



# Overview on *Big Data* funding opportunities in EU

## EU-US Cooperation agreements

The United States of America (US) are a long standing partner of the European Union (EU). For research and innovation, the cooperation between the EU and the US is governed by the "Agreement for Scientific and Technological Cooperation" that was originally signed in 1998, renewed four times for 5 years each time, and is now valid until October 2018. In June 2013, an independent review of the current [agreement](#) has been published by the Commission.

In October 2016, an [Implementing Arrangement](#) has been published by both the European Commission and the Government of the United States of America, which simplifies cooperation between a selected EU-funded project and a US entity by enabling researchers to organise their cooperation outside the formal Grant Agreement signed for each project with the European Commission, in accordance with applicable laws, rules, policies, and regulations of their respective funding programmes in EU and US.

The following chapter will then focus on Big Data open opportunities in Horizon 2020, the European research and innovation framework programme (<http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/>). It will describe the research and innovation stakeholders' ecosystem existing around this priority area, and the funding streamlines that will be object of Calls for Proposals under Horizon 2020 programme.

## European Strategic framework

A recent study commissioned by demosEUROPA estimates that Big and Open Data will contribute to an additional EU-28 GDP of 206 billion € by the year 2020, with a profound societal impact in almost all sector of applications. Advancements among key industrial ecosystems such as the data

value chain are strategic objectives outlined in the [Communication](#) adopted in July 2014, drawing on the prospects offered by Big Data technologies, as well as the [Public Sector Information \(PSI\) directive](#). The overall aim is to provide professionals and citizens with new tools to create, access, exploit, preserve and re-use all forms of digital content in any language and to model, analyze and visualize vast amounts of data (big data), including linked data.

In order to sustain the Big Data growth, Europe needs to foster, strengthen and support the development and wide adoption of Big Data Value technologies, successful use cases and data-driven business models. At the same time, it is necessary to deal with many different aspects of an increasingly complex landscape, such as i. Skills development, ii. Business Models and Ecosystems, iii. Policy, Regulation and Standardization, iv. Social perceptions and societal implications.



To achieve these goals, the [European contractual Public Private Partnership on Big Data Value \(BDV PPP\)](#) was signed on 13 October 2014. The European Commission and Europe's data industry have committed to invest €2.5 billion in a public-private partnership (PPP) that aims to strengthen the data sector and put Europe at the forefront of the global data race. The EU has earmarked over €500 million of investment over 5 years (2016-2020) from Horizon 2020 which private partners are expected to match at least four times over (€2 billion).

In January 2017 the BDV PPP has outlined [the Big Data Value Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda \(BDV SRIA v.3.0\)](#), which defines the overall goals, main technical and non-technical priorities, and a research and innovation roadmap by 2020.





## Funding opportunities under Horizon 2020 Programme

The strategy on Big Data outlined above relied on a coordinated action plan involving Member States and the EU so as to guarantee the necessary scope and scale of the activities. The envisaged actions resulted in:

- a) support "lighthouse" data initiatives capable of improving competitiveness, quality of public services and citizen's life; develop enabling technologies, underlying infrastructures and skills, particularly to the benefit of SMEs;
- b) extensively share, use and develop its public data resources and research data infrastructures;
- c) focus public R&I on technological, legal and other bottlenecks;
- d) make sure that the relevant legal framework and the policies are data-friendly;
- e) accelerate the digitization of public administration and services to increase their efficiency, and use public procurement to bring the results of data technologies to the market.

These results will be achieved by a comprehensive strategy to overcome technical challenges related to:

- *Data Management*, engineering the management of data;
- *Data Processing Architectures*, optimized architectures for analytics both data at rest and in motion with low latency delivering real-time analytics;
- *Deep Analytics*, deep analytics to improve data understanding, deep learning, meaningfulness of data;
- *Data Protection and Preservation Mechanism*, to make data owners comfortable about sharing data in an experimental setting;
- *Data Visualization and User Experience*, to enable intelligent visualization of complex information relying on enhanced user experience and usability.

## US Participation Conditions

In most cases, US beneficiaries, as industrialized countries, are not eligible to receive EC contribution and are required to cover the costs they will incur in during the project. In these cases, the European Commission has established standard (invariable) text provisions that may be included to facilitate arrangements. If a grant applicant can convincingly demonstrate that without the participation of a US partner the objectives or impact of the proposal cannot be achieved, the EC can allow the US partner to access funding.

### Calls for Proposals

The Calls for Proposals under Horizon 2020 Work Programme on Information and Communication Technologies will be launched by September 2017, within the adoption of the H2020 WP LEIT ICT 2018-20.

More information at: [link](#)

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