People's Republic of China – Country Page

1. Available national programmes or funds that could provide support to Horizon Europe participants from the People's Republic of China.

The EU Research and Innovation Framework Programme 'Horizon Europe' (HE) offers many cooperation opportunities for the participation of entities from across the world ("open by default"), and many topics are marked as being specifically relevant for international cooperation or target specific countries and/or regions and multilateral organisations.

In the case of China, a **distinction has to be made between participation and funding**. Chinese participants are not automatically eligible for funding by HE for their participation in collaborative projects (Pillar 2 of HE and the actions Pathfinder and Transition under Pillar 3 on the European Innovation Council (EIC)), and thus have to bear the cost of their participation. This could be internal/institutional funding or funding received from Chinese ministries or agencies, from foundations and other organisations, which fund Chinese participants in international research and innovation actions with European partners. On exceptional basis, HE could provide funding for Chinese entities.

Under Horizon 2020, the Chinese government had established co-funding mechanisms (CFMs) to support financially the participation of successful Chinese entities in the programme. Following the signature on 22 April 2022 of an Administrative Arrangement between the European Commission and the Ministry of Science and Technology of China (MOST), **the Chinese government has set a new co-funding mechanism (CFM) for the participation in Horizon Europe** for the period 2021-2024. This CFM will support collaborative research projects under two jointly agreed research flagship initiatives on **Food, Agriculture and Biotechnology** (FAB flagship) and **Climate Change and Biodiversity** (CCB flagship). The exact terms and conditions of the MOST CFM will be published by the Ministry of Science and Technology of the People's Republic of China on its website in due time. In General, MOST publishes twice a year (usually April and October) the 'Inter-governmental Science and Technology Innovation (STI) Cooperation Special Programme' of the National Key R&D Programme, which groups all bilateral STI cooperation programmes, including that with the EU on Chinese participation in Horizon Europe (see 国家科技管理信息系统公共服务平台 (most.gov.cn)).

The topics developed under the flagship initiative reflect the interests of both sides, have been jointly drafted, and focus on research with low technological development, in line with the EU-China A Strategic Outlook Communication of 2019, the 2021 Global Approach to Research and Innovation

Communication and the ongoing discussions on the **Joint Roadmap for the Future of EU-China Cooperation in Science, Technology, and Innovation**, aimed at bringing forth the advancement of a fair innovation ecosystem, defined by reciprocity and a level-playing field while respecting fundamental values and high ethical and science integrity standards.

Food, Agriculture and Biotechnology flagship (FAB) in Horizon Europe

Topics under the FAB flagship are the continuation of the collaboration under Horizon Europe Work Programmes 2021-2022, and are expected to be part of the Horizon Europe Work Programmes 2023-24 (under preparation) and China's 'Inter-governmental Science and Technology Innovation (STI) Cooperation Special Programme' of the National Key R&D Programme.

Climate Change and Biodiversity flagship (CCB) in Horizon Europe

Topics under the CCB flagship are expected to be part of the EU's Horizon Europe Work Programmes 2023-24 (under preparation) and China's 'Inter-governmental Science and Technology Innovation (STI) Cooperation Special Programme' of the National Key R&D Programme.

Mobility of Researchers

Successful Chinese researchers in individual grant or fellowship actions under the European Research Council (ERC) and the Postdoctoral Fellowships under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA), are funded by Horizon Europe. Organisations based in China can also participate in the MSCA Doctoral Networks, the MSCA Staff Exchanges and COFUND, but have to bear the cost of their participation.

For the actions in which entities from China have to bring their own funding, including the flagship initiatives, the Chinese participants are considered as 'Associated Partner' (and thus have no obligation to sign the EU grant agreement).

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ERC-NSFC Implementing arrangement

The Implementing Arrangement signed in June 2015 between the European Commission and the NSFC continues to offer support for Chinese NSFC grantees to ERC-funded projects (for such opportunities, see the relevant contact points for NSFC):

Contacts:

NSFC

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Ms. SHEN Jie, Email: shenjie@nsfc.gov.cn, Tel: +86.10.62327017

European Research Council

For any general questions related to the ERC and about the implementation of these programmes, please send your email to: ERC-IMPLEMENTING-ARRANGEMENTS@ec.europa.eu

Or check the link:

https://erc.europa.eu/sites/default/files/document/file/agreement_ERC_NSFC_en.pdf

2. Useful links

- **Ministry of Science and Technology of the People's Republic of China:** 中华人民共和国科学技术部 (most.gov.cn); Ministry of Science and Technology of the People's Republic of China (most.gov.cn)
- **Delegation of the European Union to China:** China | EEAS Website (europa.eu)
- **Niall Lawlor**, Science Counsellor, Research & Innovation, Delegation of the European Union to China. Niall.LAWLOR@eeas.europa.eu
- **Vojko Bratina**, Policy Officer, Chargé de mission, Delegation of the European Union to China. Vojko.BRATINA@eeas.europa.eu

- https://op.europa.eu/en/web/eu-law-and-publications/publication-detail/-/publication/3f5d8bd9-d358-11eb-ac72-01aa75ed71a1

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Publications Office of the European Union

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