according to relevant rules. Evaluation will be based on a number of criteria defined by MOST.

Q: How would I know if my application for CFM fund is selected or not?

A: MOST will complete the evaluation of all applications received in the framework of the CFM from China-based partners in successful Horizon 2020 proposals and notify the China-based applicants ideally within few months after each CFM deadline.