European Commission: Horizon 2020
Florida International University
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• Founded in 1965 on an abandoned airfield and the university started in the former air traffic controller’s tower. The tower still remains standing today, at the center of campus, as FIU’s Ivory Tower.

• Among the 10 largest public universities in the United States

• Ranked #1 in awarding bachelor’s and master’s degrees to Hispanic students

• R1 Carnegie classification for Highest Research Activity
FIU’s BILAT Experience: BILAT 2.0

- From 2012-2015 FIU partners with 9 Europe institutions and 4 American partners to promote EU-US collaboration in science, technology, and innovation.

- Program Highlights
  - Olaf Heilmayer, Head of Unit, German Aerospace Center, Multilateral Cooperation, Monitoring, European and International Cooperation provided a Practical Workshop on EU Research and Innovation Funding.
  - Lecture on: "Immigrant Religion in the EU: From Refuge to Recognition" by Dr. Martin Baumann, Professor for the study of Religions, University of Lucerne, Switzerland.
  - Lecture on "The Eurozone crisis and the future of the European project" by Baroness Emma Nicholson, Member of the House of Lords, United Kingdom.
The Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence at FIU is one of the 6 American and 10 European partners in the BILAT USA 4.0, and is a Bilateral Coordinator for the Enhancement and Development of STI Partnerships between the EU and the USA.

Priority Areas for the BILAT 4.0 program:
- Marine and Arctic Research
- Health
- Transportation
- Nanotechnologies
- Materials and new production technologies.
Foreign jurisdiction

- The Agreement is governed by the applicable EU law, supplemented if necessary by the law of Belgium.
- The General Court or the Court of Justice of the European Union has sole jurisdiction to resolve any disputes concerning interpretation or validation of the agreement.
Accepting Foreign Jurisdiction

• Normal approach to jurisdiction issues in a grant is to negotiate a jurisdiction in the State of Florida or we can choose to remain silent. State of Florida does not prevent FIU from accepting a foreign jurisdiction.
• FIU has been awarded funding from the European Commission through various funding opportunities past 15 years through FIU’s EU Center of Excellence.
• FIU’s Vice President of Research reviewed the contract and made a business decision that accepting a foreign jurisdiction was of minimal risk to the institution.
Rights to Results and Background IP

• Beneficiaries must give access to their background IP and their results (on a royalty free basis) to other beneficiaries, EU institutions and affiliated entities.
• Access of results must be given to affiliated entities established in an EU Member State or country to exploit the results for a period of 1 year.
• Background IP can be excluded with upfront notification
• Breaches may result in grant reductions.
Why FIU Accepted IP provisions

- IP related items are reviewed on a case-by-case basis. This is reviewed and approved by the PI along with FIU’s Department of Technology Transfer.

- Special IP form in which PI:
  - Acknowledges special IP terms of H2020 award
  - Accepts deviations from University’s standard IP policy
  - Waive IP rights for duration of grant
Liability

• The beneficiaries are jointly and severally liable for the technical implementation of the action as described in Annex 1. If a beneficiary fails to implement its part of the action, the other beneficiaries become responsible for implementing this part (without extra funding) unless the Commission expressly relives them of this obligation.
Accepting the Liability Provisions

• Issues of liability are reviewed on a case-by-case basis and it was determined by FIU’s Vice President of Research that accepting the articles in the agreement was of minimal risk to the institution. The Florida state law does not prevent FIU from accepting liability.
Visibility

• Each beneficiary must- up to four years after the period- take measures aiming to ensure ‘exploitation’ of its results (either directly or indirectly, in particular through transfer or licensing.
• Each beneficiary must disseminate its results by disclosing them to the public by appropriate means including in scientific publications.
• Must ensure open access (free of charge online) to all peer-reviewed scientific publications relating to its results.
• Open access to research data
Project Coordination

- Post Award Manager continual involvement with the PI to ensure time and effort are reported to the EC Program Officers.
- Project Coordinator ensures media promotion for the EU on all content is provided and provides updates on Facebook and Twitter.
- Financial reporting provided in Euros and 80% pre-financed at the start of the grant compared to federal grants that are mainly cost recovery.
- Manager ensure the funds are spent in accordance to the budget to avoid having to sell funds back into Euros in order to reimburse the EC.
- Hold back a portion of the budget not release funds due to flux in exchange rate.
Capped Indirect Cost Rate

• Entitled to recover a flat rate of 25% of the eligible total direct costs from which are excluded:
  – Costs of subcontracting
  – Costs of in-kind contributions provided by third parties which are not used on the beneficiary’s premises
  – Costs for third parties.
Chris Beyer
Pre-Award Coordinator
305.348.2494
chbeyer@fiu.edu