



# Alliance for Biomedical Research in Europe

## Horizon 2020's opportunities and challenges

### The biomedical research perspective

The Alliance for Biomedical Research in Europe (BioMed Alliance) is committed to promoting excellence in European biomedical research and innovation. As such, the BioMed Alliance represents an important stakeholder in the context of the interim evaluation of Horizon 2020.

With a view to actively help shape the future of European research and innovation, the BioMed Alliance conducted an online survey in 2015, targeted towards (both successful and unsuccessful) Horizon 2020 applicants belonging to one of its 24 member societies. The survey aimed at obtaining applicants' feedback regarding their experience with Horizon 2020 throughout the whole project lifecycle (from the application phase to the implementation of the project proposal). Based on the responses received, the BioMed Alliance has compiled a set of recommendations.

We hope that these will help to further improve upon Horizon 2020 during its last few years. In addition, our recommendations can help to inform the preparatory work for the successor to Horizon 2020.

### **BioMed Alliance recommendations for the future of EU research and innovation**

The BioMed Alliance survey results highlight both opportunities and challenges for EU research and innovation programmes.

#### *Opportunities*

The value of Horizon 2020 is greatly appreciated within the biomedical research community. The programme brings together leading medical researchers across different disciplines and funds projects that impact significantly upon patients' lives. Therefore, the BioMed Alliance calls upon European decision-makers to stand up for research framework programmes, fight for proper funding and put biomedical research high on the political agenda. Biomedical research is a driving force for economic success and raises the level of excellence and competitiveness in Europe to the benefit of European citizens.

#### *Challenges*



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The BioMed survey provides useful data for the upcoming evaluation of the H2020 program and points towards a need for:

- **A blended approach between broader and more specific calls**
- **Two stage applications wherever possible**
- **A more rigorous selection of applications going to the second round would decrease the expenses during the application process**
- **A more rigorous selection of reviewers to evaluate projects**
- **A more comprehensive feedback in the context of proposal evaluations (allowing unsuccessful applicants to improve upon their proposals)**
- **Further improving upon the efficiency of the application process**

## **About BioMed Alliance:**

The Alliance for Biomedical Research in Europe (BioMed Alliance, <http://www.biomedeuropa.org>) is the result of a unique initiative of leading European medical societies that together include more than 400,000 researchers and health professionals. The BioMed Alliance was created in 2010 to gather strength across different disciplines and areas in biomedical and health research at European level.

## **BioMed Alliance's members:**

European Association for the Study of Diabetes (EASD), European Association for the Study of the Liver (EASL), European Association of Nuclear Medicine (EANM), European Atherosclerosis Society (EAS), European Cancer Organisation (ECCO), European College of Neuropsychopharmacology (ECNP), Federation of European Biochemical Societies (FEBS), European Federation of Immunological Societies (EFIS), European Academy of Neurology (EAN), European Hematology Association (EHA), European League Against Rheumatism, (EULAR), European Respiratory Society (ERS), European Society for Paediatric Research (ESPR), European Society of Anaesthesiology (ESA), European Society of Cardiology (ESC), European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology (ESHRE), United European Gastroenterology (UEG), European Academy for Allergy and Clinical Immunology (EAACI), European Society of Pathology (ESP), European Society of Endocrinology (ESE), European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer (EORTC), European Society for Molecular Imaging (ESMI), European Association for the Study of Obesity (EASO), The European Society for Paediatric Gastroenterology Hepatology and Nutrition (ESPGHAN).

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