

**Press release**

Paris, 27 September 2019

**Horizon Europe: a consortium of European consultants sign the Manifesto drafted by the Association of Innovation Consultants for the recognition of professional project management**

**The Association of Innovation Consultants gathered European consultants at first event in Brussels**

***Review of the first European initiative***

In the frame of the European Research & Innovation Days, the Association of Innovation Consultants met European organizations to discuss common matters of interest as well as possible collaborations and actions.

On 24 September, the Association of Innovation Consultants organized an informal lunch meeting with some 15 consultants from six European countries. The participants discussed the preparation of the next Framework Programme - Horizon Europe, and specifically management of European research and innovation projects.



The European innovation consultants joined forces to alert the European Commission about the proper consideration of project management for the Horizon Europe Framework Programme. The

European consortium thus endorsed a Manifesto to support professional project management in Horizon Europe.

European research and innovation collaborative projects are complex: they involve different types of organizations, from several disciplines, coming from different countries with different cultures and background. **The management and implementation of these projects is a challenge that requires a range of professional skills and tools (contractual, financial and knowledge management, activity follow-up, monitoring, communication and impact assessment...).** Unfortunately, the requirement of professional management is not **appropriately considered** in the current Framework Programme.

Proposals are all considered as "excellent" by the European Commission at the time of selection for funding but less than one-third are considered as "good to excellent" once they are implemented, due to project management issues.

Experience shows that the influence of effective and professional project management has a decisive impact on project performance and results. As a result, collaborative project management has been professionalised throughout the years, both internally with the set-up of dedicated EU projects teams, or externally with professional consultants.

The European Commission restrained how the management activities shall be pursued. Subcontracting of project management services or its delegation to another partner is not currently allowed by the participation rules thus limiting the possibilities of the beneficiaries to benefit from this crucial support.

Future European projects success requires effective strategic management as well as professional administrative and financial management. The present initiative aims to gather all future Horizon Europe project stakeholders willing to maximise the success of such projects by considering Professional project management as a key success factor.

**Sign the manifesto here -[link](#)**

### **About ACI, Association of Innovation Consultants - [www.asso-conseils-innovation.org](http://www.asso-conseils-innovation.org)**

The Association of Innovation Consultants is a French association, made up of more than 70 companies involved in innovation consulting, employing more than 5 000 people. The association is actively involved in advocating and supporting the activity of innovation consulting, as well as promoting innovation as a vector for economic growth and societal performance.

Its experts provide recommendations (with papers, practical guides, expert reviews) for public and private stakeholders in both French and European innovation ecosystems. Its members operate in four main areas: innovation strategies and values, public innovation policies, collaborative projects and innovation taxation (Research Tax Credit, Innovation Tax Credit).

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