International Cooperation in Horizon 2020

EU and Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam
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## Societal Challenges

**Horizon 2020 Pillar:** Societal Challenges  
**Programme:** Climate action, environment, resource efficiency and raw materials  
**Activity/Topic:** Multi-stakeholder dialogue platform to promote innovation with nature to address societal challenges  
**Call Identifier:** H2020-SC5-2016-2017  
**Topic Identifier:** SC5-10-2016  
**Topic Title:** Greening the Economy  
**Deadline(s):** 08.03.2016

**Participant Portal Weblink:**
http://ec.europA.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/topics/2209-sc5-10-2016.html

**Specific Challenges:** Nature-based solutions have a large – but largely untapped – potential for delivering multiple ecosystem services (such as carbon sequestration and soil water retention and purification) contributing to green growth, climate action and territory resilience. To promote innovating with nature and speed up market up-taking of nature-based solutions for solving societal challenges there is a need to establish science-policy-business-society interfaces to allow for continuous dialogue and interaction. Such interfaces can take the form of multi-level partnerships, which bring together multi-disciplinary scientific expertise, policy, business and society, including NGOs, CSOs, and citizens as appropriate.

**Scope:** The EU multi-stakeholder innovation platform should aim to develop an integrated evidence base and a European reference framework on nature-based solutions and to promote the co-design, testing and deployment of improved and innovative nature-based solutions in an integrated way and at multiple scales and levels (from European to national, regional and local). This can be best achieved through strategic, effective and sustained dialogue, interactions and exchanges between science, policy, business and society to mainstream both the available knowledge into policy making and practice, and the needs of policy makers and practitioners into research and innovation policy and agendas. The platform must take due account of the outcomes of the large-scale demonstration projects to be funded under the Nature-based solutions for territorial resilience part of this call as well as those on sustainable cities through nature-based solutions funded under the Smart and Sustainable Cities call in part 17 of this Work Programme. It should also create synergies with other highly relevant ongoing (such as the Biodiversa ERA-net[http://www.biodiversa.org/]) or upcoming (such as the EU Mechanism for Biodiversity and Ecosystem services[[Horizon 2020 Work Programme SC5-10c-2015: Coordinating and supporting research and innovation for the management of natural resources: An EU support mechanism for evidence-based policy on biodiversity & ecosystems services.]] initiatives.

**Actions should:**
- establish a broad multi-stakeholder (science, policy, business, society, including SMEs, public and private investors) and multi-level (local, regional, national and EU) innovation platform that facilitates the development of committed innovation partnerships for testing and deploying improved and innovative nature-based solutions (think-and-do-tank);
• steer dialogue to identify specific domains and priorities where further research and innovation is needed for marketable nature-based solutions;
• identify, communicate (e.g. by developing appropriate handbooks) and promote successful innovative nature-based solutions, including best practices, to foster their large scale deployment;
• identify potential regulatory, economic and technical barriers and propose concrete ways to overcome them;
• foster dialogue and collaboration across levels and with key strategic international partners. In line with the strategy for EU international cooperation in research and innovation (COM(2012)497), international cooperation is encouraged, in particular with key strategic international partners such as Latin America, countries participating in the Belmont Forum, and South East Asia.

Proposals shall address all of the above points. In agreement with the Commission services, projects should ensure appropriate flexibility so as to respond in real time to potentially fast-changing policy scenarios. The Commission considers that proposals requesting a contribution from the EU of up to EUR 3 million would allow this specific challenge to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of proposals requesting other amounts.

**Expected Impact:**

Actions are expected to lead to:

• strategic, effective and sustained multi-stakeholder dialogue between science, policy, business and society, functional within six months of the onset of funding;
• emergence of a global market for nature-based solutions through:
  o EU-wide evidence and increased awareness among stakeholders, decision and policy makers, practitioners and public about the multiple benefits, cost-effectiveness and economic viability of nature-based solutions to address societal challenges;
  o better use of available knowledge for informed decision making, innovative solutions and more effective deployment;
  o reduced (regulatory, institutional, cultural etc.) barriers;
• identification of users’ needs, market potential and knowledge gaps to inform a market-oriented EU research and innovation policy agenda for nature-based solutions;
• improved coordination among EU Member States and Associated and Accession Countries on research, innovation and demonstration activities for nature-based solutions;
• improved cooperation and synergies with relevant strategic international research and innovation programmes and key strategic international partners such as Latin America, countries participating in the Belmont Forum, and South East Asia in order to create a global market on nature-based solutions.

**Delegation to Agencies:** This activity directly aimed at supporting the development and implementation of evidence base for R&I policies and supporting various groups of stakeholders is excluded from the delegation to EASME and will be implemented by the Commission services.
Horizon 2020 Pillar: Societal Challenges

Programme: Europe in a changing world - inclusive, innovative and reflective Societies

Activity/Topic: The Asia-Pacific as a strategic region for Europe

Call Identifier: H2020-SC6-ENG-GLOBALLY-2016-2017

Topic Identifier: ENG-GLOBALLY-06-2017

Topic Title: ENGAGING TOGETHER GLOBALLY

Deadline(s): 02.02.2017


Specific Challenges: The Asia-Pacific is a large and diverse region, encompassing industrialised countries, emerging economies and developing countries. Perhaps due to this diversity, and save a few specific cases, the European Union has lacked a strategic approach towards the region, despite strong economic interests and heightened security concerns in the area. Several EU Member States have adopted an active bilateral approach towards key partners, but the European Union has mostly failed to speak with one voice in relevant fora. Nowadays the multiple and complex challenges shared by the two regions, ranging from climate change and sustainable development to conventional and non-conventional security challenges, are opening up new opportunities for the EU to become more involved in the region beyond economic cooperation although differences remain in areas like human rights or democratic governance. In order to re-think its role and strategy for the Asia-Pacific, and to fully tap the potential for action at European level, the European Union needs to be supported by sound research showing the concrete implications of further engaging with and in the region in a number of sectorial and geographic areas.

Scope: The research to address this challenge should in particular focus on the following key dimensions. It is expected to either comprehensively address one of these dimensions or to combine them. The research may also cover other issues relevant for addressing the specific challenge.

1. Regional integration in South-East Asia and its consequences for Europe

South-East Asia has seen, since 1967, the most ambitious project of regional integration outside of Europe, pursued through the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). It has followed a different integration path to Europe, based on dialogue and non-interference rather than convergence and law. The region has an immense social, cultural and economic potential, but it still faces the challenge of developing a regional identity with both an internal dimension (how to nourish a sense of belonging) and an external dimension (how to engage with foreign powers, such as China, India, the United States, Japan and the EU). The process of nation-building in the ten ASEAN countries and other non-ASEAN countries is incomplete or nascent. It is also confronted with widespread poverty, disruptive migration flows, inter-ethnic conflicts and even territorial disputes. For the EU to engage effectively in South-East Asia and manage the variety of countries and cultures present in the region, it is necessary to understand what ‘region’ means to the peoples of these countries within and beyond the ASEAN context. Research is thus necessary on the mobility of people, knowledge, ideologies, cultures, goods and capital...
within the region and their influence on the emergence of a South-East Asian identity which would help the EU and its Member States to forge coherent, adapted and culturally relevant foreign policies with all countries in the region.

To that effect, research should also underpin the implementation of the Joint Communication on EU-ASEAN relations in the different sectors and in particular in the field of sectorial cooperation.[]

2. Governance in and of the Pacific as a challenge for Europe

One of the major strategic challenges in the Asia-Pacific region relates to the governance of the Pacific itself (including Overseas Countries and Territories). The Pacific Islands region represents a unique diversity of nation-state formations and regional and intergovernmental mechanisms, which is experiencing major challenges regarding the protection of its exceptional natural environment, threatened in particular by climate change. The small islands developing states (SIDS) of the Pacific therefore have a central role in the contestation over, competition for, and conservation of some of the world’s key resources, far surpassing their modest size in terms of land mass and population. As the second largest donor of development assistance to the region, the EU's interests and activities in the Pacific are highly significant and hold important potential for the future. However, the region's new geopolitical currency is a willingness to seriously engage with emerging definitions of an equal, two-way partnership relation in Pacific terms that expands beyond the monetary dimension of cooperation. The EU is thus at a cross-road in its engagement with the Pacific. Research should examine the emerging governance structures in the region, in terms of sovereignty, state-making, policy autonomy and aid dependency, by paying close attention to issues such as trade and transport, fisheries management, climate change, biodiversity, social inclusion, democracy, blue/green growth and and political CFSP aspects. Research should also comparatively analyse the role and impact of external actors in the region, prominently focussing on the European Union and its Member States but also take account of the influence of, and the interplay with global (China, USA) and regional (Australia, New Zealand) powers in the region. Building on existing research, lessons should be drawn from the Pacific experience for devising new approaches, as well as on how Europe can effectively respond to the strategic challenge posed by the Pacific.

The participation of partners from third countries and regions in the targeted geographic areas in proposals submitted to this topic is strongly encouraged.

The Commission considers that proposals requesting a contribution from the EU in the order of EUR 2.5 million for each dimension would allow this specific challenge to be addressed appropriately. This does not preclude submission and selection of proposals requesting other amounts.

Expected Impact: Research under this topic is expected to provide a comprehensive overview of the strategic challenges that Europe faces in the various zones of the Asia-Pacific region, and on a range of relevant subjects. Based on this, it will inform different foreign policy actors, processes and initiatives at EU and Member State-level either with a sectorial or geographic focus, especially by providing essential insights on the legal, cultural and socio-economic aspects surrounding their implementation.
Horizon 2020 Pillar: Societal Challenges

Programme: Europe in a changing world - inclusive, innovative and reflective Societies

Activity/Topic: Strengthening Europe's position in the global context: science diplomacy and intercultural relations

Call Identifier: H2020-SC6-ENG-GLOBALLY-2016-2017

Topic Identifier: ENG-GLOBALLY-01-2017

Topic Title: ENGAGING TOGETHER GLOBALLY

Deadline(s): 02.02.2017


Specific Challenges: Europe is faced with numerous challenges that are increasingly global in nature and that have become of more immediate importance: peace and stability, migration, climate change, resource efficiency, health pandemics, etc. In many cases, responding to these challenges requires science-based evidence to inform decisions and joint international efforts that often include also scientific and technological cooperation. This is where science and diplomacy can join forces to form a ‘soft power’ tool in external policy – science diplomacy.

A main challenge is how to best link scientific expertise and cooperation with diplomacy and political influence to tackle major global challenges, promote knowledge and improve international relations. Science diplomacy has a particular added value in providing additional communication channels, particularly in stalemate situations and relations where few other mechanisms are feasible as well as on sensitive bilateral and multilateral issues. It promotes cooperation and conflict prevention, rebuilds trust and fosters shared understanding across countries, regions and cultures.

At the same time, the global context is characterised by competing understandings of central values and organising principles of society, including the meaning and direction of politics, economics, culture and ultimately human life. This context, and Europe's place in it, needs to be better understood and accounted for, from both a contemporary and a historical perspective, if the European Union and its Member States want to continue to constructively take part and strengthen their position in global discourses about what constitutes a "good society" and to understand how European policy interventions have been understood and perceived globally.

Addressing this challenge requires a great dose of (self) reflexivity about European diplomacy, Europe's own history and its interactions with third countries, regions, cultures and religions. It calls for a continued investment in fostering scientific, political, economic, social and cultural relations with other non-European global actors on all continents, and for ways in which to sustain scientific and intercultural exchanges that effectively enhance mutual understanding despite differences.

Scope: The research to address this challenge should in particular focus on the following key dimensions. It is expected to either comprehensively address one of these dimensions or to combine two
or three of them. The research may also cover other issues relevant for addressing the specific challenge.

1. Using science in the context of European diplomacy

   In an increasingly complex global context, diplomacy as a social practice and profession is undergoing considerable changes. In both bi- and multilateral contexts, it is no longer sufficient for diplomats to be skilled in the art of negotiation, but they also need to have the capacity - alongside specialist knowledge - to take better advantage of science and scientific cooperation.

   How to better prepare and employ ‘science diplomats’ remains a particularly unexplored research area. The research efforts should focus on examining the interface between scientific advice and expertise and diplomats’ performance and capacity. It should analyse where science diplomacy can have the biggest impact and how it can be instrumental in strengthening EU capacities and strategic awareness and in establishing better mechanisms so as to anticipate events early and to swiftly identify common responses. This should involve ‘practitioners’ of science diplomacy.

   Research should explore under which conditions science and scientific cooperation have contributed positively or negatively to reaching foreign policy objectives (peace, security, trade, development, humanitarian aid) in various challenging contexts and draw recommendations for the development of new actions at EU and Member States levels.

2. European culture, values and reflections of Europe’s colonial past in contemporary European societies

   European values are to a large extent determinants of behaviour. As values stay behind many societal patterns and organising principles of society, the knowledge of the past development of European values as well as the knowledge of their contemporary status could help to understand many aspects of behaviour of contemporary European populations.

   Multidisciplinary research associating scholars from the humanities and social sciences should adopt an outside-in perspective on contemporary European societies and trace the manifold non-European and European colonial era-related determinants of present-day societal and cultural diversity in Europe. In so doing, it should pay particular attention to the way societal and cultural influences from outside of Europe have historically been framed, contested, transformed, refused or taken up in European societies. It should elucidate how and why some of these influences were able to strongly impact European societies, values, activities and culture, and why others were less successful.

   Research under this topic will lead to a sound understanding of the social, cultural, linguistic and political legacies of colonialism within Europe and globally. It will assess their implications for policy-making, EU values and intercultural and interlinguistic dialogue, including the construction of plural cultural identities in nations and countries of Europe.

3. Global trends of secularisation and religious radicalisation and the role of Europe

   Over the centuries the relations between the state and religion were of key importance for the functioning of state and society. Today’s world is divided between secular states where government is officially separated from religion and states where this distinction is blurred, in addition to a few theocratic states. Whereas secular states are spread all over the world, and the religions professed and practiced by their citizens represent the widest possible spectrum of beliefs, the majority of countries which have embraced religion as their central norm are predominantly, although not exclusively, following Islam and are located in Africa, the Middle East, the Mediterranean region and Asia. A wide array of differences between official norms and practices still exist and should be taken into account in order to avoid undue generalisations between such countries and states.

   Taking account of the diversity of forms of secularism and religion, and adopting a historical perspective, this multidisciplinary social sciences and humanities research should investigate and compare various types and experiences of the functioning of secular and religion-based states in and outside Europe. Its findings should clarify
reasons for, and pathways of, transformation of the role of religion in state governance, and should explain differing perspectives of cultural and political co-existence within the polity. Specific attention should be paid to the analysis of the impact of religious radicalisation all over the world and its consequences on states’ peaceful coexistence as well as of the foreign fighter phenomenon. Research should also focus on what these trends mean in terms of internal and foreign policies for the European Union, its Member States and the state-religion relationships on the European continent. In this perspective, it could also include the possible forms of injustice, inequality and exclusion that may contribute to societal tension and marginalisation of certain minority groups, as well as the common elements between religion-based values system and secular systems that could help to counter radicalisation.

The Commission considers that proposals requesting a contribution from the EU in the order of EUR 2.5 million for each dimension would allow this specific challenge to be addressed appropriately. This does not preclude submission and selection of proposals requesting other amounts.

Expected Impact: Research under this topic is expected to impact the foreign policies of the EU and its member states and provide enhanced coordination between them and between the EU and its international partners. It will provide in-depth insights into the multiple ties and mutual influences between Europe and its neighbours, former colonies and other countries and regions, especially in the scientific, socioeconomic, historical cultural and religious spheres. It will also provide a sound understanding of contemporary European societies, of the multiple sources and expressions of diversity in the EU and of how non-European influences impact on the formation of European identities. Acknowledging the multiple sources of today’s European diversity will have strong policy implications, not just for scientific and cultural policy, but also for immigration, integration, education and external policies. It will also facilitate Europe’s future engagement with third countries.
**Horizon 2020 Pillar:** Societal Challenges

**Programme:** Europe in a changing world - inclusive, innovative and reflective Societies

**Activity/Topic:** Shifting global geopolitics and Europe's preparedness for managing risks, mitigation actions and fostering peace

**Call Identifier:** H2020-SC6-ENG-GLOBALLY-2016-2017

**Topic Identifier:** ENG-GLOBALLY-02-2017

**Topic Title:** ENGAGING TOGETHER GLOBALLY

**Deadline(s):** 02.02.2017

**Participant Portal Weblink:**

**Specific Challenges:** Europe's strategic and geopolitical environment is evolving rapidly, will always be an area of change, and in a manner that increasingly raises concerns. In recent years, violent conflicts have agitated the planet, many of them located in Europe's immediate neighbouring regions. These developments take place at a time when global geopolitics is undergoing long-term transformations challenging the traditional predominance of the West, while policies of economic austerity oblige EU Member States to manage scarce resources more effectively. These trends seriously challenge the Union's capacity for guaranteeing its citizens' security - one of its principal raisons d'être - while also jeopardizing its aspiration of promoting European values and interests abroad. In order to evaluate and promote its preparedness for playing its role as an effective security provider, to prevent escalation, to manage and understand risks and mitigation strategies for peace beyond its borders, the EU needs to understand the implications of recent global developments and assess them against its own capacities and willingness to make synergetic use of them.

**Scope:** The research to address this challenge should focus on one or two dimensions that have to be comprehensively addressed. The research may also cover other issues relevant for addressing the specific challenge.

1. **Recent global geopolitical developments and their implications for the European Union**
   Research under this dimension should adopt a comprehensive understanding of security and explore uncertainty. Based on this, it should identify and investigate long-standing and novel - global and regional - external risks facing the EU and its Member States, in connection with ongoing initiatives and programmes for risk identification and early warning. Crises in its neighbourhood (in particular East Europe and the southern Mediterranean), such as the rise of radical Islamic groups exemplified by the expansion of the "Islamic State" in Syria and Iraq, but also conflicts and risks in other regions of the world such as in South Asia (e.g. Afghanistan) and Sub-Saharan Africa (e.g. Mali) should be examined. Research should identify the most pressing risks and areas of uncertainty and unravel the causes, expressions and security-relevant consequences of such instable contexts.

   It should examine possible inter-linkages between various geographically limited conflict situations as well as their embeddedness into regional and overarching global geopolitical developments. This necessitates a sound understanding of the political,
socioeconomic, cultural and military contexts in which patterns of insecurity and uncertainty emerge, also from a historical and philosophical perspective. An inventory of contemporary risks should form the basis for identifying their implications for Europe and its security needs. Research should examine how potential risks, mitigation strategies and opportunities are perceived, and how they can, do and even should become part of novel approaches and policies in the EU, its Member States and its partners in geostrategic matters. It should investigate how the EU, its Member States and other relevant partners can act to better anticipate, prevent and respond to the identified risks, mitigation strategies and opportunities, and develop scenarios on possible EU activities using a range of policy actions and instruments, including diplomatic, economic, civilian and, if needed, military means.

2. European Union's preparedness for managing risks and opportunities, fostering peace in a crisis-ridden context

Research under this dimension should comprehensively examine the European Union's and its Member States' willingness, capacities, instruments and channels for anticipating and responding to a large array of external threats. It should contrast the EU's legal basis for external security policies, including risk analysis and management, conflict prevention and resolution, post-conflict management and peace-building, to the actual practice, both prior to and after the onset of the economic and financial crises. Analyses should draw on comparative case studies from the EU's handling of various conflicts and crises (including humanitarian ones) across the globe. Research should develop criteria for effective security cooperation in the EU, distinguishing between objectives and instruments, whether military or non-military, and contribute to the ongoing development of early-warning systems to identify emerging risks. It should also identify the political, socio-economic, technological and cultural conditions that enable or hinder the emergence of effective security cooperation in the EU. Based on this evidence, research should develop information sharing and decision support systems that facilitate cooperation, identify gaps and align the interests of diverse actors towards effective EU security policies, especially in the framework of its Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP). It should also provide insights on whether and how the EU can work synergistically together with individual third countries or international institutions like NATO.

The Commission considers that proposals requesting a contribution from the EU in the order of EUR 5 million would allow this specific challenge to be addressed appropriately. This does not preclude submission and selection of proposals requesting other amounts.

Expected Impact: Research under this topic will lead to an up-to-date appraisal of global and regional risks and, as such, of Europe's evolving security agenda in the light of recent geopolitical developments affecting its neighbouring regions (in particular East Europe and the southern Mediterranean), and the entire globe. It will generate critical and forward-looking evidence of Europe's preparedness for effectively facing these threats, guaranteeing its citizens' security while managing risks and fostering peace abroad. Based on this evidence, it will provide recommendations on how to improve the EU's effectiveness as a domestic and global security provider.
Specific Challenges: The objective of this topic is to define and promote research priorities for sustainable road transport in Europe. It calls for a Coordination and Support Action to assist ERTRAC, the European Technology Platform for road transport, the European Green Vehicle Initiative PPP, the European Commission and Member States in defining the research needs for their strategies and programmes in order to achieve the objectives of the Energy Union and other European policies and further on the vision of the White Paper 2011 for a competitive and resource-efficient future transport system.

Scope: Proposals should consider a comprehensive approach ranging from components to system integration and including enabling technologies and other transport modes, where relevant. They should address all the following aspects:

- Updating of research agendas and roadmaps as developed by the European Technology Platform ERTRAC (European Road Transport Research Advisory Council) and the European Green Vehicle Initiative (EGVI).
- Monitoring of road transport research projects and their impacts from relevant European programmes (Horizon2020, ENT, JU, etc.) and organisation of workshops to present and discuss results, trends, exchange experience and foster innovation aspects.
- Definition of multi-annual and more precise annual implementation plans as input for the programmes of the EU and Member States.
- Identification of actions to support education, training, standardisation and business models.
- Identification of barriers for the deployment of research results and improvement of framework conditions.
- Fostering of the links between ERTRAC and the national technology platforms for road transport existing at national level in Europe.
- Organisation of dissemination activities for ERTRAC and EGVI. These activities should also target emerging economies within Asia and Latin America.
- Facilitating exchange between cities in Europa, Asia and Latin America, initiate pilot actions and develop pre-feasibility studies for cities in emerging economies, and twin EU and international projects on urban electric mobility.
- Track global progress on urban electric mobility and support UN activities, such as the Urban Electric Mobility Initiative (UEMI).
The implementation requires close collaboration with the leading stakeholders in transport RTD in Europe. This includes Original Equipment Manufacturers, supply industry, research and engineering organisations, as well as other multipliers such as ETPs dealing with transport research and innovation, EGVI, the ENT, the EU, and Member States. In line with the strategy for EU international cooperation in research and innovation[[COM(2012)497]]

International cooperation is encouraged with key emerging countries, in particular China and Brazil.

The Commission considers that proposals requesting a contribution from the EU of between EUR 2 to 3.5 million each would allow this specific challenge to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of proposals requesting other amounts.

Expected Impact: This action will bring together the leading European stakeholders in road transport research to monitor projects, develop roadmaps, and support their implementation. It will contribute to a further harmonisation of research and innovation, and therefore contribute to the European Research Area, in particular also in the view of innovation, as well as to the European strategies for a future transport system. The action will also accelerate time to market of new mobility solutions. In addition, this initiative will contribute to climate action and sustainable development objectives.

Delegation Exception Footnote: This activity directly aimed at supporting the development and implementation of evidence base for R&I policies and supporting various groups of stakeholders is excluded from the delegation to the Innovation and Networks Executive Agency (INEA) and will be implemented by the Commission services.
Societal Challenges, Industrial Leadership

**Horizon 2020 Pillar:** Societal Challenges, Industrial Leadership

**Programme:** Food security, sustainable agriculture and forestry, marine and maritime and inland water research, Leadership in enabling and industrial technologies (LEIT), Climate action, environment, resource efficiency and raw materials

**Activity/Topic:** Reinforcing international cooperation on sustainable aquaculture production with countries from South-East Asia

**Call Identifier:** H2020-SFS-2016-2017

**Topic Identifier:** SFS-24-2016

**Topic Title:** Sustainable Food Security – Resilient and resource-efficient value chains

**Deadline(s):** 17.02.2016

**Participant Portal Weblink:**

**Specific Challenges:** With 90% of all world aquaculture production based in Asia, and with Europe importing close to 70% of its seafood (in particular from South-East Asian countries: Indonesia, East Malaysia, Singapore, Philippines, East Timor, Brunei, Christmas Island, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar (Burma), Thailand, West Malaysia, and Vietnam), both regions have an interest in working together to develop sustainable solutions, since production has to nearly double in the next decade to meet the increasing seafood market demand. Sustainable aquaculture production is a major challenge for global seafood security and safety. In order to provide greater benefits for the EU and South-East Asian countries and to make future aquaculture sustainable, more work is needed on technology innovation, resource efficiency, reduced environmental impact, harmonised standards and marketing.

**Scope:** Proposals should draw up a plan to launch a multi-stakeholder platform to reinforce international cooperation between Europe and South-East Asian countries on food security and safety with specific emphasis on sustainable aquaculture production and contributing to European competitiveness. The multi-stakeholder platform should support structuring new networks and partnerships between industrial players aiming to enhance business opportunities and the up-take of innovations in promising aquaculture domains. Those participating in the platform should also contribute to the development of common standards for appropriate environmental planning/zoning, increased food safety, and improved farming governance. Additionally, there should be particular focus on reinforcing capacity building by aligning European training programmes, including through industrial apprenticeship opportunities and networking with South-East Asian partners.

The Commission considers that proposals requesting a contribution from the EU of up to EUR 2 million would allow this challenge to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude the submission and selection of proposals requesting other amounts.

Projects funded under this topic will by default participate in the Pilot on Open Research Data in Horizon 2020, with the option to opt-out, as described in the introduction.
Expected Impact: To contribute to the creation of a long-term partnership between Europe and South-East Asian countries on sustainable aquaculture and to reinforce the mutual benefits of science diplomacy between the regions, proposals will have to:

- Contribute to common standard setting and legislation, particularly around ecosystem-based farming.
- Facilitate the creation of business opportunities for industrial partnerships between Europe and South-East Asian countries.
- Reduce risks to animal and human health and thus increase EU consumer’s confidence in seafood products.
- Consolidate EU-South-East Asian education and training networks.
- Contribute to reinforce targeted international cooperation on sustainable aquaculture production between EU and South East Asian countries, supporting the EU-ASEAN Partnership.[[In 2007, the Nuremberg Declaration on an Enhanced EU-ASEAN Partnership was signed at the 16th Ministerial Meeting, in Nuremberg. In 2012, Foreign Ministers of ASEAN and the EU adopted the Bandar Seri Begawan Plan of Action 2013-2017, defining ASEAN-EU cooperation in the next five years.]] and the underlying EU-ASEAN High-level Policy Dialogue on science, technology and innovation.
- Improve the professional skills and competences for those working and being trained to work within the blue economy.

Delegation Exception Footnote: This activity directly aimed at supporting the promotion of coherent and effective cooperation with third countries is excluded from the delegation to REA and will be implemented by the Commission services.