



**EuroMix**  
in the context of H2020

Kick-off Meeting  
20-21 May 2015, Bilthoven – NL

**Adelma DI BIASIO**  
European Commission - Research Executive Agency (REA)  
Unit B2- Sustainable Resources for Food Security & Growth



**Research Executive Agency (REA)**

- The REA started in 2009 as an executive agency of the European Commission
- Mission:
  - Provide efficient and effective service
  - Ensure tangible impact through research
  - Increase visibility of the EU
- Broad spectrum of activities with applicants, beneficiaries, experts;
- Staff: more than 550 persons
- Budget share in Programme management:
  - 12% in FP7
  - 18% in H2020





## REA's Activities

Research Programme  
Implementation

Support services

H2020 implementation

Evaluation support

FP7 management

Participant validation\*

Handling of evaluators

Horizon 2020 Helpdesk

\*For the whole research  
family and beyond



## REA – Unit B2

- **REA - B2 unit** is implementing the H2020 Societal Challenge 2 - **Food Security, Sustainable Agriculture and Forestry, Marine, Maritime and Inland Water Research and the Bioeconomy** by:
  - Coordinating evaluations of submitted proposals under H2020 SC 2
  - Preparing Grant Agreements for projects delegated to REA
  - Monitoring project implementation, approving payments and implementing audit results
  - Reporting to DG Research and Innovation and DG Agriculture and Rural Development in issues related to H2020 SC 2 program implementation





## EuroMix in the context of H2020-SFS12

- The EuroMix project is a very ambitious initiative, which is considered important for EU because will:
  1. Develop an experimentally verified strategy for the risk assessment of mixture of multiple chemicals derived from multiple sources across different life stages
  2. Support the EU policies
  3. Promote innovation, dissemination and harmonisation of the approach
- The project is based on a large and diverse consortium from EU and non-EU countries;
- The impact of EuroMix project is expected to be very high - this was highlighted in the Evaluation Summary Report – 5 points for Impact;
- The methodologies and conceptual framework need further attention during planification and implementation phases



## Grant Agreement (GA) arrangements

- Very good collaboration with Coordinator – JACOB during preparation of Grant Agreement and signature of the contract;
- Large consortium = possible difficulties in project coordination. The role of the Coordinator and Beneficiaries is defined in H2020 Grant Agreement;
- Responsible institution for monitoring of the Grant Agreement implementation is REA – UNIT B2, which is the EC contact point in relation to the project;
- Close collaboration between REA and policy institutions such as DG RTD and DG AGRI





## EU staff involved in EuroMix project

- The contact point for EC is the Project Officer:  
Adelma Di Biasio (adelma.di-biasio@ec.europa.eu);
- The Project Officer should be included in all communication with other EC services both on project management and policy issues;
- There is also an Administrative and Financial Officer:  
Danielle Epis (danielle.epis@ec.europa.eu) involved mainly in financial reporting and administrative activities;
- There is a Policy Officer from DG Research and Innovation:  
Cathy Eccles(catherine.eccles@ec.europa.eu);



## Paperless documents in H2020

- **Access on the Participant Portal**  
**NEW! = single submission & single rejection**
- Technical report and all financial statements are submitted by the coordinator as a "single package"
  - "If a beneficiary does not include its related financial statement in a periodic report, the costs will be considered 'zero' for this reporting period but the beneficiary can declare its costs with the next financial report (next reporting period)."
- **Full package rejected** if one document requires changes or corrections





## Amendments in H2020

- Your electronic amendment requests is done in the Participant Portal.
- The amendment electronic request will be based on the latest legal data
- The amendment request is drafted in several stages:

The coordinator launches the request and completes all amendment data.

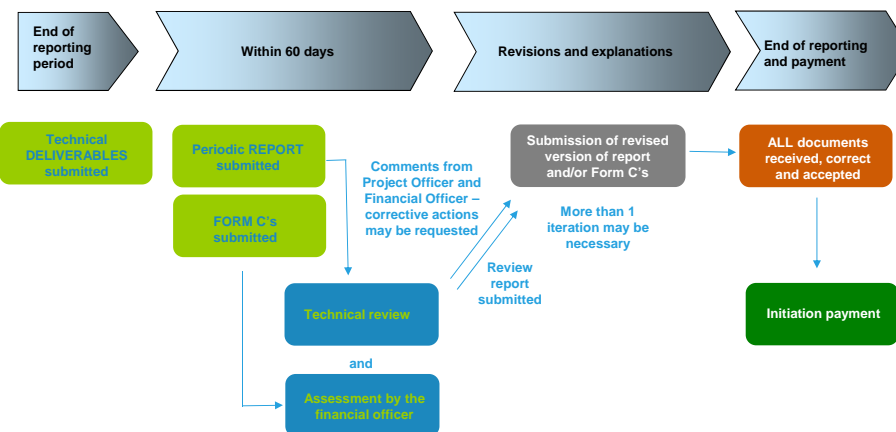
The Project Legal Signatory electronically signs and submits the request.

The EC Services:

- accept (and countersign the request)
- Or
- reject (and upload a rejection letter)



## Reporting cycle





## Technical Reviews

- **Planned at the end of each reporting period**
  - Usually the review takes place 2 or 3 weeks after the submission of the reporting package
  - The review is better to be combined with the progress meeting
  - Participation of the coordinator, participation of WP leaders to be discussed on a case-by-case basis
- **Present the work carried out, the main achievements and the use of the resources**
- **REA is assisted by external reviewers (independent experts)**



## Some advice for financial management

- Personnel Costs: **KEEP TIME RECORDS** of the hours worked on the action (if not working full time on an EU project)
- Meetings: collect participants' signatures (especially if you reimburse or claim travel costs)
- Any **subcontracting**?
  - *If you need a subcontract which is not planned in the Description of Action, **ask prior approval to EC Project Officer***
- **If one partner overspends**, it is up to the coordinator to decide how much the partner can **claim as EU contribution** (i.e. full amount if the overspending is due to anticipated work, or only the budget share agreed for the reporting period and lower than the amount which could be claimed).



## Communication and dissemination

- **Increased importance of communication**
  - Communication plan and work package in the project (article 38.1 of GA)
  - The communication activities must make known the research activities to multiple audiences and address the public perspective of EU research and innovation funding
  - Inform us in advance of communication activities expected to have a major media impact
- Communication  $\neq$  Dissemination
- **Dissemination** (GA article 29) is a separate obligation (e.g. through scientific articles and conferences)

**Communicating EU research and innovation for project participants:**  
[http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/other/gm/h2020-guide-comm\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/other/gm/h2020-guide-comm_en.pdf)



## Open Research Data Pilot in Horizon 2020

- **Voluntary** basis for Societal Challenge 2  $\equiv$  **Data Management Plan**
- **Types of data concerned:**
  - Data (including associated metadata) needed to validate the results presented in scientific publications ("**underlying data**")
  - Other data (including associated **metadata**) as specified in data management plan (DMP)
- Beneficiaries participating in the Pilot will:
  - Deposit this data in a research **data repository** of their choice
  - Take measures to make it possible to access, mine, exploit, reproduce and disseminate free of charge (using e.g. Creative Commons **licences**)
  - Provide information about **tools and instruments** at the disposal of the beneficiaries and necessary for validating the results (where possible, provide the tools and instruments themselves)





## Some advices

- Read **EC documents** related to the project (you can find 80% of the potential answers there)
- Keep **records and other supporting documentation** in order to prove the proper implementation and the costs declared as eligible
- **Never wait until the last minute** for reporting to the coordinator and to Research Executive Agency
- **Communication** is essential for everybody
- If problems occur **share** them!
- If something positive (success story) **share it!**

For additional guidance: [http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/docs/h2020-funding-guide/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/docs/h2020-funding-guide/index_en.htm)



## A succesfull project implementation!

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