

PE-CONS No/YY - 2011/0399 (COD)

REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL

of

laying down the rules for participation and dissemination in "Horizon 2020 - the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020)"

(Text with EEA relevance)

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union ("TFEU"), and in particular Articles 173, 183 and the second paragraph of Article 188 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,

After transmission of the draft legislative act to the national Parliaments,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee¹,

Having regard to the opinion of the Court of Auditors²,

Acting in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure,

¹ OJ C , , p. .

² OJ C , , p. .

Whereas:

- (1) "Horizon 2020 - the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020)" (Horizon 2020) was adopted by Regulation [X] of the European Parliament and of the Council of [X] establishing Horizon 2020 – The Framework Programme for Research and Innovation³. That Regulation needs to be complemented by rules for participation and dissemination.
- (2) Horizon 2020 should be implemented with a view to contributing directly to creating industrial leadership, growth and employment *as well as citizens welfare* in Europe and should reflect the strategic vision of the Commission Communication of 6 October 2010 to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Region "Europe 2020 Flagship Initiative Innovation"⁴ whereby the Commission engages to radically simplify access of participants.
- (3) Horizon 2020 should support the achievement and functioning of the European Research Area in which researchers, scientific knowledge and technology circulate freely, by strengthening cooperation *both* between the Union and the Member States, *and among the Member States*, notably through application of a coherent set of rules.

³ OJ C , , p. .

⁴ COM (2010) 546 final, 6.10.2010

- (4) The rules for the participation and dissemination should adequately reflect the recommendations of the European Parliament, as summarised in the "Report on simplifying the implementation of the Research Framework Programmes"⁵, and Council with regard to the simplification of the administrative and financial requirements of the research framework programmes. The rules should give continuity to the simplification measures already implemented under Decision No 1982/2006/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2006 concerning the Seventh Framework Programme of the European Community for research, technological development and demonstration activities (2007-2013)⁶ and ***should take up the recommendations made in the final report of the Expert Group 'Interim Evaluation of the 7th Framework Programme' of 12 November 2010 and to*** progress further in reducing the administrative burden for participants and the complexity of the financial provisions in order to ***facilitate participation and*** decrease financial errors. The rules should also duly consider the concerns and recommendations from the research community resulting from the debate initiated by the Commission Communication of 29 April 2010 to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions "Simplifying the implementation of the research framework programmes",⁷ and the subsequent Green Paper of 9 February 2011 "From Challenges to Opportunities: Towards a Common Strategic Framework for EU Research and Innovation funding"⁸.

⁵ Report of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy of 6 October 2010, rapporteur: Maria da Graça Carvalho, P7 TA(2010)0401.

⁶ OJ L 412, 30.12.2006, p.1.

⁷ COM (2010) 187.

⁸ COM (2011) 48.

- (4a) *The interim evaluation of Horizon 2020 should include an evaluation of the new funding model, including its impact on funding levels, participation in and attractiveness of the Framework programme.*
- (4b) *The Commission should ensure that guidance and information is made available to all potential participants at the time of publication of the call for proposals.*
- (5) In order to ensure coherence with other Union funding programmes, Horizon 2020 should be implemented in accordance with Regulation (EU) No. XX/XX of the European Parliament and of the Council of on the financial rules applicable to the annual budget of the Union⁹, and the Delegated Commission Regulation (EU) No. X/X of amending the detailed rules for the implementation of the Financial Regulation¹⁰, *taking due account of the specific nature of research and innovation activities.*

⁹ OJ L, , p.

¹⁰ OJ L, , p

- (6) An integrated approach should be ensured by bringing together activities covered by the Seventh Framework Programme for research, the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme and the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (the EIT) to make participation easier, create a more coherent set of instruments and increase the scientific and economic impact while avoiding duplication and fragmentation. Common rules should apply in order to ensure a coherent framework which should facilitate the participation in programmes receiving Union financial contribution from the budget of Horizon 2020, including the participation in programmes managed by the EIT, joint undertakings or any other structures under Article 187 TFEU or participation in programmes undertaken by Member States pursuant to Article 185 TFEU. However, flexibility to adopt specific rules should be ensured when justified by the specific needs of the respective actions. ***In order to take into account the specific operating needs as identified in the framework of the relevant basic act of the bodies set up under Article 187 TFEU the power to adopt acts in accordance with Article 290 TFEU should be delegated to the Commission. It is of particular importance that the Commission carry out appropriate consultations during its preparatory work, including at expert level. The Commission, when preparing and drawing up delegated acts, should ensure a simultaneous, timely and appropriate transmission of relevant documents to the European Parliament.***

- (7) Actions which fall within the scope of this Regulation should respect fundamental rights and observe the principles acknowledged in particular by the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union. Such actions should be in conformity with any legal obligation *including international law and with the Commission notice of 28 June 2013 published in the OJ of xx.xx.2013, as well as with ethical principles, which include avoiding any breach of research integrity.*
- (8) In line with the objectives of international cooperation as set out in Articles 180 and 186 TFEU, the participation of legal entities established in third countries and of international organisations should be promoted. The implementation of these rules should be in conformity with the measures adopted in accordance with Articles 75 and 215 TFEU and be in compliance with international law. Moreover, the implementation of these rules should duly take into account conditions for the participation of Union entities in third countries' programmes.
- (9) These rules for the participation and dissemination should provide a coherent, comprehensive and transparent framework to ensure the most efficient implementation possible, taking into account the need for easy access by all participants *through simplified procedures, in particular with regard to* small and medium-sized enterprises . The financial assistance from the Union could be provided through different forms.

- (9a)** *In line with the transparency principle and in addition to the publicity specified in Regulation (EU) No XX/2012 [Financial Regulation] and in Regulation (EU) No XX/2012 [Delegated Regulation], the Commission should publish open calls for proposals on the Internet pages of Horizon 2020, through specific information channels, and ensure wide dissemination including via the national contact points and upon request in accessible formats, where practicable.*
- (9b)** *The selection and award criteria mentioned in Article 14 should be applied in a transparent way and under objective and measurable parameters, taking into account the overall scope of Horizon 2020 to achieve a well-functioning European Research Area.*
- (9c)** *In general, the period between the final date for submission of complete proposals and the signing of grant agreements with applicants or notifying grant decisions to them should be shorter than foreseen in Regulation (EU, Euratom) No XX/2012 [Financial Regulation]. In duly justified cases and for actions of the European Research Council a longer time for this period should be allowed.*

- (9d) *The Commission should continue its efforts to simplify the procedures in ways made possible by the improvement of IT systems, such as the further expansion of the portal for participants as the single entry point from the publication of the calls for project proposals, followed by their submission, until implementation, with the aim of establishing a one-stop shop. The system may also provide feedback to applicants on the progress and the timeline of their application.*
- (10) Handling of confidential data and classified information should be governed by all the relevant Union legislation, including the Institutions' internal rules, such as Commission Decision 2001/844/EC, ECSC, Euratom of 29 November 2001 amending its internal Rules of Procedure¹¹ which lays down the provisions on security of European Union classified information.
- (11) It is necessary to establish the minimum conditions for participation, both as a general rule and with regard to the specificities of the actions under Horizon 2020. In particular, rules should be laid down regarding the number of participants and their place of establishment. In the case of an action without the participation of an entity established in a Member State, the attainment of the objectives laid down in Articles 173 and 179 TFEU should be pursued.

¹¹ OJ L 317, 3.12.2001, as amended by Decision 2006/548/EC, Euratom (OJ L 215, 5.8.2006).

- (11a) *Pursuant to Council Decision 2001/822/EC of 27 November 2001¹² on the association of the overseas countries and territories with the European Community ('Overseas Association Decision'), as amended, legal entities of the overseas countries and territories are eligible to participate in Horizon 2020 subject to the specific conditions laid down therein.*
- (11b) *The Commission should consider the timings of calls and requests for information taking into account, where possible, standard holiday periods.*
- (11c) *The Commission should give feedback to applicants on unsuccessful applications.*
- (11d) *Clear and transparent mechanisms to develop calls on specific topics should enable a level playing field, increase the attractiveness of the programme and contribute to the growth of participation.*
- (11e) *The Commission should in all aspects of Horizon 2020 act in accordance with the principles of the European Code of Good Administrative Behaviour as set out in annex to Decision 2000/633/EC, ESCS, Euratom of 17 October 2000 of the Commission, amending its Rules of Procedure¹³.*

¹² OJ L 314, 30.11.2001, p. 1.

¹³ OJ L 267, 20.10.2000, p. 63.

- (12) It is appropriate to establish the terms and conditions for providing Union funding for participants in actions under Horizon 2020. In order to reduce the complexity of the existing funding rules , a simplified cost reimbursement system should be adopted with enhanced use of lump sums, flat rates and unit costs.
- (12a) *The reimbursement rates mentioned in Article 22 are referred to as maximum in order to comply with the non-profit requirement and the co-financing principle, and to allow participants to ask for a lower rate. In principle, the reimbursement rates should however be 100 or 70%.*
- (12b) *The OECD definitions regarding Technological Readiness Level (TRL) should be taken into account in the classification of technological research, product development and demonstration activities.*
- (13) Specific challenges in the area of research and innovation should be addressed through new forms of funding such as prizes, pre-commercial procurement, public procurement of innovative solutions, *the SME Instrument and the Fast Track to Innovation pilot* which require specific rules.

- (14) In order to maintain a level playing field for all undertakings active in the internal market, funding provided by Horizon 2020 should be designed in accordance with State aid rules so as to ensure the effectiveness of public spending and prevent market distortions such as crowding-out of private funding, creating ineffective market structures or preserving inefficient firms. *For innovation actions care should be taken to ensure that this neither distorts competition nor leads to market interference without sufficient cause.*
- (15) The financial interests of the Union should be protected through proportionate measures throughout the expenditure cycle, *ensuring an appropriate balance between trust and control.*
- (15a) *In accordance with Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012, these rules for the participation and dissemination should provide the basis for a wider acceptance of the usual accounting practices of the beneficiaries*

- (16) The participant Guarantee Fund set up under Regulation No 1906/2006/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2006 laying down the rules for the participation of undertakings, research centres and universities in actions under the Seventh Framework Programme and for the dissemination of research results (2007-2013)¹⁴ and managed by the Commission has proved to be an important safeguard mechanism which mitigates the risks associated to the amounts due and not reimbursed by defaulting participants. Therefore, a new participant Guarantee Fund (the Fund) should be established. In order to ensure a more efficient management and a better coverage of participants' risk, the Fund should cover actions under the programme set up under Decision No 1982/2006/EC, under the programme set up by Council Decision of 18 December 2006 concerning the Seventh Framework Programme of the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom) for nuclear research and training activities (2007 to 2011)¹⁵, under the programme set up by Council Decision of X 2011 establishing the Framework Programme of the European Atomic Energy Community (2012-2013) as well as actions under Regulation (EU) No XX/XX [Horizon 2020] and Regulation (Euratom) No XX/XX of the Council on the Research and Training Programme of the European Atomic Energy Community (2014-2018) complementing the Horizon 2020- the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation [Euratom H2020]¹⁶. Programmes managed by entities other than Union bodies should not be covered by the Fund.

¹⁴ OJ L 391, 30.12.2006, p.1.

¹⁵ OJ L 54, 22.2.2007, p. 21

¹⁶ OJ L...

- (17) In order to enhance transparency, the names of experts that have assisted the Commission or relevant funding bodies in application of this Regulation should be published. Where the publication of the name would endanger the security or integrity of the expert or would unduly prejudice his or her privacy, the Commission or funding bodies should be able to refrain from the publication of such names.
- (18) Personal data relating to the experts should be processed in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2000 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by the Community institutions and bodies and on the free movement of such data¹⁷.
- (19) Rules governing the exploitation and dissemination of results should be laid down to ensure that the participants protect, exploit and disseminate those results as appropriate, in particular the possibility of additional exploitation conditions in the European strategic interest. ***Participants that have received Union funding, and that plan to exploit the results generated with such funding primarily in third countries not associated with Horizon 2020, should indicate how the Union-provided funding will benefit Europe's overall competitiveness (reciprocity principle), as set forth in the grant agreement.***

¹⁷ OJ L 8, 12.1.2001, p. 1.

- (19a) *In the case of research with the potential for further development into a novel medical technology (e.g. drugs, vaccines, medical diagnostics) measures should be taken to ensure the immediate exploitation and dissemination of the results, where appropriate.*
- (19b) *Despite the success of existing EU debt and equity financial instruments for RDI and Growth, access to risk finance remains a key issue, in particular for innovative SMEs. In order to allow their most effective use they should be allowed to be combined with each other and with grants funded in particular under the Union budget, including under Horizon 2020. Moreover, the Commission should in particular ensure continuity of the Risk-Sharing Finance Facility (RSFF) set up under Decision No 1982/2006/EC [FP7] of the European Parliament and of the Council and the early stage part of the High-Growth and Innovative SME Facility (GIF1) set up under Decision No 1639/2006/EC [CIP] of the European Parliament and of the Council within their succeeding debt and equity financial instruments under Regulation (EU) No XX/XX [Horizon 2020], respectively the 'Union loan & guarantee service for Research and innovation' and the 'Union Equity Instruments for research and innovation'. In this context, revenues and repayments generated by any of the above-mentioned financial instruments should directly benefit the financial instruments set up under Regulation (EU) No XX/XX [Horizon 2020].*

- (19c) *The Commission should ensure sufficient complementarities between the SME instrument under Horizon 2020 and the financial instruments under Horizon 2020 and the Programme for the Competitiveness of Enterprises and SMEs (COSME) 2014-2020 as well as with schemes and instruments set up jointly with Member States, such as the Eurostars Joint Programme.*
- (20) For reasons of legal certainty and clarity, Regulation (EC) No 1906/2006 should be repealed.

HAVE ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

TITLE I
INTRODUCTORY PROVISIONS

Article 1

Subject matter and scope

1. This Regulation lays down specific rules for the participation in indirect actions undertaken under Regulation (EU) No XX/XX of the European Parliament and of the Council [Horizon 2020], including the participation in indirect actions funded by funding bodies in accordance with Article 9(2) of that Regulation.

This Regulation also lays down the rules governing the *exploitation and* dissemination of results.

2. Subject to the specific rules laid down in this Regulation, the relevant rules of Regulation (EU) No XX/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council [the Financial Regulation] and Commission Regulation (EU) No XX/2012 [its Delegated Regulation] shall apply.

3. ***The basic act which sets up the EIT or which entrusts with budget implementation tasks a funding body under Article 185 TFEU may establish rules which depart from those laid down in this Regulation. In order to take into account their specific operating needs and subject to the rules established in the relevant basic act, the Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article [50 (new)], with regard to funding bodies set up under Article 187 TFEU concerning:***
- (a) the conditions for participation to calls for proposals launched by funding bodies established in the area of aeronautics in view of reducing the minimum number of participants set out in Article 8(1);***
 - (b) the eligibility for funding as set out in Article 9 allowing funding bodies established in the area of bio-based industries and of innovative medicines to limit the eligibility for funding to specific types of participants;***
 - (c) the rules governing exploitation and dissemination of results allowing funding bodies established in the area of innovative medicines, in respect of the following:***

- (i) *to extend the possibilities of transfer and licensing of results and background for affiliated entities, purchasers and any successor entity, in accordance with the grant agreement and without the consent of other participants referred to in Article 41 (1) and (2);*
- (ii) *to allow for specific agreements for access rights to background for developing for commercialization or commercializing results themselves (direct exploitation) referred to in Article 45 (2-4);*
- (iii) *to complement the rules by introducing provisions on ownership and access to data, knowledge and information which are outside of the objectives of an action and which are not needed for implementing and exploiting the action (sideground) referred to in Article 38 (2), 42, 43, 44 and 45;*
- (iv) *to extend rules on exploitation to other purposes than implementing the action (research use) or developing for commercialization or commercializing results themselves (direct exploitation) referred to in Article 45;*
- (v) *to set out specific criteria for allowing sub-licensing from one participant to another participant in the same action referred to in Article 43 (2);*

- (vi) *to extend, under the conditions defined in the consortium agreement, access rights of participants, their affiliated entities and third parties as licensees to results or background for other purposes than implementing the action (research use) under appropriate conditions including financial terms, or developing for commercialization or commercializing results themselves (direct exploitation) referred to in Articles 43, 44 and 45.*
- (vii) *to condition access rights for direct exploitation to agreement between participants concerned, referred to in Article 45;*
- (viii) *to render optional the dissemination through scientific publication in the form of open access, referred to in Article 40 (2);*
- (d) *the funding of the actions, allowing funding bodies in the area of electronic components and systems to apply different funding rates than those set out in Article [23(3)] in cases where one or more Member States co-fund a participant or an action.*

A funding body entrusted with budget implementation tasks under Article 58(1)(c)(i) or 58(1)(c)(ii) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012, may apply rules which depart from those laid down in this Regulation, subject to the consent of the Commission, if its specific operating needs so require. The Commission shall give its consent in such cases only if those rules are in compliance with the general principles established in this Regulation.

4. This Regulation shall not apply to direct actions carried out by the Joint Research Centre (JRC).

Article 2
Definitions

1. For the purposes of this Regulation, the following definitions apply:
 - (1) '*access rights*' means rights to use results or background under the terms and conditions laid down in accordance with this Regulation;
 - (2) '*affiliated entity*' means any legal entity that is under the direct or indirect control of a participant, or under the same direct or indirect control as the participant, or is directly or indirectly controlling a participant. ***Control may take any of the forms set out in Article 7(2);***
 - (3) '*associated country*' means a third country which is party to an international agreement with the Union, as identified in Article 7 of Regulation (EU) No XX/XX [Horizon 2020];

- (4) *'background'* means any data, know-how and/or information whatever their form or nature, ***tangible or intangible, including*** any rights such as intellectual property rights which are (i) held by participants prior to their accession to the action, (ii) ***needed for carrying out the action or for exploiting the results of the action; and*** (iii) identified by the participants in accordance with Article 42;
- (5) *'basic act'* means a legal act adopted by the Union institutions in the form of a regulation, a directive or a decision within the meaning of Article 288 TFEU which provides a legal basis for the action;
- (5a) *'innovation action'* means ***an action primarily consisting of activities directly aiming at producing plans and arrangements or designs for new, altered or improved products, processes or services. For this purpose they may include prototyping, testing, demonstrating, piloting, large-scale product validation and market replication;***
- (6) *'coordination and support action'* means an action consisting primarily of accompanying measures such as ***standardisation***, dissemination, awareness raising and communication, networking, coordination or support services, policy dialogues and mutual learning exercises and studies, including design studies for new infrastructure ***and may also include complementary activities of networking and coordination between programmes in different countries;***

- (7) *'dissemination'* means the public disclosure of the results by any appropriate means (other than resulting from protecting or exploiting the results), including by *scientific publications* in any medium;
- (7a) *'exploitation'* means the utilisation of results in further research activities other than those covered by the action concerned, or in developing, creating and marketing a product or process, or in creating and providing a service, or in standardisation activities;
- (7b) *'fair and reasonable conditions'* means appropriate conditions, including possible financial terms or royalty-free conditions, taking into account the specific circumstances of the request for access, for example the actual or potential value of the results or background to which access is requested and/or the scope, duration or other characteristics of the exploitation envisaged;
- (8) *'funding body'* means a body or authority, other than the Commission, *as referred to in point (c) of Article 58(1) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012*, to which the Commission has entrusted budget implementation tasks in accordance with Article 9(2) of Regulation (EU) No XX/XX [Horizon 2020];

- (9) *'international European interest organisation'* means an international organisation, the majority of whose members are Member States or associated countries, and whose principal objective is to promote scientific and technological cooperation in Europe;
- (10) *'legal entity'* means any natural person, or any legal person created ***and recognised as such*** under national law, Union law or international law, which has legal personality and which may, acting in its own name, exercise rights and be subject to obligations;
- (10a) 'non-profit legal entity' means a legal entity which by its legal form is non-profit-making or which has a legal or statutory obligation not to distribute profits to its shareholders or individual members;***
- (11) *'participant'* means any legal entity carrying out an action or part of an action under Regulation (EU) No XX/XX [Horizon 2020] having rights and obligations with regard to the Union or another funding body under the terms of this Regulation;

- (12) *'programme co-fund action'* means an action funded through a grant the main purpose of which is supplementing individual calls or programmes funded by entities, other than Union bodies, managing research and innovation programmes. ***A programme co-fund action may also include complementary activities of networking and coordination between programmes in different countries;***
- (13) *'pre-commercial procurement'* means procurement of research and development services involving risk-benefit sharing under market conditions, and competitive development in phases, where there is a ***clear*** separation of the research and development ***services procured*** from the deployment of commercial volumes of end-products;
- (14) *'public procurement of innovative solutions'* means procurement where contracting authorities act as a launch customer for innovative goods or services which are not yet available on a large-scale commercial basis, and may include conformance testing;

- (15) *'results'* means any ***tangible or intangible output of the action, such as*** data, knowledge and information whatever their form or nature, whether or not they can be protected, which are generated in the action as well as any ***rights attached to them,*** including intellectual property rights;
- (15a) For the purposes of this Regulation 'SME' shall mean micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, as defined in Commission Recommendation 2003/361/EC.***
- (16) *'work programme'* means the document adopted by the Commission for the implementation of the specific programme in accordance with Article 5 of Decision No XX/XX/EU of the Council [Specific programme H2020];
- (17) *'work plan'* means the document similar to the Commission work programme adopted by funding bodies entrusted with part of the implementation of Horizon 2020 in accordance with Article 9(2) of Regulation (EU) No XX/XX [Horizon 2020].

3. For the purposes of this Regulation an entity which does not have legal personality under the applicable national law is assimilated to a legal entity provided that the conditions set out in *Article 131(2) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 and Article 198 of the Commission delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 of 29.10.2012 on the rules of application of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union adopted pursuant thereto* are complied with.
4. For the purposes of this Regulation, grant recipients shall not be considered funding bodies.

Article 3
Confidentiality

Subject to the conditions established in the implementing agreements, decisions or contracts, any data, knowledge and information communicated as confidential in the frame of an action shall be kept confidential, taking due account of *EU law* regarding the protection of *and access to* classified information.

Article 4

Information to be made available

1. Without prejudice to Article 3, the Commission shall, upon request, make available to the Union institutions and bodies, any Member State or associated country, any useful information in its possession on results **generated by** a participant **within an action** that has received Union funding, provided that both the following conditions are met:
 - (a) the information concerned is relevant to public policy;
 - (b) the participants have not provided sound and sufficient reasons for withholding the information concerned.

In actions under the *specific objective 'Secure societies - Protecting freedom and security of Europe and its citizens'*, the Commission **shall upon request** make available to Union institutions and bodies or Member States' national authorities any useful information in its possession on results **generated by** a participant **within an action** that has received Union funding. ***The Commission shall notify the participant of such communication. Where a Member State or Union body requests the communication of information, the Commission shall also notify such communication to all Member States.***

2. The provision of information pursuant to paragraph 1 shall not be deemed to transfer to the recipient any rights or obligations of the Commission or of the participants. However, the recipient shall treat any such information as confidential unless it becomes public or is made available publicly by the participants, or unless it was communicated to the Commission without restrictions concerning confidentiality. The Commission rules on security shall apply regarding classified information.

Article 4a

Guidance and information for potential participants

In accordance with Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 and Regulation (EU) No 1268/12 [Delegated Regulation], the Commission shall ensure that sufficient guidance and information is made available to all potential participants at the time of publication of the call for proposals, in particular the applicable model grant agreement.

TITLE II
RULES FOR THE PARTICIPATION

Chapter I
GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 5

Forms of funding

In accordance with Article 10 of Regulation (EU) XX/2012 [Horizon 2020], funding may take one or several of the forms provided for by Regulation (EU) No XX/2012 [Financial Regulation], in particular grants, prizes, procurement and financial instruments.

Article 6

Legal entities that may participate in actions

1. Any legal entity regardless of its place of establishment and international organisations may participate in an action provided that the conditions laid down in this Regulation have been met as well as any conditions laid down in the relevant work programme or work plan.

2. The relevant work programme may restrict the participation in Horizon 2020 or parts thereof of legal entities established in third countries where conditions for the participation of legal entities from Member States, *or of their affiliated entities established in a third country*, in the third country's research and innovation programmes are considered prejudicial to the Union's interests.
3. The relevant work programme or work plan may exclude entities not able to provide satisfactory security guarantees, including as regards personnel security clearance if justified by security reasons.
4. The JRC may participate in actions with the same rights and obligations as a legal entity established in a Member State.

Article 7

Independence

1. Two legal entities shall be regarded as independent of each other where neither is under the direct or indirect control of the other or under the same direct or indirect control as the other.

2. For the purposes of paragraph 1, control may, in particular, take either of the following forms:
 - (a) the direct or indirect holding of more than 50 % of the nominal value of the issued share capital in the legal entity concerned, or of a majority of the voting rights of the shareholders or associates of that entity;
 - (b) the direct or indirect holding, in fact or in law, of decision making powers in the legal entity concerned.

3. However, the following relationships between legal entities shall not in themselves be deemed to constitute controlling relationships:
 - (a) the same public investment corporation, institutional investor or venture-capital company has a direct or indirect holding of more than 50 % of the nominal value of the issued share capital or a majority of voting rights of the shareholders or associates;
 - (b) the legal entities concerned are owned or supervised by the same public body.

Chapter II
GRANTS

Section I

AWARD PROCEDURE

Article 8

Conditions for participation

1. The following minimum conditions shall apply:
 - (a) at least three legal entities shall participate in an action;
 - (b) each of the three *legal entities* shall be established in a *different* Member State or associated country;
 - (d) all three legal entities shall be independent of each other within the meaning of Article 7.
2. For the purposes of paragraph 1, where one of the participants is the JRC, or an international European interest organisation or an entity created under Union law, it shall be deemed to be established in a Member State or associated country other than any Member State or associated country in which another participant in the same action is established.

3. By way of derogation from paragraph 1, in the case of European Research Council (ERC) frontier research actions, the SME instrument, ***when the action has a clear European added value***, programme co-fund actions and in justified cases provided for in the work programme or work plan, the minimum condition shall be the participation of one legal entity established in a Member State or associated country.
4. By way of derogation from paragraph 1, in the case of coordination and support actions and training and mobility actions, the minimum condition shall be the participation of one legal entity.
5. ***Where appropriate and duly justified, work*** programmes or work plans may provide for additional conditions according to specific policy requirements or to the nature and objectives of the action, including *inter alia* conditions regarding the number of participants, the type of participant and the place of establishment.

Article 9

Eligibility for funding

1. The following participants are eligible for funding from the Union:
 - (a) any legal entity established in a Member State or associated country, or created under Union law;

- (b) any international European interest organisation;
- (c) any legal entity established in a third country identified in the work programme.

2. In the case of a participating international organisation or in the case of a participating legal entity established in a third country, neither of which are eligible for funding according to paragraph 1, funding from the Union may be granted provided that at least one of the following conditions is fulfilled:

- (a) the participation is deemed essential for carrying out the action by the Commission or the relevant funding body;
- (b) such funding is provided for under a bilateral scientific and technological agreement or any other arrangement between the Union and the international organisation or, for entities established in third countries, the country in which the legal entity is established.

Article 10
Calls for proposals

- 1. *Calls for proposals shall be issued in accordance with Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 and Regulation (EU) No 1268/12 [Delegated Regulation], taking account in particular of the need for transparency and non-discrimination, and for flexibility appropriate to the diverse nature of the research and innovation sectors.***

- 2. *As an exception and without prejudice to the other cases provided for in Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 and Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 [Delegated Regulation], calls for proposals shall not be issued for coordination and support actions and programme co-fund actions to be carried out by legal entities identified in the work programmes *or work plans* provided that the action does not fall under the scope of a call for proposals.***

- 3. *In accordance with the relevant rules of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012, and Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 [Delegated Regulation], sufficient time periods for preparing applications shall be provided, with reasonable notice of upcoming calls through the publication of a work programme and a reasonable time period between the publication of a call and the deadline for submitting a proposal.***

Article 11

Joint calls with third countries or with international organisations

1. Joint calls for proposals with third countries or their scientific and technological organisations and agencies or with international organisations may be launched to jointly fund actions ***in priority areas of common interest and expected mutual benefit where there is a clear added value for the European Union***. Proposals shall be evaluated and selected through joint evaluation and selection procedures to be agreed upon. Such evaluation and selection procedures shall ensure compliance with the principles set out in Title VI of Regulation (EU) XX/2012 [Financial Regulation] and involve a balanced group of independent experts appointed by each party.
2. Legal entities receiving funding from the Union shall conclude a grant agreement with the Union or the relevant funding body. That grant agreement shall include the description of work to be done by those participants and by the participating legal entities from the third countries involved.
3. Legal entities receiving funding from the Union shall conclude a coordination agreement with the participating legal entities receiving funding from the relevant third countries or international organisations.

Article 12

Proposals

1. ***Proposals*** shall include a draft plan for the exploitation and dissemination of the results, ***where provided for in the work programme or work plan.***
2. Any proposal for research on human embryonic stem cells shall include, as appropriate, details of licensing and control measures that will be taken by the competent authorities of the Member States as well as details of the ethical approvals that will be provided. As regards the derivation of human embryonic stem cells, institutions, organisations and researchers shall be subject to strict licensing and control in accordance with the legal framework of the Member States involved.
3. A proposal which contravenes ethical principles or any applicable legislation, or which does not fulfil the conditions set out in Decision No XX/XX/EU [specific programme], the work programme or work plan or in the call for proposals may be excluded from the evaluation, selection and award procedures at any time.
4. ***Where relevant and specified in the work programme or the work plan, proposals shall explain how and to what extent gender analysis is relevant to the content of the intended project.***

Article 13

Ethics review

1. The Commission shall systematically carry out ethics reviews for proposals raising ethical issues. This review shall verify the respect of ethical principles and legislation and, in the case of research carried out outside the Union, that the same research would have been allowed in a Member State.
2. ***The Commission shall make the process of the ethics review as transparent as possible and ensure that it is carried out in a timely manner avoiding, where possible, resubmission of documents.***

Article 14

Selection and award criteria

1. The proposals submitted shall be evaluated on the basis of the following award criteria:
 - (a) excellence;
 - (b) impact;
 - (c) quality and efficiency of the implementation.
2. The sole criterion of excellence shall apply for proposals for ERC frontier research actions.

- 2a. *The criterion of impact may be given a higher weighting for proposals for innovation actions.***
3. The work programme or work plan shall lay down further details of the application of the award criteria laid down in paragraph 1, and specify weightings and thresholds.
- 3a. *The Commission shall take into account the possibility of a two stage submission procedure provided in the provisions of Regulation (EU) No XX/2012 [the Financial Regulation] and Regulation (EU) No XX/2012 [Delegated Regulation], where appropriate and consistent with the objectives of the call.***
4. Proposals shall be ranked according to the evaluation results. The selection shall be made on the basis of this ranking.
- 4a. *Evaluation shall be carried out by independent experts.***
- 4b. *In the case of legal entity identified in accordance with Article 10.2 or other duly justified exceptional circumstances, the evaluation may be carried out otherwise than in accordance with paragraph 4a. In each case of such evaluation the Commission shall provide the Member States with detailed information on the evaluation procedure applied and its outcome.***

5. ***By means that are compatible with national law, the*** Commission or the relevant funding body shall verify the financial capacity in advance only for coordinators when the requested funding from the Union for the action is equal or superior to EUR 500 000, unless where, on the basis of available information, there are grounds to doubt the financial capacity of the coordinator or other participants.
6. The financial capacity shall not be verified for legal entities whose viability is guaranteed by a Member State or an associated country and for higher and secondary education establishments.
7. ***Financial capacity can be guaranteed by any other legal entity, whose financial capacity shall then be verified according to Article 14.5.***

Article 15

Evaluation review procedure

1. The Commission or the relevant funding body shall provide ***a transparent*** evaluation review procedure for applicants who consider that the evaluation of their proposal has not been carried out in accordance with the procedures set out in these rules, the relevant work programme or work plan and the call for proposals.

2. A request for review shall relate to a specific proposal, and shall be submitted by the coordinator of the proposal within 30 days of the date when the Commission or the relevant funding body informs the coordinator of the evaluation results.
3. The Commission or the relevant funding body shall be responsible for the examination of this request. This examination shall only cover the procedural aspects of the evaluation, and not the merit of the proposal.
4. An evaluation review committee composed of Commission staff or of the relevant funding body staff shall provide an opinion on the procedural aspects of the evaluation process. It shall be chaired by an official of the Commission or of the relevant funding body, from a department other than the one responsible for the call for proposals. The committee may recommend one of the following:
 - (a) re-evaluation of the proposal *primarily by evaluators not involved in the previous evaluation;*
 - (b) confirmation of the initial opinion.

5. On the basis of that recommendation a decision shall be taken by the Commission or the relevant funding body and notified to the coordinator of the proposal. ***The Commission or the relevant funding body shall take such decision without undue delay.***
6. The review procedure shall not delay the selection process of proposals which are not the subject of requests for review.
7. The review procedure shall not preclude any other actions the participant may take in accordance with Union law.

Article 15a

Enquiries and complaints

1. ***The Commission shall ensure that there is a procedure in place for participants to make enquiries or complaints about their involvement in Horizon 2020.***
2. ***The Commission shall ensure that information on how to register concerns, questions or complaints is made available to all participants and published on-line.***

Article 16
Grant agreement

- 1. *The Commission shall, in close cooperation with Member States, draw up model grant agreements between the Commission or the relevant funding body and the participants in accordance with this Regulation. If a significant modification of the model grant agreement proves necessary, the Commission shall, in close cooperation with Member States, revise it as appropriate.***
1. The Commission or the relevant funding body shall enter into a grant agreement with the participants. ***The removal or substitution of an entity before signature of the grant agreement shall be duly justified.***
2. The grant agreement shall establish the rights and obligations of the participants ***and either*** of the Commission or the relevant funding bodies ***in compliance with this Regulation***. It shall also establish the rights and obligations of legal entities which become participants during the implementation of the action ***as well as the role and tasks of a consortium coordinator***.

3. ***On the basis of a requirement in a work programme or work plan, the*** grant agreement may establish rights and obligations of the participants with regard to access rights, exploitation and dissemination, additional to those laid down in this Regulation.
4. The grant agreement shall, where appropriate ***and to the extent possible***, reflect the general principles laid down in Commission Recommendation on the European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers¹⁸, ***principles of research integrity, Commission Recommendation on the management of intellectual property in knowledge transfer activities and Code of Practice for universities and other public research institutions***¹⁹ ***as well as the gender equality principle laid down in Article 15 of Regulation (EU) N° XX/XX [Horizon 2020 Regulation]***.
5. The grant agreement shall, where appropriate, contain provisions ensuring the respect of ethical principles, including the establishment of an independent ethics board and the right of the Commission to carry out an ethics audit ***by independent experts***.
6. ***In duly justified cases, specific*** grants for actions may form part of a framework partnership according to the provisions of Regulation (EU) No XX/2012 [the Financial Regulation] and Regulation (EU) No [the Delegated Regulation].

¹⁸ C(2005) 576 final, 11.3.2005

¹⁹ ***C(2008) 1329 final, 10.4.2008***

Article 17

Grant decisions

Where appropriate, *and in duly justified cases*, the Commission, in accordance with Article X of Regulation (EU) No XX/2012 [Financial Regulation], or the relevant funding body may adopt grant decisions instead of entering into grant agreements. The provisions of this Regulation referring to grant agreements shall apply *mutatis mutandis*.

Article 17a

Time to grant

1. *In accordance with Article 128(2) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 calls for proposals shall specify the planned date by which all applicants shall have been informed of the outcome of the evaluation of their application and the indicative date for the signature of grant agreements or notification of grant decisions.*
2. *Those dates shall be based on the following periods:*
 - (a) *for informing all applicants of the outcome of the scientific evaluation of their application, a maximum of five months from the final date for submission of complete proposals;*

(b) for signing grant agreements with applicants or notifying grant decisions to them, a maximum of three months from the date of informing applicants they have been successful.

- 3. Those periods may be exceeded for actions of the European Research Council and in exceptional, duly justified cases, in particular for complex actions, where there is a large number of proposals or where requested by the applicants.*
- 4. Participants shall be given reasonable time to submit information and documentation required for the signature of the grant agreement. The Commission shall make decisions and requests for information as promptly as possible. Repetitive submission of documents shall be avoided.*

Article 17b

Time to Pay

Participants shall be paid in a timely manner in accordance with Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 and once a payment has been made to the project coordinator, the Commission shall notify the participants of this payment.

Article 18

Secure electronic system

All exchanges with participants, including the conclusion of grant agreements, the notification of grant decisions and any amendments thereto, may be done through an electronic exchange system set up by the Commission or by the relevant funding body, as stipulated in Article 179 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No. 1268/2012 on the Rules of Application of Regulation (EU, EURATOM) No. 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union.

Section II

IMPLEMENTATION

Article 19

Implementation of the action

1. The participants shall implement the action in compliance with all the conditions and obligations set out in this Regulation, Regulation (EU) No XX/2012 [Financial Regulation], Regulation (EU) No [the Delegated Regulation], Decision (EU) No XX/XX [the specific programme], the work programme or work plan, the call for proposals and the grant agreement.

2. Participants shall make no commitments which are incompatible with *this Regulation and* the grant agreement. Where a participant fails to comply with its obligations regarding the technical implementation of the action, the other participants shall comply with the obligations without any additional Union funding unless the Commission or funding body expressly relieves them of that obligation. ***In case of a defaulting participant, the Commission may, in accordance with Article 33.3(a) transfer the amount due from the Participant Guarantee Fund to the coordinator of the Action.*** The financial responsibility of each participant shall be limited to its own debt subject to the provisions relating to the Fund. The participants shall ensure that the Commission or funding body is informed ***in due time*** of any event which might ***significantly*** affect the implementation of the action or the interests of the Union.

3. The participants shall implement the action and shall take all necessary and reasonable measures to that end. They shall have the appropriate resources as and when needed for carrying out the action. Where it is necessary for the implementation of the action, they may call upon third parties, including subcontractors, to carry out ***work under*** the action or may use resources made available by third parties by means of contributions in kind, according to the conditions set out in the grant agreement. The participant shall retain responsibility towards the Commission or the relevant funding body and towards the other participants for the work carried out.

4. The award of subcontracts for carrying out certain elements of the action shall be limited to the cases provided for in the grant agreement *and in duly justified cases that could not be clearly foreseen at the time of its entry into force.*
5. Third parties other than subcontractors may carry out work under the action *under the conditions laid down in the grant agreement. The* third party and the work to be carried out by it *shall be* identified in the grant agreement.

Costs incurred by these third parties may be deemed eligible if the third party meets all the following conditions:

- (a) it is eligible for funding if it were a participant;
- (b) it is an affiliated entity or has a *legal* link to a participant *implying* a collaboration not limited to the *action*;
- (c) it is identified in the grant agreement;

- (d) it abides by the rules applicable to the participant under the grant agreement with regard to eligibility of costs and control of expenditure.
- (e) *it accepts joint and several liability with the participant for the Union contribution corresponding to the amount declared by the third party, if required by the Commission or the relevant funding body.*

6. Third parties may also make available resources to a participant by means of contributions in kind to the action. Costs incurred by third parties in relation to their in-kind contributions which are made free of charge are eligible for funding provided they meet the conditions established in the grant agreement.
7. The action may involve financial support to third parties under the conditions established in Regulation (EU) No XX/2012 [Financial Regulation] and Regulation (EU) No XX/2012 [Delegated Regulation]. The amounts referred to in Article [127(2)(c)] of Regulation (EU) XX/2012 [the Financial Regulation] may be exceeded where it is necessary to achieve the objectives of an action.

8. The action carried out by participants which are contracting authorities within the meaning of Directives 2004/17/EC²⁰, 2004/18/EC²¹ and 2009/81/EC²² of the European Parliament and of the Council may involve or have as primary aim pre-commercial procurement and procurement of innovative solutions, where provided for in a work programme or a work plan and required for its implementation. In such a case, the rules set out in Article 35(2) and in Article 49(2) and (3) shall apply to the procurement procedures carried out by the participants.
9. Participants shall comply with national legislation, regulations and ethical rules in the countries where the action will be carried out. Where appropriate, participants shall seek the approval of the relevant national or local ethics committees prior to the start of the action.
10. Work using animals shall be carried out in accordance with Article 13 TFEU and shall comply with the requirement to replace, reduce and refine the use of animals for scientific purposes in accordance with Union legislation and in particular with Directive 2010/63/EU of the European Parliament and the Council²³.

²⁰ OJ L 134, 30.4.2004, p. 1.

²¹ OJ L 134, 30.4.2004, p. 114.

²² OJ L 216, 20.8.2009, p. 76.

²³ OJ L 276, 20.10.2010, p.33.

Article 20
Consortium

1. The members of any consortium wishing to participate in an action shall appoint one of them to act as coordinator which shall be identified in the grant agreement. ***The coordinator shall be the principal point of contact between the members of the consortium in relations with the Commission or the relevant funding body, unless specified otherwise in the Grant Agreement or in case of non-compliance with its obligations as set out in the Grant Agreement.***

2. The members of a consortium participating in an action shall conclude an internal agreement (the consortium agreement) ***that establishes their rights and obligations with respect to implementation of the action in compliance with the grant agreement***, except in duly justified cases provided for in the work programme or work plan or call for proposals. ***The Commission shall publish guidelines on the main issues that may be addressed by participants in their consortium agreements.***

2a. *Such consortium agreement may stipulate inter alia the following:*

- (a) the internal organisation of the consortium;*
- (b) the distribution of the Union funding;*
- (c) rules on dissemination, use and access rights, additional to those in Title III, Chapter I, and to the provisions in the grant agreement;*
- (d) the settlement of internal disputes;*
- (e) liability, indemnification and confidentiality arrangements between the participants.*

The members of the consortium may make any arrangements in the consortium they deem fit to the extent that those arrangements are not in conflict with the grant agreement and this Regulation.

3. The consortium may propose to add or remove a participant *or change the coordinator* in accordance with the respective provisions of the grant agreement, provided that this change is in conformity with the conditions for participation, does not adversely affect the implementation of the action and is not contrary to the principle of equal treatment.

Section III

FORMS OF GRANTS AND FUNDING RULES

Article 21

Forms of grants

Grants may take any of the forms provided for in Article **123** of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No **966/2012**, taking into account the objectives of the action.

Article 21a

Eligibility of costs

- 1.** *Conditions for eligibility of costs are defined in Article X of Regulation (EU) No xx [the Financial Regulation/Delegated Regulation]. Costs incurred by third parties under the action may be eligible according to the provisions of this Regulation and of the grant agreement.*
- 2.** *Ineligible costs are those not complying with the above conditions in particular provisions for possible future losses or charges, exchange losses, costs related to return on capital, costs reimbursed in respect of another Union action or programme, debt and debt service charges and excessive or reckless expenditure.*

Article 21b

Direct eligible personnel costs

- 1. Without prejudice to the conditions laid down in Article 21a, direct eligible personnel costs shall be limited to salaries plus social security charges and other costs included in the remuneration of personnel assigned to the action, arising from the national law or the employment contract.*

- 2. Without prejudice to the conditions laid down in Article 21a, additional remuneration to personnel in non-profit legal entities assigned to the action, including payments on the basis of supplementary contracts regardless of their nature, may also be considered as direct eligible personnel costs, up to the amount set out in paragraph 3, if they fulfil the following additional conditions:*
 - (a) It is part of the usual remuneration practices of the participant and is paid in a consistent manner whenever the same kind of work or expertise is required;*

 - (b) The criteria used to calculate the supplementary payments are objective and of general application by the participant, independently from the source of funding used.*

3. ***Additional remuneration may be eligible up to EUR 8 000 per year and per person. For a person not working exclusively for the action, a limit per hour shall apply. The limit per hour shall be calculated by dividing EUR 8 000 by the number of annual productive hours calculated in accordance with Article 25.***

Article 22

Funding of the action

1. The funding for an action shall not exceed the total eligible costs minus the receipts of the action.
2. The following shall be considered as receipts of the action:
 - (a) Resources made available by third parties to the participants by means of financial transfers or contributions in kind free of charge, ***the value of which has been declared as eligible costs by the participant***, provided that they have been contributed by the third party specifically to be used in the action;
 - (b) Income generated by the action, except income generated by the exploitation of the results of the action;
 - (c) Income generated from the sale of assets purchased under the grant agreement up to the value of the cost initially charged to the action by the participant.

3. A single reimbursement rate of the eligible costs shall be applied per action for all activities funded therein. The maximum rate shall be fixed in the work programme or work plan.
4. The Horizon 2020 grant may reach a maximum of 100 % of the total eligible costs, without prejudice to the co-financing principle.
5. The Horizon 2020 grant shall be limited to a maximum of 70 % of the total eligible costs for the following actions:

(aa) *innovation actions;*

(b) programme co-fund actions.

For innovation actions, as an exception to paragraph 3 of this Article, the Horizon 2020 grant may reach a maximum of 100% of the total eligible costs for non-profit legal entities, without prejudice to the co-financing principle.

6. The reimbursement rates determined in this Article shall also apply in the case of actions where flat rate, unit or lump-sum financing is fixed for the whole or part of an action.

Article 24

Indirect costs

1. Indirect eligible costs shall be determined by applying a flat rate of **25%** of the total direct eligible costs, excluding direct eligible costs for subcontracting and the costs of resources made available by third parties which are not used on the premises of the beneficiary, as well as financial support to third parties.
2. By way of derogation from paragraph 1, indirect costs may be declared in the form of a lump sum or unit costs when provided for in the work programme or work plan.

Article 24a

Evaluation of the funding levels

The interim evaluation of Horizon 2020 shall include an evaluation of the impact of the various features introduced with the new funding levels laid down in Articles 21b, 22 and 24, with the aim to evaluate whether the new approach has led to undesired situations adversely affecting the attractiveness of the Framework programme.

Article 25

Annual productive hours

1. Eligible personnel costs shall only cover the actual hours worked by the persons directly carrying out work under the action. The evidence regarding the actual hours worked shall be provided by the participant, normally through a time recording system.
2. For persons working exclusively for the action, no time recording is required. In such cases, the participant shall sign a declaration confirming that the person concerned has worked exclusively for the action.

3. The grant agreement shall contain:

- (a) the minimum requirements for the time recording system ;
- (b) *the option to choose between the fixed number of annual productive hours and the method for establishing the number of annual productive hours to be used for the calculation of the hourly personnel rates taking account of the participant's usual accounting practices.*

Article 26

Personnel costs of the owners of small and medium-sized enterprises and natural persons without salary

The owners of small and medium-sized enterprises who do not receive a salary and other natural persons who do not receive a salary may charge personnel costs on the basis of a unit cost.

Article 27

Unit costs

1. In accordance with Article X of Regulation (EU) No XX/XX [financial regulation], the Commission may establish methods to determine unit costs based on:
 - (a) statistical data or similar objective means;
 - (b) auditable historical data of the participant.

2. Direct eligible personnel costs may be financed on the basis of unit costs determined according to the participant's usual cost accounting practices, provided that they comply with the following cumulative criteria:
- (a) they are calculated on the basis of the total actual personnel costs recorded in the participant's general accounts which may be adjusted *by the participant* on the basis of budgeted or estimated elements according to the conditions defined by the Commission;
 - (b) they comply with the provisions in Article 21a and 21b;
 - (c) they ensure compliance with the non-profit requirement and avoidance of double funding of costs;
 - (d) they are calculated with due regard to the provisions on productive hours in Article 25.

Article 28

Certificate on the financial statements

The certificate on financial statements shall cover the total amount of the grant claimed by a participant under the form of reimbursement of actual costs and under the form of unit costs referred to Article 27(2), ***excluding the amounts declared on the basis of lump sums, flat rates and unit costs other than average personnel costs***. The certificate shall only be submitted when that amount is equal to or greater than EUR 325 000 at the time of claiming the payment of the balance of the grant.

Article 29

Certificates on the methodology

1. Participants that calculate and claim direct personnel costs on the basis of unit costs may submit to the Commission a certificate on the methodology. That methodology shall comply with the conditions set out in Article 27(2) and meet the requirements of grant agreement.
2. Where the Commission accepts a certificate on the methodology, it shall be valid for all actions financed under Regulation (EU) No XX/XX [Horizon 2020] and the participant shall calculate and claim costs on its basis. ***Once the Commission has accepted a certificate on the methodology, it shall not attribute any systemic or recurrent error to the accepted methodology.***

Article 30
Certifying auditors

1. The certificates on the financial statements and on the methodology referred to in Articles 28 and 29 shall be established by an independent auditor qualified to carry out statutory audits of accounting documents in accordance with Directive 2006/43/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council²⁴ or similar national regulations or by a competent and independent public officer for whom the relevant national authorities have established the legal capacity to audit the participant and who has not been involved in the preparation of the financial statements.

2. Upon request by the Commission, the Court of Auditors or the European Anti-fraud Office (OLAF), the auditor who delivers the certificate on the financial statements and on the methodology shall grant access to the supporting documents and audit working papers on the basis of which a certificate on the financial statements was issued.

²⁴ OJ L 157, 09.06.2006, p.87.

Article 31

Cumulative funding

An action for which a grant from the Union budget has been awarded may also give rise to the award of a grant on the basis of Regulation (EU) No XX/XX [Horizon 2020] provided that the grants do not cover the same cost items.

Section IV

GUARANTEES

Article 32

Participant Guarantee Fund

1. A participant guarantee fund ("the Fund") is hereby established and shall cover the risk associated with non-recovery of sums due to the Union under actions financed through grants by the Commission under Decision No 1982/2006/EC and by the Commission or Union bodies under "Horizon 2020" according to the Rules set out in this Regulation. The Fund shall replace and succeed the Participant Guarantee Fund set up under Regulation (EC) No 1906/2006.

2. The Fund shall be operated in accordance with Article 33. Financial interest generated by the Fund shall be added to the Fund and shall serve exclusively for the purposes set out in Article 33(3).
3. Where interest is insufficient to cover the operations described in Article 33(3) the Fund shall not intervene and the Commission or the relevant Union funding body shall recover directly from *participants or third parties* any amount owed.
4. The Fund shall be considered as a sufficient guarantee under Regulation (EU) No XX/XX [the Financial Regulation]. No additional guarantee or security may be accepted from participants or imposed on them except in the case described in paragraph 3.
5. The participants in actions under Horizon 2020 whose risk is covered by the Fund shall make a contribution of 5 % of the Union funding for the action. At the end of the action the amount contributed to the Fund shall be returned to the participants, via the coordinator.
6. *The rate of participants' contribution to the Fund may be reduced on the basis of the interim evaluation of Horizon 2020.*

Article 33

Operation of the Fund

1. The Fund shall be managed by the Union represented by the Commission acting as executive agent on behalf of the participants, according to the conditions established by the grant agreement.

The Commission may manage the Fund directly or entrust the financial management of the Fund either to the European Investment Bank or to an appropriate financial institution (the depository bank). The depository bank shall manage the Fund pursuant to the instructions of the Commission.

2. The participants' contribution to the Fund may be offset from the initial pre-financing and be paid to the Fund on behalf of the participants.
3. Where amounts are due to the Union by a participant the Commission may, without prejudice to penalties which may be imposed on the defaulting participant, take either of the following actions:

- (a) transfer or order the depository bank to transfer directly the amount due from the Fund to the coordinator of the action. That transfer shall be made after the termination or withdrawal of the participation of the defaulting participant if the action is still ongoing and if the remaining participants agree to implement it according to the same objectives. Amounts transferred from the Fund shall be regarded as Union funding;
- (b) recover effectively that amount from the Fund.

The Commission shall issue a recovery order against that participant *or third party* to the benefit of the Fund. The Commission may adopt to that end a recovery decision in accordance with Regulation (EU) No XX/XX [the Financial Regulation].

- 4. The amounts recovered shall constitute revenue assigned to the Fund within the meaning of Article X of Regulation (EU) No XX/2012 [the Financial Regulation]. Once the implementation of all grants whose risk is covered by the Fund is complete, any sums outstanding shall be recovered by the Commission and entered into the budget of the Union, subject to decisions of the legislative authority.

Chapter III

EXPERTS

Article 37

Appointment of independent experts

1. The Commission and, where appropriate, funding bodies may appoint independent experts to evaluate proposals *in accordance with Article 14* or to advise on or assist with:
 - (a) the evaluation of proposals;
 - (b) the monitoring of the implementation of actions carried out under Regulation (EU) No XX/XX [Horizon 2020] as well as of previous Research and/or Innovation Programmes;
 - (c) the implementation of Union research and innovation policy or programmes including Horizon 2020, as well as with the achievement and functioning of the European Research Area;
 - (d) the evaluation of Research and Innovation Programmes;
 - (e) the design of the Union research and innovation policy including the preparation of future programmes.

2. Independent experts shall be chosen on the basis of skills, experience and knowledge appropriate to carry out the tasks assigned to them. In cases where independent experts have to deal with classified information, the appropriate security clearance shall be required before appointment.

Independent experts shall be identified and selected on the basis of calls for applications from individuals and calls addressed to relevant organisations such as research agencies, research institutions, *universities*, standardisation organisations, *civil society organisations* or enterprises with a view to establishing a database of candidates.

The Commission or the relevant funding body may, if deemed appropriate and in duly justified cases, *in a transparent manner*, select any individual *expert* with the appropriate skills from outside the database.

When appointing independent experts, the Commission or the relevant funding body shall take appropriate measures to seek a balanced composition within the expert groups and evaluation panels in terms of various skills, experience, and knowledge, geographical diversity and gender, depending on the situation in the field of the action. Where appropriate, the private-public sector balance shall also be sought.

The Commission or the relevant funding body may call upon the advice of advisory bodies for the appointment of independent experts. In the case of ERC frontier research actions, the Commission shall appoint experts on the basis of a proposal from the Scientific Council of the ERC.

3. The Commission or the relevant funding body shall ensure that ***an*** expert faced with a conflict of ***interest*** in relation to ***a*** matter on which the expert is required to provide an opinion ***does not evaluate, advise or assist on the specific matter in question.***

- 4a. ***All exchanges with independent experts, including the conclusion of contracts for their appointment and any amendment thereto, may be done through electronic exchange systems set up by the Commission or by the relevant funding body as stipulated in Article 287.4 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No. 1268/2012 on the Rules of Application of Regulation (EU, EURATOM) No. 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union.***

5. The names of experts appointed in a personal capacity, who have assisted the Commission or the funding bodies in implementation of Regulation (EU) No XX/XX Horizon 2020 and Decision No XX/XX/EU [the specific programme], ***together with their area of expertise,*** shall be published at least once a year on the Internet site of the Commission or the funding body. The names of experts shall be collected, processed and published in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 45/2001.

TITLE III
RULES GOVERNING *EXPLOITATION AND DISSEMINATION OF RESULTS*

Chapter I
GRANTS

Section I
RESULTS

Article 38

Ownership of results

1. Results shall be owned by the participant generating these results.
2. Where participants in an action have jointly generated results and where their respective *contribution to the joint results cannot be ascertained, or where it is not possible to separate such joint results for the purpose of applying for, obtaining and/or maintaining the relevant intellectual property rights protection*, they shall have joint ownership of those results. The joint owners shall establish an agreement regarding the allocation and terms of exercise of that joint ownership in accordance with their obligations under the grant agreement. *The joint owners may agree not to continue with joint ownership but decide on an alternative regime, inter alia by transferring their ownership shares to a single owner with access rights for the other participants, once the results have been generated.*

Unless otherwise agreed in the joint ownership agreement, each joint owner shall be entitled to grant non-exclusive licences to third parties to exploit the jointly owned results, without any right to sub-licence, subject to the following conditions:

- (a) prior notice shall be given to the other joint owners;
 - (b) fair and reasonable compensation shall be provided to the other joint owners.
3. If employees or any party working for a participant are entitled to claim rights to the results generated, the participant concerned shall ensure that it is possible to exercise these rights in a manner compatible with its obligations under the grant agreement.

Article 39

Protection of results

1. Where results are capable of ***or may reasonably be expected to be capable of*** commercial or industrial ***exploitation***, the participant owning these results shall examine the possibility for protection and, if possible, ***reasonable*** and justified given the circumstances, shall adequately protect them for an appropriate period of time and with an appropriate territorial coverage, having due regard to its legitimate interests, and the legitimate interests, particularly the commercial interests of the other participants in the action.

2. Where a participant that has received Union funding intends not to protect results generated by it for reasons other than impossibility under Union or national law or the lack of potential for commercial *or industrial* exploitation, and unless the participant intends to transfer them to another legal entity established in a Member State or associated country in view of their protection, it shall inform the Commission or funding body before any dissemination relating to these results takes place. The Commission on behalf of the Union or the funding body may, *with the consent of the participant concerned*, assume ownership of these results and take the necessary steps for their adequate protection.

The participant may refuse consent only if it demonstrates that its legitimate interests would suffer significant harm. No dissemination relating to these results may take place until the Commission or the funding body has taken a decision or has decided that it will assume ownership and has taken the necessary steps to ensure protection. *The Commission shall make such decision without undue delay.* The grant agreement shall lay down time-limits in this respect.

3. Where a participant that has received Union funding intends to abandon the protection of results or not to seek extension of such protection for reasons other than the lack of potential for commercial *or industrial* exploitation ***within a period that shall not exceed five years following the payment of the final balance***, it shall inform the Commission or the funding body which may continue or extend protection by assuming ownership thereof. The participant may refuse consent only if it demonstrates that its legitimate interests would suffer significant harm. The grant agreement shall lay down time-limits in this respect.

Article 40

Exploitation and dissemination of results

1. Each participant that has received Union funding shall use its best efforts to exploit the results it owns , or to have them exploited by another legal entity , in particular through transfer and licensing of results in accordance with Article 41.

Any additional exploitation obligations ***shall*** be laid down in the grant agreement. ***In the case of research with a potential for tackling major societal challenges additional exploitation obligations may include licensing on non-exclusive terms.*** Any such additional obligations shall be indicated in the work programme or work plan.

2. Subject to any restrictions due to the protection of intellectual property, security rules or legitimate interests, each participant shall through appropriate means disseminate the results it owns as soon as possible. The grant agreement may lay down time-limits in this respect.

Any additional dissemination obligations shall be laid down in the grant agreement. Any such additional obligations shall be indicated in the work programme or work plan.

With regard to dissemination through *scientific* publications, open access shall apply under the terms and conditions laid down in the grant agreement. *Costs related to open access to scientific publications that result from research funded under Horizon 2020, incurred within the duration of an action, shall be eligible for reimbursement under the conditions of the grant agreement. With due regard to Article 15(c) of the Regulation (EU) No XX/XX Horizon 2020, the grant agreement will not stipulate conditions regarding open access to publications, which would result in additional publishing costs after the completion of an action.*

With regard to dissemination of research data, the grant agreement may, in the context of open access to and preservation of research data, lay down the terms and conditions under which open access to such results shall be provided, in particular in ERC and FET frontier research or in other appropriate areas, taking into consideration the legitimate interests of the participants and any constraints pertaining to data protection rules, security rules or intellectual property rights. In such case, the work programme or work plan shall indicate if dissemination of research data through open access is required.

Prior notice of any dissemination activity shall be given to the other participants.

Following notification, a participant may object if it demonstrates that its legitimate interests in relation to its results or background would suffer significant harm by the intended dissemination. In such cases, the dissemination activity may not take place unless appropriate steps are taken to safeguard these legitimate interests. The grant agreement ***shall*** lay down time-limits in this respect.

3. For the purposes of monitoring and dissemination by the Commission or funding body, participants shall provide any information ***on their exploitation and dissemination related activities*** and documents ***necessary*** in accordance with the conditions laid down in the grant agreement. ***Subject to the legitimate interests of the participants who have provided the information, such information shall be made publicly available. The grant agreement shall, inter alia, lay down time-limits with respect to such reporting obligations.***

4. All patent applications, standards, publications or any other dissemination, also in electronic form, relating to results shall, *if possible*, include a statement, which may include visual means, that the action received financial support from the Union. The terms of that statement shall be established in the grant agreement.

Article 41

Transfer and licensing of results

1. Where a participant transfers ownership of results, it shall pass on its obligations under the grant agreement regarding those results to the transferee, including the obligation to pass them on in any subsequent transfer.

Without prejudice to confidentiality obligations arising from laws or regulations in the case of mergers and acquisitions, where other participants still enjoy *access rights or still may request the granting of* access rights to the results to be transferred, the participant who intends to transfer the results shall give prior notice to those other participants, together with sufficient information concerning the intended new owner of the results to permit the other participants to analyse the effect of the intended transfer on the possible exercise of their access rights.

Following notification, a participant may object to the transfer of ownership if it demonstrates that the intended transfer would adversely affect the exercise of its access rights. In such case, the transfer may not take place until agreement has been reached between the participants concerned. The grant agreement *shall* lay down time-limits.

The other participants may by prior written agreement, waive their right to prior notice and to object in the case of transfers of ownership from one participant to a specifically identified third party.

2. Provided that access rights to the results can be exercised and that any additional exploitation obligations are complied with *by* the participant who owns results, *the latter* may grant licences or otherwise give the right to exploit them to any legal entity, including on an exclusive basis. *Exclusive licences for results may be granted subject to consent by all the other participants concerned that they will waive their access rights thereto.*

3. With regard to results which are generated by participants that have received Union funding, the *grant agreement may provide that the* Commission or funding body may object to transfers of ownership or to grants of an exclusive licence, to third parties established in a third country not associated to Horizon 2020, if it considers that the grant or transfer is not in accordance with the interests of developing the competitiveness of the Union economy or is inconsistent with ethical principles or security considerations.

In such cases, the transfer of ownership or grant of exclusive licence shall not take place unless the Commission or funding body is satisfied that appropriate safeguards will be put in place.

Where appropriate, the grant agreement shall provide that the Commission or funding body is to be notified in advance of any such transfer of ownership or grant of an exclusive licence. The grant agreement shall lay down time-limits.

Section *II*

ACCESS RIGHTS TO BACKGROUND AND RESULTS

Article 42

Background

Participants shall identify the background for their action in any manner in a written agreement.

Article 43

Access rights principles

1. Any request to exercise access rights or any waiving of access rights shall be made in writing.
2. Unless otherwise agreed by the owner of the results or background to which access is requested, access rights shall not include the right to sub-licence.
3. Participants in the same action shall inform each other before their accession to the grant agreement of any legal restriction or limit to granting access to their background. Any agreement concluded thereafter by a participant regarding background shall ensure that any access rights may be exercised.

5. The termination of the participation in an action shall not affect the obligation of such a participant to grant access under the terms and conditions established in the grant agreement.
6. Where a participant defaults on its obligations and such default is not remedied, the consortium agreement may stipulate that such a participant shall no longer enjoy access rights.

Article 44

Access rights for implementation

1. A participant shall enjoy access rights to the results of another participant in the same action, if ***those results are*** needed by the former to carry out its work under the action.

Such access shall be granted on a royalty-free basis.
2. A participant shall enjoy access rights to background of another participant in the same action, if ***this background*** is needed by the former to carry out its work under the action and subject to any restrictions pursuant to Article 43(3).

Such access shall be granted on a royalty-free basis, unless otherwise agreed by the participants before their accession to the grant agreement.

Article 45

Access rights for exploitation

1. A participant shall enjoy access rights to the results of another participant in the same action, if ***those results are*** needed by the former to exploit its ***own*** results.

Subject to agreement, such access shall be granted under fair and reasonable conditions.

2. A participant shall enjoy access rights to background of another participant in the same action, if ***this background*** is needed by the former to exploit its ***own*** results and subject to any restrictions or limits pursuant to Article 43(3).

Subject to agreement, such access shall be granted under fair and reasonable conditions.

3. An affiliated entity established in a Member State or associated country shall, unless otherwise provided for in the consortium agreement, also have access rights to results ***and, subject to any restrictions or limits pursuant to Article 43(3), to background under fair and reasonable conditions if these results and background are needed to exploit the results generated by the participant to which it is affiliated. Such access rights shall be requested and obtained directly from the participant owning the results or background unless otherwise agreed in accordance with Article 43 (2).***

4. A request for access under paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 may be made up to one year after the end of the action. However, the participants may agree on a different time-limit.

Article 46

Access rights for the Union and the Member States

1. The Union institutions and bodies shall, for the *duly justified* purpose of developing, implementing and monitoring Union policies or programmes, enjoy access rights *solely* to the results of a participant that has received Union funding. Such access rights are limited to non-commercial and non-competitive use.

Such access shall be granted on a royalty-free basis.

2. Regarding actions *under the specific objective 'Secure societies - Protecting freedom and security of Europe and its citizens'*, the Union institutions and bodies as well as Member States' national authorities shall, for the purpose of developing, implementing and monitoring their policies or programmes in this area, enjoy *the necessary* access rights to the results of a participant that has received Union funding. *Such access rights shall be limited to non-commercial and non-competitive use. Access rights shall be granted on a royalty-free basis and upon bilateral agreement to define specific conditions aimed at insuring that these rights will be used only for the intended purpose and that appropriate confidentiality obligations are in place. Such access rights shall not extend to the participant's background. The requesting Member State, Union Institution or Body shall notify all Member States of such request. The Commission rules on security shall apply regarding classified information.*

TITLE IIIa
SPECIFIC PROVISIONS

Article 48

Prizes

1. ***Union funding may take the form of prizes as defined in Title VII of Regulation (EU) No XX/XX [Financial Regulation] and Regulation (EU) No XX/XX [the Delegated Regulation].***

2. Any prize awarded shall be conditional on the acceptance of the appropriate publicity obligations. ***Regarding the dissemination of results, Title III of this Regulation shall apply.*** The work programme or work plan may contain specific obligations regarding exploitation and dissemination.

Article 49

*Procurement, pre-commercial procurement and public procurement
of innovative solutions*

- 1. *Any procurement carried out by the Commission on its own behalf or jointly with Member States shall be subject to the rules on public procurement as set out in Regulation (EU) No xx/2012 [Financial Regulation] and Regulation (EU) No XX/XX [the Delegated Regulation].*
- 1a. *Union funding may take the form of pre-commercial procurement or procurement of innovative solutions carried out by the Commission or the relevant funding body on its own behalf or jointly with contracting authorities from Member States and associated countries.*

The procurement procedures:

- (a) *shall comply with the principles of transparency, non-discrimination, equal treatment, sound financial management, proportionality, and with competition rules and, where applicable, with Directives 2004/17/EC, 2004/18/EC and 2009/81/EC, or, where the Commission acts on its own behalf, with Regulation (EU) No XX/2012 [the Financial Regulation];*

- (b) may provide for specific conditions such as the place of performance of the procured activities being limited for pre-commercial procurement to the territory of the Member States and of countries associated to Horizon 2020 where duly justified by the objectives of the actions;*
- (c) may authorise the award of multiple contracts within the same procedure (multiple sourcing);*
- (d) shall provide for the award of the contracts to the tender(s) offering best value for money.*

1. Unless otherwise stipulated in the call for tenders, results generated by procurement carried out by the Commission shall be owned by the Union.
2. Specific provisions regarding ownership, access rights and licensing shall be laid down in the contracts regarding pre-commercial procurement to ensure maximum uptake of the results and to avoid any unfair advantage. The contractor generating results in pre-commercial procurement shall own at least the attached intellectual property rights. The contracting authorities shall enjoy at least royalty-free access rights to the results for their own use the right to grant, or require the participating contractors to grant, non-exclusive licences to third parties to exploit the results under fair and reasonable conditions without any right to sub-licence. If a contractor fails to commercially exploit the results within a given period after the pre-commercial procurement as identified in the contract, it shall transfer any ownership of the results to the contracting authorities.

3. Specific provisions regarding ownership, access rights and licensing may be laid down in the contracts regarding public procurement of innovative solutions to ensure maximum uptake of the results and to avoid any unfair advantage.

Article 49a

Financial Instruments

1. ***Financial instruments may take any of the forms referred to in, and shall be implemented in accordance with Title VIII of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 and may be combined with each other and with grants funded under the Union budget, including under Horizon 2020.***
2. ***By way of derogation from the second subparagraph of Article 140(6) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012, both revenues and annual repayments generated by a financial instrument established under Regulation (EU) No XX/XX [Horizon 2020] shall be assigned, in accordance with Article 21(4) of Regulation No 966/2012, to that financial instrument.***

3. *By way of derogation from the second subparagraph of Article 140(6) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012, both revenues and annual repayments generated by the Risk Sharing Finance facility set up under Decision No 1982/2006/EC and the early stage part of the High-Growth and Innovative SME Facility (GIF1) set up under the Decision No 1639/2006/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council²⁵, shall be assigned, in accordance with Article 21(4) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012, to the succeeding financial instruments under Regulation (EU) No XX/XX [Horizon 2020].*

Article 49b

SME Instrument

1. *Only SMEs may apply for calls for proposals issued under the dedicated SME instrument referred to in Article [18] of Regulation (EU) No XX/XX [Horizon 2020]. They may cooperate with other companies, research organisations and universities.*
2. *Once a company has been validated as an SME this legal status shall be assumed to prevail for the entire duration of the project, even in cases where the company, due to its growth, later on exceeds the ceilings foreseen within the SME definition.*

²⁵ OJ L 310, 9.11.2006, p. 15

3. *In the case of the SME instrument and grants by funding bodies targeting SMEs, the grant agreement may lay down specific provisions, in particular on ownership, access rights, exploitation and dissemination.*

Article 49c

Fast Track to Innovation

1. *In accordance with article 6, any legal entity may participate in a Fast Track to Innovation (FTI) action. Actions funded under FTI shall be innovation actions. The FTI call shall be open to proposals relating to any technology field under the specific objective “Leadership in enabling and industrial technologies” or to any societal challenge.*
2. *Proposals may be submitted at any time. The Commission shall initiate three cut-off dates per year to evaluate proposals. Time between a cut off date and signature of the grant agreement or notification of the grant decision shall not exceed six months. Proposals shall be ranked according to the impact, quality and efficiency of implementation and excellence, with the criterion of impact given a higher weighting. No more than 5 legal entities shall participate in an action. The amount of the grant shall not exceed EUR 3 million.*

Article 49d

Other specific provisions

1. *In the case of actions involving security-related activities, the grant agreement may lay down specific provisions, in particular on pre-commercial public procurement, procurement of innovative solutions, changes to the consortium's composition, classified information, exploitation, dissemination, open access to research publications, transfers and licences of results.*
2. *In the case of actions to support existing or new research infrastructures, the grant agreement may lay down specific provisions relating to users of the infrastructure and to the users' access to them.*
3. *In the case of ERC frontier research actions, the grant agreement may lay down specific provisions, in particular on access rights, portability and dissemination, relating to participants, researchers and any party concerned by the action.*
4. *In the case of training and mobility actions, the grant agreement may lay down specific provisions on commitments relating to the researchers benefiting from the action, ownership, access rights and portability.*

5. *In the case of coordination and support actions, the grant agreement may lay down specific provisions, in particular on ownership, access rights, exploitation and dissemination of results.*
6. *In the case of the Knowledge and Innovation Communities of the EIT, the grant agreement may lay down specific provisions, in particular on ownership, access rights, exploitation and dissemination.*

TITLE IV
FINAL PROVISIONS

Article -50

Exercise of the delegation

1. *The power to adopt delegated acts referred to in Article 1(3) is conferred on the Commission for the duration of the Horizon 2020 programme and is subject to the conditions laid down in this Article.*

2. *The delegation of power referred to in Article 1(3) may be revoked at any time by the European Parliament or by the Council. A decision to revoke shall put an end to the delegation of the power specified in that decision. It shall take effect the day following the publication of the decision in the Official Journal of the European Union or at a later date specified therein. It shall not affect the validity of any delegated acts already in force.*
3. *As soon as it adopts a delegated act, the Commission shall notify it simultaneously to the European Parliament and to the Council.*
4. *A delegated act adopted pursuant to Article 1(3) shall enter into force only if no objection has been expressed either by the European Parliament or by the Council within a period of two months of notification of that act to the European Parliament and the Council or if, before the expiry of that period, the European Parliament and the Council have both informed the Commission that they will not object. That period shall be extended by two months at the initiative of the European Parliament or of the Council.*

Article 50

Repeal and transitional provisions

1. Regulation (EC) No 1906/2006 is repealed with effect from 1 January 2014.
2. Without prejudice to paragraph 1, this Regulation shall not affect the continuation or modification, including the total or partial termination of the actions concerned, until their closure, or the award of financial assistance by the Commission or funding bodies under Decision No 1982/2006/EC, or any other legislation applying to that assistance on 31 December 2013, which shall continue to apply to the actions concerned until their closure.
3. Any sums from the participant Guarantee Fund set up by Regulation (EC) No 1906/2006 as well as all its rights and obligations shall be transferred to the Fund as of 31 December 2013. The participants in actions under the Seventh Framework Programme signing grant agreements after 31 December 2013 shall make their contribution to the Fund.

Article 51

This Regulation shall enter into force on the third day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

Done at Brussels,

For the European Parliament

The President

For the Council

The President
