EUREC POSITION PAPER – TOWARDS FP9 (HORIZON EUROPE)

EUBCE Workshop: Bioenergy Towards 2030

Rainer Janssen
WIP Renewable Energies, Managing Director Projects
EUREC President

Greg Arrowsmith, EUREC Policy Advisor

EUREC – The Association of European Renewable Energy Research Centres
(www.eurec.be)
FP9 to be known officially as Horizon Europe

EC’s proposals expected on 6 June

Overall budget for FP9

- EC proposes €87 bn in 2018 prices
- Up from €77 bn in current prices for Horizon 2020
- European Parliament had called for €120 bn
- NB context of Brexit (UK = net contributor)

Broader budget headings

- Budget headings within HE will be broader than within H2020
- No budget line for “Energy”; instead only one for a “Climate, Energy and Mobility” Cluster
- Possibly 35% for climate-relevant work in Horizon Europe, like in Horizon 2020.
The budget: our view

- European Parliament has said “increase energy’s share of total Framework Programme spending by 50% relative” (i.e. from roughly 7% to 10.5% of the total)
- If funding for “energy” in Horizon Europe is mixed with funding for “climate” and “mobility”, how may the EC comply with this guidance?
- We need monitoring of spending as contracts are signed
  - To track trends in spending
  - To compare with national trends
  - To facilitate a debate on the trends
- Taxpayers like to know how their money is spent
Horizon Europe novelty: “Missions”

- Horizon Europe will refer to “Missions”
- They should…
  - …“set ambitious, targeted and time-bound objectives.”
  - …“encourage investment and participation across multiple sectors […], policy areas […], disciplines […] actors”
- Rumour: they “will form part of the work programmes covering Global Challenges” [i.e. the part where energy is], governed by a Mission Board
- EUREC’s idea for a mission: “a 100% renewable energy city” by 2030
- …reflected in EC’s advisor Mariana Mazzucato’s idea: “100 carbon neutral cities by 2030”
EXPECT AN OVERHAUL OF ‘PARTNERSHIPS’ – KEEP ETIPS IN ANY CASE

EC says, “Partnerships will be improved building on the success of Joint Undertakings and linked with specific missions.”

- Our message to EC: keep ETIPs during the Horizon Europe era
- Their representative composition equips them well to suggest R&D priorities
- Increase their power to influence the Work Programme
- EUREC activity: CSA proposal that would allow ETIPs to examine the balance they wish to strike between control over EC money and the commitment to spend on R&D.
PRESCRIPTIVE CALLS HELP SUCCESS RATES & JUSTIFY EXISTENCE OF ETIPS

Horizon Europe needs focused calls

- Open calls attract many proposals, increasing competition for funding and driving down success rates
- Two-stage applications with a tough first stage can reduce the wasted effort preparing applications
- But they increase time-to-grant by months…
- … and even the first stage is often a lot of effort to prepare

Use discussions among stakeholders in ETIPs to narrow the field of possible topics

- This is one of ETIPs’ main jobs!
In Horizon 2020, different energy technologies were ranked together in the same list

- Obvious difficulty: closely ranked proposals can’t be meaningfully compared
- The EC created work-arounds…
  - Deviation from the ranked list possible to spread money between technologies
  - Quality-controller role in evaluations for consistency

Reducing the number of call topics is not a simplification when it leads to the combining of ranking lists
REFORM ‘PUBLIC-PUBLIC PARTNERSHIPS’

Reduce ERA-NET-COFUND

• Under ERA-NET-COFUND, Member States and countries associated to Horizon 2020 organise a joint call for proposals in a particular area, choosing the topics and performing the evaluation

• Framework Programme money funds the projects selected from the calls + admin

Burdensome compared to direct funding under the Framework Programme

• Infrastructure for the call is potentially created anew with every ERA-NET-COFUND contract

• Delicate negotiation on who gets the EC grant: countries that give most to the COFUND, or countries in most need of top-up?

• Countries find it difficult to predict their cost reimbursement from the EC
GREATER ATTENTION TO IMPACT IN ‘HORIZON EUROPE’

“Oblige projects supported with EU funding to communicate on successful results until 4 years after the closure of the project.”

- Send in teams to interview key project managers 2 and 4 years after end of the project
- Compare with the claims made in ‘Impact’ section of the proposal

Hardware created from demonstration projects must continue to be exploited beyond the end of the Framework Programme

- Final payment = conditional on a contract between the original members of the consortium and the operator who would take ownership and responsibility for the hardware
Stage-gates mean the “restructuring or termination of funding [to projects] if agreed milestones are not reached”

- Were applied occasionally in Horizon 2020: e.g. ‘ocean array’ call LCE-15-2016 and current topic LC-SC3-RES-2-2018

**EUREC supports them**

- Keeps projects on their toes
- Allows funding of riskier projects because evaluators know a mechanism exists to exit to the project if it’s going wrong

**EC has promised an “increased use of lump sum project funding against fulfilment of activities will be explored”**
THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION

Contact

Rainer Janssen, rainer.janssen@wip-munich.de

Greg Arrowsmith, arrowsmith@eurec.be

EUREC – Renewable Energy Projects Catalogue 2017

EUREC FP9 Position Paper