

**Question for written answer E-002663/2019**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Valter Flego (Renew)**

Subject: Horizon Europe - increasing absorption in EU13 countries

Scientific institutions from the EU13 have withdrawn only around 5% of Horizon 2020 funds so far, although the share of funding contributed by those Member States is 9% of the budget for that instrument. It is therefore clear that the absorption capacities of those countries and their scientific systems are below average. The lack of experience and personnel is often cited as one of the main reasons for the weak absorption capacities of these countries.

Does the Commission feel that arranging specific competitions that would be administratively less cumbersome and involve a smaller number of Western partners, but that would still be based on scientific excellence, could increase the absorption of resources and support the development of new high-quality personnel in the scientific institutions of the EU13 countries?