

# THE EU FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

## HORIZON EUROPE

### Questions and Answers

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This Q&A has been prepared by Central Denmark EU Office, Greater Copenhagen EU Office, South Denmark European Office and Aalborg University's Brussels Office with advice and input from DANRO under the Danish Agency for Science and Higher Education. The answers are based on official documentation, independent sources of information, and on our own knowledge, insights, and interpretation of Horizon Europe. Neither our offices nor the European institutions or other formal parties involved in the preparation, decision-making, and implementation of Horizon Europe can be held responsible for any of the answers provided in this document.



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## 1. STRUCTURE OF HORIZON EUROPE

### WHAT IS HORIZON EUROPE?

Horizon Europe is the European Framework Programme for Research and Innovation that covers 2021-2027 and is the successor of Horizon 2020. The general objective of the programme is to deliver scientific, technological, economic and societal impact from EU investments in research and innovation to strengthen scientific and technological bases, innovation and foster competitiveness in all Member States. Horizon Europe is guided by the Commissions policy priorities, and contributes to delivering on EU strategic priorities and policies, e.g. the [Sustainable Development Goals](#), the [Paris Agreement on climate change](#), and the European Research Area. Horizon Europe seeks to maximise the value of research cooperation by focusing on objectives and activities that cannot be realised by individual countries but only through EU cooperation.

See also What is the European Research Area?

### WHAT IS THE POLICY CONTEXT FOR HORIZON EUROPE AND HOW IS IT RELEVANT?

The political priorities of the European Commission (Commission) and the objectives for the European Research Area will guide the implementation of Horizon Europe. The results and outcomes of projects funded through Horizon Europe are expected to contribute to delivering on the [priority objectives](#) of the Commission:

- 1) A European Green Deal that will make Europe the first climate-neutral continent by 2050 and preserve the natural environment and biodiversity.
- 2) An Economy that works for people to ensure a social market economy that goes hand in hand with social rights, climate-neutrality objectives and a competitive industry by preparing for the technological future, steering innovation and uptake of technologies.
- 3) A Europe fit for the Digital Age to ensure technological sovereignty in critical technology areas by setting next generation standards and better coordinating European investments in breakthrough technologies.
- 4) Promoting our European Way of Life to address security issues such as terrorism, disaster risk reduction and internal security within the EU and along its external borders.
- 5) A Stronger Europe in the World to pursue strategic partnerships with key partner countries and promote international scientific cooperation to tackle global challenges such as climate change, food and water security, environmental degradation, pollution and global health.
- 6) European democracy to modernise democratic governance by developing policies, innovations and institutions that expand political participation and civic engagement,

enhance accountability and legitimacy, protect rights and the rule of law and help restore trust in democratic institutions.

Unforeseen events can also play an important role, such as major, societal shocks (pandemics, migration, natural disasters, economic turmoil etc.) or current political issues.

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#### WHAT IS THE EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA?

The European Research Area (ERA) is a concept that seeks to establish a unified single area in which scientific knowledge, technology and researchers can circulate freely. ERA provides a framework for European policies geared towards removing barriers of mobility and putting the necessary conditions in place for scientists to move more easily, have better access to funding and concentrate on their research. A new ERA Communication is foreseen in 2020.

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#### WHAT ARE THE NOVELTIES IN AND RATIONALE BEHIND HORIZON EUROPE COMPARED TO HORIZON 2020?

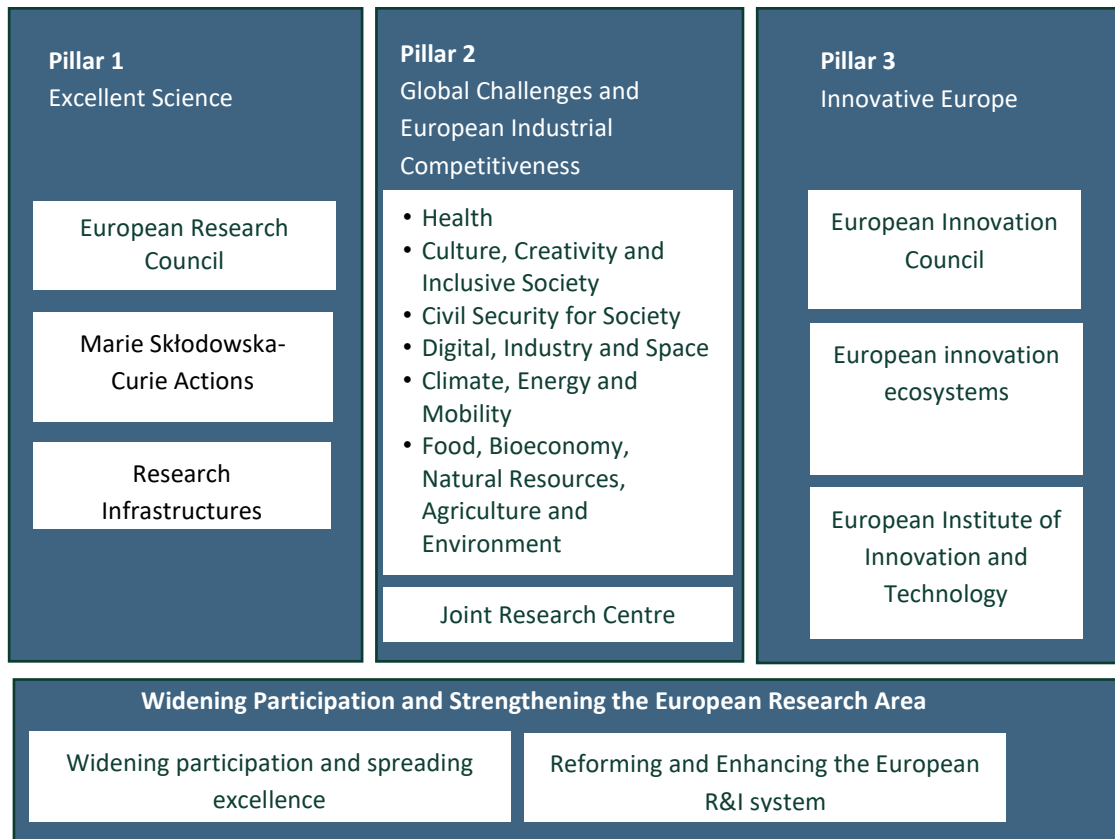
Horizon Europe is generally referred to as an evolution of the successful Horizon 2020 (2014-2020) with some novelties. The new features are notably:

- The *European Innovation Council* to support breakthrough market creating innovation.
- Societal challenges are addressed in *broader thematic clusters*, requiring a higher degree of interdisciplinarity.
- *Missions* that set a direction for investments in research and innovation to solve particular global challenges and create more societal impact and citizens involvement.
- *Open science policy* to reinforce open science.
- *New approach to public-private partnerships* with and three different models to rationalise the funding landscape.
- *Simpler rules* for participation to reduce administrative burdens.

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#### WHAT IS THE STRUCTURE OF HORIZON EUROPE?

Horizon Europe consists of three vertical pillars, 1) Excellent Science, 2) Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness, 3) Innovative Europe and one horizontal programme 4) Widening Participation and Strengthening the European Research Area. See table below.



**Table 1. Structure of Horizon Europe**

### WHAT IS EXCELLENT SCIENCE (PILLAR I)?

Pillar I ‘Excellent Science’ strengthens EU science and technology due to increased investment in highly skilled people and cutting-edge research. It supports the search for breakthroughs in understanding and acquisition of knowledge at all levels; the world class facilities needed to achieve this, including physical and knowledge infrastructures, and the means to disseminate and share knowledge, methodologies and skills. The European Research Council will support the best researchers with flexible, long-term funding to pursue ground-breaking, high-gain/high-risk research in Europe. Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions focus on excellent research that is fully bottom-up and open to any field of research and innovation from basic research to market take-up and innovation services. It supports mobility of researchers across borders, sectors and disciplines, excellent training of researchers, the strengthening of human resources and skills development and the creation of synergies with EU, national and regional programmes. Research Infrastructures will endow Europe with world-class sustainable research infrastructures open and accessible to all researchers in Europe and beyond.

The key objectives of Pillar I Excellent Science are to reduce research fragmentation, avoid duplication and better coordinate the design, development, accessibility and use of research infrastructures.

## WHAT IS GLOBAL CHALLENGES AND EUROPEAN INDUSTRIAL COMPETITIVENESS (PILLAR II)?

Pillar II 'Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness' delivers on the EU's strategic priorities, such as the Paris Agreement on climate change, the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals. Pillar II will be aligned with actions taken in other countries and regions of the world to achieve greater impact. It is grouped in six integrated clusters of activities that aim at creating systemic and sustainable changes for society and the economy. Pillar II includes six clusters:

- Health
- Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society
- Civil Security for Society
- Digital, Industry and Space
- Climate, Energy and Mobility
- Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment

Pillar II is implemented primarily by collaborative research and innovation projects that respond to pre-defined challenges and bring together private and public actors, end-users, scientists, technologists, producers, innovators, businesses, educators, policymakers, citizens and civil society organisations. Pillar II also includes research and innovation missions and a range of partnerships with public and private partners.

See also [What is a Mission?](#) and [What are the different types of partnerships in Horizon Europe?](#)

## WHAT IS INNOVATIVE EUROPE (PILLAR III)?

Pillar III seeks to enhance the EU's industrial competitiveness and innovation performance, notably by supporting the development and deployment of disruptive and market-creating innovation via the European Innovation Council, European Innovation Ecosystems and the European Institute of Innovation and Technology.

See also [What is European Innovation Council?](#), [What are European Innovation Ecosystems?](#) and [What are the Knowledge and Innovation Communities \(KICs\)?](#)

## WHAT IS WIDENING PARTICIPATION AND STRENGTHENING THE EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA?

The horizontal programme seeks to strengthen collaborative links across Europe and open European research and innovation networks, contribute to improved research management capacities in the group of 'widening countries'<sup>1</sup>, support national policy reforms and exploit the potential of the EU talent pool. There are two distinct programmes in this part of Horizon Europe. The first part, Widening Participation and Spreading Excellence supports activities to

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<sup>1</sup> Hungary, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Croatia, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Portugal, Poland, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Greece plus overseas territories of France and Portugal.



reduce disparities in research and innovation performance among Member States by sharing knowledge and expertise to help widening countries and outermost regions attain a competitive position in global value chains. Activities include *teaming* to create new or upgrade existing centres of excellence and *twinning* to significantly strengthen universities or research organisations in a specific research area by helping them to link up with internationally leading institutions in other Member States. *ERA Chairs* support universities or research organisations in attracting and maintaining high quality human resources under the direction of an outstanding researcher and research manager. *COST* (European Cooperation in Science and Technology) provides scientific networking, capacity building and career development and other activities to improve the quality of proposals from low research and innovation performing Member States as well as fostering brain circulation of researchers.

The second part concerning “Strengthening the European Research Area” addresses research and innovation policy issues of a horizontal nature, such as Responsible Research and Innovation, ethics, gender, Open Science etc. It also contributes to the development of the European Research Area through activities that are relevant for or support policy development.

#### WHAT ARE THE CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES (SME PARTICIPATION, GENDER, SOCIAL SCIENCE AND HUMANITIES, THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND THE GREEN DEAL)?

Cross-cutting issues are addressed in the implementation of Horizon Europe to maximise impact and added-value of European research and innovation investments. Cross-cutting issues include gender, social sciences and humanities, open science, ethics and research integrity, dissemination and exploitation of results, effective circulation of knowledge between research, industry, education and training, a balanced approach between research and innovation and key enabling technologies. In general, they are thus issues to be considered in all projects to the extent that they are of relevance.

#### WHAT DOES TECHNOLOGY READINESS LEVEL MEAN?

Technology Readiness Levels 1-9 (TRLs) have been used in some parts of Horizon 2020 to define the different research and innovation steps from basic research to the commercialisation of a product. In parts of Horizon Europe, TRLs might be specified for some topics.

Technology Readiness Level	Definition
TRL 1	Basic principles observed and reported
TRL 2	Technology concept and/or application formulated
TRL 3	Analytical and experimental critical function and/or characteristic proof-of-concept
TRL 4	Component and/or subsystem validation in laboratory environment
TRL 5	Component/subsystem/system validation in relevant environment
TRL 6	Demonstration in relevant environment
TRL 7	Prototyping demonstration in an operational environment

TRL 8	Actual system completed and qualified through test and demonstration
TRL 9	Actual system proven through successful operations

**Table 2. Technology Readiness Levels**

### WHAT IS MEANT BY 'IMPACT' IN HORIZON EUROPE?

Each topic in a call for applications will define the specifically expected impact(s), that projects are expected to deliver. Impact is also one of the three evaluation criteria, against which applications are scored. [Annex V of the Horizon Europe regulation](#) defines short-, medium- and long-term key impact pathways. Impact is grouped in three categories: scientific, societal and technological/economic impact which Horizon Europe should contribute to achieving. The pathways provide a framework for monitoring and evaluating the performance of Horizon Europe.

- *Scientific impact* refers to high-quality new knowledge, strengthening human capital in research and innovation and fostering diffusion of knowledge and open science.
- *Societal impact* refers to the delivery of benefits that strengthen the uptake of innovation in society and contribute to people's wellbeing by addressing EU policy priorities such as United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement on climate change. See also [What is the policy context for Horizon Europe and how is it relevant?](#)
- *Technological/economic impact* refers to the creation and growth of companies that create direct and indirect jobs. See also ['What are the key impact pathways?'](#) See also [What are the key impact pathways?](#)

Projects will have to deliver information in their reporting, that support this monitoring at programme level.

### WHAT IS THE BUDGET OF HORIZON EUROPE?

*To be updated...*

The budget for Horizon Europe is part of the Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027 which is still being negotiated at the time of publication of this Q&A.

## 2. THE THREE PILLARS OF HORIZON EUROPE

### WHAT ARE THE MAIN NOVELTIES IN THE EXCELLENT SCIENCE PILLAR?

The Excellent Science Pillar in Horizon Europe very much resembles the excellence pillar in Horizon 2020. The biggest change is the move of the Future and Emerging Technologies (FET) programme to the European Innovation Council Pathfinder in Pillar III.

The European Research Council's (ERC) mission and funding principles are fully maintained in Horizon Europe. Nevertheless, the ERC's Scientific Council is considering introducing some novelties in its effort to ensure world-class peer review evaluation. These adjustments are part of a broader reflection and adaptation process. This process is expected to continue over the coming years. The ERC panel structure is subject to ongoing evaluation and in 2020 two new panels were added.

In the transition between consecutive EU research and innovation framework programmes, the calendar of calls may differ. Please consult the [ERC website](#) for updates on call schedules.

The Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCAs) will be grouped and streamlined under five intervention areas:

- Mobility of researchers
- Training of researchers
- Strengthening human capital across the ERA
- Facilitation synergies
- Promoting public outreach

The streamlining approach should lead to a wider uptake of MSCAs throughout all Member States. Rules will be simplified and resubmission below quality threshold will be restricted.

### WHAT IS A MISSION?

A mission is a portfolio of research and innovation actions aimed at delivering high impact with clear societal value. A mission should be bold, inspirational and widely relevant to society, and be clearly framed, i.e. targeted, measurable and timebound. It should make it easier for citizens to understand the value of EU investments in research and innovation.

A mission gathers multiple stakeholders such as researchers, entrepreneurs and European citizens to work across disciplines and sectors on developing solutions to major challenges under one of the five mission areas:

- Adaptation to Climate Change, including Societal Transformation
- Cancer
- Healthy Oceans, Seas, Coastal and Inland Waters

- Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities
- Soil Health and Food

The missions under each area are proposed to the member states by five [Mission Boards](#). The budget of each mission depends on the size of the challenge it is trying to solve. However, a maximum of 10% of the annual budget of Pillar II will be allocated to fund the implementation of missions during the first three years of Horizon Europe. The timeframe of each mission depends on the challenge of the mission. Although there is no specific timeframe a mission can last up to 10 years. See also [FAQ](#).

Each mission will have a mission manager appointed, whose main tasks will be to support the Mission Boards and manage the portfolio of projects within a mission.

The missions will be selected in 2020. *To be updated.*

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#### WHO IS A MISSION-TOPIC RELEVANT FOR AND WHAT CAN BE FUNDED?

A mission topic is relevant for different stakeholders in both the public and private sector as well as for European citizens.

A mission will potentially combine different funding instruments and policy actions and will likely be supported by a range of activities, engaging different actors such as the Member States, European citizens and the European Commission (Commission).

Each mission may involve one or more of the following actions:

- Launch specific calls in Horizon Europe and other programmes. These calls will encourage creativity and bottom-up ideas from a proposal.
- Identify specific actions to change/improve policy contexts, which are critical for the success of missions such as framework conditions.
- Make use of relevant partnerships.
- Mobilise structural funds to align these with mission goals.
- Establish appropriate links to national programmes and policy.
- Influence the international agenda, combining efforts with similar third country programmes.

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#### HOW WILL A MISSION-FUNDED PROJECT INTERACT WITH OTHER MISSION FUNDED PROJECTS OR HORIZON EUROPE?

It is expected that mission funded projects will interlink with other mission funded projects both within the same mission area and potentially with other mission areas as well as projects funded in other parts of Horizon Europe. Furthermore, there is also potential to create synergy between the missions and other EU programmes, including the European Cohesion Policy and Regional Funds, European Rural Development Funds, Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), Programme for Small and Medium-sized enterprises (COSME), Digital Europe Programme and

the LIFE Programme. Synergies should also be sought at a national and regional level, and the Commission is encouraging Member States to ensure national and local anchorage through national and regional funding schemes and through public ownership facilitated via citizen involvement.

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## WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF PARTNERSHIPS IN HORIZON EUROPE?

European Partnerships are established in sectorial areas and are based on challenges. They are used when challenges are of a scale that require a range of partners (public and private) to come together in order to deliver societal and economic impact through investments in research and innovation. Due to the size of challenges addressed through partnerships, they normally last for three years or more. Partnerships represent a significant investment (up to half of the budget of Pillar II).

Three different forms of European Partnerships can be implemented depending on specific needs, types of activities and criteria:

- Co-programmed European Partnerships
- Co-funded European Partnerships
- Institutionalised European Partnerships

**Co-programmed European Partnerships** are based on memoranda of understanding (MoU) and/or contractual arrangements between the European Commission (Commission) and private and/or public partners. They are expected to be best suited for the participation of industry, and in some cases Member States, foundations, international partners etc. They are jointly implemented by the Commission and partners.

**Co-funded European Partnerships** are implemented by partners who receive a substantial budget contribution from Horizon Europe (Grant Agreement) to co-fund their joint programme of activities. The Commission implements its part of the partnership through Horizon Europe Work Programmes with calls for proposals. The co-funded partnerships are expected to be best suited for partners from the Member States, research funding agencies and other public authorities. During the implementation national rules apply by default to calls and projects launched by co-funded action. The calls may only be open to funding of stakeholders that are located in participating countries.

**Institutionalised European Partnerships** are the most complex type of partnerships. They may be formalised partnerships between Member State funded programmes (Public-Public-Partnership –P2P), which the Commission joins, or Public-Private-Partnerships (PPP), where a private sector consortium on the one side and the Commission set up a Joint Undertaking. Member States do in rare cases also join the Joint Undertakings. Both types of institutionalised partnerships are adopted by Member States in the Council of the European Union and sometimes also in the European Parliament. They are used in cases where other forms of research and innovation partnerships would not generate the necessary impacts (due to e.g. long-term perspective, international visibility). They are expected to be best suited for long-

term collaborations with stable partners and provide only limited flexibility for adaptation during their implementation. Compared to other forms of European Partnerships, they require a high degree of preparation, including the establishment of dedicated entities (funding bodies) to manage implementation. Institutionalised partnerships adopt their own strategic research agenda and award funding mainly on the basis of open calls for proposals.

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## WHAT IS THE FINAL LIST OF PARTNERSHIPS UNDER HORIZON EUROPE?

*To be updated...*

In December 2019, the Commission published a [final report](#) based on a consultation about the partnerships, including a list of 49 future partnership candidates for the first part of Horizon Europe (see pp. 134 in [final report](#)). A 50<sup>th</sup> partnership on Pandemics preparedness is also considered. The final selection of partnerships will be included in the Horizon Europe Strategic Plan for 2021-2024. Once adopted the Strategic Plan will indicate the foreseen starting year of each partnership. The list of partnerships is expected to be updated in the second Strategic Plan 2025-2027. Co-funded partnerships will only be implemented if they receive sufficient support from Member States.

See also [What is the Strategic Plan?](#)

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## WHICH OF THE CO-FUNDED PARTNERSHIPS CAN DANISH STAKEHOLDERS PARTICIPATE IN?

Danish stakeholders can participate in calls under co-funded partnerships, but can only expect funding from partnerships, that Danish funding agencies have committed funding to. Danish participation is typically funded by the [Innovation Foundation Denmark](#), one of the Development and Demonstration Programmes (UDPs) in energy, environment and agriculture or the [Independent Research Fund Denmark](#). Co-funded partnerships and calls to which Danish funding agencies commit funding will in most cases be featured on their respective websites. The partnerships will be open for participants from all Member States active in the partnership.

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## WHAT IS EUROPEAN INNOVATION COUNCIL?

The European Innovation Council (EIC) is part of Pillar III Innovative Europe and supports European innovators in all fields of disruptive, market-creating innovations. It supports both research-intensive transdisciplinary projects (Pathfinder) and close-to-market mono-beneficiary projects (Accelerator).

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## WHAT IS PATHFINDER AND ACCELERATOR?

The EIC Pathfinder and Accelerator are the two main funding instruments under the EIC. The Pathfinder funds lower Technology Readiness Levels (TRLs), trans-disciplinary research-intensive projects in breakthrough areas of science, through multi-beneficiary projects. The

Accelerator funds mono-beneficiary and highly innovative projects at higher TRLs, which are viable, but not bankable due to their level of risk.

See also [What does Technology Readiness Level mean?](#)

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#### IS THE EIC ONLY FOR COMPANIES?

The EIC target group is innovators from private companies, universities and other types of institutions. However, the EIC Accelerator is only open to for-profit SMEs and start-ups, and in limited circumstances to mid-caps. The EIC Pathfinder, on the other hand, is also open to researchers at universities and innovators from other sectors.

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#### WHICH COMPANIES CAN GET FUNDING FROM THE EIC ACCELERATOR?

Only SMEs, including start-ups, and in limited circumstances mid-caps are eligible for support from the EIC Accelerator. The instrument targets highly innovative, high-risk, high-reward projects usually with a strong technology component.

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#### WHAT IS BLENDED FINANCE?

Blended finance is a mix of grant support with financing or equity investments. EIC Accelerator offers grant only or grant combined with equity/financing. Applicants can choose which option they prefer at the time of application.

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#### WHAT ARE THE INVESTMENT TERMS UNDER THE EQUITY PART OF THE EIC ACCELERATOR, THE EIC FUND?

The terms will be set out on a case by case basis. The EIC Fund will generally seek 10-25% of the voting rights when it invests in companies. Exit is expected after 7-10 years on average. There are no predefined levels of returns. The objective is 'impact investment' rather than 'return on investment'.

See the [EIC FAQ](#) for more information.

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#### WILL COMPANIES SUPPORTED BY THE EIC ACCELERATOR BE ABLE TO SEEK INVESTMENTS OUTSIDE THE EU?

Companies having obtained grant only support from the EIC are not limited in their search for investors.

If the company has received equity investment, the exit (sale of the EIC Fund's shares) needs to be approved by the EIC Fund Board, which will assess whether the exit is in the EU's interest. The EIC Fund Board is controlled by the European Commission. As a minority investor the EIC Fund cannot block the sale of shares not under its control.

Under circumstances where a project is deemed of strategic interest to the EU, the EIC Fund will condition its initial support on a blocking minority and may in that case seek to block the

sale of the company to investors outside the EU. Strategic interest will be decided on a case by case basis but can for example relate to security/defence or key enabling technologies where the EU is aiming for European sovereignty (e.g. artificial intelligence). The terms of the investment by the EIC Fund are subject to negotiation between the Fund and the recipient company. For more information see the [EIC FAQs](#).

There are also certain restrictions in the transfer and use of IPR outside of the Union or the involved associated countries, which would have to be respected in such a situation.

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### WHAT ARE EUROPEAN INNOVATION ECOSYSTEMS?

The European Innovation Ecosystems aim to interconnect regional and national innovation actors at the EU level by supporting joint transnational and inter-regional innovation programmes by Member States, regions and associated countries. European Innovation Ecosystems contribute to improving the environment within which innovation can flourish at all levels by developing an effective innovation ecosystem at the EU level, encouraging cooperation, networking and the exchange of ideas and knowledge, developing open innovation processes in organisations, and funding and skills among national, regional and local innovation ecosystems.

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### WHAT ARE THE KNOWLEDGE AND INNOVATION COMMUNITIES (KICs)?

Through the European Institute of Innovation and Investment (EIT), the EU finances the Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs) that each cover a specific sector/challenge. Through the KICs the EIT seeks to reinforce the innovation capacity of all EU Member States by promoting synergies, integration and cooperation in higher education, research and innovation to foster entrepreneurship and strengthen innovation ecosystems. KICs undertake innovation activities and investments with European added value, innovation-driven research, experimentation, prototyping and demonstration, education and training activities, as well as outreach activities and dissemination of best practices in the field of innovation.

Eight KICs currently exist: EIT Climate-KIC, EIT Digital, EIT Food, EIT Health, EIT InnoEnergy, EIT Manufacturing, EIT Raw Materials and EIT Urban Mobility.

[The Strategic Innovation Agenda](#) (SIA) will define the priority areas and strategy for the EIT for a seven-year period in line with the objectives and priorities of Horizon Europe.

A maximum of two new KICs will be initiated under Horizon Europe. The [Annex](#) to the SIA adopted by the Council of the European Union in February 2020 lists a new KIC priority area to be launched in 2023 (Cultural and Creative Industries) and other possible KIC priority areas to be launched in 2026 (Water, Marine and Maritime; Security and Resilience; Inclusion, Integration and Migration).



### 3. HORIZON EUROPE PROCESS

#### HOW OFTEN WILL CALLS BE PUBLISHED UNDER HORIZON EUROPE?

The Work Programmes including calls are published on a biannual basis, but with annual deadlines for call for proposals. The actual call publication date and deadlines may differ from one programme part to the other. Minor changes to the calls in the second year of the Work Programme may occur after the publication.

#### HOW ARE THE WORK PROGRAMMES PREPARED UNDER HORIZON EUROPE?

The European Commission's (Commission) Directorate-General for Research & Innovation (DG RTD) is responsible for preparing the Work Programmes. In specific cases other Directorate Generals share the responsibility with DG RTD, e.g. DG Connect in relation to Digital Cluster. The Work Programmes build on the orientations of the Strategic Plan and are the result of several formal and informal consultations with various stakeholders. The collaboration between DG RTD and so-called policy DGs (e.g. responsible for health, climate, environment and digital) is more structured previously and working groups have been established to coordinate internally. This internal preparation process is referred to as co-creation. The Commission also consults Member States in the Programme Committees during the preparations and seek their approval (positive opinion) before adopting the work programme. In addition, several external stakeholder groups are consulted more or less informally. It includes the European Technology Platforms, inputs from conferences, workshops and public consultations, ad hoc expert groups and informal dialogue with stakeholders. As a novelty, the Commission has initiated the annual conference [Research and Innovation Days](#) to engage with stakeholders on shaping the future of the EU's research and innovation priorities.

#### WHAT IS THE SPECIFIC PROGRAMME?

The Specific Programme is part of the legislative package that establishes Horizon Europe. It defines the implementation of Horizon Europe. The Specific Programme includes in broad terms the issues and activities to be covered during the seven years of Horizon Europe. The Specific Programme describes, activities and objectives of the programmes under the different pillars. The Specific Programme is implemented through an overarching Strategic Plan and subsequently the biannual Work Programmes with announcement of calls for proposals. The Specific Programme also covers the instruments that implement the Framework Programme.

#### WHAT IS THE STRATEGIC PLAN?

The implementation of the Specific Programme will be facilitated by a multiannual Strategic Plan of research and innovation activities, promoting consistency between Work Programmes, EU priorities and national priorities. The Strategic Plan is adopted by the Commission after a strategic planning process where Member States are consulted and give their formal approval. The European Parliament is involved through extensive exchanges of view. Stakeholders are

consulted at large in the so-called co-design process. The strategic planning process focuses mainly on Pillar II 'Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness'. It also covers relevant activities in the other two pillars and the 'Widening Participation and Strengthening the European Research Area' programme.

The first Strategic Plan is expected to cover the period 2021-2024 and the second Strategic Plan will cover the period 2025-2027.

The Strategic Plan contains the following elements related to the period covered:

- Key strategic orientations for R&I support, including a description of expected impacts, cross-cluster issues and intervention areas.
- Identification of European Partnerships.
- Identification of Missions.
- Areas for international cooperation.
- Specific cross-cutting issues, such as the balance between research and innovation, the integration of Social Sciences and Humanities, the role of Key Enabling Technologies and strategic value chains, gender equality, including the integration of gender dimension in research and innovation content as well as adherence to the highest ethics and integrity standards, and priorities for dissemination and exploitation.

## 4. ADVOCACY AND KEY PLAYERS

### WHAT ARE THE PROGRAMME COMMITTEES?

The Programme Committees (PCs) are the EU Member States' forum for giving input to the European Commission (Commission) on the content of the Work Programmes. The PCs formally approve the final version of the Work Programme before the calls are published. All Member States and countries associated with Horizon Europe are represented. The PCs are also a link between the EU and national research systems. The [Danish representatives in the PCs](#) are usually officials from the Danish Agency for Science and Higher Education, the relevant sector ministry (environment, food etc.), and assisted by an expert (scientist or industry representative).

### WHAT ARE THE REFERENCE GROUPS?

The Reference Groups is a Danish concept. These groups are established by the Danish Agency for Science and Higher Education in order to structure the dialogue between the Danish Programme Committee members and Danish stakeholders e.g. universities, industry and interest organisations. Members of the Reference Groups represent their organisation/institution.

For Horizon Europe, five Reference Groups were established in March 2020, covering the areas:

- Strategic configuration (providing input on e.g. strategic matters and questions of overall implementation).

Four thematic configurations:

- [Health](#)
- [Digital, industry and space](#)
- [Climate, energy and mobility](#)
- [Food, bioeconomy, natural resources, agriculture and environment](#)

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## HOW CAN ONE PROVIDE INPUT TO THE WORK PROGRAMMES?

In general, contact with the Commission (DG RTD and relevant policy DGs) is important, often on an informal basis. Contacts can be established through meetings, thematic workshops or through participation in stakeholder events organised by the Commission. Such activities are often useful for putting forward scientific, innovative and impact related issues. Contacts to members of Expert Groups and Programme Committees (PCs) as well as active participation in relevant European Technology Platforms or European Partnerships are other possible channels to provide inputs. For some areas, the Commission may organise public consultations where all stakeholders can suggest future topics. Participation and involvement in science policy active networks, expert groups and/or scientific societies are platforms that allow you to attract the attention of Commission staff, and other players involved in preparing the Work Programmes, to certain issues, challenges, or needs.

Input can also be provided through the Danish PC delegates, who receive their input mainly from formal reference groups.

See also [What are the Reference Groups?](#)

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## WHAT ARE THE EUROPEAN TECHNOLOGY PLATFORMS?

Most European Technology Platforms (ETPs) were established during FP6 and continued under FP7 and Horizon 2020. The ETPs are industry-driven and aim at uniting stakeholders from a specific sector. The members are from industry, research and technology organisations, academia and in some cases the Member States. The technology platforms prepare strategic research agendas, which define research priorities for the sector and draw up plans for implementation. The ETPs are expected to continue to play a role as consulted stakeholders in Horizon Europe by delivering input to the biannual Work Programmes.

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## HOW CAN ONE BECOME AN ADVISORY TO THE COMMISSION?

From time to time the Commission launches [calls for experts](#) to become members of ad hoc expert groups or committees related to the development of Horizon Europe. The role of such groups is to assist the Commission with advice on a given topic. This could for example concern the development of new funding instruments, strategies for new topical research areas or the

mid-term evaluation of the programme. Being an advisory expert offers an opportunity to take part in shaping developments of the topic or issue in question. It also offers an opportunity to acquire knowledge of the plans of the Commission at an early stage.

The call for experts will specify the profile needed and the conditions related to the appointment. To apply to become an expert in the Commission advisory bodies one must be a registered in the Commission expert database.

See also How to sign up as an expert evaluator?

## 5. RULES FOR PARTICIPATION, FUNDING AND APPLICATION

### WHAT ARE THE RULES FOR PARTICIPATION?

The rules for participation are part of the Horizon Europe legal framework. They specify potential participants and relevant conditions such as time to grant, funding rates, award and selection criteria, evaluation design, evaluation review, enquiries and complaints, ethics, security issues, ownership and protection of project results, exploitation and dissemination of results, including open access, and appointment of independent external experts.

**Single set of rules:** There is one single set of rules for participation that covers all parts of Horizon Europe to reduce the administrative burden of participants. In specific and duly justified cases funding bodies that are set up based on a separate legal act may depart from the rules, except from eligibility of actions, ethical and security issues.

**Participants:** Any legal entity including international organisations and other entities established in third countries not associated to Horizon Europe may participate in Horizon Europe actions if they meet the legal conditions as well as conditions defined in the Work Programme or call. Legal entities established in a Member State or associated countries are eligible for funding. Entities in third countries should contribute the cost of their own participation. However, low to middle-income countries or other third countries, subject to exceptional circumstances, could be eligible for funding, e.g. if specified in the Work Programme or if their contribution is considered essential for the project.

The participation of at least three independent legal entities established in different Member States or associated countries is required for projects that are implemented by a consortium of partners. A least one entity must be established in a Member State. Projects funded by the European Research Council, European Innovation Council, and training and mobility actions, Coordination- and Support Actions or co-fund actions may be implemented by one or more legal entities of which at least one must be established in an EU Member State or associated country, unless clearly specified in the work programme. With certain cases, the Work Programme might lay out additional criteria according to specific policy requirements or the nature and objective of the action. This includes e.g. the number, type and place of legal entities.

**Time to grant:** All applicants should be informed about the outcome of the evaluation of the application within a period of maximum five months after the submission deadline for the complete proposal. Grant agreements should be signed with applicants within a maximum of eight months after the submission deadline of the complete proposal. In some cases, the Work Programme may establish short time to grant periods.

**Funding:** Horizon Europe reimburses up to 100 % of total eligible costs. Exceptions are innovation actions (IAs) where 70% of eligible costs are reimbursed (however non-profit legal entities may get 100% reimbursement of eligible costs) and co-fund actions where 30-70% of eligible costs are reimbursed. The same funding rates apply in cases where a flat rate, unit or lump sum financing are fixed for the whole project or parts of it. Indirect eligible costs are 25% of the total direct eligible costs excluding direct eligible costs for subcontracting, financial support to third parties and any unit costs or lump sums which include indirect costs.

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#### WHAT ARE THE TYPES OF ACTIONS TO BE APPLIED IN HORIZON EUROPE?

*To be updated...*

The different types of actions in Horizon Europe are listed in the [General Annexes](#) which await final adoption.

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#### CAN PROJECT PARTICIPANTS BE LIABLE TO PAY BACK FUNDING TO THE EU IF A PROJECT DOES NOT REACH ITS GOALS?

As a rule of thumb, the answer is no. If the project performs the work and produces the deliverables that have been agreed upon in the Grant Agreement with the European Commission (e.g. reports, technical specifications, a prototype, a test period etc.) there will be no demands for repayment. If, however the non-attainment was due to non-compliance with the grant agreement, repayments can be expected. Also, when funding is *performance-based lump sums or inducement prizes*, the funding is given on the condition that agreed upon outputs are delivered and milestones are reached. In such cases, repayments of any pre-financing given is a possibility.

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#### HOW WILL SMEs BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN HORIZON EUROPE?

The involvement of industry—SMEs and large companies—in Horizon Europe will be essential to deliver on the programme’s objectives, relating for example to the creation of sustainable jobs and growth. For this reason, SMEs are eligible and encouraged to participate across almost all parts of Horizon Europe. The European Innovation Council under the Open Innovation pillar is specifically aimed at supporting breakthrough innovation and scaling-up companies, but SMEs also have an important role to play in solving the global challenges under pillar 2 across clusters, missions and partnerships.

In order to identify and evaluate possibilities, Danish SMEs are encouraged to seek guidance from the regional EU offices and/or EuroCenter. Industry participation in Horizon Europe is

expected to reach at least the same level as in Horizon 2020 (where around 25% of the budget for industrial leadership and societal challenges went to SMEs). More than 600 Danish SMEs have participated in Horizon 2020.

An SME is defined as a private enterprise with up to 250 employees and an annual turnover of up to €50 million and/or annual balance sheet of up to €43 million.

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### WHICH COUNTRIES CAN RECEIVE FUNDING IN HORIZON EUROPE?

*To be updated...* awaits the adoption of rules for participation.

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### WHICH COUNTRIES OUTSIDE THE EU ARE ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING IN HORIZON EUROPE (OR PARTS THEREOF)?

Third country participation across EU programmes is part of the negotiations on the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) for 2021-2027, which is subject to negotiations between the Council of the European Union and the European Parliament following their agreement. In Horizon 2020 [these countries](#) were eligible for funding.

*To be updated...*

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### IS IT STILL POSSIBLE TO COLLABORATE WITH PARTNERS FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM?

Whether the UK will be able to participate as a third country or as an associated partner in Horizon Europe, depends on the outcome of the ongoing negotiations on the future relationship between the EU and UK.

The Withdrawal Agreement came into force on 1 February 2020, and since then the UK has taken on the legal identity as a third country. There are provisions for a transition period until 31 December 2020, during which the UK will remain in the Single Market and the Customs Union, benefitting from all European policies. This includes Horizon 2020 where UK partners can participate fully throughout the lifetime of projects. During this period of *status quo* nothing will change for citizens, consumers or businesses on either side.

The EU and UK have until 31 December 2020 to conduct negotiations and agree on the future relationship. Only when these negotiations are settled will it be known whether UK is to become a third country or an associated partner or something else.

If the current MFF is extended and thus allows for a longer programme period for programmes such as Horizon 2020, then the participation of the UK will follow the extension. The UK's status quo status can stay for the full length of the current MFF.

Several organisations can provide the most up to date information about the consequences of Brexit, one of them is [UKRO](#), the British Research Office in Brussels.

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## HOW CAN ONE COMBINE HORIZON EUROPE AND OTHER EU FUNDS?

It is possible to blend different EU funds for the same project or for its complimentary projects/activities if full compliance with the rules of each fund is ensured. Key principles for combining funds are: (i) Non-cumulative principle, i.e. no two sources of EU funding are to be allocated to the same expenditure item. (ii) Co-financing principle, i.e. the EU funding is not to replace the **minimum** co-financing from the beneficiary (own public or private funds). The later principle is still under negotiation.

Ensuring full compliance with EU grant rules include: (i) A cost item is a specific expenditure incurred and eligible in a project, (ii) In the same project, some expenditure may be co-funded under Horizon Europe and other expenditures under programmes such as European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), European Social Fund (ESF) or any other EU fund, (iii) Parts of 'Personnel costs' can be funded under Horizon Europe and other parts under the ESF, (iv) It is important to ensure that the accountancy of a project's costs does not include double funding for an expenditure.

The [political agreement](#) between the Council and the Parliament establish lists possible and sought-after synergies with Horizon Europe.

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## WHAT KIND OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS ARE AVAILABLE IN HORIZON EUROPE?

Grants are the primary funding model under Horizon Europe, however, the programme will allocate both grants and equity or guarantee-based financial products in the Accelerator instrument. In comparison to Horizon 2020, the use of loans and other financial instruments will be expanded. It is also expected that Horizon Europe will include a bigger use of awards and prizes.

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## WHICH ETHICAL RULES ARE APPLICABLE IN HORIZON EUROPE?

Ethical compliance is an integral part of all EU funded research and innovation activities. Actions are expected to comply with fundamental ethical principles and legislation on scientific research in all possible domains of research and at all stages. Entities participating in an action shall provide:

- An ethics self-assessment.
- A confirmation that activities will comply with the European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity published by All European Academies.
- A confirmation that for activities carried out outside the European Union, the same activities would have been allowed in a Member State.
- Special provisions are foreseen for activities making use of human embryonic stem cells.

The process with which to access and address ethical dimensions of activities funded under Horizon 2020 is called the [Ethics Appraisal Procedure](#). It is likely that this procedure will continue under Horizon Europe.

## 6. PROPOSAL

### HOW CAN ONE PREPARE FOR HORIZON EUROPE?

To prepare for the call for proposals in Horizon Europe it is important to start as early as possible. You may wish to try to get early access to draft Work Programmes, which can give an indication of what the call will include i.e. the content of the call, requirements, timing of the call and deadlines. Be aware though, that drafts are subject to change, only the published version of the call text is “official”.

Preparation activities vary and can include:

- Establish a relevant network.
- Seek information and/or provide input from/to members of the Reference Groups.
- Make early warnings among your core partners as soon as you see an interesting call text.
- Establish or consider cooperation with private enterprises and/or end-users.
- Consider the innovation potential of the project.
- Consider how to include different disciplines, also disciplines outside the usual scope.
- Consider the societal or industrial impact of the project.
- Contact relevant advisers as early as possible to get advice. Please also see [Where can I seek advice?](#)

### HOW DO I SUBMIT MY PROPOSAL, FIND CALLS AND SEARCH FOR KEYWORDS ETC.?

Proposals must be submitted electronically using the electronic submission system of the [Funding & Tenders Portal](#). Select your topic and go to the Submission Service section of the topic page. Make sure that you select the correct type of action before you start drafting a proposal. The link to the submission system is available if the status of the call is 'open'.

Each user should have an EU Login account to log in to the Portal. If you already have such an account, you can use it for any interactions supported on this site from proposal submission to reporting. If you do not have an account, you need to create it by clicking on the [REGISTER button](#). Otherwise, you get access only to the public tools of the site (e.g. searching funding opportunities, reading guidance, etc.).

If you want to participate in a project proposal, your organisation needs to be registered and have a 9-digit Participant Identification Code (PIC). This unique identifier will be used as a reference by the European Commission (Commission) in any interactions. The Participant Register is the Commission’s online tool to register and manage the data of the organisations participating in EU programmes. It allows consistent handling of the participants’ official data and avoids multiple requests to enter the same information. Check if your organisation is already registered or register it [here](#).



## HOW LONG WILL THE PERIOD BE FROM PUBLICATION OF A CALL FOR PROPOSAL TO THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF A PROPOSAL?

- As Work Programmes are published for a period of normally two years it varies depending on when the deadline is.
- The period from when the call for proposal opens to the deadline for submitting a proposal is minimum three months.

## HOW TO START THE APPLICATION PROCESS AND FIND PROJECT PARTNERS?

### Find a call

As researcher, it is recommended to make your core research competencies as visible as possible within your institution and within your research network at national and international level. The department of research funding support at your institution would be able to direct relevant calls to you and your department. Your research network might be aware of relevant calls that they will share with you. You may start your call search from the Commission [page](#) by entering different keywords that characterise your research field of interest, and then refine the results with the help of further filters.

Calls are divided into topics, implemented by different types of actions. Select a topic to read more about the identified opportunity. The topic-related documents, guidance and other instructions are available on a topic page.

### Find project partners

It is important to establish collaboration with other partners as early as possible. It is important to have in mind that the Commission often requires that the project proposals are based on interdisciplinarity and cross-sector cooperation. The selection of partners should reflect that.

To find a partner you have the following options:

- You can present and pitch your research idea for potential partners at relevant conferences organised at European level or at other relevant events.
- You can present your research idea to potential partners that you already know.
- The department of research funding support at your institution might from time to time be contacted by other institutions who are searching for partners and might be able to propose potential partners.
- It is possible to find new EU project partners through the [Enterprise Europe Network](#).
- You can search for partners for your own project or find a project that needs your skills at [Funding & Tenders Portal](#). To publish your partner search request or offer, select a topic on the Search Funding and Tenders page. Further help is available [here](#).
- Use the [Partner Search](#) offered on this site to select an organisation based on their profile or their previous participation.
- If your institution is represented through a Brussels-based regional or university office, you might benefit from their network to search for partners.

- For some calls the Commission or the National Contact Point networks arrange brokerage events.

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#### WHERE DO I FIND INFORMATION ON HOW TO SET UP A BUDGET?

The budget must be adequate in relation to the work to be performed, as this is part of the evaluation of applications. In general, there are two prevailing approaches for planning a budget:

A top-down approach where the overall project budget is divided between the partners (often evenly divided) a priori with individual partners instructed to create their own budget within the limits of the share that were allocated to each partner.

A bottom-up approach where the partners are requested to indicate their detailed budgetary needs. Once detailed, all budgets are consolidated to form the overall project budget.

University-based researchers should contact a central or departmental Research Support Office to find information and advice on setting up a budget.

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#### WHERE CAN I SEEK ADVICE IF I WANT TO APPLY FOR HORIZON EUROPE FUNDING?

- You may contact your regional office and/or university representation in Brussels:
  - [Aalborg University](#)
  - [Central Denmark EU Office](#)
  - [Greater Copenhagen EU Office](#)
  - [North Denmark EU Office](#)
  - [South Denmark European Office](#)
- You can contact the Danish National Contact Points (NCPs) in [EuroCenter](#) under the Danish Agency for Science and Higher Education for advice and information to Danish companies, universities, research institutes and other stakeholders about Horizon Europe participation.
- If you are employed at a university, you can contact your local research support unit or similar office if relevant.
- The European Commission's [Research Enquiry Service](#) can help with questions concerning Horizon Europe.
- You can also use the Danish platform [EU-DK Support](#).

## 7. EVALUATION

### HOW IS THE EVALUATION PROCESS?

When a proposal is received by the European Commission (Commission), the first step of the [evaluation process](#) is for the relevant directorate or executive agency to determine if the proposal is admissible and eligible. When this has been checked, all eligible proposals are sent to independent experts (minimum 3) who assess the proposal against predefined evaluation criteria.

Experts score each award criterion on a scale from 0 to 5 (half point scores may be given). Score 0 is the lowest score and means that the proposal fails to address the criterion or cannot be assessed due to missing or incomplete information. Score 5 means that the proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion and that any shortcomings are minor. The maximum overall score is thus 15 (3x5), unless a weighting is applied. If a Work Programme/call provides for a weighting factor this will be used to determine the final ranking. In order to be considered for funding, the proposal must score above a certain threshold for each criterion and above an overall threshold. Thresholds may vary according to the Work Programme.

Funding procedures are expected to have one or two stages. For the first stage of a two-stage proposal the overall threshold is dynamic, i.e. the number of proposals that are selected for the second stage request three times more funding than the total available budget for the call in question. It means that proposals have a success rate around 30% during the second stage.

Proposals with an inflated budget or partners, that have no real role in the consortium (alibi partners), are likely to receive a lower score. ERC applicants may also be called for an in-person interview by the evaluation panel.

From the application deadline, the Commission has five months to evaluate and rank proposals. When the proposals selected for funding have been notified, another three months are foreseen for drawing up the grant agreement.

There is a different, faster evaluation process for applicants to the EIC accelerator.

See also [What are the evaluation criteria for Horizon Europe proposals?](#)

### WHAT ARE THE EVALUATION CRITERIA FOR HORIZON EUROPE PROPOSALS?

The evaluation criteria will be listed in the final annexes to Horizon Europe. However, the evaluators also advice the Commission concerning the operational capacity of the applicants with respect to their role and tasks in the proposed action. This assessment will be based on the competence and experience of the applicants, including operational resources (human, technical, other).

Horizon Europe proposals are evaluated and scored against the following 3 criteria:

- Excellence
- Impact
- Quality and efficiency of implementation

The above criteria are the standard evaluation criteria as they also appeared under Horizon 2020. A detailed description of their definitions in Horizon 2020 can be found [here](#).

For Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions and the European Research Council, the evaluation criteria are set out under the relevant part of the main Work Programme.

ERC applications are, as an exception, only evaluated on the Excellence criterium.

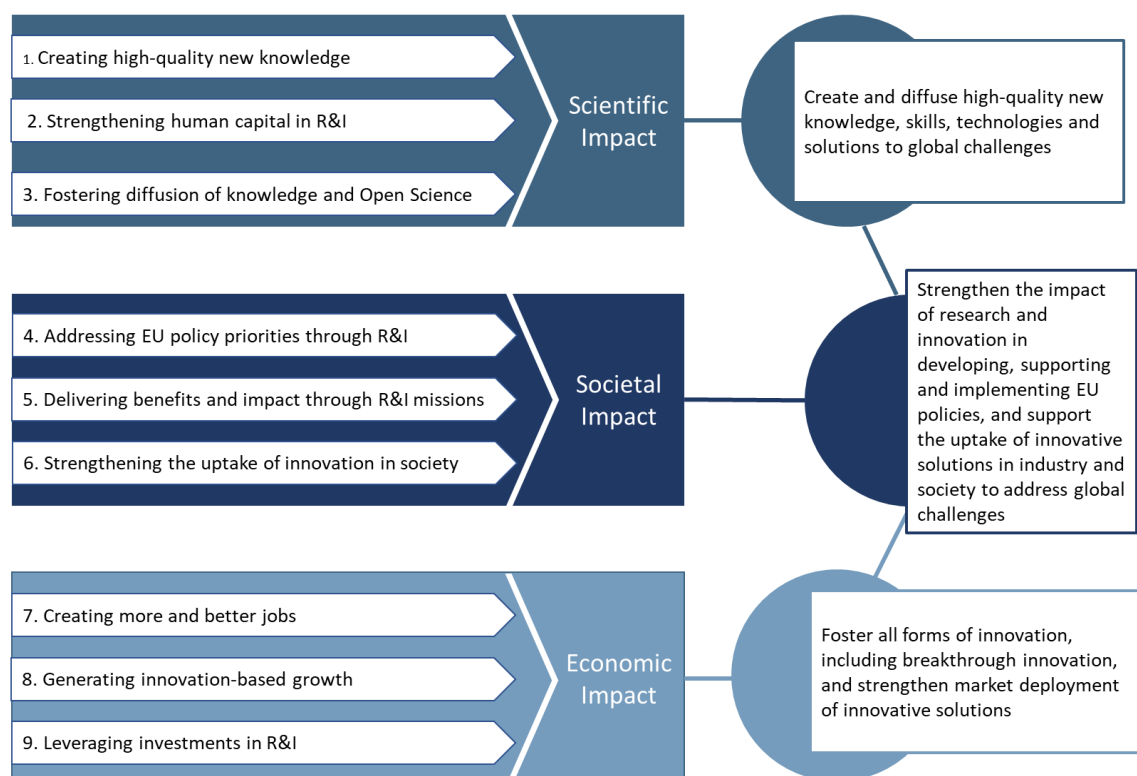
The work programme may provide additional criteria to be used in cases, where two or more applications receive exactly the same overall score and individual score for all three criteria. If two or more projects receive exactly the same overall score, but have different individual scores, preference is given to the excellence criterium, except for the EIC, where impact prevails.

## IS THERE A RANKING SYSTEM FOR SECONDARY EVALUATION CRITERIA?

*To be updated...*

## WHAT ARE THE KEY IMPACT PATHWAYS?

The Commission seeks to broaden and improve the impact delivered by Horizon Europe projects through the introduction of so-called key impact pathways. Three pathways are foreseen in the Horizon Europe regulation: scientific, societal and economic. The figure below gives more detail:



Impact pathways and related key impact pathway indicators are made to capture complementary impacts and reflect the non-linear nature of research and innovation investment. **Scientific impact** is related to supporting the creation and diffusion of new high-quality knowledge, skills, technologies and solutions to global challenges. **Societal impact** is related to strengthening the impact of research and innovation in developing, supporting and implementing Union policies, and support the uptake of innovative solutions across industry and society to address global challenges. **Economic impact** is related to fostering all forms of innovation including breakthrough innovation and strengthening market deployment of innovative solutions.

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### HOW IS SEAL OF EXCELLENCE USED IN DENMARK?

The Seal of Excellence is a label awarded projects, which score above the defined thresholds but cannot receive funding due to a lack of budget. It is currently only awarded to mono-beneficiary applications, i.e. ERC, EIC and MSCA. Its use may be expanded to other selected parts of Horizon Europe and potentially in other EU programmes. The objective of the Seal of Excellence is to facilitate better access to funding from national or regional funds for Seal of Excellence holders. Whether this is the case depends on each Member State or region. Currently, the Seal of Excellence does not offer prioritised access to public funds in Denmark.

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### WHAT IS THE ROLE OF EXPERT EVALUATORS?

Independent expert evaluators perform the evaluation of proposals submitted in response to a call for proposals based on the Horizon Europe Work Programmes.

The Commission is continuously looking for experts. Interested experts can register [here](#). This link also provides information on the type of experts, which the Commission is currently looking for. The time you need to invest as an expert and potential travels to Brussels strongly depend on the nature of your role.

Travel costs, accommodation and daily allowance will be paid for experts. The daily allowance under Horizon 2020 is €450 per full day. More information on contractual aspects for experts can be found [here](#).

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### HOW TO SIGN UP AS AN EXPERT EVALUATOR?

You can register as an expert through this [link](#). To access the site, you firstly create an account whereupon you fill in the following information about yourself:

- Programme selection
- Personal details
- Languages
- Education
- Area of expertise
- Professional experience

Please note that panel members for the European Research Council (ERC) are appointed directly by the ERC Scientific Council and are typically not found through this database.

#### WHAT IS THE HORIZON RESULTS PLATFORM?

The [Horizon Results Platform](#) is a platform where Horizon participants present their results so that interested parties can look up the results and contact the project owners. The platform has been created to facilitate and enhance collaboration between stakeholders. The platform is accessible on the Funding and Tenders Portal. Projects and their results are highlighted in terms of (i) degree of innovation, (ii) exploitability and (iii) impact.

## 8. PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

#### WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS REGARDING PUBLICATION OF PROJECT RESULTS AND DATA MANAGEMENT PLANS IN HORIZON EUROPE?

Horizon Europe requires open access to publications and data. Opt-outs for data sharing are allowed only if justified, taking into consideration the legitimate interests of the beneficiaries and any other constraints such as data protection rules, security rules or intellectual property rights. The mantra remains 'as open as possible, as closed as necessary'. The obligations extend for a predefined period beyond the project duration.

Data management plans must ensure responsible data management with a focus on 'FAIR' principles of 'Findability', 'Accessibility', 'Interoperability' and 'Reusability'.

#### WHAT WILL BE THE DOCUMENTATION AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS DURING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A PROJECT?

*To be updated...*

#### WHAT IS MEANT BY LUMP SUM FUNDING?

Lump sums are applied to simplify funding by basing the grant on estimated and pre-approved costs to eliminate actual cost reporting, timesheets and financial audits. Lump-sums can only be applied where foreseen in the work programme. Two ways of setting the level of lump sums exist: 1) The call text specifies the size of the sum, which is deemed appropriate to solve the call challenge. 2) The applicants provide a detailed budget split on cost categories, work packages and participants. If the cost levels are pre-approved, there is no further need to provide detailed documentation of incurred expenses. The European Commission (Commission) intends to apply the lump sum model where appropriate in Horizon Europe.

## ARE GRANTS UNDER HORIZON EUROPE SUBJECT TO STATE AID RULES?

EU funding which is centrally managed by the Commission or its agencies and therefore not under direct or indirect control of Member States is not state aid. Some companies are concerned that Horizon Europe grants could count towards so-called de minimis funding. Since Horizon Europe grants are not state aid, this is not the case. De minimis aid refers to small amounts of state aid given to companies, which Member States do not have to notify the Commission about. The maximum amount is €200.000 for each company over a 3-year period.

## 9. FURTHER INFORMATION

### WHERE CAN I FIND MORE INFORMATION?

You can find more information on the European Commission's [Horizon Europe webpage](#). You can search for the EU institutions' staff contact details through the [EU directory](#).

### FUNDING AND TENDER OPPORTUNITIES: WHAT IS THE MAIN ENTRANCE TO HORIZON EUROPE?

All information on Horizon Europe calls, topics and deadlines, guides for applicants, rules for participation, and proposal submission forms are gathered under the [Funding and Tenders Portal](#). The Portal has different search options to help you navigate on the website. See also the [Portal Guide](#).

### WHICH OTHER EU PROGRAMMES CAN SUPPORT ASPECTS OF RD&I ACTIVITIES?

Funding for research and development is primarily provided through the Framework Programme, Horizon Europe. However, certain activities may also receive funding from the following programmes:

- [Digital Europe Programme](#) (invests in supercomputing, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, advanced digital skills, and ensuring a wide use of digital technologies across the economy and society).
- [LIFE](#) (supports environmental, nature conservation and climate action projects throughout the EU).
- [Erasmus+](#) (supports education, training, youth and sport in Europe).
- [InvestEU](#) (brings together the multitude of EU financial instruments currently available to support investments in the EU. The InvestEU Programme consists of the InvestEU Fund, the InvestEU Advisory Hub and the InvestEU Portal. InvestEU Fund supports four policy areas: sustainable infrastructure, research, innovation and digitisation, SMEs, and social investment and skills).
- [European Defence Fund – Research Part](#) (supports EU cooperation to foster breakthrough solutions and production of defence technology and equipment. It will provide funding to collaborative defence research projects and create incentives for

companies and Member States to collaborate on joint development of defence products and technologies).

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#### WHERE CAN I SEEK ADVICE?

- You may contact your regional office and/or university representation in Brussels:
  - [Aalborg University](#)
  - [Central Denmark EU Office](#)
  - [Greater Copenhagen EU Office](#)
  - [North Denmark EU Office](#)
  - [South Denmark European Office](#)
- [EuroCenter](#) under the Danish Agency for Science and Higher Education gives advice and information to Danish companies, universities, research institutes and other stakeholders about Horizon Europe participation.
- If you are employed at a university, you can contact your local research support unit or similar office if relevant.
- The European Commission's [Research Enquiry Service](#) can help with questions about Horizon Europe.
- You can also use the Danish platform [EU-DK Support](#).