Opportunities for Japanese participation in Horizon 2020

Horizon 2020 is the biggest EU Research and Innovation programme ever with nearly €80 billion of funding available over 7 years (2014 to 2020) – in addition to the private investment that this money will attract. It promises more breakthroughs, discoveries and world-firsts by taking great ideas from the lab to the market. Horizon 2020 is open to participation from organisations, companies and individuals from all over the world, including Japan. Specific opportunities exist from the Japanese government for matching funding to participate in Horizon 2020 calls.

In October, the third EU-Japan coordinated call was launched in Horizon 2020 with MIC and NICT. This time, 4 topics are available for joint projects:
1. 5G – Next Generation Communication Networks
2. Novel ICT Robotics based solutions for active and healthy ageing at home or in care facilities
3. IoT/Cloud/Big Data platforms in social application contexts
4. Experimental testbeds on Information-Centric Networking

Japanese organisations can participate in any regular Horizon 2020 call as well, in some calls Japanese participation is even welcomed.

While there is no automatic funding for Japanese organisations in these calls from the European Commission, participating in a project can benefit the participating organisation in various ways such as increasing their network and keeping track of new technologies and developments. Some of these calls have support mechanisms for Japanese partners through JST, or other Japanese programmes can be used to provide some funding for a Japanese organisation in the consortium.

A detailed list of calls in the Horizon 2020 Work Programme 2016-2017 mentioning Japan can be downloaded from the JEUPISTE website: http://jeupiste.eu/calls20162017

Programmes for individual researchers in Horizon 2020 are also open to Japanese nationals. New is that a specific agreement on this has been signed between ERC and JSPS so that Japanese researchers can join ERC teams.

What is Project JEUPISTE?

An EU FP7 Japan-EU Bilat project carried out between 2013 and 2016. The JEUPISTE project aims at further promoting EU-Japan cooperation in Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) through support to policy dialogues, deployment of bilateral information services, organisation of networking events focusing on specific technologies and/or societal challenges, operation of help desk services and contribution to the development of human resources for collaborative projects.

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Past events

Horizon 2020 Info Day in Tokyo

On 14 October 2015, the JEUPISTE project organized the Horizon 2020 Info Day in Tokyo at the occasion of the publication of the new Work Programme 2016-2017 in Horizon 2020. 175 people attended this seminar hosted at the EU Delegation in Tokyo. This event highlighted the opportunities for Japanese participation in Horizon 2020 by presenting the new Work Programmes 2016-2017 in light of cooperation with Japan. It further featured examples of Japanese participation by introducing the CD-LINKS and SAFARI Project, in addition to providing information on Japan-EU projects in Energy and Intensity Frontier Research. In the second part of the seminar, the Japanese government, represented by JST, JSPS and MIC, detailed their efforts on cooperating with Europe. Finally, support services for Horizon 2020 in Japan such as JEUPISTE, NCP Japan and EURAXESSLinks Japan were introduced in the concluding part.

Training for National Contact Points and University Research Administrators

The JEUPISTE project, through its European partners APRE, FORTH and the Coordinator, the EU-Japan Center for Industrial Cooperation in Tokyo, organized a full day training seminar for H2020 issues addressed to the Japanese NCPs and University Research Administrators (URAs) interested in collaborating with overseas teams for H2020 participation.

The training seminar was organized on 15 October 2015 at the premises of the EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation and hosted 8 participants, 2 NCPs and 6 URAs.

The topics of the training course covered the entire cycle of Horizon 2020 participation from the point of view of an international partner country, such as Japan. Topics included the pre-proposal aspects of Horizon 2020, namely the participant portal, IPR rules and the grant agreement preparation, and issues during the project life time such as project management and financial reporting.

In order to gain valuable insight and draw meaningful conclusions on the challenges faced by Japanese counterparts, participants completed a SWOT analysis of their perceived role as NCP or URA and were encouraged to ask questions at their own pace making the session interactive.

The valuable feedback received from the participants will contribute to a more in-depth hands-on experience for future trainings.

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Past events

Third JEUPISTE Project Innovation Workshop on Smart Cities and Ageing Population

The third JEUPISTE Project Innovation Workshop on Smart Cities and ageing population was held on the 19 November 2015 in Barcelona, Spain, within the Smart City Expo World Congress. The workshop was focused on the current issues related to ageing society and community building from a broader perspective, including the role that regional governments, NPOs, urban planners and IT companies play in shaping elderly-friendly cities and communities. It targeted the downstream side of the innovation value chain with the aim to share ideas and experiences towards strategic partnership building on ageing population and smart cities between Japan and Europe where different experts on smart cities presented their projects and entities. The workshop represented an important opportunity to foster networking between Japan-EU entities as well as to enhance quality partnerships.

The workshop was divided in 2 different sessions:

a) Internet of things in the ageing smart city - A focus on healthcare. This session was included in the official agenda of the Smart City Expo Congress and had a markedly technological focus. The panel was moderated by Mr. Amit PRASAD, Team Leader Urban Health, from the World Health Organization in Kobe, Japan, and included five European and Japanese speakers addressing complimentary sectors and expertise.

b) Towards smart ageing society: community building and the role of ICT. Opportunities for EU-Japan collaborations. This session was held as a congress side event and participants could further strengthen ties and created new networks through lively discussion. 5 Japanese entities were also able to present their projects.

There were numerous participants and speakers. The composition of the audience matched the expectation of the project (local policy makers, financial actors, researchers, small, medium and large companies and private and public support organizations).
Past events

Hasekura-Jeupiste Mission

The JEUPISTE project and the HASEKURA 2.0 Programme organised a 6 day long mission to Spain, from 16 to 21 November 2015 at the occasion of the Barcelona Smart City Expo World Congress, to encourage EU-Japan partnership building on innovative projects related to smart communities in order to find solutions to pressing issues faced by developed societies. The mission was organized for the speakers for the JEUPISTE innovation workshop (see previous page) in order to increase their opportunities for networking and partnering. The participants of this mission came from Kobe University, National Institute of Technology –Sendai Campus, Kyushu University, NTT Network Innovation Laboratories, Sako Architects, Eyes Japan LTD and laboratory Urban Decode.

HASEKURA 2.0 is a programme aimed at promoting business and academic exchange between Japan and Spain, named after Tsunenaga Hasekura, the leader of the historic mission “the Keicho Embassy” from 1613 to 1620.

The participants of this mission presented their projects to international experts at the Smart City World Conference, participated in workshops with Spanish companies, met MBA students, learned about local institutions-sponsored initiatives such as AGORA Association or Barcelona 22@ district, exchanged information with local entrepreneurs as ESADE Creapolis Business Innovation Center and visited several projects such as the Hospital Clinic. The programme also included field trips to 3 medium-sized Spanish cities (Sant Cugat, Bilbao and San Sebastian) that represent interesting models of smart “machizukuri”, combining history, landscape, gastronomy and technology that are important factors in retaining and attracting their population.
Horizon 2020 seminar held at Grand Front Osaka

On 30 September 2015, the JEUPISTE project hosted a dissemination seminar on Horizon 2020 at Grand Front Osaka at the occasion of the publication of the new work programme in Horizon 2020 for 2016 and 2017. The seminar provided information and insights on Horizon 2020 participation for Japanese organisations and individuals. Following the explanation on Horizon 2020 and international cooperation presented by Dr. Leonidas KARAPIPERIS from the Delegation of the European Union to Japan, the Japanese National Contact Points provided the latest information on the new Work Programmes and introduced specific case studies. EURAXESS Links Japan also explained their support mechanism and information regarding exchange and network building for researchers. After the presentations, many questions were received from attendees from universities and private companies regarding the application process from Japan and opportunities in various research areas.

Kyushu Workshop on Horizon 2020

JEUPISTE, NCP Japan and Kyushu University organised a workshop on Horizon 2020 in Fukuoka on 24 November 2015. The programme was explained with particular attention to the procedures that are necessary to participate to the programme from Japan.

In addition, a case study was introduced by Assoc. Prof. Kohei HIGASHIKAWA (Graduate School of Information Science and Electrical Engineering, Kyushu University) who is currently participating in the previous programme called FP7 with the project called “SUPER-IRON: Exploring the potential of iron-based superconductors”.

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Past events

Symposium on Power Electronics

The JEUPISTE Project, in cooperation with Osaka University, organized a 2-day symposium on Power Electronics on 15-16 December 2015 that attracted up to 130 participants from Europe and Japan and focused on the European and Japanese Power Electronics technology research and development.

Power semiconductors have been providing one solution for the global energy crisis through excellent energy efficiency in industry as well as in consumer appliances. Power Electronics research is an area where the EU and Japan can widen their cooperation in order to tackle common challenges. This symposium aimed to foster EU-Japan cooperation on components technologies and gave attention to the EU-Japan cooperation potential in relation to Horizon 2020.

The symposium was opened by H.E. Viorel ISTICIOAIA-BUDURA, Ambassador of the European Union to Japan, and Prof. Yasushi YAGI, Executive Vice President of Osaka University. During the first part of the event, the attention was put on the policy side of power electronics in the EU and Japan through welcome remarks by Dr. Leonidas KARAPIPERIS (EU Delegation to Japan) and Mr. Shiro TAKEGAMI (METI). Next, the research programmes in which Power Electronics is featured and support projects for cooperation were presented. In the afternoon on the first day of the symposium, discussions started on power electronics developments and expectations. EU-Japan cooperation on next generation power electronic devices was discussed during the panel discussion that closed the first day.

The second day started with more technical discussions on WBG semiconductors & modules, bonding materials & technology and reliability & process technologies. The symposium was concluded with a final panel discussion where several proposals were made on EU-Japan cooperation in the area of power electronics.

The symposium was officially supported by ECPE, JEITA, JPCA, JIEP and WBG-i

For more information: http://www.jeupiste.eu/events/powerelectronics2015_en
H2020 Progress

Japanese Participation in Horizon 2020 – First Calls

The internationalization of Japanese research and researchers has experienced an important dynamism in the last years. The Japanese participation in FP7 increased year after year since 2007 and around 100 Japanese entities participated in almost 160 projects and received around ten million Euros. In Horizon 2020, the Japanese participation has continued in the same direction despite it continues being relatively low. Japan is ranked nº10 among the third countries that have participated in Horizon 2020 but are still really far behind the United States and Canada that represents the first and second position respectively. It is worth mentioning that while the participation of the main third countries participants in EU research funding programmes have decreased in the first calls, the Japanese participation has remained stable.

In the first batch of Horizon 2020 calls, Japan is participating in 28 different projects. About 61% of this participation is under the Excellent Science Pillar (mostly in the collaborative Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions) followed by the Industrial Leadership Pillar (around 25%) and the Societal challenges with 7% of the funded projects. Cooperation between Japanese and European entities in the EURATOM programme, both in the fission and fusion programmes, has also been significant (7%) considering that it is a smaller programme. The thematic fields of the projects are mainly oriented towards the areas of information and communication technologies, environment, health and space. Success rates (from proposal to funding award) differ substantially between areas but the overall 27% for all programmes could be considered a good result given that the global overall Horizon 2020 success rate is around 14%.

The European counterparts of the projects are spread accross all of the EU and associated countries. Germany, France, United Kingdom, Spain and Belgium are the main counterparts of projects with Japanese participants. The Japanese participation in these first calls are mainly universities and public bodies, of which the University of Tokyo is the one with the most projects (5 in total), and most of them has already participated in the previous FP7.
## CALENDAR

**Jan 19**  
Submission deadline: EU-Japan Joint Call in ICT  
- EUJ-01-2016: 5G – Next Generation Communication Networks  
- EUJ-02-2016: IoT/Cloud/Big Data platforms in social application contexts  
- EUJ-03-2016: Experimental testbeds on Information-Centric Networking  

**Feb 22-24**  
Nano Tech 2016  
(Tokyo, Japan)  
[http://www.nanotechexpo.jp/](http://www.nanotechexpo.jp/)

**Feb 22-24**  
The Advanced Institute for Materials Research International Symposium  
(Sendai, Japan)  

**Feb 27-29**  
Welcome to Barcelona - Mobile B2B Mission  
(Barcelona, Spain)  

**Apr 12**  
Submission deadline: EU-Japan cooperation on Novel ICT Robotics based solutions for active and healthy ageing at home or in care facilities  

**Apr 12-14**  
12th INSME Annual Meeting - Enabling Smart SMEs as Key to Success  
(Doha, Qatar)  

**June 1-3**  
Kyoto Smart City Expo  
(Kyoto, Japan)  
[http://expo.smartcity.kyoto/e/about/about.html](http://expo.smartcity.kyoto/e/about/about.html)

**June 19-22**  
EARMA conference  
(Lulea, Sweden)  
[http://www.earma.org/AnnualConference](http://www.earma.org/AnnualConference)

**July 5-8**  
Nanotexnology 2016  
(Thessaloniki, Greece)  

**July 22-24**  
ESOF 2016  
(Manchester, UK)  

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If you have any questions or suggestions concerning this newsletter please contact the editor at:  
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