

The **European Commission** answered about some questions related to impact of the current Covid -19 situation on the ongoing Eu projects.

For further clarification please visit the EC Website [click here](#)

Possibility to extend the project duration

Is there any possibility to extend the project duration of Horizon 2020 grants due to the Covid-19 situation?

Yes, beneficiaries may request an amendment for an extension of up to 6 months of initial project duration due to the Covid-19 situation. Such requests will be handled favourably and in a speedy manner. Any request beyond the 6 month period mentioned before will be granted based on case-by-case assessment by the funding body. However, the maximum grant amount indicated in Article 5 H2020 MGA cannot be increased.

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Possibility to extend the deadline of due deliverables, milestones and reports

Related to the Covid-19 outbreak, how will the funding bodies handle possible delays in submitting deliverables and reports in Horizon 2020 grants?

- Given the COVID 19 situation, full flexibility will be given on scheduled due dates for deliverables, milestones and reports whose performance was impacted by the confinement measures.
- In particular, for reports linked to payments, the coordinator will still be able to submit the report at the due date set in the grant agreement, but flexibility will be allowed as regards the 60 days period for the submission of the report (see also FAQ on '[Interim and final payments](#)' and '[possibility to extend the project duration](#)'). However, any late report linked to payment will subsequently lead to later payment.

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Eligibility of costs when there are difficulties in implementing the action due to the Covid -19 situation

What happens to costs in Horizon 2020 grants when there are difficulties in implementing the action due to the Covid-19 situation?

For actual cost-based H2020 actions & MSCA actions:

- Given this unprecedented pandemic situation, maximum flexibility will be given in relation to the action implementation.
- Whenever possible beneficiaries are encouraged to telework or to use other forms of remote working. Teleworking costs will be accepted as eligible under the confinement period even if it is not the beneficiary's usual practice to telework.

Beneficiaries are also highly encouraged to shift their tasks whenever possible. For instance, tasks where physical presence is needed on the ground (e.g. experiments/lab work etc.) may be postponed after confinement measures are over and meanwhile remote work could be done instead (desk work, drafting of reports, etc.). Costs will still be eligible for the work carried out under the action even if such shifting entails deviations from the initial timing set out in Annex 1.

Additional possibility for H2020 MSCA actions:

- Beneficiaries are reminded that periods in which a researcher was absent for 30 consecutive days or less (for reasons other than normal annual leave) can STILL be charged to the action and the costs will be eligible.
- Moreover, the budget is flexible on the use of the amounts received. Research, training and networking unit costs should be used primarily for the research, training and networking activities planned in Annex 1. Yet, beneficiaries may allocate some of these amounts to help maintaining the salary of the researchers that are prevented from implementing the action due to the Covid-19 situation.

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Re-direct work in on-going project

Is there any possibility to rapidly re-direct work in on-going Horizon 2020 projects to help tackling the Covid-19 outbreak?

Amendments should in principle not imply changes to the project that would call into question the award decision. However, due to the current situation, if reorienting your project might contribute to tackling the Coronavirus crisis, this could be granted (via an amendment), upon request by beneficiaries (assessed case-by-case by the funding body).

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