

STOA meets experts

'Use of lump sum funding in the EU's research programmes'

Tuesday 1 February 2022, 10:30-12:00 CET

Online event (Webex Meetings)

Funding of the European Union (EU)'s Framework Programmes for Research and Innovation, such as Horizon Europe, has traditionally been based on the reimbursement of actual costs. Due to the need for detailed cost accounting, this system comes with a heavy administrative load for beneficiaries, and has suffered from a high error rate in the past. This has motivated the search for simplified forms of funding, such as the use of lump sums. With payments based on results obtained, the latter aims to simplify administration and put the focus on the scientific and technical content of projects.

A few years ago, the European Commission (EC) launched a lump sum pilot, within Horizon 2020, where certain topics used a funding scheme based on lump sums rather than the traditional method. Its aim was to evaluate the use of lump sum funding, and the EC recently published its assessment of this pilot. In parallel, STOA commissioned a study to collect feedback and reflect on the use of lump sum funding.

This STOA event aims to present both these studies and the views of different stakeholders, in order to answer the question: Is lump sum the right tool for the EU's research programmes?

Programme and details: ['Use of lump sum funding in the EU's research programmes'](#)



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Speakers' biographies

Christian EHLER, MEP and STOA First Vice-Chair



Christian Ehler has been an MEP since 2004 and a member of the Parliament's Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE) for over a decade. He has been one of the leading figures in the design and implementation of the EU research and innovation (R&I) framework programmes, as rapporteur for both Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe. He is the initiator of an ITRE working group dedicated to closer parliamentary scrutiny of EU R&I framework programme implementation and he is First Vice-Chair of the EP think tank STOA.

One of Dr Ehler's main priorities is to ensure Europe's excellence in science, technology and innovation in all sectors, including health, digital and climate. As rapporteur for Horizon Europe, he has put forward a number of instruments to reduce the administrative burden for researchers and SMEs, and for boosting public-private partnerships contributing to achieving EU climate and digital goals.

Dr Ehler plays an instrumental role within EPP as the group's coordinator for the ITRE Committee.

In the European Parliament, Dr Ehler is also member of the Delegation for relations with the US, and substitute member of the Committee on Culture and Education, the Delegation for relations with Israel and the Delegation for the Mediterranean.

Peter HÄRTWICH, Common Service for Business Processes Unit, Common Implementation Centre, DG Research & Innovation, European Commission



Peter Härtwich graduated in physics at Technische Universität Dresden in Germany and did post-graduate studies in Dresden and St. Petersburg (Russia) before receiving a PhD in solid state physics in 1991. He pursued his career as a technology consultant in the technology centre of the Association of German Engineers (VDI). In 1997, he joined the European Commission as a scientific officer in the Research Directorate-General. He occupied several positions related to research project management and to the coordination of the implementation of the EU research framework programme. Since 2008 he was the head of a sector dealing with the coordination of operations under the 7th Framework Programme. Since 2013 he was deputy head of the unit for simplification and business processes for the EU research and innovation programmes. Since March 2018 he is the head of this unit.

Adam EDSTRÖM, RISE Research Institutes of Sweden



Adam Edström is a senior analyst and project leader at RISE, Research Institutes of Sweden, where he is also leading a focus area called “RISE in the Digital Europe”. During his ten years at RISE he has been responsible for several foresight and analysis projects on topics ranging from technology infrastructure, 5G test beds and additive manufacturing to industrial roadmaps. He has a background as editor working for several technology publications and trade magazines in Sweden and the USA. Adam holds an M.Sc. from the Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm, Sweden.

Maya MILTELL, RISE Research Institutes of Sweden



Maya Miltell manages a broad range of projects within RISE, covering IoT and data management in public sector, as well as with climate mitigation/adaption and biodiversity connected to digitalization. She has a background in biology-earth science and marine biology and has previously worked with environmental data communication, analysis and management.

Dorte DALSGAARD, Danish Technological Institute, member of Working Group Financial Experts, European Association of Research and Technology Organisations (EARTO)



Dorte Dalsgaard is a financial manager at the Danish Technological Institute. Her team administrates more than 350 ongoing national and international research and development projects. She has been an active member of the EARTO financial working group for 10 years. Dorte holds a graduate degree in business administration. Prior to joining DTI 13 years ago she was an administrative officer at the OECD and the Danish Ministry of Environment and Energy.

Founded in 1999, EARTO promotes RTOs and represents their interest in Europe. EARTO network counts over 350 RTOs in more than 20 countries. EARTO members represent 150.000 highly-skilled researchers and engineers managing a wide range of technology infrastructures.

Laura KEUSTERMANS, Senior Policy Officer, League of European Research Universities (LERU)



Laura Keustermans is Senior Policy Officer Research & Education at the League of European Research Universities (LERU). She joined LERU 15 years ago and has been working on framework programme related policy and administrative-financial issues for more than a decade.

The League of European Research Universities is an association of 23 research-intensive universities in Europe that share the values of high-quality teaching within an environment of internationally competitive research. LERU aims at furthering politicians', policy makers' and opinion leaders' understanding of the important role and activities of research-intensive universities.

Gerhard HUEMER, Economic Policy Director, SMEUnited



Gerhard Huemer is Director for Economic and Fiscal Policy at SMEUnited, where he has been for over 20 years. His main dossiers include SME finance and relations to banks, tax policy, R&D and Innovation, State aid policy, economic policy coordination, macroeconomic dialogue and monetary policy. Furthermore, he is also responsible for the SMEUnited Study Unit and the Press Office. Prior to joining SMEUnited, he was Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Council of the Austrian Social Partners and worked for the Austrian Economic Chamber.

SMEUnited is the association of Crafts and SMEs in Europe with 65-member organisations from over 30 European countries. SMEUnited represents national cross-sectoral Craft and SME federations, European SME branch organisations and associate members. Combined, it represents more than 22.5 million enterprises with around 82 million employees across Europe. SMEUnited is a recognised employers' organisation and European Social Partner. SMEUnited was formerly known as UEAPME.

Matthias WILL, Common Implementation Centre, DG Research & Innovation, European Commission



Matthias Will is the Director of the Common Implementation Centre (CIC) in the European Commission's DG Research & Innovation. He oversees the provision of programme lifecycle services to research-family Directorates-General, Executive Agencies, and Joint Undertakings, ranging from legal advice, coordination and audit, to business process design, digital and data. Simplification, alignment, synergies and digitalization are at the heart of CIC activities. Matthias has worked in several Directorates-General and was involved in major organisational reforms in the Commission.