

## Call for Actions

### to support uptakes of Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe projects' results in the transport sector

published by the Task Force on Accelerating Innovation Uptake for Sustainable Transport<sup>1</sup>:



EU funded research and innovation (R&I) projects in the transport sector have played an important role in advancing innovations, accelerating digitalisation, providing more inclusive services, reducing emissions and pollution, improving efficiency, and strengthening competitiveness. Such R&I projects have also created opportunities for cooperation among various stakeholders, enabled new business models and even created new enterprises. Dissemination and exploitation have always been an important part of R&I projects. Although all project proposals have already included dissemination and exploitation plans, it has been noted that not all project results have been exploited and, eventually, expected societal impacts may not be delivered.

To address this issue, the European Commission (EC) has requested that all Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe projects should plan their dissemination and exploitation activities beyond EU funding ending. Following finishing of the Horizon 2020 program (2014 – 2020), Horizon Results Platform<sup>2</sup> and Horizon Results Boosters<sup>3</sup> dedicating to exploitation of Horizon 2020 projects have been set up. In addition, various support schemes are available for follow-up steps, e.g. national programmes, InnovFin<sup>4</sup>, EFSI<sup>5</sup>, Regional Funds, Enterprise Europe Network (EEN), European Intellectual Property (IP) Helpdesk<sup>6</sup>.

**We call on all project beneficiaries, associations with interests in the Horizon Europe Programme, and EC to take actions in support uptakes of R&I project outcomes to realise full potential of innovation in the transport sector:**

1. For all project beneficiaries and those who are interested in the Horizon Europe Programme:
  - To collect and showcase successful uptake of past EU funded R&I projects, aiming to raising awareness and giving project beneficiaries ambitions to create successful

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<sup>1</sup> The Task Force was launched in December 2021. More information can be found: <https://www.etp-logistics.eu/launch-of-the-task-force/>

<sup>2</sup> Horizon 2020 Results Platform - Making Result Matter: <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/horizon-results-platform>

<sup>3</sup> Horizon Results Booster: <https://www.horizonresultsbooster.eu/>

<sup>4</sup> InnovFin: EU finance for innovators: <https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en/h2020-section/access-risk-finance>

<sup>5</sup> Enterprise Europe Network (EEN): <https://een.ec.europa.eu/>

<sup>6</sup> European Intellectual Property (IP) helpdesk: [https://intellectual-property-helpdesk.ec.europa.eu/regional-helpdesks/european-ip-helpdesk\\_en](https://intellectual-property-helpdesk.ec.europa.eu/regional-helpdesks/european-ip-helpdesk_en)

business (e.g. start-ups) and breakthrough innovation beyond winning a project and completing tasks of the project.

- To develop guidelines based on successful examples, and provide training and capacity building to project beneficiaries to help them design proposals, implement projects and further exploitation of project results to achieve real impact.
2. Before project phase (proposal preparation phase):
    - To require information in a proposal on consortium members' experiences in exploitation of previous projects (instead of list of relevant projects)
    - To encourage consortium members to include business and marketing experts in project teams rather than a team consisting of only project manager and researchers
    - To continue simplification of proposal preparation and project management to enable new organisations and experts to join R&I project teams
    - To form a proposal consortium together all type of stakeholders who may help in exploitation, particularly with end user of project results to define, develop and pilot innovative solutions, thus advancing uptake of project results
    - To encourage and advocate for industry experts who are familiar with marketing and sectors' technical development to be experts for proposal evaluation.
  3. During project phase:
    - To provide guidance on exploitation and continuously assess progress of a project based on their efforts to implement results throughout the entire project period
    - To advocate for synchronisation of funding opportunities (EU, regional and national schemes) to enable project results on various levels of Technology Readiness Levels (TRL) to access funding for uptake of project results. Good practices have been identified in supporting FP7 and Horizon 2020 projects to apply for Innovation Fund. Calls of funding schemes for applications should take into account timelines of ongoing R&I projects to enable them to prepare for application during the project periods.
    - To disseminate funding and investment opportunities to project beneficiaries and support them to prepare for applications through training and capacity building
  4. Post project phase:
    - To systematically collect information on project beneficiaries' exploitation results of previous projects, e.g. requiring each beneficiary to complete a questionnaire a few years after end of a project; such activity can on a voluntary basis. However, EC can evaluate performance of project beneficiaries on exploitation and provide training and guidelines to those who have not successfully implemented their exploitation plans committed in Descriptions of the Action (DoA).
    - To cooperate with regional and national funding schemes to support capitalisation of R&I project results and understand impacts and benefits of R&I projects at a local level
    - To facilitate industry associations, research membership organisations and city/region networks to evaluate short and long-term impacts of R&I projects in the transport sector, cities/regions and beyond.

Note: exploitation covers a wide range of subjects, e.g. new products, new services, new start-ups, but also new policies, new syllabus as well publications etc.