

**Question for written answer E-011957/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Attempts by Bulgarian teams to apply for funding under the Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development and Horizon 2020

Attempts by Bulgarian teams from the Technical University of Sofia to apply for funding under the Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development and Horizon 2020 have revealed the following needs of the scientific community and institutions in Bulgaria, which have to be met if the implementation of EU programmes is to be improved:

1. The pay of employees who work full-time for the applicant organisation may not exceed the standard salary it offers. In practice, this penalises teachers and researchers in Bulgaria, because it precludes their compensation from even reaching the average for the European Union.
2. When the applicants' administrative experience is rated, those who have already participated in EU projects are favoured. This means that only institutions from a certain group have a chance of being selected as project coordinators.

The aforementioned factors have a discouraging effect on scientists in Bulgaria, because they believe they have a limited chance of success when participating in competitive procedures under EU programmes and consider the related responsibilities and benefits incompatible with their plans for scientific advancement. In this regard, I would like to ask the Commission whether it is aware of the problems identified above and what measures it will take to solve them?