



**Climate impacts on agriculture as EU research focus (flagship) for 2020 - 2030**  
 FACCE MACSUR suggested<sup>1</sup> to launch an EU Flagship (2020-2030) on "Climate change impacts along the agro-food chain" to tackle this great societal challenge involving many stakeholders and scientific disciplines. The topic suggestion by MACSUR does not imply a specific consortium.

### ***What is an EU Flagship?***

An EU flagship, or more exactly, a Future and Emerging Technologies (FET) Flagship, is part of the EU Commission's funding scheme for excellent science<sup>2</sup> and is implemented through the H2020 workplan.

**FET Flagships** are 1-billion €, 10-year initiatives in which hundreds of excellent European researchers join forces to focus on solving an ambitious scientific and technological challenge, like understanding the **Human Brain** or developing the new materials of the future, such as **Graphene**. In May 2016, a new flagship on quantum technology was announced.

### ***What is the procedure for a new EU Flagship?***

The path towards such a major investment is long and very competitive at each step. Specific topics require a lot of support from many sides (policy, industry, research and other stakeholders) to be successful. The Commission plans new calls for Flagships in the 2018-2020 workplan of H2020. In preparation for the workplan, a consultation on flagship topics was conducted February-April this year. The Commission will evaluate the topics in 2016, open calls for preparatory projects in late 2017 and select Flagships in 2020.

### ***How can you support the topic and MACSUR?***

In the selection of topics, the Commission takes into account the support for the topic in terms of "votes". E.g. the Commission emphasized that the quantum technology Flagship was "endorsed by 3400 key players"<sup>3</sup>.

Therefore, we ask you

- to vote for the topic on the EU's Futurium platform<sup>4</sup> (i.e. rating the topic on a scale of 1-5 stars ★ ★ ★ ★ ★). A positive comment would be appreciated.
- to use your contacts to the EU Commission, especially with the Head of the Flagships Unit<sup>5</sup> and the H2020 Future and Emerging Technologies Advisory Group<sup>6</sup> to point out the importance of the subject and, to the greatest extent possible, to indicate the backing of the FACCE JPI, its advisory boards and country members,
- to encourage other people, projects and programmes to vote for the topic.

<sup>1</sup> <https://ec.europa.eu/futurium/en/content/climate-change-impacts-along-agro-food-chain-end-user-relevant-research-food-security-0>

<sup>2</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en/h2020-section/future-and-emerging-technologies>

<sup>3</sup> <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/european-strategy-quantum-technology-endorsed-3400-key-players>

<sup>4</sup> step-by-step instructions on the MACSUR website: <http://macsur.eu/flagship>

<sup>5</sup> Thomas Skordas, Head of the Flagship Unit, DG Connect, European Commission, [Thomas.Skordas@ec.europa.eu](mailto:Thomas.Skordas@ec.europa.eu), phone ext. 68908, [https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/sites/digital-agenda/files/organi\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/sites/digital-agenda/files/organi_en.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/transparency/regexpert/index.cfm?do=groupDetail.groupDetail&groupID=2963>