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AGRICULTURE & INNOVATION

# Funding opportunities under Horizon 2020 Calls 2016



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more information: [www.eip-agri.eu](http://www.eip-agri.eu)



## Funding opportunities for innovative actions via Horizon 2020

Horizon 2020 is the largest source of public funding for Research and Innovation (R&I) from the European Commission. It has a budget of around €3.7 billion for the Societal Challenge 2 (SC2) on “Food security, sustainable agriculture and forestry, marine, maritime and inland water research and the bioeconomy” for 2014-2020.

Through this societal challenge, Horizon 2020 aims to create solutions for problems which farmers and foresters currently face, and includes opportunities for funding projects where researchers and practitioners build solutions together. Specific efforts will be made to share knowledge and results that are ready to be put into practice, with the active support of the EIP-AGRI network.

Horizon 2020 also tries to work across different areas and themes to boost innovation. This is why relevant opportunities for agriculture also appear in other parts of the Work Programme than Societal Challenge 2. This brochure should help you find your way through the different calls for 2016.



Please be aware that only the officially published Work Programme text, budget and deadlines should be taken as a reference for any proposal preparation.





## The 2016-2017 Work Programme at a glance

The new [Horizon 2020 Societal Challenge 2 Work Programme 2016-2017](#) offers a budget of around €877 million, out of which €560 million are of direct interest to agriculture and forestry.

The main opportunities for agriculture and forestry can be found in three main calls:

- [Sustainable Food Security \(SFS\)](#)
- [Rural Renaissance \(RUR\)](#)
- [Bio-based innovation \(BB\)](#)

With these calls, the EU aims to:

- **improve the capacity of farming and food systems to provide sufficient and healthy food for all, while safeguarding natural resources;**
- **raise the sustainable growth potential of rural areas** through new territorial approaches and business models;
- **re-industrialise Europe** through new bio-based value chains, securing sustainable biomass supply.

There are also opportunities for agriculture and forestry in other parts of Horizon 2020, such as [Climate action](#), [SMEs](#), cross-cutting activities like [Internet of Things](#) and [Circular Economy](#) and parts dedicated to the bottom-up initiative [Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions](#) or [research infrastructures](#).

Others have succeeded in the past. Have a look at [agriculture and forestry projects](#) that have already been funded through Horizon 2020 and also through previous Framework Programmes.





## Multi-actor research projects involving the agricultural community



The new Horizon 2020 Work Programme 2016-2017 dedicates €371 million to 38 topics that respect the **multi-actor approach** (MAA) for agriculture, food and forestry projects. Proposals need to demonstrate that they are targeting actual needs of end users, and aim at demand-driven innovation. The reasoning behind the multi-actor approach is that the people who need the solutions can also help to shape them by being involved right from the start and throughout the whole project: from defining the questions to implementing research activities, and up to participating in demonstrations and dissemination. This cross-fertilisation of ideas between different actors with complementary knowledge (farmers and farmers' groups, advisers, enterprises, researchers and others) should lead to innovative solutions that are more likely to be applied in the field.

Project results and practical recommendations should be presented in an easily understandable and accessible way. They should feed into the European Innovation Partnership for Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability (EIP-AGRI) for broad dissemination as 'practice abstracts'. This will also help to make the impact of researchers on practice more visible and measurable.



For 2016-2017, four points have been strengthened in the multi-actor approach:

- 1 The project proposal must demonstrate how the objectives and activities target needs and opportunities from practice.
- 2 The engagement of actors with complementary knowledge should be reflected in the proposed consortium, and mediation between them is strongly recommended.
- 3 All multi-actor projects should contribute to the EIP-AGRI by producing a number of practice abstracts respecting the common EIP-AGRI format.
- 4 Involvement of relevant interactive innovation groups operating in the EIP-AGRI context is strongly recommended.



## Thematic networks, collecting knowledge and creating solutions for practice

**Thematic networks** are a particular format of multi-actor projects. They collect and develop existing but insufficiently used scientific knowledge and best practices. The specific themes of the projects may be chosen bottom-up, prioritising the most urgent needs of agriculture and forestry production. The proposals should:

- focus on existing best practices and research results that are close to being put into practice, but that are not sufficiently known by people in the field.
- collect this knowledge and make it ready for practice, for instance through information sheets and audio-visual material. This end user material should be easily accessible and understandable. It should be made available beyond the lifespan of the project through the main existing dissemination channels which farmers often use, and also through the EIP-AGRI database.

In 2016, thematic networks funded with a total of €10 million will contribute to a more competitive and sustainable agriculture (see [RUR-10-2016-2017](#)).

Five networks started in 2015 and four to five more projects will start in early 2016. Together with the output from the networks funded by the 2016 and 2017 calls, they will enrich the EIP-AGRI database with concrete solutions that farmers can easily implement.

### Project example: WINETWORK (Thematic Network - H2020)

WINETWORK is a thematic network that targets key needs of wine growers, specifically to fight against and prevent Grapevine Trunk Diseases (GTD) and Flavescence Dorée (FD). These two diseases are jeopardising all European wine production. Many wine growers are already testing innovative sustainable approaches to fight these diseases. 11 partners from science, advisory services and practice, together representing more than 90% of all EU wine production areas, will capture all practical and scientific knowledge that is available.

Facilitators will support bottom-up interactive processes to collect data in a set of regional working groups and in one EU scientific working group. A broad range of knowledge exchange activities is planned to share all end user material with wine growers and advisory services all over the EU.

More information: <http://www.winetwork.eu>





## Sustainable Food Security (SFS) Resilient and resource efficient value chains



The call on Sustainable Food Security dedicates €431 million to ensure sufficient, safe and nutritious food for all, while safeguarding natural resources.

Tackling the challenge of how to feed 9 billion people sustainably by 2050, this call puts approaches that aim at using nature and resources better at the heart of research investments. It strongly focuses on climate-smart and environment-smart production systems. It also aims to improve the nutritional added value and the safety of food. Considering the global character of the challenge, it invests in international cooperation with €52 million dedicated to cooperation between Europe and China and Africa.

The call is structured around six main areas.



Please be aware that only the officially published Work Programme prevails.

### List of icons:

	Horizontal		International cooperation
	Organic		Food
	Environment & Climate Change		Forestry
	Livestock		Bioenergy
	Crops		Bioeconomy

### Abbreviations:

**MAA:** Multi-Actor Approach | **TN:** Thematic Network | **Date<sup>1</sup>:** indicated deadline is set for the 1st stage of the project proposal

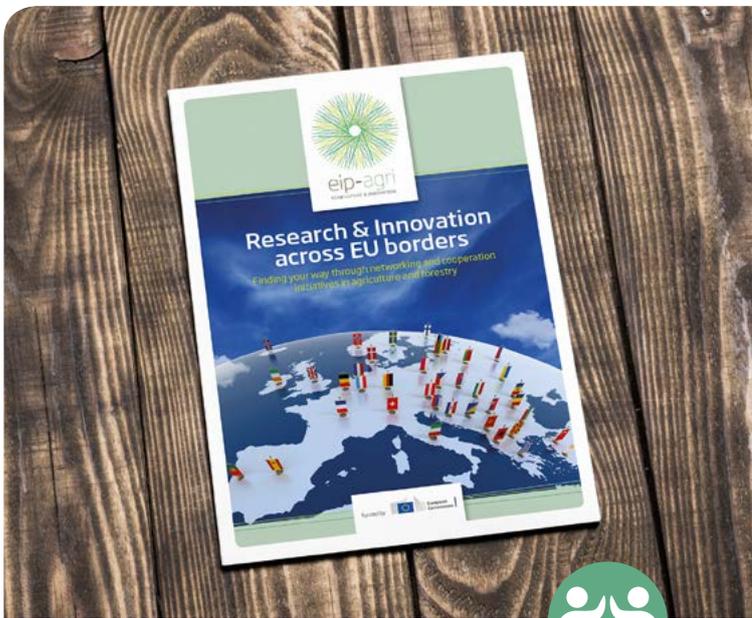


Acronym	Topic	Special approach	Topic budget Grant size (M€)	Deadline
More resilient and resource efficient value chains				
<b>SFS-01-2016</b> 	Solutions to multiple and combined stresses in crop production	MAA	12 <b>6</b>	17/02/2016 <sup>1</sup>
<b>SFS-02-2016</b> 	Teaming up for good: Exploiting the benefits of species diversity in cropping systems	MAA	10 <b>5</b>	
<b>SFS-03-2016</b> 	Testing and breeding for sustainability and resilience in crops		5 <b>5</b>	
<b>SFS-06-2016</b> 	Weeding - Strategies, tools and technologies for sustainable weed management	MAA	7 <b>7</b>	
<b>SFS-7-2016-2017</b> 	Organic Breeding - Increasing the competitiveness of the organic breeding and farming sectors	MAA	8 <b>8</b>	
<b>SFS-09-2016</b> 	Spotlight on critical outbreak of pests: The case of Xylella fastidiosa	MAA	7 <b>7</b>	17/02/2016
<b>SFS-11-2016</b> 	Challenges for disease management: Perennial crops in the tropics and sub-tropics	MAA	12 <b>4</b>	17/02/2016 <sup>1</sup>
<b>SFS-12-2016</b> 	Support for international research on animal health		3 <b>3</b>	17/02/2016
<b>SFS-14-2016</b> 	Understanding Host-Pathogen-environment interactions		11 <b>5,5</b>	17/02/2016 <sup>1</sup>
<b>SFS-15-2016-2017</b> 	Breeding livestock for resilience and efficiency	MAA	7 <b>7</b>	
<b>SFS-25-2016</b> 	Support Action to a common agricultural and wider bioeconomy research agenda		2 <b>1-2</b>	17/02/2016

Environment-smart and climate-smart primary production				
<b>SFS-26-2016</b> 	Legumes - Transition paths to sustainable legume-based cropping systems and agri-feed and food chains	MAA	10 <b>5</b>	
<b>SFS-31-2016</b> 	Farming for tomorrow: developing an enabling environment for resilient and sustainable agricultural systems		5 <b>5</b>	
A competitive food industry				17/02/2016 <sup>1</sup>
<b>SFS-33-2016</b> 	Understanding food value chain and network dynamics		6 <b>6</b>	
Healthy and safe food and diets for all				17/02/2016 <sup>1</sup>
<b>SFS-37-2016</b> 	The impact of consumer practices in food safety: risks and mitigation strategies	MAA	9,5 <b>9,5</b>	
<b>SFS-38-2016</b> 	Impulsivity and compulsivity and the link to nutrition, lifestyle and the socio-economic environment		12 <b>12</b>	
Support to the Implementation of the EU-Africa Partnership on Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture				17/02/2016 <sup>1</sup>
<b>SFS-42-2016</b> 	Promoting food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture in Africa: the role of innovation	MAA	5 <b>5</b>	
Implementation of the EU-China FAB Flagship initiative				17/02/2016 <sup>1</sup>
<b>SFS-44-2016</b> 	A joint plant breeding programme to decrease the EU's and China's dependency on protein imports		5 <b>5</b>	
<b>SFS-45-2016</b> 	Increase overall transparency of processed agro-food products		5 <b>5</b>	

- More information on the [EU-Africa Partnership](#).
- More information on the [EU-China Flagship initiative](#).





## More possibilities: ERA-NETs

Beside the calls that are published in the 2016-2017 Work Programme, **European Research Area Networks (ERA-NETs) and Joint Programming Initiatives (JPIs) publish their own calls.**

The Sustainable Food Security call 2016 foresees the creation of several new ERA-NETs. These will cover themes such as organic farming and food production, sustainable food production and consumption, a knowledge platform for the intestinal microbiome, and EU-Africa partnership on food and agriculture (see [SFS-19-2016](#) and [SFS-41-2016](#)), which means calls are to be expected on these themes in the future.

In addition, ERA-NETs and JPIs which have emerged from previous Work Programmes are also publishing calls.

- An overview on the active ERA-NETs and JPIs can be found on the [ERA LEARN 2020 website](#).
- You can also find more information on ERA-NETs and project examples in the [EIP-AGRI brochure "Research and Innovation across EU borders"](#).





## Rural Renaissance (RUR) Fostering innovation and business opportunities

The €128 million [Rural Renaissance call](#) is about opportunities for sustainable rural growth, looked at through integrated approaches, cutting across sectors and taking a territorial perspective. It has the ambition to modernise policies and governance, and foster new business developments. The projects should boost innovation, advising and demonstration approaches in a spirit of co-creation and exchange of knowledge. To this end the call will invest in better decision-making, in new business models and in people, enhancing social and human capital through improved skills and innovation systems. With the solutions that will be created and shared through projects funded under Rural Renaissance, rural areas could have it all: more and better jobs, a better environment, and better social and territorial cohesion.

Acronym	Topic	Special approach	Topic budget Grant size (M€)	Deadline
New approaches towards policies and governance				17/02/2016 <sup>1</sup>
<b>RUR-01-2016</b> 	Consolidated policy framework and governance models for synergies in rural-urban linkages	MAA	6 <b>6</b>	
<b>RUR-04-2016</b> 	Water farms - Improving farming and supply of drinking water	MAA	5 <b>5</b>	
New value chains and business models				17/02/2016
<b>RUR-06-2016</b> 	Crop diversification systems for the delivery of food, feed, industrial products and ecosystems services: from farm benefits to value chain organisation	MAA	20 <b>10</b>	
<b>RUR-07-2016</b> 	Resource-efficient and profitable industrial crops on marginal lands	MAA	6 <b>6</b>	
<b>RUR-08-2016</b> 	Demonstration of integrated logistics centres for food and non-food applications	MAA	12 <b>6</b>	17/02/2016

Interested in territorial research and innovation?

Look also at the Societal Challenge 6 call "[Reversing inequalities and promoting fairness \(REV-INEQUAL\)](#)": [REV-INEQUAL-7-2016](#) - Spatial justice, social cohesion and territorial inequalities (grant size 5M€, deadline 04/02/2016).



Acronym	Topic	Special approach	Topic budget Grant size (M€)	Deadline
Innovation and skill development				
<b>RUR-10-2016-2017</b> 🏠	Thematic Networks compiling knowledge ready for practice	TN MAA	10 <b>2</b>	17/02/2016
<b>RUR-11-2016</b> 🏠	On-farm demonstrations: deepening farmer-to-farmer learning mechanisms	MAA	2 <b>2</b>	
<b>RUR-14-2016</b> 🏠	Advisors' role in the functioning of AKIS and advisory policies boosting innovation in sustainable agriculture	MAA	5 <b>5</b>	17/02/2016 <sup>1</sup>

Interested in research about open innovation, education and innovation systems?

Look also at:

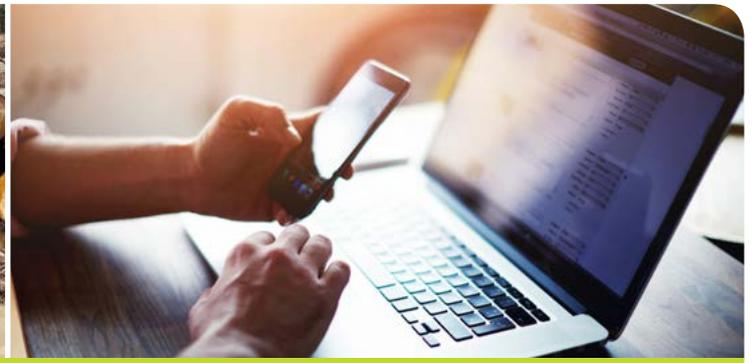
- **the Societal Challenge 6 call "Co-creation for growth and inclusion":**  
[CO-CREATION-02-2016](#): User-driven innovation: value creation through design-enabled innovation (Topic budget 4M€ - Grant size 4M€ - deadline 04/02/2016)  
[CO-CREATION-03-2016](#): Piloting demand-driven collaborative innovation models in Europe (topic budget 5 M€; grant size 2.5 M€ - deadline 04/02/2016)
- **The call on "Science With And For Society (SWAFS)":**  
[SWAFS-01-2016](#): Participatory research and innovation via Science Shops (topic budget: 3M€ - Grant size 3M€ - deadline 30/08/2016)

## Bio-based innovation (BB) for sustainable goods and services Supporting the development of a European bioeconomy

This €27 million [call](#) will help to secure a sustainable biomass supply for bio-based goods and services and will support the future development of bio-based markets.

Acronym	Topic	Topic budget Grant size (M€)	Deadline
Securing sustainable biomass supply for bio-based goods and services			
<b>BB-1-2016</b> €	Sustainability schemes for the bio-based economy	5 <b>5</b>	17/02/2016 <sup>1</sup>
<b>BB-4-2016</b> € 🌲🌲🌲	Intelligent solutions and tools in forest production systems, fostering sustainable supply of quality wood for the growing bioeconomy	6 <b>6</b>	17/02/2016
Building the "bio-based markets of the future" - mobilising stakeholders engagement			
<b>BB-6-2016</b> €	Bio-based industries regional dimension	1 <b>1</b>	17/02/2016





## More funding opportunities under Horizon 2020

### SME Instrument: Funding for small and medium sized businesses

Small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) can also get EU funding and support for innovative projects via Horizon 2020, that will help them develop and expand into other countries - in Europe and beyond.

New! All SME Instrument topics are now grouped under the same SME call, in particular:

- **SMEInst-07-2016-2017**: Stimulating the innovation potential of SMEs for sustainable and competitive agriculture, forestry, agri-food and bio-based sectors (25.5M€ in 2016)
- **SMEInst-11-2016-2017**: Boosting the potential of small businesses in the areas of climate action, environment, resource efficiency and raw materials (25M€ in 2016)

**Further information on funding for SMEs** can be found on the dedicated SME page in the Participation Portal.

### Cross-cutting activities: Interesting funding for smart agriculture and circular economy

Acronym	Topic	Special approach	Topic budget Grant size (M€)	Deadline
Internet of Things (IoT)				
<b>IoT-01-2016</b>	Large Scale Pilots - Pilot 2: Smart Farming and Food Security	MAA	30 (pilot 2) <b>30</b>	12/04/2016
Industry 2020 in the circular economy				
<b>CIRC-02-2016-2017</b>	Water in the context of the circular economy a) Demonstrating the potential of efficient nutrient recovery from water		20 (2016) <b>Between 6-8</b>	08/03/2016 <sup>1</sup>
<b>CIRC-03-2016</b>	Smart Specialisation for systemic eco-innovation/ circular economy		1,5 <b>Between 1-1,5</b>	08/03/2016
<b>CIRC-04-2016</b>	New models and economic incentives for circular economy business		3 <b>3</b>	
<b>CIRC-05-2016</b>	Unlocking the potential of urban organic waste		3 <b>3</b>	
<b>SPIRE-03-2016</b>	Industrial technologies for the valorisation of European bio-resources into high added value process streams		<b>5 to 7 M€</b>	21/01/2016



Interested in bioenergy? Have a look at the topics LCE-08-2016-2017 on next generation biofuel technologies and LCE-19-2016-2017 on demonstrating advanced biofuel pathways.



## SC5 call: Greening the economy

Acronym	Topic	Topic budget Grant size (M€)	Deadline	
Towards a low-carbon Europe				
<b>SC5-06-2016-2017</b> 	Pathways towards the decarbonisation and resilience of the European economy in the timeframe 2030-2050 and beyond: a) Managing technology transition (2016) b) Assessment of the global mitigation efforts in the perspective of the long-term climate goal (2016)	<b>a) 4 to 6M€ b) 2 to 3M€</b>	8/03/2016	
Nature-based solutions for territorial resilience				
<b>SC5-09-2016</b> 	Operationalising insurance value of ecosystems	<b>5</b>		
<b>SC5-10-2016</b> 	Multi-stakeholder dialogue platform to promote innovation with nature to address societal challenges	<b>3</b>		
Water				
<b>SC5-12-2016</b> 	Food systems and water resources for the development of inclusive, sustainable and healthy Euro-Mediterranean societies	<b>2</b>	26/01/2016	

### Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions (MSCA)

MSCA cover all themes with a focus on innovation skills. Actions support the career development and training of researchers through transnational mobility while also encouraging cross-sectoral and interdisciplinary mobility. In 2016, MSCA will invest 370 million in [Innovative Training Networks](#), €218 million in [Individual Fellowships](#) and €80 million in [Research and Innovation Staff Exchange](#). More information on [Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions](#).

### Research infrastructures

Horizon 2020 supports the development of research infrastructures. Under the topic [INFRAIA-01-2016-2017](#) "Integrating Activities for Advanced Communities", €88 million will be dedicated in 2016 to projects on different themes, many of which are of interest to agricultural science such as animal health, plant phenotyping or ecosystem functioning and biodiversity research.

### Fast-track to innovation (FTI)

The bottom-up [FTI pilot](#) continues in 2016 with a yearly budget of €100 million and three cut-off dates: 15/03/2016, 01/06/2016 and 25/10/2016. More information on the [FTI web page](#).





## Help us help you

The Horizon 2020 calls are open to all organisations and individuals, including applicants from outside the EU. However, for most of the topics presented here, you will have to build consortia with at least three partners from three different countries. Check the rules applying to the call to make sure you are eligible. You can find all of the information on the Horizon 2020 calls, the application procedure, and application forms on the [Participant Portal](#) set up by the European Commission.

**All applications have to be made via the [Participant Portal](#).** Please note that deadlines for the submission of proposals are specific to each call.



- The Horizon 2020 [online manual](#) offers information and support to develop your proposal.
- The [reference documents page](#) gives you access to Work Programmes, legal and guidance documents.
- Within the Participant Portal you can also check out the [frequently asked questions \(FAQ\)](#).
- The [IT Helpdesk](#) answers your questions about the Participant Portal tools.
- Do you have a specific question? Contact your [National Contact Point](#) or the [Horizon 2020 helpdesk](#) for guidance, practical information and assistance on all aspects of Horizon 2020.

## Find project partners:

### Join the EIP-AGRI Service Point LinkedIn group

To help you find partners for multi-actor projects or thematic networks, the EIP-AGRI Service Point has set up a LinkedIn group where you can introduce yourself, your organisation and your innovative project proposal on sustainable agriculture and productivity to other members.

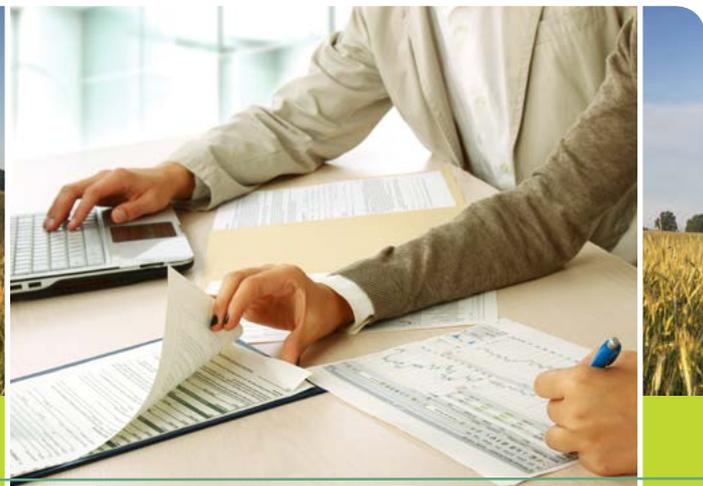
Since the launch of this discussion group, numerous applicants looking for Horizon 2020 opportunities have joined. Please come and take part in this community!

To stay informed on all H2020 news, we would like to encourage you to connect to our LinkedIn EIP-AGRI Service Point profile and company page as well. Scan this QR code to go to our LinkedIn group directly. Talk to you soon!

### Join the EIP-AGRI network

By registering to the EIP-AGRI website at [www.eip-agri.eu](http://www.eip-agri.eu), you can search and find potential project partners, interesting projects, best practices and other funding opportunities in the [EIP-AGRI Meeting Point](#).





## Evaluation tips and tricks

Proposals are evaluated by independent experts, who only have a limited amount of time to evaluate several proposals.

- Read the criteria** by which your proposal will be assessed.
- Write clearly and concisely.** Ask someone with experience in drafting proposals but from outside your consortium to proofread your proposal.
- Impact matters!** During evaluation, impact will matter as much as excellence.
- Check the expected impact and scope of the topic in detail.** Make sure you read properly what is expected of you, and demonstrate how you will deliver, detailing partner assets and using quantified activities and targets whenever possible.
- Make sure that the **chosen objectives are coherent** with the project activities, the competence of the partners and the planned budget per activity.
- Make sure the **cost/benefit ratio is sound.** Keep in mind that all costs should be reasonable in the light of the expected outcomes.
- Avoid “recycling” of former projects or project partners which do not have a specific contribution to the topic.

## Toolbox

Several tools can help you find the resources to build a partnership and write a proposal.

- **Communication and dissemination** are now even more important. To understand the difference between communication and dissemination and build a good plan [look here](#).
- Are you applying to a topic with a strong **social science and humanities (SSH)** dimension? Consult the [SSH page](#) of the H2020 Manual, look for tips on the [NET4SOCIETY](#) website and find partners in their [directory](#).
- To browse methods on how to **engage the public in your research activities**: have a look at the [EIP-AGRI brochure on participatory approaches](#) and at tools developed by the [Engage 2020 project](#).

You can also contact the EIP-AGRI Service Point:

EIP-AGRI Service Point - Avenue de la Toison d'Or 72 -  
1060 Brussels - Belgium  
By telephone: +32 2 543 73 48  
By e-mail: [servicepoint@eip-agri.eu](mailto:servicepoint@eip-agri.eu)  
Through our website: [www.eip-agri.eu](http://www.eip-agri.eu)  
Through social media: Twitter: [@EIPAGRI\\_SP](https://twitter.com/EIPAGRI_SP)  
LinkedIn: [be.linkedin.com/in/eipagrIServicepoint/5](https://be.linkedin.com/in/eipagrIServicepoint/5)



## Horizon 2020 pillars



Excellent science

Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions

Infrastructures



Industrial leadership

Cross-cutting activities

- Industry 2020 in the circular economy
- Internet of things (IoT)



Societal challenges (SC)

SME Instrument

Fast track to innovation (FTI)

### SC 2 - Food, agriculture, forestry, bioeconomy

Call on sustainable food security



Call on rural renaissance



Call on bio-based innovation for sustainable goods and services



### SC 3 - Energy

Call on competitive low carbon energy

### SC 5 - Climate action

Call on greening the economy

### SC 6 - Inclusive societies

Call on co-creation for growth and inclusion

Call on reversing inequalities and promoting fairness

Science with and for society



Multi-actor approach



Thematic networks