

# The community of practice of Welsh experts and evaluators



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

The Horizon 2020 programme is more competitive than its predecessor Framework Programme 7 and previous models of working are not always successful. We believe that efforts working collaboratively will return greater success and sustainable impact than individual endeavours. The Horizon 2020 Unit therefore encourages intra-Wales cooperation ('Team Wales') focussed on maximising the amount of Horizon 2020 and other related funds won by Welsh organisations. By doing this the prospects of individuals and individual organisations will also improve.

Our aim is to establish a forum of willing experts and evaluators to share knowledge and best practice, raise awareness of opportunities and identify ways of supporting an increase in the success of Welsh organisations in accessing Horizon 2020. This activity is also expected to lead to an increase in the number of active experts and evaluators from Wales.

## What are the benefits of being involved?

The extent of the benefits that can arise is dependent on the level of enthusiasm and participation of those involved. The trade-offs participation can offer to individuals and their respective organisations include:

- The opportunity to engage and form partnerships with a community of like-minded individuals from different organisations and areas of expertise;
- Access to a platform for sharing key information and statistics on a range of subjects relating to the Horizon 2020 programme, and informing its dissemination to the wider H2020 community;
- The opportunity to develop a collective position on key issues to help influence decision makers (including on EU transition);
- The opportunity to learn from others' experiences, to highlight individual difficulties encountered and discuss potential solutions;
- The opportunity to identify new mechanisms and influence existing mechanisms for supporting Welsh organisations looking to access Horizon 2020;
- An opportunity for early career researchers to gain an insight into Horizon 2020 evaluating and the world of competitive research funding from those with existing experience.

## Who should get involved?

We would welcome participation from:

- Individuals who are happy to share their experience of previous Framework Programmes and Horizon 2020 and/or other relevant research and innovation funds; and
- Representatives of clusters, communities or organisations that are active in Horizon 2020 (the representatives will need to be able to actively participate in discussions)

Members can be from the public, private or third sectors and should contribute to the collaborative nature of the group. To encourage the free flow of information for the benefit of Wales there is a presumption against membership from organisations or individuals who provide a for profit service for advice on Horizon 2020.

## How will it work?

The Welsh Government's Horizon 2020 Unit will facilitate the community of practice but does not propose to set the agenda for its activity. Rather, we hope that the community evolves to take collective ownership of its format and directs its efforts towards activities it considers best suited to meet the overall aim.

We recognise that time constraints exist which may limit participation and we are open to the use of varied means of engagement to ensure that the right people are able to participate to a level and in a manner that fits around existing commitments.

Engagement mechanisms can include: attending face-to-face meetings, video conferencing, two-way exchange of written information, or contributing to bespoke workshops.

## Join us

The community of practice has already met and had some very useful discussions and openly shared information. Get in touch if you are willing / able to engage with us:

[Horizon2020@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Horizon2020@wales.gsi.gov.uk)

**Please feel free to share this document within your organisation and networks.**