

UKRO Horizon 2020 Condensed

Societal Challenge 2: Food Security, Sustainable Agriculture and Forestry, Marine and Maritime and Inland Water Research and the Bio-economy

What is the 'Food Security Challenge'?

The objective of Societal Challenge 2 under Horizon 2020 is to contribute to securing sufficient supplies of safe, healthy and high quality food and other bio-based products by developing productive, sustainable and resource-efficient primary production systems, fostering related ecosystem services and the recovery of biological diversity, alongside competitive and low carbon supply chains. The idea is that this will accelerate the transition to a sustainable European bioeconomy and bridge the gap between new technologies and their implementation.

What will be funded?

The 2018-20 work programme part for Societal Challenge 2 comprises three calls under the focus areas described below. As was the case for the 2016-17, these calls will be complemented by the activities of the Bio-based Industries Joint Undertaking (BBI JU). A number of 'Other Activities' will also be supported, including a Circular Bioeconomy Thematic Investment Platform (risk-sharing financial instrument), support to Research and Innovation Policy in the area of bio-based products and services, and a fifth Foresight exercise of the Standing Committee for Agricultural Research (SCAR).

Furthermore, the relevance of Societal Challenge 2 to the United Nations' (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and the COP 21 Paris Climate Agreement is highlighted for 2018-2020. This work programme part will also contribute to three of Horizon 2020's 'Focus Areas': Low Carbon; Circular Economy; and Digitisation.

Societal Challenge 2 2018-2020 Calls:



▶ Sustainable Food Security (SFS)

The SFS call aims to contribute to research and innovation in the area of food and nutrition security in Europe and beyond. Its commitment to sustainability places significant attention on the interfaces between the economic, environmental and social dimensions of food production. The call advocates for food system approaches that tackle inherent links between ecosystems, food production, the food chain and consumer health and wellbeing. The main aims of the SFS call are to:

- Deliver diverse and healthy food from land and sea;
- Increase resource efficiency and environmental performance of food systems from primary production to consumers;
- Understand the impact of climate change on agriculture, resources and food quality, and identify options to manage its effects;
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and emissions of air pollutants from land use and food production taking into account main drivers such as inputs and consumption patterns

▶ Rural Renaissance (RUR)

The RUR call aims to enhance the natural, social, cultural and economic potential of rural areas and support policy coherence. It will boost economic development, ecosystem services and entrepreneurial innovation. This will be achieved by building on diversification and modernisation strategies, improving governance models, supporting innovative food and non-food value chains, and capitalising on local assets, including human natural and cultural capital.

▶ Blue Growth (BG)

The BG call aims to sustainably harvest the potential of resources from seas, oceans and inland waters for different uses across a range of marine and maritime industries, while protecting biodiversity and enhancing climate resilience. It supports sustainable growth in the marine and maritime sectors through a responsible management of marine resources for healthy, productive, safe, secure and resilient seas and oceans, which are essential for thriving ecosystems, climate regulation, global food security, human health, livelihoods and economies.

Funding, eligibility and project details

Most activities under this Societal Challenge will be implemented through Research and Innovation Actions, Innovation Actions, and Co-ordination and Support Actions, but there is also support for other project types including ERA-NET Cofund, and prizes. Particular to this Work Programme part are topics flagged as '**Multi-Actor**' which aim to foster links across a number of different sectors and ensure that innovation is demand-driven. Therefore, proposals need to demonstrate this level of engagement across sectors and throughout the lifetime of the project with strong dissemination of results and practical applications. As a minimum, results should feed into the European Innovation Partnership for Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability (EIP AGRI), though further collaboration, particularly with the Operational Groups, is strongly encouraged. **Social Science and Humanities** input is expected throughout all calls, and such input is specifically requested in some topics.

Call timings 2020

Single stage calls have deadlines in September 2019 and January 2020, and two-stage calls have their first stage in January 2020 and their second stage in September 2020.

Relevant EU policy areas and developments

The Societal Challenge is aligned with the EU's Bioeconomy Strategy which was launched in 2012. The goal of this strategy is a more innovative and low-emissions economy, reconciling demands for sustainable agriculture and fisheries, food security, and the sustainable use of renewable biological resources for industrial purposes, while ensuring biodiversity and environmental protection. It focusses on three key aspects: developing new technologies and processes for the bioeconomy; developing markets and competitiveness in bioeconomy sectors; and pushing policymakers and stakeholders to work more closely together. The EU Bioeconomy Strategy fits under the Innovation Union and Resource-efficient Europe flagship initiatives of the Europe 2020 strategy.

Societal Challenge 2 is also of policy relevance to the following EU initiatives:

- EU Common Agricultural Policy;
- EU Integrated Maritime Policy;
- EU Common Fisheries Policy;
- European Innovation Partnership for Agriculture (EIP AGRI);
- Circular Economy Package.

More information:

- European Commission Research and Innovation Participant Portal for:
 - Calls for proposals ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/
 - Work programmes ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/wp/2018-2020/main/h2020-wp1820-food_en.pdf
- EU Bioeconomy Strategy: ec.europa.eu/research/bioeconomy
- Resource-efficient Europe: ec.europa.eu/resource-efficient-europe
- EU Common Agricultural Policy: ec.europa.eu/agriculture/cap-post-2013/
- EU Integrated Maritime Policy: ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/policy/index_en.htm
- EU Common Fisheries Policy: http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/index_en.htm
- Europe 2020: ec.europa.eu/europe2020
- Bio-based Industries Joint Undertaking: www.bbi-europe.eu/
- EIP AGRI: ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/
- Final paper on a strategic approach to EU agricultural research and innovation - ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en/news/final-paper-strategic-approach-eu-agricultural-research-and-innovation
- Sign up to the UKRO Portal to stay up to date on Societal Challenge 2 and food security under Horizon 2020: ukro.ac.uk
- For specific questions, contact your UKRO European Advisor.