

<https://ec.europa.eu/futurium/en/content/online-consultation-mathematics-excellence-science-horizon2020>

Online consultation on mathematics for H2020 next work organised by the European Commission from January to May 2016

Post of Albert Cohen, 13 February 2016

Oversized grants

All areas listed are indeed important and promising. There will be the temptation of viewing them as requiring very large scale funding. As pointed out by another contributor, the typical funding scheme proposed by the EC is not adapted to the reality of most mathematical research, even in rather applied areas. Oversized grants awarded to a very limited number of researchers leads to a significant lack of global efficiency of the funding scheme. Mathematicians are led to write artificially oversized proposals, where for example they plan to hire 10 postdocs on closely related topics. This is to my opinion extremely damaging to the development of innovative mathematics at the highest level throughout Europe, and therefore the funding schemes are missing their main objective. Discussions with distinguished colleagues confirms to me that this feeling is shared by most of them. Delivering significantly smaller grants to a larger number of mathematicians deserving them would definitely improve the global result.