



Training on H2020 for Mediterranean NCPs

Marrakesh (Morocco), 11-13 June 2014

Title: The international Cooperation dimension. Deepening relevant call topics 2015.

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About the Speaker

Claudio BOGLIOTTI is responsible of “EU Research and Innovation Policies” at CIHEAM - IAMB. He is the coordinator of the new Inconet MED-SPRING, starting officially on 1 February 2013. He has about 30 years professional experience both as researcher (geology, hydrogeology, water resources) and EU research project management / coordinator. He worked in both private sector (expert) and public research or International organisation (UNDP, University of Leuven, CIHEAM-IAMB) and he has long standing International experience in research cooperation, particularly in Mediterranean countries, North Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa. He has also worked in the EC (DG Research and Innovation) as policy officer responsible of the bilateral and bi-regional policy dialogue with the Mediterranean Partner Countries. He is author of several scientific publications.

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Outline of the presentation

Scope

The aim of this session is to take stock of the international cooperation dimension of the Work Programmes 2014-2015 of H2020, with a particular focus on the geographic and thematic relevance for the Mediterranean region.

Methodology

Based on available information, the Work Programmes of Pillars I,II,III and Horizontal Issues of H2020¹ have been screened and selected using four categories:

- 1) Direct geographic relevance** (where the Mediterranean region is explicitly and exclusively addressed).
- 2) Indirect geographic relevance** (where the Mediterranean region is included in a wider group of countries, e.g.: European Neighbouring Partners, Africa or other regions).
- 3) International cooperation connotation** (where the participation of Third Countries is clearly encouraged at large with no geographic specification. This means that in this category topics open to the participation of specific countries have not been included.
- 4) Thematic relevance** (where there is no reference to the Mediterranean or to international cooperation but themes are of potential interest for the Mediterranean countries, according to the existing literature).

¹ Pillar I: Excellent Science, Pillar II: Industrial Leadership, Pillar III: Societal challenges. Horizontal Issues: Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation.

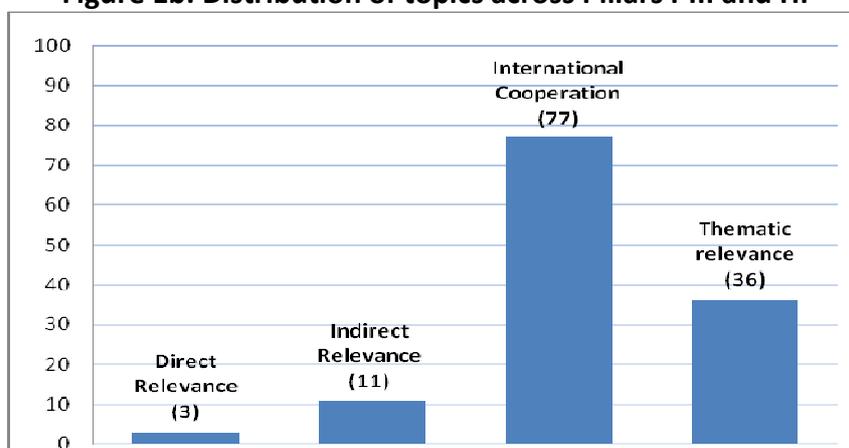
Overall results

As shown in Figure 1, on a total of more than **500** topics which are included in H2020 Work Programmes for 2014-2015, **3** are directly focused on Mediterranean countries, **11** have an indirect geographic relevance, **76** have an explicit international cooperation connotation (but no geographic target) and **34** have only thematic relevance for the Mediterranean (even if they not address specifically the Mediterranean nor international cooperation).

Figure 1a: Distribution of topics across Pillars I-III and HI

Pillar	Topics WP 2015-15	Direct Relevance	Indirect Relevance	International cooperation	Thematic relevance
I - Exc. Science	45	0	2	11	0
II - Ind. Leadersh.	166	0	0	12	15
III - Societ. Chall.	298	3	9	51	19
Horizontal Issues	25	0	0	3	2
TOTAL	534	3	11	77	36

Figure 1b: Distribution of topics across Pillars I-III and HI



The overall results of the analysis show clearly that the majority (**82** out of 127) of the topics identified in the four categories belong to Pillar III – Societal Challenges (SC). The seven SC are listed below:

SC 1) Health, demographic change and wellbeing (hereafter: **Health**)

SC 2) Food security, sustainable agriculture and forestry, marine and maritime and inland water research and the bioeconomy (hereafter: **Food**)

SC 3) Secure, clean and efficient energy (hereafter: **Energy**)

SC 4) Smart, green and integrated transport (hereafter: **Transport**)

SC 5) Climate action, environment, resource efficiency and raw materials (hereafter: **Climate**)

SC 6) Europe in a changing world – inclusive, innovative and reflective Societies (hereafter: **Societies**)

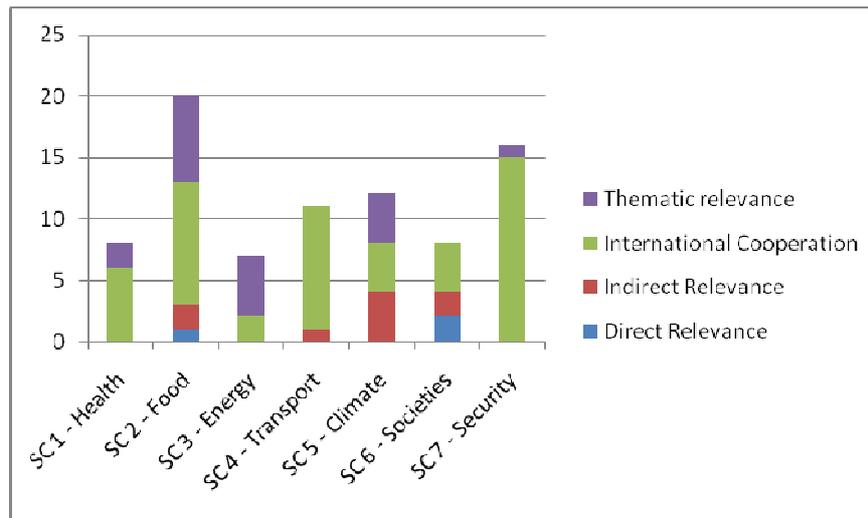
SC 7) Secure societies – Protecting freedom and security of Europe and its citizens (hereafter: **Security**)

Therefore, shifting the focus on Pillar III, Figure 2 below shows in detail how the topics are distributed among the different SC.

Figure 2a: Distribution of topics per Societal Challenge

Societal Challenge	Direct Relevance	Indirect Relevance	International Cooperation	Thematic relevance	TOTAL
SC 1 - Health			6	2	8
SC 2 - Food	1	2	10	7	20
SC 3 - Energy			2	5	7
SC 4 - Transport		1	10		11
SC 5 - Climate		4	4	4	12
SC 6 - Societies	2	2	4		8
SC 7 - Security			15	1	16
TOTAL	3	9	51	19	82

Figure 2b: Distribution of topics per Societal Challenge



According to this data, SC **Food** appears to be the most recurring in the four categories, followed respectively (in decreasing order) by SC **Security**, SC **Transport**, SC **Climate**, SC **Health**, SC **Societies** and SC **Energy**. However, when considering only direct or indirect geographic relevance, the most recurring SC are Climate and Societies, followed by Food and Transport.

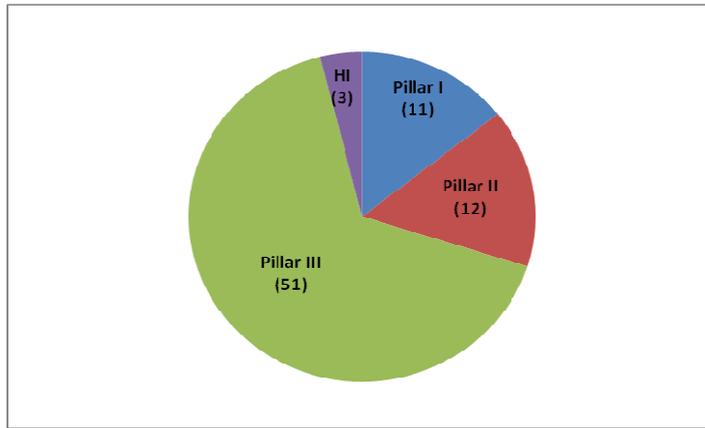
Specific Results

Coming to the specific results per each of the four categories (shown in Figure 1), the **3** topics with **direct geographic relevance** are all included in Pillar III, and related to SC **Food** (1 topic) and SC **Societies** (2 topics). The identifiers and texts of these topics might be found in Annex I.

The **11** topics (Figure 1) with **indirect geographic relevance** are included in Pillar I (2 topics) and Pillar II (9 topics). The SC addressed by these topics are: Food, Transport, Climate and Societies. It is worth noting that one of the two topics in Pillar I is particularly addressed to **ENP National Contact Points** (INFRASUPP 8 – 2014). The identifiers and texts of these topics might be found in Annex I.

As for the **international cooperation connotation** at large (Figure 1), on a total of **77** topics, **11** are under Pillar I, **12** are under Pillar II, **50** are under Pillar III and **3** are under Horizontal Issues. These results are also shown in Figure 3.

Figure 3 – International Cooperation Connotation per Pillar

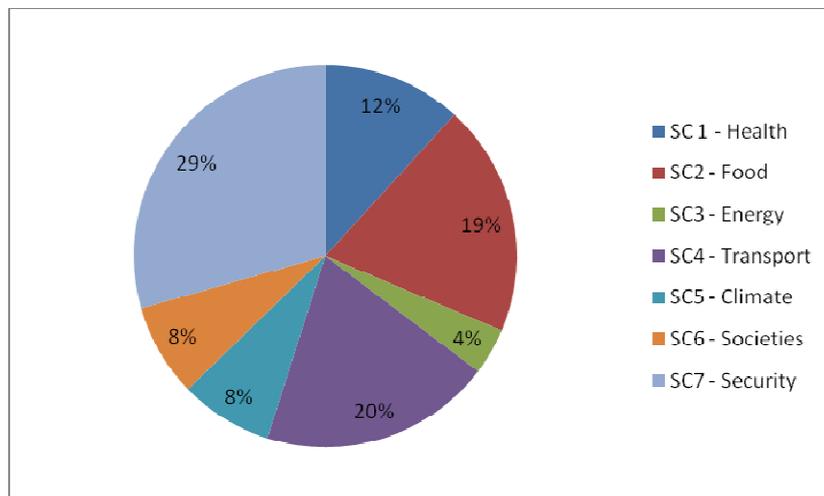


As shown in the above Figure, the bulk of topics which address International Cooperation is under **Pillar III**. It is therefore interesting to highlight how these topics are divided among the different societal challenges. Figure 4 shows that **SC Food** and **SC Transport** have an higher degree of international cooperation activities encouraged.

Figure 4a – International Cooperation Connotation per SC

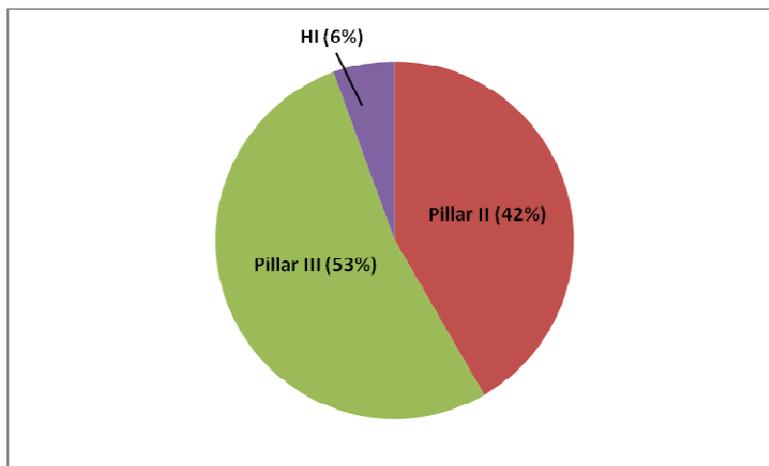
International Cooperation/SC	Topics
SC 1 - Health	6
SC2 - Food	10
SC3 - Energy	2
SC4 - Transport	10
SC5 - Climate	4
SC6 - Societies	4
SC7 - Security	15
TOTAL	51

Figure 4b – International Cooperation Connotation per SC



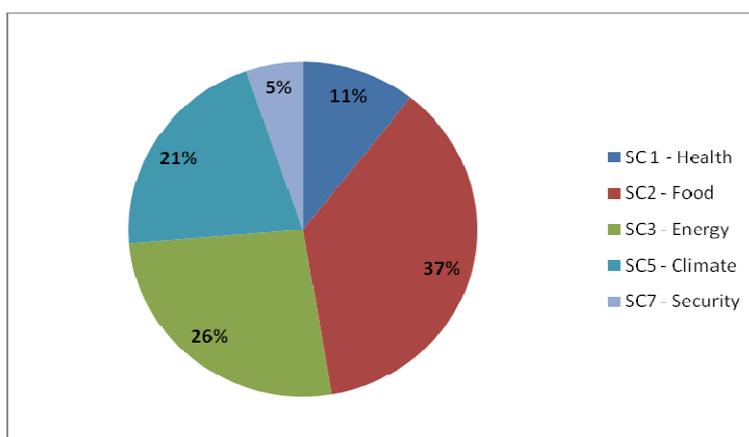
As for the **thematic** dimension, on a total of **36** topics which have been deemed to have a particular relevance to the current themes and challenges of the Mediterranean region, the majority are under Pillar II and III, as shown in Figure 5.

Figure 5 – Thematic relevance per Pillar



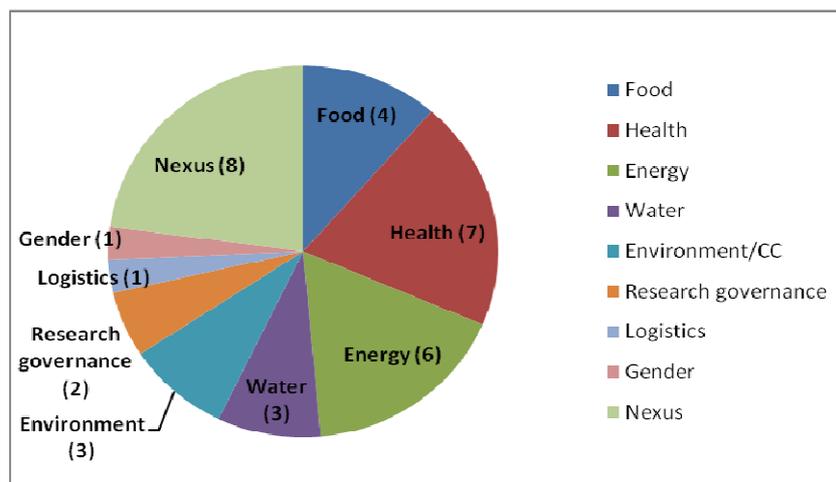
As for the topics under Pillar I, we should highlight that **13** topics out of 15 are in the theme “ICT for Societal Challenges”. As for Pillar II, also in this case, there is an higher concentration of relevant topics in this Pillar, therefore it is worth showing which SC are addressed by the selected topics (Figure 6).

Figure 6 – Thematic relevance per SC



Furthermore, some attention should be devoted to the specific themes which have been identified and included in the analysis. The **36** topics with thematic relevance for the Mediterranean have been grouped under the following themes: **Food, Health, Energy, Water, Environment/Climate Change, Research governance, Gender, Logistics**. Also, based on the main discussion and dialogue today on these issues, some topics have been identified addressing the **nexus** Health/Energy, Food/Energy, Health/Food. The results of this analysis are shown in Figure 7 below.

Figure 7 – Selected relevant Mediterranean topics per theme



Conclusions

The stocktaking briefly outlined here shows that the Mediterranean dimension in the Work Programmes 2014-2015 of H2020 is rather limited.

The **3** topics which are specifically and exclusively addressed to the Mediterranean countries will be launched in 2015 and are focused on two Societal Challenges: **Food** (1 topic) and **Societies** (2 topics). As for Food, the topic (ISIB-3-2015) addresses **social innovation** in agriculture, forestry and rural development and includes the assessment of innovative governance mechanisms to unlock the growth potential in rural areas. As for the topics in SC Societies (INT 6 -2015 and INT 7 -2015) they deal with the assessment of the effectiveness of **policies** and measures for Mediterranean cooperation (INT 6 -2015) and with the analysis of key factors of the main **political dynamics** of the region (INT 7-2015). However, while the number of “Mediterranean” topics appears to be quite narrow, there is an important presence of topics addressing Mediterranean countries in association with other countries/regions. The **11** topics in this category deal with themes ranging from research infrastructure to networking of NCP, small farms, raw materials, climate change, water, research cooperation. To enable the reader to have a better insight on the content of these topics, a short text of the most relevant is included in Annex I, which could also be used for the laboratory exercise. In addition to the topics mentioned above, the Work Programme 2014-2015 has a rather extended set of topics encouraging international cooperation (77 topics). These topics are open to all countries and are of potential interest for the Mediterranean since they address relevant themes for the region (innovation, natural resources, health, agro-food, energy, transport, climate change, sustainable development, security). Furthermore, the Work Programmes analyzed present a variety of topics with no reference to international cooperation nor to the Mediterranean but with a high thematic relevance for the challenges of the region. It is also worth noting that all topics identified mainly belong to two types of actions: Coordination and Support Actions and Research and Innovation Actions. In conclusion, there is no doubt that in H2020 there is a wide range of topics (other than the ones addressing only the Mediterranean) offering good opportunities for research actors of this region – either in thematic issues or cross-cutting activities. The participation of Mediterranean partners in these topics will require a major attention and effort of NCPs, which could act as a hub connecting European and non-European Mediterranean researchers and institutions.

ANNEX I – Texts of selected topics with relevance for the Mediterranean region

A. Topics with direct geographic relevance

1) Unlocking the growth potential of rural areas through enhanced governance and social innovation (ISIB 3 – 2015)

Scope: Proposals should undertake a thorough analysis of social innovation in agriculture, forestry and rural development, encompassing its complexity and various dimensions as well as its impact on unfolding the territorial capital in different regional contexts. Proposals should establish appropriate methods for the evaluation of social innovation. Attention needs to be given to different learning arrangements (e.g. multi-actor networks, producer-consumer association, hybrid innovative networks, territorial alliances) as well as to innovative governance mechanisms at various levels, and their potential implications for social innovation. Proposals should also address the role of different policy instruments, other relevant incentives and diverse entities (public/private, local/non local, active citizens, etc.) as catalysts/constraints to social innovation. Proposals should explain why regions with similar initial conditions display diverging paths. Activities should cover diverse types of rural areas across the EU and Associated Countries and non-European Mediterranean countries. **In line with the objectives of the EU strategy for international cooperation in research and innovation, proposals are encouraged to include third country participants, especially those established in Mediterranean countries.**

The Commission considers that proposals requesting a contribution from the EU in the range of EUR 6 million would allow this specific challenge to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of proposals requesting other amounts.

Expected impact:

- Clarify the different dimensions of social innovation and its dynamics in agriculture, forestry and rural development
- Identify pathways to unfold the territorial capital of rural regions and thus shape sustainable development trajectories in different types of rural areas
- Support more sustainable agri-food and forestry systems and rural development, thus contributing in the medium term to smart, inclusive and sustainable growth in rural areas
- Improve territorial governance and pave the way for an integrated approach to rural development (i.e. ensuring effective mechanisms to coordinate different policies and establish appropriate linkages with other areas)
- Deliver analyses of different innovative governance mechanisms with respect to social innovation in different contexts
- Allow policy makers and the local communities to improve the formulation and delivery of relevant policies as well as to shape such programmes that explicitly foster the creation of sustainable social innovations.

Type of action: Research and innovation action

2) Re-invigorating the partnership between the two shores of the Mediterranean (INT 6 – 2015)

Scope: Research should assess the potential and effectiveness of the policies and measures implemented between the two shores of the Mediterranean and identify the obstacles and prospects for further collaboration. In this context, the concept of bilateralism and regionalism should be defined and assessed in the Mediterranean area, including the pros and cons of both concepts as well as the evaluation of the potential of in-depth cooperation in specific fields like science and technology, water, agriculture, energy or transport. Research should discuss the different understandings of this region and explore which countries significantly influence the situation and developments in the region. In this context, the citizens' perceptions of the image, role and influence of Mediterranean collaboration need to be investigated from both Northern and Southern shores. To this end, data on citizens' perceptions of the Mediterranean will be collected and updated. Research should also identify the best practices, priorities and potential future developments that could improve the relations in this region, taking into account potential new strategies and political priorities that could emerge in the near future. **Broad participation of international partners from the Mediterranean region in proposals submitted to this call is strongly encouraged.** The Commission considers that proposals requesting a contribution from the EU of between EUR 1.5 and 2.5 million would allow this specific challenge to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of proposals requesting other amounts.

Expected impact: The assessment of the prospects for and obstacles to further collaboration between the two shores of the Mediterranean will improve the understanding of the European Union's external action in the area and should contribute to a reflection on its future role in the region. Research will particularly lead to a refined conceptualization of the new geopolitical configuration of the Mediterranean area which will contribute to debates on the most appropriate mix of policies and measures either through a regional or a bilateral approach, including at sectorial level. Finally, activities under this topic will lead to identifying possible actions needed to improve the EU-Mediterranean collaboration.

Type of action: Research and innovation actions

3) Towards a new geopolitical order in the South and East Mediterranean (INT 7 -2015)

Scope: Research should contribute to enhance knowledge on SEMCs and the Middle East area in assessing the key factors that affect the former and new leaderships and analysing the main political dynamics of the region in the broader sense of the term (including adjacent regions). It should identify the interconnections between the different countries at the geostrategic level.

Research should assess the role of internal and external actors: political bodies, religious factions, communities, elites and minorities but also the role of other players (Gulf countries, China or Russia) in the geopolitical game. Specific attention should be paid to the role of religions (Sunnis and Shias) and their influence on political factions (such as Wahhabis, Salafis, Islamic movements, Hamas, Hezbollah and Muslim Brotherhood). Their political influence at the country, regional and international levels should be investigated. The current situation and the future of ethnical or religious minorities (Christian minorities, role of different tribes, Kurds, Druzes, Alaouites,...) in the SEMCs and Middle East should also be explored. Research should look at the potential risk of destabilisation of the region and the effects on the population both at national and macro-regional levels (especially studying the question of refugees, migration and relocation as well as the state of women's rights). Research will also identify the role of civil society and the existing cleavages or tensions that may emerge between different groups of the population (such as current and future elites but also the role of both rural and urban citizens and of gender relations) in the geopolitical and political process. Research should also build scenarios about potential developments and futures in the area over the 20 years.

Broad participation of international partners from the Mediterranean region and the Middle East in proposals submitted to this call is strongly encouraged.

The Commission considers that proposals requesting a contribution from the EU of between EUR 1.5 and 2.5 million would allow this specific challenge to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of proposals requesting other amounts.

Expected impact: Research is expected to advance knowledge on the geostrategic and geopolitical developments in the SEMCs and in the Middle East. It will focus on the existing and emerging social, cultural, political, gender and religious factors that affect the region. The topic should also contribute to better understanding of the current and future role of the EU in the region.

Type of action: Research and innovation actions

B. Topics with indirect geographic relevance

1) International cooperation for research infrastructures (INFRASUPP 6 – 2014)

Scope: In this context, the research infrastructure action will focus its activities on international cooperation in three different but complementary ways, as required: bilaterally with a single third country at policy level; multi-laterally with different third countries, targeting specific research and innovation aspects of research infrastructures of common interest in one area of science and technology; multi-laterally with different third countries if a specific effort is required in the context of a specific world class research infrastructure. Support to activities decided in the context of the Group of Senior officials on Global Research Infrastructures may fall in the latter two categories.

Proposals will address one of the following areas:

- Facilitate the development of global research infrastructures and the cooperation of European Research Infrastructures with their non-European counterparts, ensuring their global interoperability and reach, and to pursue international agreements on the reciprocal use, openness or co-financing of infrastructures, on the basis of the recommendations of the Group of Senior Officials on Global Research Infrastructures;

- Support bilateral cooperation on research infrastructures with Africa. The proposal will build on the past experience and achievements gained in the Seventh Framework Programme project PAERIP (Promoting African – European Research Infrastructure Partnerships).

- **Support multi-lateral cooperation with European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) countries and Western Balkan Countries.** The proposal will aim at developing regional roadmaps of research infrastructures jointly with stakeholders and policymakers and help them develop closer cooperation with research infrastructures of pan-European interest through training, data management and trans-national access.

The proposals supporting bilateral and multi-lateral cooperation with research infrastructures in third countries should in particular:

- Identify and promote opportunities (access and data sharing) available to European scientists in these research infrastructures;
- Help developing better coordination and cooperation of European research infrastructures with their non-European counterparts; ensuring their global interoperability and reach, and to pursue international agreements on the reciprocal use, openness or co-financing of infrastructures;
- Exchange good practices between user communities and managers of research infrastructures as regard for instance benchmarking performance of technology platforms, harmonisation of tests, standards, reference materials, interoperability and data handling.

Expected impact:

This activity will help to:

- Develop cooperation with key international partners for research infrastructures;
- Contribute to the development of a competitive high performance ERA in the global research environment;
- Reinforce partnership between the Commission, the Member States and relevant stakeholders in this field;
- Enhance the role of the Union in international organisations and multilateral fora;
- Support progress towards the development of global research infrastructures;
- Contribute to address societal challenges with a global dimension such as climate change;
- Contribute to capacity building and research infrastructures human capital development in targeted/relevant regions.

Type of action: Coordination and support actions

2) Network of National Contact Points (INFRASUPP-8-2014)

Scope: Support will be given to a consortium of formally nominated NCPs in the area of research infrastructures. The activities will be tailored according to the nature of the area, and the priorities of the NCPs concerned. Various mechanisms may be included, such as benchmarking, joint workshops, enhanced cross-border brokerage events, specific training linked to this Part as well as to gender dimension of Research and Innovation, and twinning schemes. Special attention will be given to enhance the competence of NCPs, including helping less experienced NCPs rapidly acquire the know-how accumulated in other countries. The focus throughout should be on issues specific to research infrastructures, and should not duplicate actions foreseen in the NCP network for quality standards and horizontal issues under ‘Science with and for Society’. In particular attention should be given to the promotion of trans-national and virtual access, the synergies with other NCPs networks, and the cooperation with other policy and international cooperation oriented measures for research infrastructures. The proposal should build on the past experience and achievements gained in the Seventh Framework Programme EuroRis-Net+ project. Only NCPs from EU Member States, Associated Countries, European Neighbourhood Policy countries (ENP), African countries, Australia, Canada, Russia and USA, which have been officially appointed by the relevant national authorities, are eligible to participate in and receive funding for this action. The consortium should have a good representation of experienced and less experienced NCPs. Submission of a single proposal is encouraged. **In line with the Union's strategy for international cooperation in research and innovation international cooperation is encouraged, in particular with ENP countries.**

The Commission will only fund one proposal under this heading.

Expected impact:

- Improved and professionalised NCP service across the EU, thereby helping simplify access to Horizon 2020 calls, lowering the entry barriers for newcomers, and raising the average quality of proposals submitted.
- A more consistent level of NCP support services across the EU.

Type of action: Coordination and support actions

3) Sustainable intensification pathways of agro-food systems in Africa (SFS 6 – 2014)

Scope: Proposals should develop further the concept and approach expected to be implemented in the partnership. Feasibility, strategic priorities and action plan should be developed taking full account of present and emerging initiatives at national, EU, African (e.g. CAADP and the forthcoming Science Agenda for Agriculture in Africa) and global level so as to maximise complementarities and synergies. Furthermore, in addition to technological and economic factors, the strategic action plan should also take anthropological and cultural aspects into account. In line with the objectives of the EU strategy for international cooperation in research and innovation and in particular with the implementation of the EU-Africa dialogue, **proposals are encouraged to ensure commitment and participation of a variety of concerned partners established in the EU and in Africa.** The Commission considers that proposals requesting a contribution from the EU in the range of EUR 1 million would allow this specific challenge to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of proposals requesting other amounts.

Expected impact:

- Creation of a long-term research partnership between Europe and Africa, involving potentially Member States and Associated countries and African countries, the related regional organisations (the EU and the African Union) and sub-regional coordination bodies on research and innovation on sustainable intensification pathways in agro-food systems. Creation of opportunities for private sector development;
- Strong contribution to raising sustainable FNS in Africa in the medium term through socio-economic development
- Better delivery and more efficient spending of research funds through synergies and complementarities between the various entities involved.

Type of action: Coordination and support actions

4) Small farms but global markets: the role of small and family farms in food and nutrition security (SFS 18 – 2015)

Scope: Proposals should thoroughly assess the role of family farms and other small food businesses and particularly those with small structures in achieving sustainable FNS, evaluating the means by which such entities could respond to the expected increase in demand for food, feed and fibre under ever scarcer resources, as well as providing evidence and developing tools to guide decision makers in the choice and combination of intensification pathways. Research should identify the optimal enabling environment for small and family farms and businesses to accomplish the aforementioned role on FNS and the multiple dimensions of sustainability with respect to infrastructure, supply chain and governance needs. Foresight activities should be carried out to project the potential weight and role of the aforementioned entities in a few decades' time, regarding the various dimensions of sustainability, including the challenges of less developed countries' growing rural densities. Research work should build upon existing knowledge and take into account activities related to the 2014 International Year of Family Farming and Smallholder Farming. **In line with the objectives of the EU strategy for international cooperation in research and innovation and in particular with the implementation of the EU-Africa dialogue, proposals are encouraged to include third country participants, especially those established in Africa and Asia.**

The Commission considers that proposals requesting a contribution from the EU in the range of EUR 4–5 million would allow this specific challenge to be addressed appropriately.

Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of proposals requesting other amounts.

Expected impact:

- Provide a better understanding of the role of small and family farms and small food businesses in meeting the sustainable FNS challenge (across its various dimensions) encompassing the implications on small and medium size businesses along the supply chain and within the context of demographic developments
- Help better tailoring international cooperation and agricultural research for development to the agro-food sector

- Contribute to policy making for the identification of new development models for the agro-food sector.

Type of action: Research and innovation actions

5) Coordinating and supporting research and innovation in the area of climate action, environment, resource efficiency and raw materials (SC5-19-2014/2015)

Scope: Enhancing European networks to facilitate dialogue among the relevant scientific communities, funding bodies and user communities in the EU throughout the duration of Horizon 2020. Proposals should enhance coordination and synergies, and avoid overlaps, between European and nationally or regionally funded research and innovation actions, and create links with related international programmes, as appropriate.

Proposals shall address only one of the following issues:

a) [2014] Facilitating transnational cooperation between NCPs in Societal Challenge 5: Support will be given to a consortium of formally nominated H2020 NCPs in the area of climate action, environment, resource efficiency and raw materials. The activities will be tailored according to the nature of the area, and the priorities of the NCPs concerned. Various mechanisms may be included, such as benchmarking, joint workshops, enhanced cross-border brokerage events, specific training linked to this Societal Challenge as well as to the gender dimension of research and innovation, and twinning schemes. Special attention will be given to enhancing the competence of NCPs, including helping less experienced NCPs rapidly acquire the know-how accumulated in other countries. The focus throughout should be on issues specific to the climate action, environment, resource efficiency and raw materials Societal Challenge and should not duplicate actions foreseen in the NCP network for quality standards and horizontal issues under 'Science with and for Society'. Only NCPs from EU Member States, Associated Countries and Neighbourhood Policy countries which have been officially appointed by the relevant national authorities are eligible to participate in and receive funding for this action. **In line with the EU's strategy for international cooperation in research and innovation international cooperation is encouraged, in particular with neighbourhood policy countries.**

The consortium should have a good representation of experienced and less experienced NCPs.

Expected impact:

Improved and professionalised NCP service across the EU, thereby helping simplify access to Horizon 2020 calls, lowering the entry barriers for newcomers, and raising the average quality of proposals submitted. A more consistent level of NCP support services across the EU.

Type of action: Coordination and support actions

6) Coordinating and supporting Earth Observation research and innovation in the EU, and in the North African, Middle East, and Balkan region (SC-18-2014/2015)

Scope: Proposals should focus on Earth Observation related research activities with the aim of continuously providing timely and accurate information, forecasts and projections. In line with the EU's strategy for international cooperation in research and innovation⁶³ proposals should contribute to implementing the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) and Copernicus.

Proposals shall address only one of the following issues:

b) [2015] Integrating North African, Middle East and Balkan Earth Observation capacities in GEOSS: integrating, coordinating and supporting initiatives in these countries to deliver Earth Observation information services that will benefit critical economic and social sectors such as tourism, agriculture, transportation, health, research and education, while involving service providers in those sectors. Regional observational systems that are needed to complete GEOSS are of particular importance. In line with the EU's strategy for international cooperation in research and innovation⁶⁶ international cooperation is encouraged, ensuring a sufficient number of international partners from the target region to ensure adequate scale and scope of cooperation.

Expected impact:

Improved food security, access to raw materials and energy, and adaptation to climate change in the North-African, Middle-East, and Balkan regions due to improved Earth Observation data and information services. Rapid re-installation of the required infrastructures by the relevant public services and decision makers. Future investments in this region, leading to sustainable development of resources and activities. Strengthened competitiveness and performance of critical economic and social sectors such as tourism, agriculture, transportation, health, research, and education.

Type of action: Coordination and support actions

7) Strengthening international R&I cooperation in the field of water (WATER-5-2014/2015)

Scope:

c) [2015] Development of water supply and sanitation technology, systems and tools, and/or methodologies to manage risks associated with water supply and sanitation and cross-boundary water management issues, or integrated water resources management systems for sustainable agriculture and food security, sustainable environment protection and economic growth, focused on the non-EU Mediterranean countries and Africa. Proposals should connect to local knowledge, socio-economic development cultures, policy institutions and implementing bodies, and take into account the gender dimension where relevant. **In line with the EU's strategy for international cooperation in research and innovation international cooperation is encouraged, in particular with non-EU Mediterranean countries and Africa.** Proposals should include participation of organisations from the above-mentioned regions.

For sub-topic c), the Commission considers that proposals requesting a contribution from the EU of between EUR 2 and 3 million would allow this specific challenge to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of proposals requesting other amounts.

Expected impacts:

Application of innovative technological approaches/solutions adapted to local conditions, operational and effective application of integrated water management, better identification of water vulnerability by policy makers, advanced regulatory and economic instruments, improved capacity building of local actors, and increased economic and social well-being at local and regional levels in the non-EU Mediterranean countries and Africa. Support to internationally agreed water-related goals, including in the context of the post-2015 development framework and Rio+20 follow up, by bridging the water and sanitation gaps.

Type of action: Research and innovation actions

8) Encouraging the research and innovation cooperation between the Union and selected regional partners (INT 2 – 2014/2015)

Scope: Proposals should target international partners in a regional context and should cover the following set of activities:

- **Encouraging cooperation between research and innovation actors** from the Union and the partner in question, by promoting the opportunities offered by Horizon 2020 towards the international partner. This should include notably the setting up of web-based information systems, but it can also involve the organisation of awareness raising and information dissemination activities or the organisation of brokerage events, conferences or workshops;
- Ensuring that progress is made towards establishing appropriate **framework conditions for international cooperation** between the Union and the partner in question, notably by identifying remaining obstacles for cooperation and by supporting the development of solutions to eliminate these, while jointly promoting measures which facilitate international cooperation (e.g. on open access, scientific visa, IPR, peer review, research integrity etc). Where appropriate, this should include seeking continuous complementarity and coherence with activities of the Strategic Forum for International Cooperation (SFIC).

In this work programme the following regional partners will be targeted: **Southern Mediterranean Neighbourhood (including activities in support of bilateral S&T Agreements with Algeria, Morocco, Jordan)**, Eastern Partnership, the Black Sea region, the Middle-East and Africa. For Africa the proposal will also include support for the implementation of activities agreed within the EU-Africa High Level Policy Dialogue, including by increasing the coordination between the activities and programmes from the Member States, the Associated Countries and the African partners. Proposals

should be made by consortia consisting of balanced partnerships between European and international partners, ensuring adequate involvement of public authorities and other stakeholders (e.g. funding agencies, research organisations, industry, civil society) of the participating countries. On the European side, broad involvement across all Member States and Associated Countries is expected, either within the consortium or through appropriate outreach activities by the consortium to other Member States and Associated States. Broad participation from the targeted region is also strongly encouraged. Proposals should build on the results of existing cooperation initiatives, and in particular those funded through the Seventh Framework Programme Capacities part 'Activities of International Cooperation'.

Type of action: Coordination and support actions

A maximum of one proposal will be supported per international partner region from the list provided above. The Commission considers that proposals requesting a Union contribution of EUR 1.95 million per proposal for a duration of three years would allow this specific challenge to be addressed appropriately for the proposals targeting Africa and the Southern Mediterranean Neighbourhood. For the proposals targeting the Eastern Partnership and the Black Sea region, the Commission considers that proposals requesting a Union contribution of EUR 1.5 million per proposal for a duration of three years would allow this specific challenge to be addressed appropriately. For the proposals targeting the Middle East, the Commission considers that a proposal requesting a Union contribution of EUR 1 million for a duration of three years would allow this specific challenge to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of proposals requesting other amounts.

9) The European Union, Turkey and its wider neighbourhood: challenges and opportunities (INT 9-2015)

Scope: Research should analyse the economic, social, political and geostrategic challenges and opportunities - for Turkey itself and for the EU - of further integration of Turkey with the EU, taking into account the different forms this collaboration could take. Different scenarios and their consequences should be analysed, from the point of view of the strategic interests of both the EU and Turkey. This should include both internal and external dimensions, as well as the analysis of impacts on relations with other global powers and with other world regions, in particular the Middle East, the South and East Mediterranean, and the Caucasus. Research should also explore the potential consequences of a lack of progress in building stronger ties between Turkey and the EU. **Broad participation of partners from Turkey and its wider neighbourhood countries in proposals submitted to this call is strongly encouraged.**

The Commission considers that proposals requesting a contribution from the EU of between EUR 1.5 and 2.5 million would allow this specific challenge to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of proposals requesting other amounts.

Expected impact: Research is expected to advance theoretical and practical debates on the different scenarios, and their implications, of the potential further integration of Turkey with the EU and to provide the analysis of the challenges and opportunities associated with this process. It will make a critical assessment of the evolution of EU relations with Turkey in the last decades as well as how they were affected by the shifting global order and the rise of Turkey as a regional power. These activities will contribute to a better understanding of the challenges facing the EU neighbourhood and enlargement policies as well as will provide evidence base to support them.

Type of action: Research and innovation actions