Horizon 2020 was the biggest EU research and innovation programme to date. Over 75 billion worth of worth of funding was invested over the programme's seven years, from 2014 to 2020.

BEYOND THE HORIZON

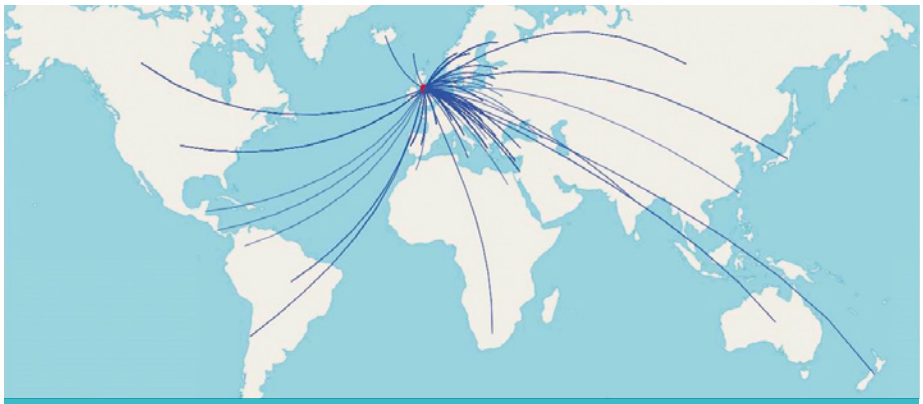
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHAMPTON STATISTICS

200
200 awarded H2020 projects

€127.6 M
Total value of funding: €127.6 million

1265
Those 200 projects include 1265 participants from 57 countries

€3.6 M
Value of largest single award to the University of Southampton: €3.6 million



Our collaborative links formed through Horizon 2020

Horizon 2020 was the biggest EU research and innovation programme to date. A total of €80 billion worth of funding was invested over the programme's seven years, from 2014 to 2020.

The programme was set up as a means to drive economic growth and create jobs, with a focus on excellent science, industrial leadership and tackling societal challenges. The goal was to ensure Europe produced world-class science, removed barriers to innovation, and made it easier for the public and private sectors to work together to deliver innovation.

Horizon 2020 funded, and continues to fund, research collaborations between industry, academia and government agencies across Europe and associated countries to address major challenges agreed by the member countries. The scale of the projects, which are often funded to the value of several million Euros, allows multiple partners to work together to develop new designs.

At Southampton, 200 research projects – some still ongoing – were funded by Horizon 2020.

Here, some of our Horizon 2020 bid winners offer their insights and experiences, and share tips for those considering applying for Horizon Europe funding.

For further information, visit:
ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020

John Holloway
Professor of Allergy and Respiratory Genetics, and Associate Dean (Research) in the Faculty of Medicine

"Over many years I have participated in several EU-funded projects, including most recently the Ageing Lungs in European Cohorts (ALEC) study. Like all the EU projects I have been part of, the ALEC study brought together research groups from across Europe with a range of expertise to address a large scale research project.

"In ALEC, we sought to improve our understanding of risk factors for low lung function, respiratory disability and the development of chronic obstructive lung disease by using information held within existing cohort studies from across Europe.

"The benefits of participating in these large-scale Horizon projects go far beyond the direct funding for the project in question. Through ALEC, I was introduced to researchers who now are now not only key collaborators but firm friends and with whom I have secured additional bilateral research funding, from the Norwegian Research Council, and co-supervise several PhD students.

"My key advice would be to start early, read the draft work programme and identify the relevant call or calls, and reach out to potential partners you know in Europe to start to form the team. You don't need to fill every gap in skills or expertise straight away – as you bring people in they will have their own networks they can tap into to help build the perfect team to address the research question.

"I have also learnt that the consortia that are pulled together in haste prompted by an impending deadline for a stage one outline application are unlikely to succeed."

Jon Bull
Professor of Geophysics, and Associate Dean (Research) in the Faculty of Environmental and Life Sciences

"Participation in EU- funded projects, including STEMM-CCS and ECO2, has allowed my research group to participate in larger-scale interdisciplinary science projects than that possible based solely from UK funding sources. The STEMM-CCS (Strategies for Environmental Monitoring of Marine Carbon Capture and Storage) and ECO2 (Sub-seabed CO2 Storage: Analysis of Autonomous Underwater Vehicle Data) projects both brought together research teams from across Europe to tackle monitoring, measurement and verification issues associated with marine carbon capture and storage.

> "An added benefit of EU projects is the training and networking opportunities available to Early Career Researchers."
>
> **Jon Bull**
> Professor of Geophysics

"As well as achieving excellent science outcomes, an added benefit of EU projects is the training and networking opportunities available to Early Career Researchers.

"In terms of tips for getting funding, the key thing is to forge contacts with key groups in Europe. There are often briefing sessions for different call, and these can be very good networking opportunities."

Robert Wood
Professor of Surface Engineering and Tribology, and Associate Dean (Research) in the Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences

"For the Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences, Horizon 2020 funding is our second most important research income stream, providing 13 per cent of research funding. It is a major funding source for the Early Career Researcher community and an excellent way to grow our global reputation and reach.

"My experience of being a partner in Horizon 2020 projects, including the WINDTRUST and ATOS projects, is the valuable opportunity to work closely with university groups, companies and their European supply chain to design next-generation wind turbines and hybrid aero engine bearings. WINDTRUST looked at the technical and economic feasibility of innovative and more reliable solutions for multi-megawatt wind turbines, in order to improve the competitiveness of wind energy technologies. The project focused the rotor, power electronics, and the control and communication system. ATOS – Advanced Transmission and Oil System Concepts – looked at advanced transmission and oil systems for next-generation aero engines.

"These collaborations, led by major players – Siemens Gamesa and Rolls-Royce – created lasting collaborations with a wind turbine blade company and a global bearing company. In one case, it allowed the hiring of a postdoctoral student who is now a professor and head of nCATS (the national Centre for Advanced Tribology), and a very successful partnership with the Schaeffler Group. In another, the postdoctoral student is now pursuing an academic career in Portsmouth.

"These projects have also spawned several undergraduate projects, new test facilities, publications at major international conferences and inspired further funding proposals.

"My tips on writing proposals would be to meet frequently with the potential partners. Typically, partners are introduced by contact made through conferences or industry open days, rather than by searching CORDIS. Use their experience of bidding, and also seek advice from RIS and look at previous successful bids from Southampton."

5
Awards in all five faculties

13TH
Ranked 13th in the UK by total value of awards

6 – 84
Duration of awards: 6 to 84 months