HORIZON 2020 PROPOSAL EVALUATION
A NEW TYPE OF EU R&I PROGRAMME

New types of calls and proposals

- **Calls are challenge-based, and therefore more open to innovative proposals**

  - Calls are less prescriptive - they do not outline the expected solutions to the problem, nor the approach to be taken to solve it

  - Calls/topics descriptions allow plenty of scope for applicants to propose innovative solutions of their own choice

- **There is a greater emphasis on impact, in particular through each call or topic impact statements**

  - Applicants are asked to explain how their work will contribute to bringing about the described impacts

  - During the evaluation, you are asked to assess this potential contribution

- **There is more emphasis on innovation**

  - Horizon 2020 supports all stages in the research and innovation chain including non-technological and social innovation and activities closer to the market

- **Proposals may bring together different disciplines, sectors and actors to tackle specific challenges**

  - e.g. scientists, industry, SMEs, societal partners, end-users…

Innovation

- **A balanced approach to research and innovation**

  – not only limited to the development of new products and services on the basis of scientific and technological breakthroughs

  – but also incorporating aspects such as the use of existing technologies in novel applications and continuous improvements

- **Activities closer to the market emphasise the widest possible use of knowledge generated by the supported activities up to the commercial exploitation of that knowledge**

- **There is a particular emphasis on activities operating close to the end-users and the market, such as demonstration, piloting or proof-of-concept**

  – can also include support to social innovation, and support to demand side approaches (standardisation, innovation procurement, user-centred measures …) to help accelerate the deployment and diffusion of innovative products and services into the market

The definitions of the terms used are available in the Horizon 2020 Glossary on the Participant Portal

European Commission

Cross-cutting issues

Cross-cutting issues are fully integrated in the work programme (WP)

- **Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH)** are integrated across all Horizon 2020 activities to successfully address European challenges

- **Gender dimension in the content of R&I** - a question on the relevance of sex/gender analysis is included in proposal templates

- The new strategic approach to **international cooperation** consists of a general opening of the WP and targeted activities across all relevant Horizon 2020 parts

  - The approach to providing 'automatic funding' to third country participants is restricted – see list of countries

- **Other cross-cutting issues may also be included in the WP** such as Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) including science education, open access to scientific publications, ethics…; standardisation; climate and sustainable development …

European Commission

Impact of grant preparation on evaluation

- **No grant negotiation phase!**

  - **The time from submission of a proposal, evaluation and signature of the grant has been reduced to a maximum of 8 months**
    (max. 5 months for evaluation + max. 3 months for grant signature)

- **What does this mean for the evaluation of proposal?**

  - **You evaluate each proposal as submitted**
    not on its potential if certain changes were to be made

  - **If you identify shortcomings (other than minor ones and obvious clerical errors), you must reflect those in a lower score for the relevant criterion**

  - **You explain the shortcomings, but do not make recommendations**
    i.e. do not suggest additional partners, additional work packages, resources cut…

  - **Proposals with significant weaknesses that prevent the project from achieving its objectives or with resources being seriously over-estimated must not receive above-threshold scores**

  - **Any proposal with scores above the thresholds and for which there is sufficient budget will be selected as submitted**