

FAQ - SC2 - Food Security, Sustainable Agriculture and Forestry, Marine, Maritime and Inland Water Research and the Bioeconomy

On the Funding and tender portal you can find several FAQ s related to specific call topics of Horizon 2020. But several FAQs of the SC2 call topics - replied by project officers from the European Commission and shared by the NCP Network BIOHORIZON - are not (yet) published on the date of 16.12.2019.

- CE-FNR-07-2020
- CE-FNR-09-2020
- CE-FNR-11-2020
- LC-FNR-13-2020
- SFS-10-2020
- CE-SFS-36-2020

Topic • **CE-FNR-07-2020**

Question:

The call text states that "The Commission considers that proposals requesting a contribution from the EU in the range of EUR 12 million would allow this specific challenge to address at least 10 cities."

Does that imply that at least 10 municipalities or city affiliates have to be beneficiaries in a consortium? Is the number of cities/city representatives in the consortium an admissibility and eligibility criteria for this call?

Reply:

According to page 201 of the work programme (link [here](#)), there is no mention of exception to the eligibility and admissibility criteria. Eligibility and admissibility conditions: The conditions are described in General Annexes B and C of the work programme. On the contrary, these are present for some SFS calls, at page 90 of [the same work programme](#).

You can find the annex B and C of the 2018-2020 work programme [here](#).

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Topic • **CE-FNR-09-2020**

Question:

According to the call text new technologies/demonstrations should occur in the sea, sea shore, shallow waters and harbours, however rivers (and/or effluent waste water treatment plants) are not included as demonstration location. It is well known that the majority of plastic litter (80-90%) found in the sea comes from the worlds rivers. Why are rivers not included? Our consortia is considering a step-wise approach with 2 new technologies. It will start with industrial cooling water installations which extract sea/brackish water, followed by inland harbours or lagoon, and then finally a demonstration in the sea. Does this approach fit the call text, and are activities taking place on a river excluded from the call?

Reply:

The scope underlines “this topic is for the demonstration of technologies to clean the seafloor and the surface of nearshore waters, and possibly the water column, **from historically accumulated plastics and micro-plastics as well as from other accumulated marine litter**”

So it addresses marine litter already present in the marine environment and jeopardising the ecosystem functioning and blue economic activities.

The scope also precise the area of intervention : “**...conservation (or even restoration) of coastal ecosystems**”

So river capture technology is not the focus of this topic. Indeed the prevention of litter to arrive in the marine environment, especially from land and through river streams, remains the priority for policy of litter reduction in the sea and this is the subject of other initiatives related to the prevention of litter to reach the marine environment, funded in other calls of Horizon 2020 and other initiatives than Horizon 2020).

The call FNR-09-2020 aims at the restoration of marine ecosystems functions by removing accumulated marine litter. But complementarity or synergies with other devices near streams river could be envisaged if the result of the technological solutions in the proposal is the removal of accumulated litter.

Normally the pilots will take place at identified hot spots of accumulation or of circulation in important location for ecosystems function (feeding, spawning, mating, migration paths, primary production, etc..) and blue economy (less litter stranding on the beach, quality of waters, MSFD objectives, Aquaculture, fisheries resources...)

Topic: • **CE-FNR-11-2020**

Question 1

Our project idea focuses on using invasive plants as the source natural biological material to develop novel natural, sustainable and 'eco-friendly' products with significant bioactive properties, as requested by the topic. We are wondering whether this source biological material is within the scope of this topic.

Question 2

The topic also calls for increasing public-private cooperation in European biotechnology, while integrating its sectors e.g. 'green' (plant), 'blue' (marine), and 'white' (industrial). We were thinking of addressing it through the composition of the consortium or does the European Commission mean increasing public-private cooperation through other ways?

Replies:

Reply 1

The topic aims at biodiscovery of small molecules with novel bioactivities. While it does neither prescribe nor restrict the kind of species to be prospecting on, the applicants are obliged to comply with all relevant national regulations (including in regard to the invasive species). The choice of the targeted natural biological source should be well argued in the proposal.

Reply 2

It is up to the consortium to propose the means to achieve the indicated expected impact "increasing public-private cooperation in European biotechnology, while integrating its sectors e.g. 'green' (plant), 'blue' (marine), and 'white' (industrial)."

Topic • **LC-FNR-13-2020**

Questions and Replies:

1- Could we consider single cell protein (or microbial protein) as an added-value chemical suitable for the objectives of this call? **YES**

2- Could we consider biogas producing plants which aim at CO2 removal in view of biogas upgrading as potential target industries for this call? **NO**

Topic • **LC-FNR-13-2020**

Question 1.

Could we consider bioethanol producing plants, which sole product is bioethanol, as potential target industries for this call?

Question 2.

Could we consider plants that combine the production of bioethanol and other bio-based products (e.g. biopolymers) as potential target industries for this call?

Replies:

Reply 1.

Projects based on bioethanol producing plants are within the scope of the call, provided that bioethanol serves as chemical intermediate.

Reply 2.

Projects based on plants producing both bioethanol and other bio-based products are within the scope of the call, provided that bioethanol serves as chemical intermediate.

For both case, as the scope of the call include plants producing bio-based products, the definition of a bio-based product based on the European standard EN 16575 applies "bio-based products (**bottles, insulation materials, wood and wood products, paper, solvents, chemical intermediates, composite materials, etc.**) are products which are wholly or partly derived from biomass."

Topic **SFS-10-2020**:

Question:

The call reports "The proposals should address at least terrestrial livestock ..."

My question is: "Is the animal species HORSE included among terrestrial livestock or not? (Which animal species are included the "terrestrial livestock" definition? Are specific animal species more important than others?)"

Horses are considered in some countries as food producer animals while in other countries they are considered as companion animals, although contagious diseases are an important problem even in this species because the frequent commercial movements.

The same question is useful for the call "Healthy terrestrial livestock microbial ecosystems for sustainable production" SFS-02-2020.

Reply:

The term "livestock" is used in a broad sense to cover all grown animals regardless of age, location or purpose of breeding. Furthermore it is usually understood that livestock are farmed animals and thus related to "production systems" as we also refer in the text. Thus, horses are included under the concept of livestock.

No specific species are retained more important than others as far as "the project will provide a coherent blueprint and a framework for the necessary changes to allow improved data utilisation to protect animal health and welfare, human health and the food chain in Europe."

Topic **SFS-10-2020**:

Question:

Which animal diseases can be included in case studies in our framework development?

For instance, now that bovine viral diarrhoea (BVD) and infection with porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome (PRRS) virus have been included in the Animal Health Law listing, should these be considered EU-regulated diseases and therefore not relevant for this call, although many Member States have not yet implemented surveillance or control programmes for these diseases? Or would it be considered appropriate to include newly Animal Health Law-listed contagious animal diseases?

Reply:

The purpose of excluding the EU-regulated diseases is essentially aimed to avoid duplication of efforts on diseases subject to harmonised European surveillance systems, and rather to focus on other diseases.

The topic was written at a time when the list of specific diseases under the Animal Health Law was not complete and for a number of these diseases, hardly any specific harmonised European surveillance system exists.

The choice of diseases to be addressed in the submitted proposals should be duly justified in order to address the requirements of the topic and provide impact.

Topic **CE-SFS-36-2020**:

Question:

According to the scope of topic CE-SFS-36-2020 proposals shall screen existing bio-based technologies that can be adapted and successfully transferred to rural African contexts. Our question concerns the timing of the technology screening: must this screening already be part of the proposal or should this be part of the project, for instance as part of a Work Package?

Reply:

Proposals shall do a screening of existing technologies that can be transfer to Africa rural areas. The modalities of implementation of the screening are left to the proposal.

External experts evaluating proposals will have to assess the extent to which each proposal addresses the requirements of the topic, not least the expected impacts listed in the topic.

In terms of the timing of the screening, this should be done at the beginning of the project to select those most suitable and integrate them into one existing agri-food system as mentioned in the call text.

Topic **CE-SFS-36-2020**:

Question:

Under topic CE-SFS-36-2020: as regards the quote “one existing agri-food system” (full quote is “The selected technologies shall be integrated into one existing agri-food system without compromising food production, and without fundamentally changing established agricultural practices, provided that these are sustainable”), should proposals literally focus on working only on a single value chain or on a single crop? Or may proposals have a wider and more integrated approach working on different value chains or crops based on the chosen geographical areas?

Reply:

Agro-food system is defined in the footnote 109 (Part 9 - Page 81 of 213) as “a characteristic combination of farming activities and (possibly) first-level transformation or conditioning of the farming outputs”.

In this regard, there is no obligation to focus on a single crop or value chain. Proposals can address a combination of several, provided that such combination is characteristic of a region rather than a niche system.