UKRO Webinar – Horizon Europe

25 January 2021

Housekeeping

- All participants will be muted for the duration of the webinar.

- A chat function is available and will be monitored.

- **Please use the formal Q&A function to submit questions.**

- You can 'up vote' your favourite questions.

- **We will be recording this session.**

- Slides will be shared after the webinar **on the event page**.

- Much more information on UKRO portal including new Factsheets.

- More UKRO webinars on specific aspects of Horizon Europe to follow.

- Don't forget your dedicated EU Advisor- check it via the My Profile link on the UKRO Portal (when logged in).

About UKRO

Mission

- Maximise UK engagement in EU-funded research, innovation and higher education activities

Our office

- Based in Brussels
- European office of UK Research and Innovation (UKRI)
- Delivers subscription-based advisory services for around 140 research organisations in the UK and beyond
- Provides ERC and MSCA National Contact Point services on behalf of the UK Government

About the presenter

- *Jon Brookes*

  – ***European Advisor*** *since January 2017*

  – ***Previous ERC National Contact Point*** *and now specialising in climate-related R&I opportunities*

  – ***He/Him***

- *Branwen Hide (Senior EU Advisor) will be moderating.*

What will be covered

- UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement

- Horizon Europe Structure - ERC & MSCA in focus

- Missions

- Changes to Implementation & Evaluation

- Q&A

UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement

UK participation in Horizon Europe

- On 24 December 2020, the UK Government announced the conclusions of the negotiations with the European Commission.

- The announcement included confirmation that the UK will associate to Horizon Europe subject to ratification of the overall deal and finalisation of the Horizon Europe Programme regulations.

- This includes full participation in Horizon Europe, with the exception of…

- UK entities will not be able to participate in the European Innovation Council (EIC) Fund which is part of the EIC Accelerator and provides investment through equity or other repayable form.

UK-EU TRADE AND COOPERATION AGREEMENT

Summary

December 2020

UK participation in other EU programmes

- The agreement also included participation in JRC activities, European Partnerships in the form of Article 185 and 187, the EIT, ERICs and the ERAC.

- An Agreement was also reached with the EU and Euratom to associate to the next Euratom Research & Training (R&T) Programme, ITER and the Space Programme.

- The agreement does not include participation in Erasmus+.

- Turing scheme for students to study and work abroad will replace the UK's participation in Erasmus+.

- Unless otherwise stated, the UK will become a Third Country for all other programmes (CREATIVE EUROPE, LIFE etc.).

Next Steps

- The next step is for both sides to formally adopt the full text of the agreement taking into account the finalised EU Programme Regulations.

- The timeline for UK association is to be confirmed but draft text in the EU-UK Declarations sets out the ambition for the UK to associate to Horizon Europe in time to participate from the beginning.

> *"It is the Parties' firm intention that … United Kingdom entities would be able to participate from the beginning of the programmes and activities identified, ensuring relevant arrangements and agreements are in place, insofar as possible and in accordance with Union legislation."*
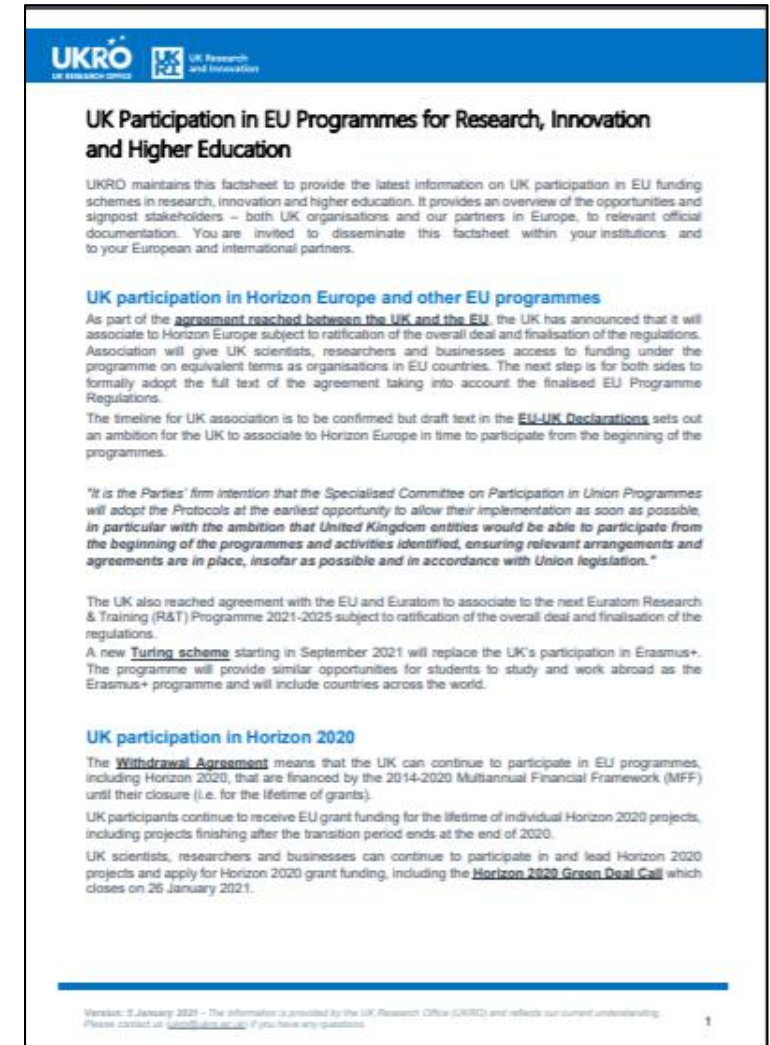
- As an Associate Country, UK can input into the developments of Horizon Europe via formal committees (although no voting rights).

UK participation in Horizon 2020

- The Withdrawal Agreement means that the UK will continue to participate Horizon 2020 until their closure (i.e. for the lifetime of grants) on the same basis as before.

- UK participants continue to receive EU grant funding for the lifetime of individual Horizon 2020 projects.

- No expectation that H2020 will be extended.

- We encourage Universities to familiarise themselves with the changes in Project management and implementation between Horizon Europe and H2020 – Potential for two systems running in parallel!
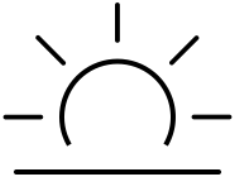
Links to official documents and further information

- The UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) [website](#) provides latest information on UK participation

- The official statements on the EU-UK relationship are available on a [dedicated European Commission website](#) and the [UK Government page](#).

- UK Government provides information on [EU Funded Programmes under the Withdrawal Agreement](#).

- [Turing scheme](#) for students to study and work abroad

Horizon Europe

What is Horizon Europe?

- The EU's flagship programme for research and innovation running from 2021-2027.

- **Overall budget of €95.5 billion.**

- **Ambition:** To shape the future of Europe and making Horizon Europe the most ambitious research and innovation programme ever introduced.

- **Aim:** To create opportunities for the world of tomorrow from the challenges of today and:

  – Strengthen the European Research Area (ERA)
  – Boost Europe's innovation capacity, competitiveness and growth
  – Deliver on citizens' priorities

What's new in the Horizon Europe?

- **Mission-oriented funding:**
  - Portfolios of activity to contribute to 5 high-level, impactful and global objectives.
- **European Innovation Council:**
  - Formalising the EIC and building upon its pilot phase under H2020.
- **Open to the World:**
  - Enhanced association opportunities for Third Countries.
- **Open Science policy:**
  - Extending the use of open access and further developing the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC)
- **New approach to European Partnerships:**
  - Consolidating the use of public-public and public-private partnerships.
- **Spreading Excellence:**
  - Increase of emphasis and funding for 'widening' activities.

NEW

Horizon and EU policy priorities

- Horizon Europe will include actions that support the wider political objectives of the European Commission, including the green and digital transition and a sustainable **recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic**.

- Specifically, it will support the ambition to make **Europe the first climate-neutral continent by 2050**, directing a minimum of 35% of the funding available to climate objectives (7.5% on biodiversity).

- It will contribute to making 2021-2030 **Europe's digital decade** and further support the objectives of the **European Green Deal.**

- It will establish clear links between R&I activities and the **UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGS),** as well as work to ensure the Union helps fulfil its role as signatory to the **Paris Agreement.**
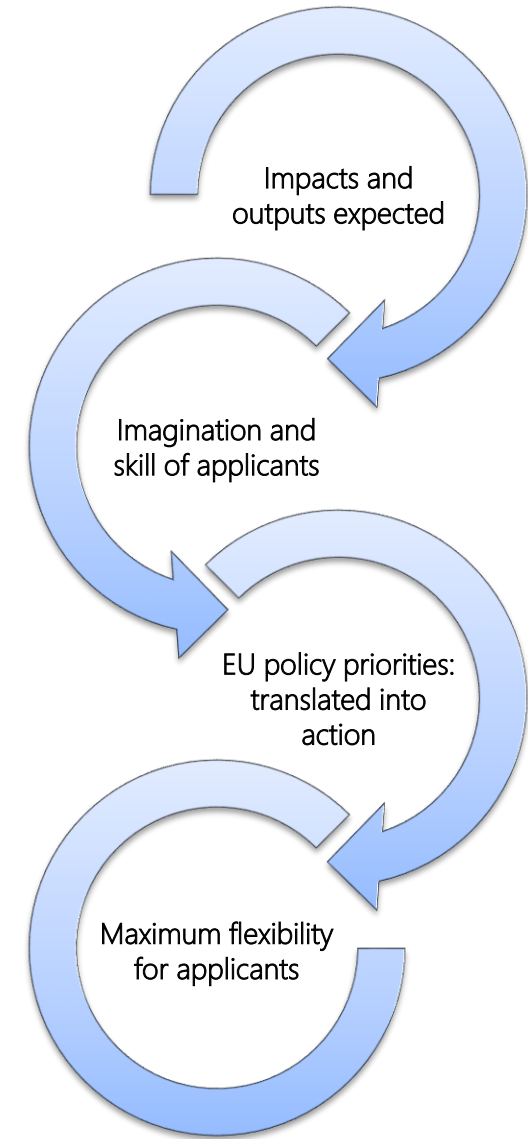
Work programme features and structure

- Horizon Europe supports research and innovation through *Work Programmes*, which set out funding opportunities for research and innovation activities

- First work programme:

  - Period covered: 2021-2022

  - 13 parts: an introduction, 11 thematic parts and the annexes with the rules

  - Separate work programmes cover the ERC, EIC and JRC

  - The EIT is covered by a separate work plan

- Horizon Europe Regulation has not yet been finalised. First calls are expected to open in the first half of 2021.
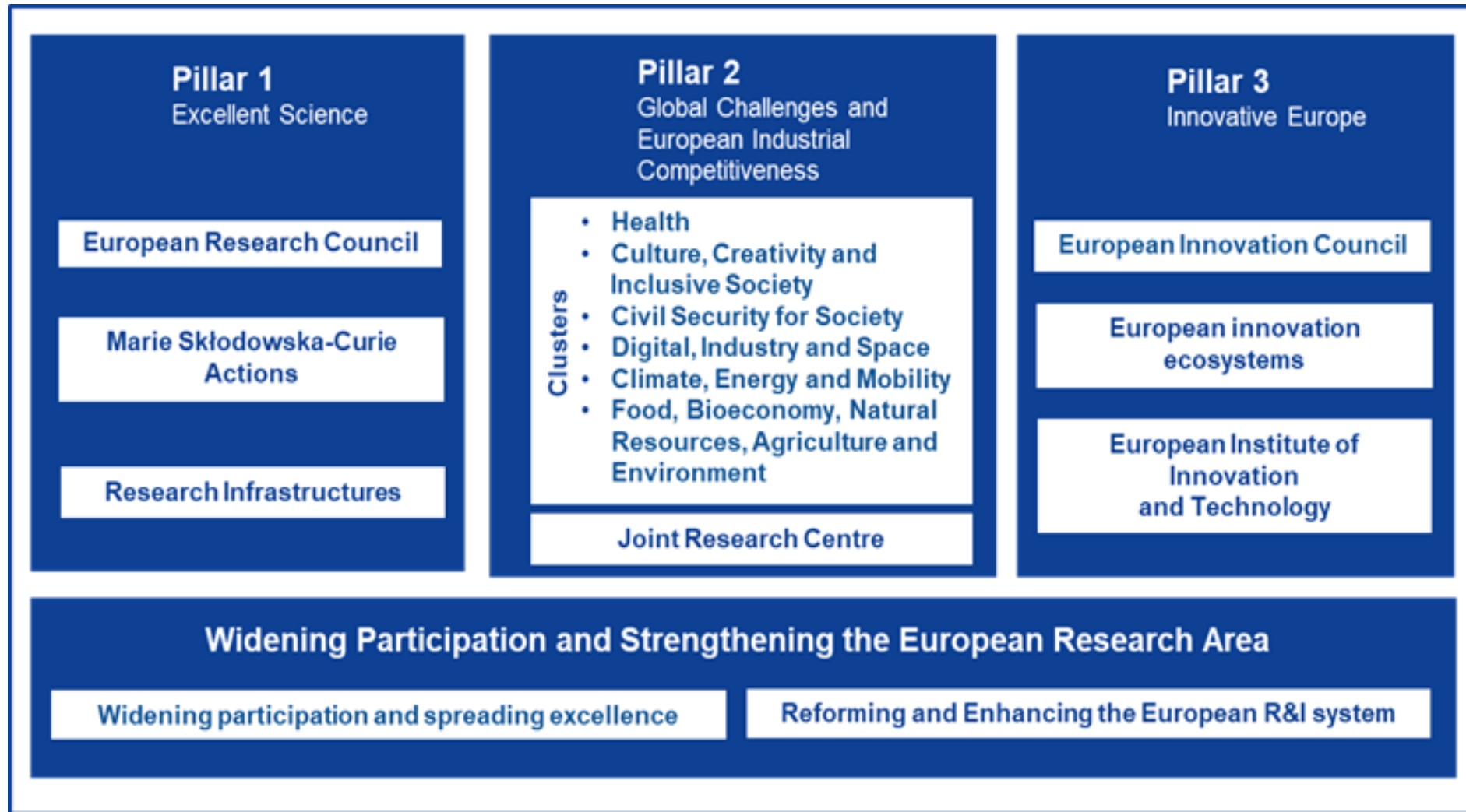
From activity to impact-driven approach

For Horizon Europe, there are changes to way calls are structured to give applicants greater freedom and to maximise impact:

- Each Work Programme part will include a number of 'Destinations', the topic in question and outputs expected.

- Destinations will leave the exact approach to the applicant.

- Aim is to ensure priorities are effectively met and translated into concrete action and providing maximum flexibility for applicants on how to achieve goals.
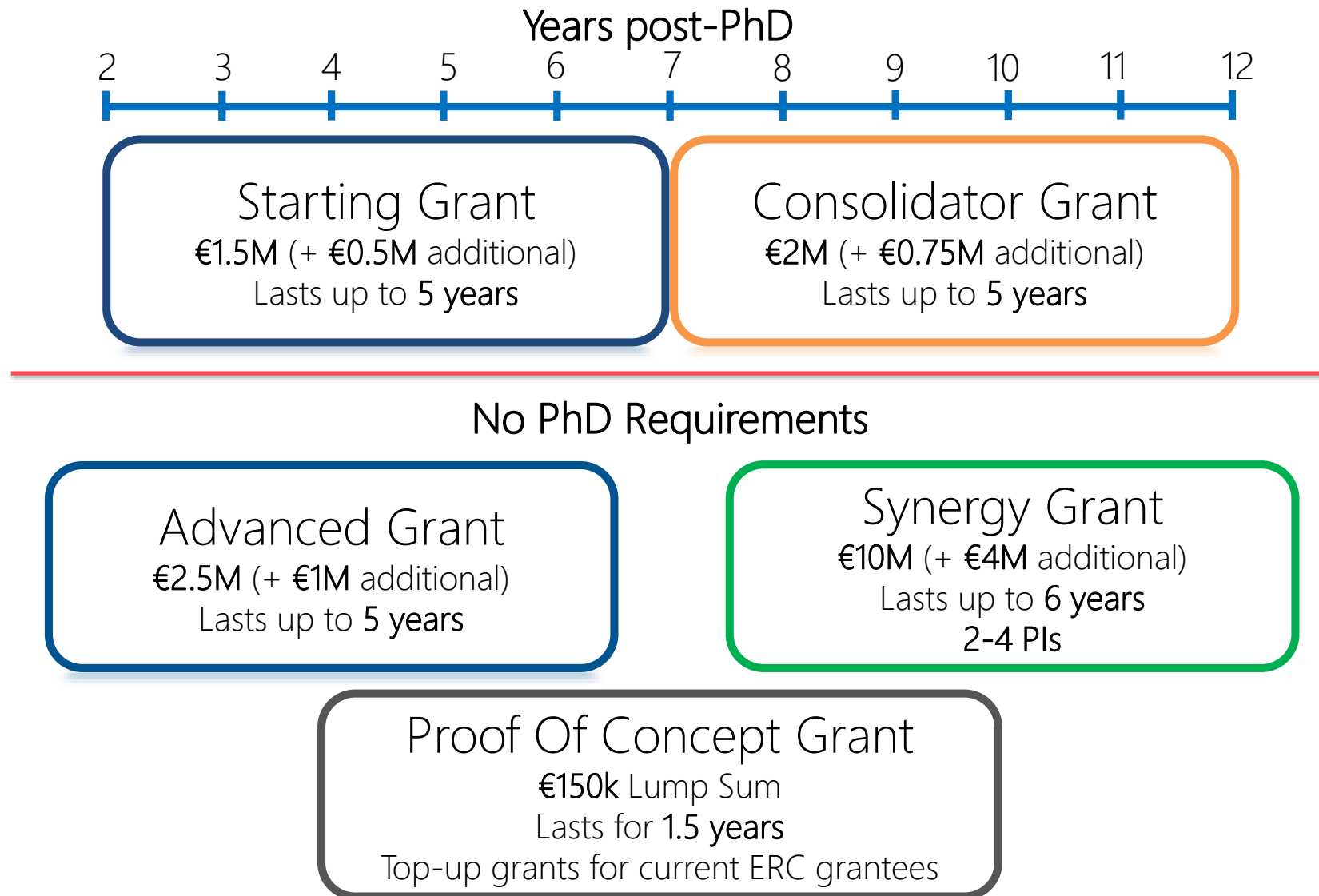
Impacts and outputs expected

Imagination and skill of applicants

EU policy priorities: translated into action

Maximum flexibility for applicants

Overall Structure

Pillar one: Excellent Science

ERC in Horizon Europe

ERC Grant Schemes in Horizon Europe

Years post-PhD

2   3   4   5   6   7   8   9   10   11   12

Starting Grant
€1.5M (+ €0.5M additional)
Lasts up to **5 years**

Consolidator Grant
€2M (+ €0.75M additional)
Lasts up to **5 years**

No PhD Requirements

Advanced Grant
€2.5M (+ €1M additional)
Lasts up to **5 years**

Synergy Grant
€10M (+ €4M additional)
Lasts up to **6 years**
2-4 PIs

Proof Of Concept Grant
€150k Lump Sum
Lasts for **1.5 years**
Top-up grants for current ERC grantees

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UK RESEARCH OFFICE

What's new for ERC in Horizon Europe?

- There was no Synergy Grant call in 2021 (2022 SyG Call expected to open in 2021).

- The Advanced Grant will now have an interview for all candidates who progress to Stage 2 of the evaluation.

- Some panels will be slightly redefined and two new panels will be introduced: SH7 - Human Mobility, Environment and Space & PE11 - Materials Engineering.

- Applicants will no longer be able to opt out of submitting Research Data Management Plans (to be submitted within the first 6 months of the project).

- Restrictions on submission based on previous ERC submissions scores will be carried over from Horizon 2020 (i.e. an applicant who received a B or C at Stage 1 for the *2020* Advanced Grant will not be able to apply to the *2021* Advanced Grant).

- **Provisional dates for the 2021 calls have been delayed.**

MSCA In Horizon Europe

What's new?

Evolution in Implementation

- **Streamlined actions**, clearer identity

- Simpler **rules**, fine-tuned definitions, harmonised conditions

- Continuation of simplified **form of grants**

- **Demand** management to maintain high-quality and attractiveness

- Strengthen **structuring effects** on host institutions

- More **guidance** on supervision and exposure beyond academia

- Improved internal coherence & **reinforced external** synergies

New names

MSCA Doctorates

(Formerly ITN)

MSCA Postdocs
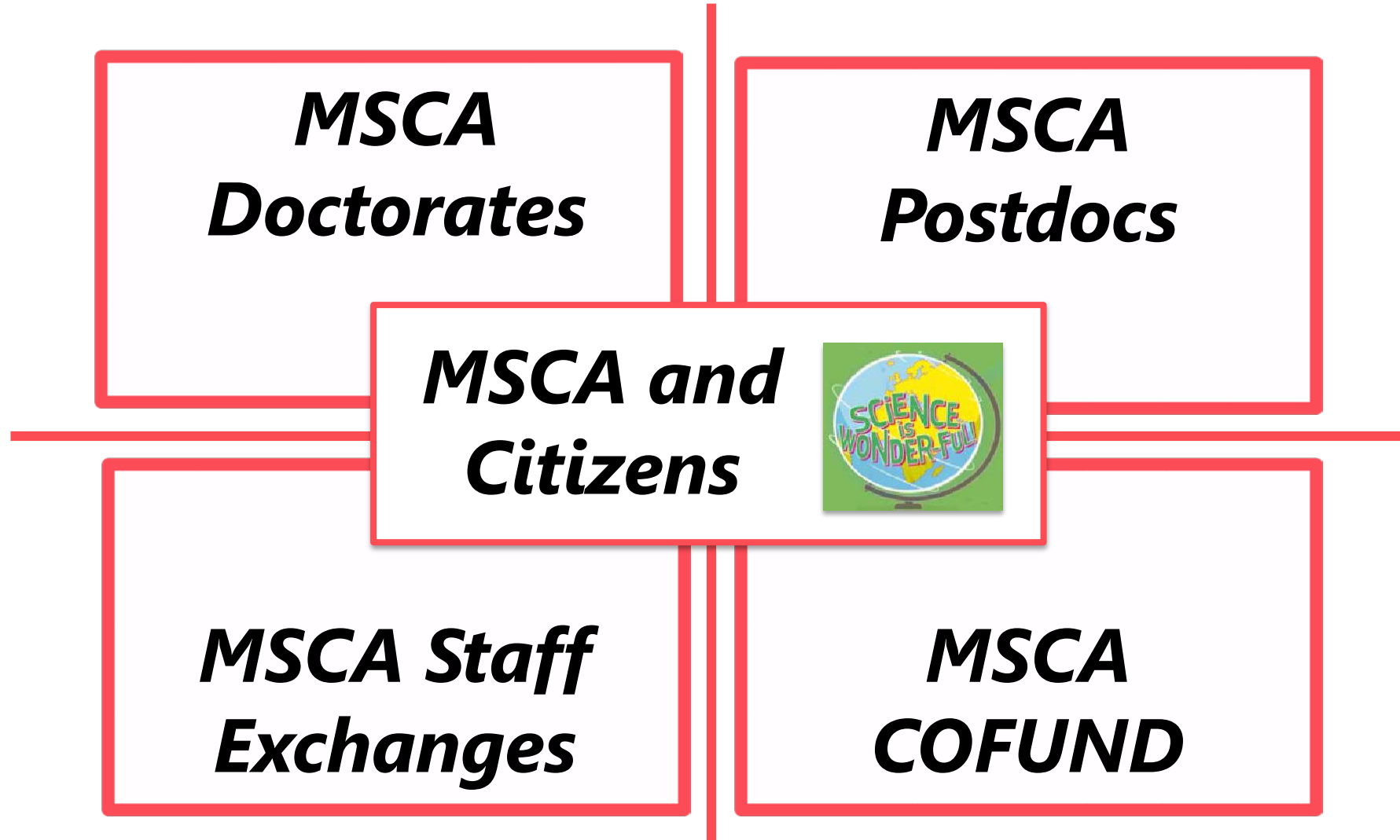
(Formerly Individual Fellowships)

MSCA Staff Exchanges

(Formerly RISE)

MSCA COFUND

(Formerly COFUND)

More new names

MSCA Doctorates

MSCA Postdocs

MSCA and Citizens

MSCA Staff Exchanges

MSCA COFUND

Simplification and Harmonisation

Single mobility rule

- Researchers may not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies etc.) in the country of their (main) host organisation for more than 12 months in the 36 months immediately before the applicable reference date.

Secondment Duration

- 1/3 maximum duration of secondments
- Harmonisation across the schemes
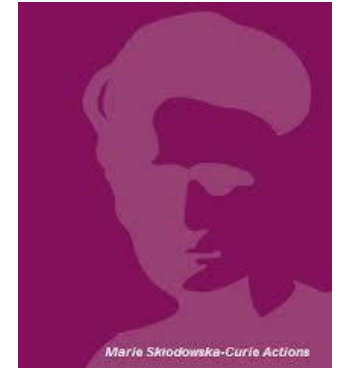
Alignment with the rest of Horizon Europe

- Associated partners (instead of partner organisations) & affiliated entities (instead of entities with a capital or legal link)

MSCA Doctorates (currently Innovative Training Programme [ITN]):

- Integration of the 3 sub actions (ETN, EID and EJD) into one single action;
- Successful proposals ranked in one list under relevant research domains;
- Reduction in the maximum size of grant from 540 researcher months to 360 (the equivalent of 10 ESRs on 36 month contracts);
- Resubmissions only allowed above a quality threshold – 80% (current proposed threshold)

MSCA Postdocs (currently Individual Fellowships IF):

- Single action with two destinations – European or Global;
- Society and Enterprise evaluation panel will no longer exist as a separate entity;
- Demand management measures':

  - Would need a PhD at time of submission
  - Limit overall "Researcher Age": no-more than 8 years of full time research experience after PhD (with exceptions for those who have had a career break or wishing to reintegrate back to the EU/AC-current proposed scientific age limit)

MSCA Staff Exchanges (currently Research and Innovation Staff Exchange Scheme [RISE])

- Potential for interdisciplinary academia-to-academia exchanges within Europe.

MSCA COFUND

- Simplification into a single action – both Fellowship and Doctoral programmes would be submitted under the same call and ranked in single list.

Other Elements

Flexibility in Awards

Provisions for Special Needs, Parental Leave, Sick Leave etc.

Researchers @ Risk

Continuation/Extension of Pilot Call

Researchers @ Schools

Offer to fellows to spend time in an educational setting

International Support

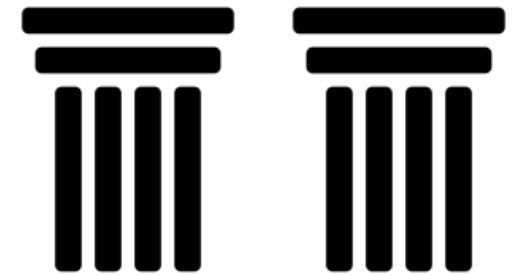Greater emphasis on regional meetings and policy dialogue.

Seal of Excellence

Continued Support

NCP and Alumni Services

Continued Support

Pillar Two:
Global Challenges and European
Industrial Competitiveness

Clusters in 'Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness'

Cluster	Areas of Intervention	
Health	• Health throughout the life course • Non-communicable and rare diseases • Tools, technologies and digital solutions for health and care, including personalised medicine	• Environmental and social health determinants • Infectious diseases, including poverty-related and neglected disease • Health care systems
Culture, creativity and inclusive society	• Democracy and Governance • Social and economic transformations	• Culture, cultural heritage and creativity
Civil security for society	• Disaster-resilient societies • Protection and Security	• Cybersecurity
Digital, Industry and space	• Manufacturing technologies • Advanced materials • Next generation internet • Circular industries • Space, including Earth Observation • Emerging enabling technologies	• Key digital technologies, including quantum technologies • Artificial Intelligence and robotics • Advanced computing and Big Data • Low-carbon and clean industry
Climate, Energy and Mobility	• Climate science and solutions • Energy systems and grids • Communities and cities • Industrial competitiveness in transport • Smart mobility	• Energy supply • Buildings and industrial facilities in energy transition • Clean, safe and accessible transport and mobility • Energy storage
Food, bioeconomy, natural resources, agriculture and environment	• Environmental observation • Agriculture, forestry and rural areas • Circular systems • Food systems	• Biodiversity and natural resources • Seas, oceans and inland waters • Bio-based innovation systems in the EU Bioeconomy

European Institute for Innovation & Technology (EIT)

- EIT is a body of the European Union, based in Budapest, Hungary.

- Its mission is to:

  - ✓ increase European sustainable growth and competitiveness
  - ✓ reinforce the innovation capacity of the EU Member States
  - ✓ create the entrepreneurs of tomorrow and prepare for the next innovative breakthroughs

- Seeks to integrate the Knowledge Triangle of business, education and research through **Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs).**

- **8 current KICS:**

1.Climate	2. Transport	3.Energy	4.Food
5.Digital	6.Health	7.Raw Materials	8. Manufacturing

EIT: What's New for 2021?

- EIT will strengthen its networks, involving more higher education institutions, businesses and research organisations by developing regional outreach strategies.

- KICs will also develop links to Smart Specialisation Strategies, an EU initiative to spur economic growth and job creation by enabling each region to identify and develop its own competitive advantages.

- Target to support 750 higher education institutions with funding, expertise and coaching. The Institute will design and launch activities particularly in countries with a lower innovation capacity.

- The EIT will launch two new KICs:

  - The first new KIC is set to focus on **cultural and creative industries (CCI)** and is planned to start in 2022. This sector has a high growth potential, many local grassroots initiatives and strong citizen appeal and is complementary to the existing eight KICs.
  - The priority field of a second new KIC will be decided at a later stage; it is due to be launched in 2025.

European Innovation Council (EIC)

- The EIC will be the main component of Pillar III of Horizon Europe – Innovative Europe – which aims to foster all forms of innovation, including breakthrough innovation, and market deployment of innovative solutions.

- Building on the success of the Enhanced EIC pilot in Horizon 2020, the EIC will serve as a 'one-stop shop' for European innovators and channel funding through two main instruments:

Pathfinder	Accelerator
Based on the **FET Open scheme** in Horizon 2020, this instrument will support international consortia working on establishing future and emerging breakthrough technologies through collaborative research and innovation projects.	Based on the **SME Instrument** in Horizon 2020, this instrument will bridge the financing gap between late stages of innovation activities and market take-up, to effectively deploy breakthrough market-creating innovation and scale up companies where the market does not provide viable financing. In addition, activities such as prizes, fellowships and business added-value services will be funded through the Accelerator.

European Innovation Ecosystems:

- Connecting with regional and national innovation actors; supporting the implementation of joint cross-border innovation programmes by Member States, Regions and Associated countries.

- Exchange of best practice and knowledge on innovation to enhance soft skills, including open or user-led innovation, to boost the effectiveness of the European innovation system.

- Implemented in synergy with ERDF support for innovation eco-systems and interregional partnerships around smart specialisation topics.

- EIC Forum - an informal network to enable framework conditions and flows of information, knowledge, talent and best practice among actors of innovation ecosystems and the European Innovation Council (EIC), to harness fully the potential of innovation.

Widening Participation and strengthening the ERA

Widening Participation and Strengthening the European Research Area

Widening Participation and Spreading Excellence

- Teaming & twinning
- ERA Chairs
- COST
- Support to NCPs
- Brain circulation and excellence initiatives
- "Hop-on"

- Common understanding: At least 3.3% of Horizon Europe budget

Reforming and enhancing the European R&I system

- Scientific evidence & foresight
- Open Science
- Policy Support Facility
- Attractive researcher careers
- Citizen science, Responsible Research & Innovation
- Gender equality

Missions – what are they?

- 'Mission' means a portfolio of excellence-based and impact-driven R&I actions across dsciplines and sectors.

- Within a set timeframe, achieve a measurable goal that could not be achieved through individual actions.

- Missions shall be programmed within the pillar 'Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness'.

- During the first three years of the programme, a maximum of 10% of the annual budget of Pillar II shall be programmed through specific calls for implementing the missions.

- Next steps: https://www.ukro.ac.uk/subscribers/articles/horizon-news/%7B30c94f0e-4286-4585-9f53-e5a69d28a068%7D/5110

Mission Areas

1. [Adaptation to Climate Change including Societal Transformation](#)

2. [Cancer](#)

3. [Healthy Oceans, Seas, Coastal and Inland Waters](#)

4. [Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities](#)

5. [Soil Health and Food](#)

How do Missions fit with Clusters?

- Missions are an entirely new approach based on portfolios of actions working towards broadly defined goals, and should not be confused with existing methods and instruments such as the Horizon Europe Clusters.

- The draft work programme contains preparatory actions for each of the five Missions that will run in Horizon Europe and will be updated with the full agenda of R&I actions once the implementation phase is launched.

- The small-scale preparatory actions will be funded as Coordination and Support Actions (CSA) and will establish foundations for the Missions' subsequent implementation phase.

- As previously indicated by UKRO, each of the preparatory actions for the Missions will have a budget of €5 million, with the deadlines not indicated at this stage.

Implementation Strategy

Changes to work programme and calls

- **A simpler, less complex work programme**, less prescriptive / Improved readability

- **Specify in the topics the expected outcomes and their link to the wider targeted impacts**, in line with the Strategic Research and Innovation Plan. Topics will therefore be open to a range of different pathways to achieve them

- **Consider more frequent use of topics which offer the possibility of submission for more than one year**

- Further **enhancement of the publication of calls on the Funding and Tenders Portal** (including institutionalised partnerships and EIT)

- **Proposal template**: Less information requested (in line with criteria); reference to external sources where possible (eg. Researchers' ID); substantial reduction in maximum length;

- **Portfolio-based calls** (esp. missions, EIC pathfinder)

Model Grant Agreement

- One Grant Agreement for all centrally managed programmes.

- Specificities for Horizon Europe regarding the Rules for Participation.

- Personnel costs: unique simpler corporate mandatory formula to calculate actual personnel costs => No time sheets.

- Project based remuneration: similar rules as in H2020 with further simplification.

- Further deployment of simplified forms of funding (e.g.: unit costs and lump sums).

- Inclusion of a quick-glance data-sheet for a given project, with information about payments, reporting and participants.

- An online Annotated Model Grant Agreement (simplified version and expert version).

Data and reporting

- **Linking to external data**: Enriching data captured through the Framework Programme reporting templates with external data sources, in view of completing information on R&I results and reducing administrative burden

- **Creating a R&I data hub**: Sharing high-quality pan-European data, progressively integrating them in a European R&I Data Hub that will strengthen feedback to policy and support to ERA priorities, and to national, regional and local policies.

- **Enhancing reporting templates**: Financial and technical reporting templates will be streamlined

- Risk-based control strategy - Testing the possibility to introduce System and Process Audits (SPAs)

- Exploring the possibility of enhanced cross-reliance of audits and assessments

Personnel costs – new calculation

- Discontinuation of the different formulas (annual and monthly) and options for productive hours (entailing difficult and error-prone calculations)

- No more 'last closed financial year' rule

- Instead, use of a single corporate daily rate and calendar year approach

| Personnel costs | = | Daily rate | ✕ | Days worked in the project |

Evaluation Updates

- Overall, in Horizon Europe (HE) we will see a strong continuity in evaluation process from Horizon 2020, which will be based on the (remote) peer review process and the three assessment criteria:

  - Excellence;
  - Impact;
  - Implementation.

- Commission is proposing some novelties to be tested in selected pilot calls at the start of the Programme: 'Blind evaluation' pilot covering a limited number of two-stage calls (the anonymity rule would only apply at the first stage). Anonymity would become an eligibility criterion and applicants would be responsible for ensuring that the core text does not include any consortium details.

- 'Right to react' mechanism: the applicants would have an opportunity to reply to initial evaluators' comments, which would be taken into account for the final score.

- Additionally, with the 'portfolio approach' (for Missions for example) it is likely that the process will be composed of two steps: a 'standard' proposals evaluation, followed by identification of high-quality proposals maximising the expected impact of the portfolio as a whole.