



UK Research Office
Brussels

Horizon Emerging Leaders' Programme (HELP)

Module 4

7 February 2024



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 - ❖ Video and presentation slides will be available on the event page shortly.
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 - ❖ You can **ask questions anonymously.**
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Housekeeping

Content

1. **Horizon Europe Clusters (incl. general eligibility criteria for projects, call thematic areas and the evaluation process)** – Małgorzata Czerwiec, UKRO
2. **UK National Contact Points' services (and hints and tips for partner search)** – Catherine Holt, Innovate UK
3. **Q&A**

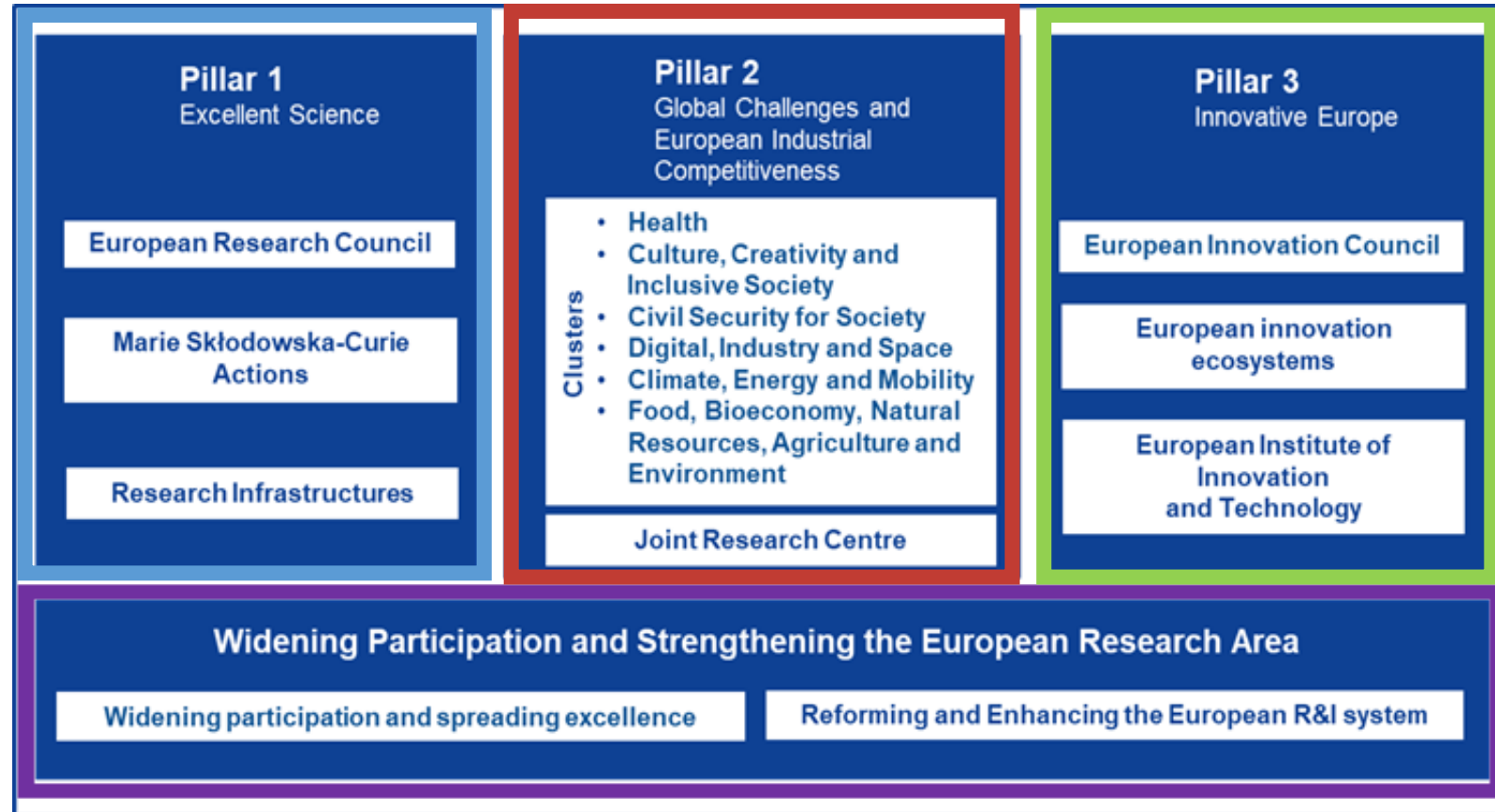
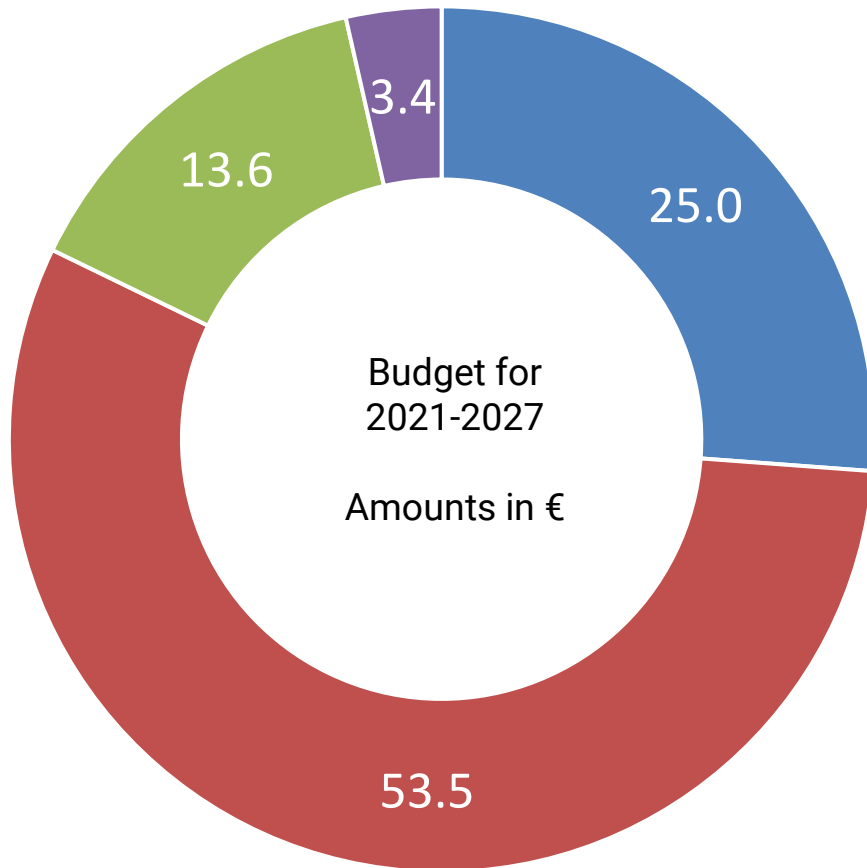
Objective: To help ELOs get to know the objectives and funding opportunities of each Cluster, learn how to address the main call/topic eligibility conditions and understand how the evaluation process is conducted.



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Horizon Europe – Total budget - €95.5 billion



UK Government HE Pump Priming Scheme

[The British Academy call](#) for all disciplines: engineering, natural sciences, medical and health sciences, humanities, and social sciences:

- **Scope:** Pillar 2 of Horizon Europe calls
- **Two rounds of assessment:** 17 January and **21 February** deadlines
- Awards of up to **£10,000**
- **Eligible costs:** concept or proof of market work; proposal development; meetings, travel and subsistence; research/clerical assistance (based in the UK or internationally), due diligence work on partners, costs towards child or parent care, support services such as proposal writing.





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Collaborative projects – Eligibility and participation rules

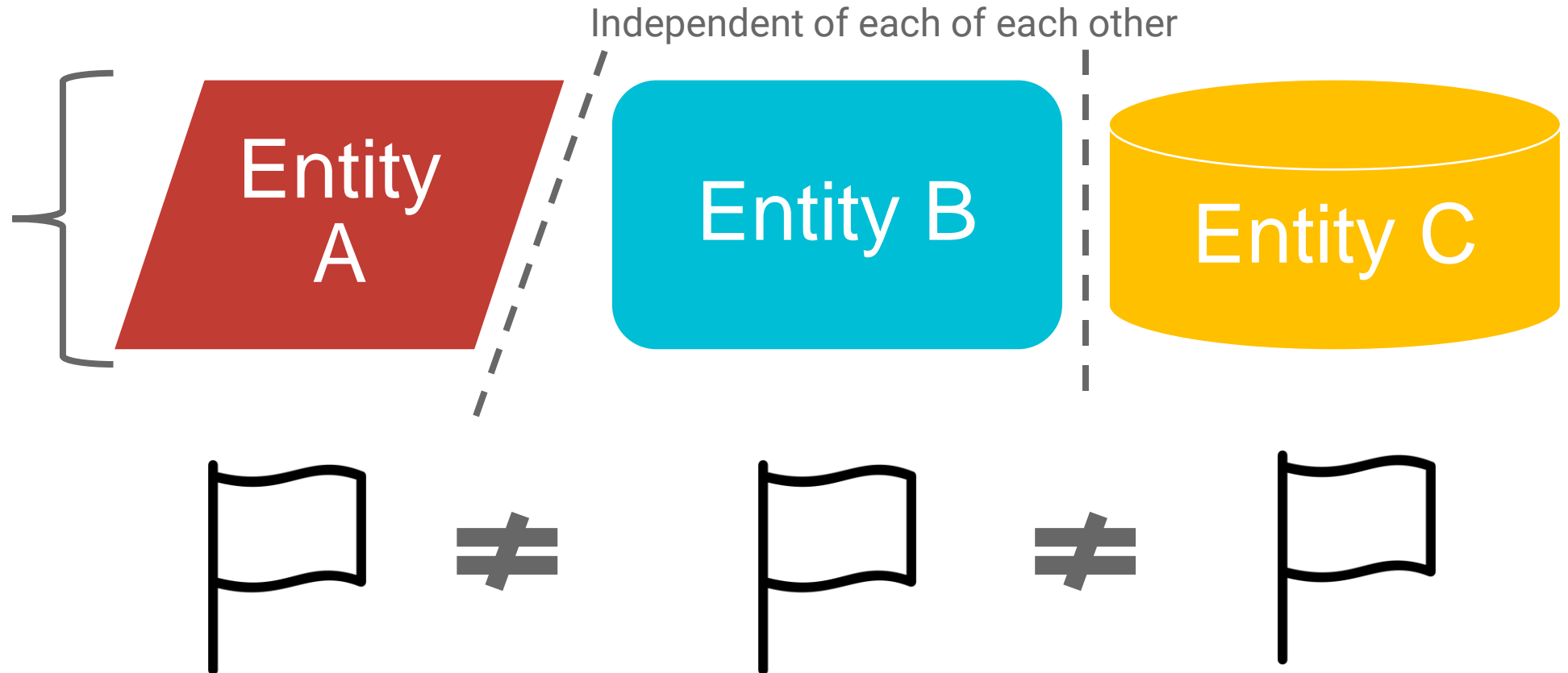


Minimum requirements for forming a consortium

Unless otherwise provided for in the specific call conditions

For RIA and IA
at least 3 legal
entities

For CSA
at least 1 or 2
legal entities



See: [HE Work Programme General Annexes](#)

Each based in a different EU Member state or Associated Country.
At least one must be from an EU Member State.

Types of countries in Horizon Europe

- The [Programme Guide](#) includes a [list](#) of countries eligible for funding.

Automatically eligible to receive EU funding



EU Member States and their OCTs



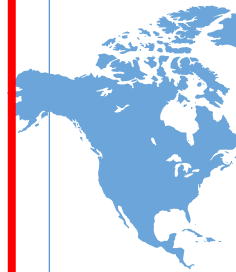
Associated Countries

(e.g. Canada, New Zealand in Pillar 2)

UK under transitional measures in 2021-23 calls
Associated from 2024 calls



Third Countries: Most [Low and Middle Income Countries](#) (except for BRIC, Mexico, Chile, etc.)



Third countries: Developing economies (BRIC, Mexico, Chile, and industrialised countries (Japan, US*))

Funding only in exceptional cases (case-by-case)

**US is eligible for funding in Cluster 1 Health*

Specific cases – exclusions (restricted calls)

- **Restrictions on country participation** for projects related to EU strategic assets, interests, autonomy or security, as laid down in in the topic text
 - very limited number of **topics open only to EU Member States or/and certain Associated Countries**; mainly in quantum technology, space and security (e.g. [HORIZON-CL4-2024-DIGITAL-EMERGING-01-45: Quantum sensing and metrology for market uptake](#))
- Legal entities established in **China are not eligible in Innovation Actions** in any capacity (unless exceptions included in the call text)
- **Ad hoc measures or sanctions**, e.g.:
 - legal entities established in Russia, Belarus or in non-government-controlled territories of Ukraine are currently not eligible
 - Exclusion of certain Hungarian universities from EU funding (dedicated [UKRO article](#))



Specific cases – Third Countries-oriented topics

- Due to the scope of a topic legal entities in some **third countries may be exceptionally eligible for Horizon Europe funding**
 - e.g. [HORIZON-CL6-2023-GOVERNANCE-02-1: Supporting the All-Atlantic Ocean Research and Innovation Alliance and Declaration](#): “...,legal entities established in Brazil are exceptionally eligible for Union funding”
- **Joint or coordinated calls with third countries**, in agreed areas, as indicated in call topic
 - e.g. 11 call topics under the Work Programme for 2023-2024 with co-funding mechanism from the Indian government ([UKRO article](#))
- Topics may **encourage involvement of entities from specific third countries**, BUT without Horizon Europe funding – not an eligibility condition
 - e.g. [HORIZON-CL4-2024-TWIN-TRANSITION-01-05: Technologies/solutions to support circularity for manufacturing](#): “The project beneficiaries should engage with relevant entities working in ICT standardisation from Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Singapore, Canada, Australia, and the USA” – in this case TC participation is not an eligibility condition, but will impact the evaluation (score)



Specific cases – International Organisations (IO)

- **International European research organisations** are eligible for funding
 - means an international organisation, the majority of whose members are Member States or Associated Countries, and whose principal objective is to promote scientific and technological cooperation in Europe (e.g. CERN)
- **Other IO** are generally not eligible for funding (only exceptionally if participation is deemed essential – evaluated on a *case-by case* basis)
- **IO based in a Member State or Associated Country** are eligible for funding in “Training and mobility” projects or if allowed in the topic call conditions
 - E.g. [HORIZON-CL6-2023-FARM2FORK-01-16: Microbiomes fighting food waste through applicable solutions in food processing, packaging and shelf life](#): “International organisations with headquarters in a Member State or associated country are exceptionally eligible for funding.”



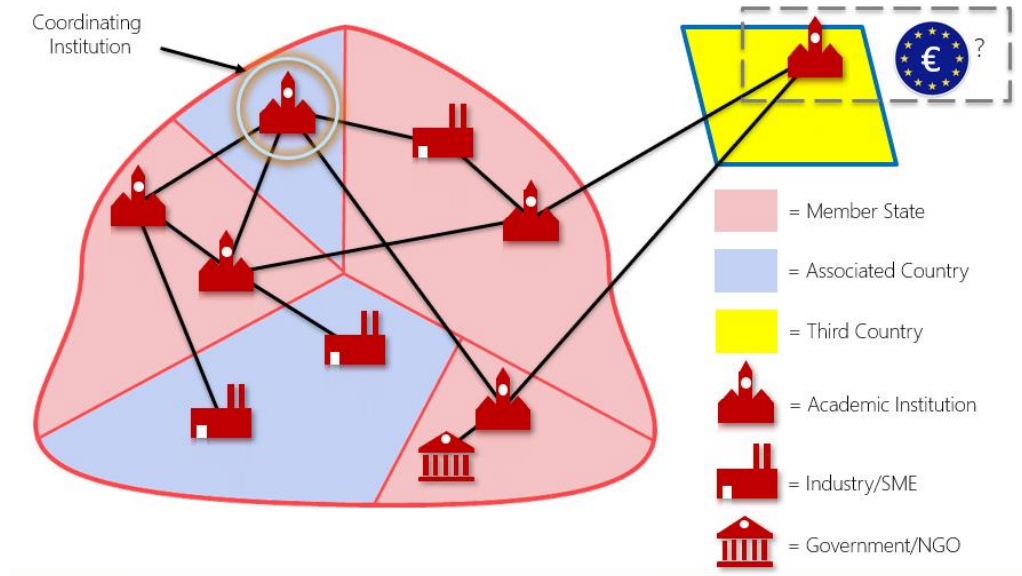
Joint Research Centre in Horizon Europe (JRC)

- JRC does not take part in competitive bidding (no involvement at the application stage), but **can collaborate with successful projects**
- If indicated in eligibility conditions, the JRC may participate in successful projects **as a beneficiary (with own funding)** – joins the consortium at the Grant Agreement Preparation stage (participation negotiated on the case-by-case basis)
 - E.g. [HORIZON-CL6-2023-FARM2FORK-01-7: Innovations in plant protection: alternatives to reduce the use of pesticides focusing on candidates for substitution](#): “*The Joint Research Centre (JRC) may participate as member of the consortium selected for funding*”
- If not mentioned under call conditions table, JRC can join selected projects at GAP stage **as an Associated Partner (with own funding)**, if relevant for the project
 - “*Proposals are encouraged to cooperate with actors such as the Joint Research Centre (JRC)*”



Main types of collaborative projects

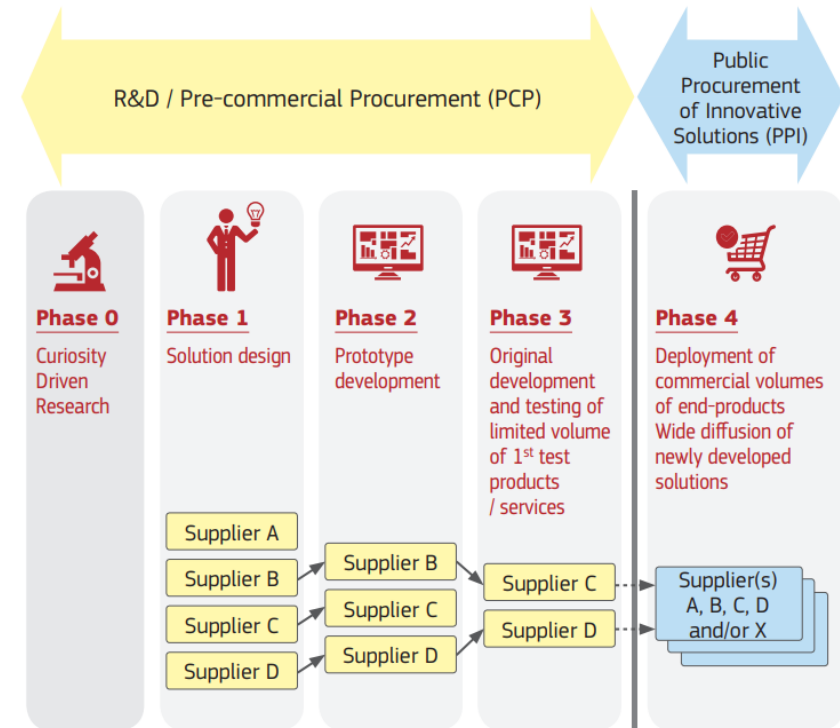
- Research and innovation actions (**RIA**)
 - primarily aimed at establishing new knowledge and/or exploring the feasibility of a new or improved technology, product, process, service or solution.
 - may include basic and applied research, technology development and integration, testing, demonstration and validation on a small-scale prototype in a laboratory or simulated environment.
- Innovation actions (**IA**)
 - aimed at producing plans, arrangements or designs for new, altered or improved products, processes or services, usually include prototyping, demonstrating, testing, large-scale product validation and market replication.



- Coordination and support actions (**CSA**)
 - contribute to the objectives of the Horizon Europe, excluding research and innovation activities (dissemination, exploitation, networking, feedback to policy)

Other type of projects – innovation procurement projects

- **Public Procurement of Innovative solutions (PPI) and Pre-Commercial Procurement (PCP)**
 - co-finance procurement costs for groups of procurers to buy the research, development, validation and possible first deployment (PCP) or wider scale deployment (PPI) of new solutions as well as costs to manage the procurement
 - Improving the quality and efficiency of public services
 - **Bringing research results from the university to the market**
 - Facilitating cross-border company growth
 - Opening the route-to-the market for new market players
 - Reducing the R&D risks for procurers and encouraging commercialisation of results by vendors

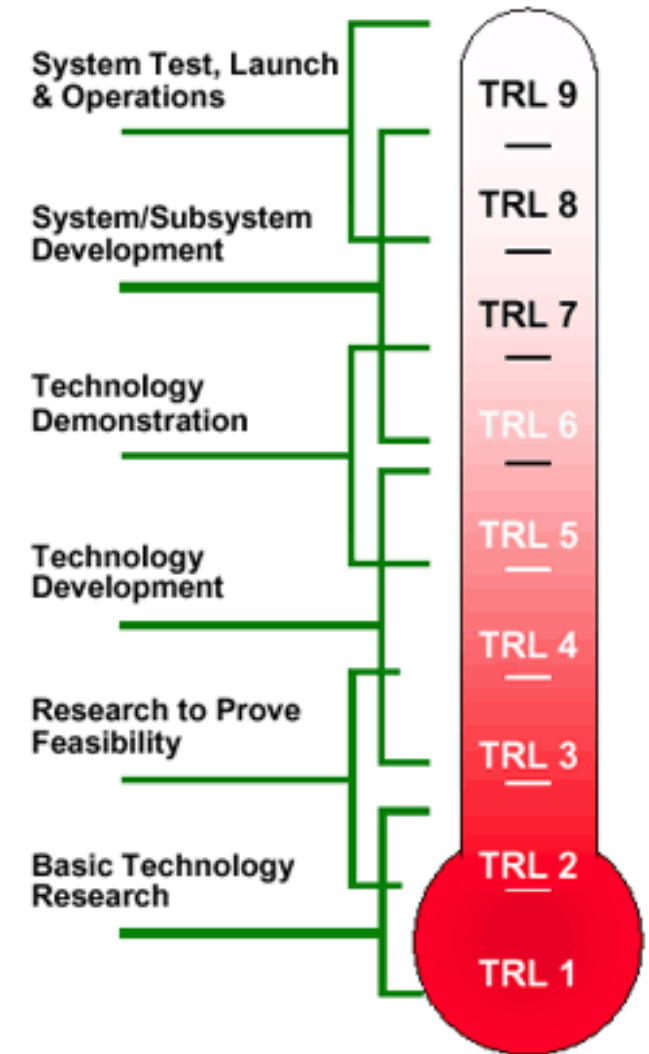


- Specific conditions apply – see [Programme Guide](#)
- [Innovation Procurement Commission's brochure](#)

Technology Readiness Levels

The [TRL scale](#) is a research maturity model applied in Horizon Europe, which can be used to compare different technologies and to monitor the progress of one technology over time.

- If specified in the call topic, it gives potential applicants an indication of the maturity level of the current research on that topic. This enables applicants and evaluators to align with the expectations of the call topic
- [NCPs TRL self-assessment tool](#) is available alongside with a [Guiding note](#) for applicants
- Not relevant for some disciplines (e.g. non-linear processes and societal impact of SSH research)



Source: Wikipedia

Maximum funding rates

Type of Action (project)	Funding Rate
Research and innovation action (RIA)	100%
Innovation action (IA)	70% (except for non-profit legal entities, where a rate of up to 100% applies)
Coordination and support action (CSA)	100%
Pre-commercial procurement action (PCP)	100%
Public procurement of innovative solutions action (PPI)	50%

Other funding rates may be set out in the
Specific call conditions

Activities eligible for funding

- Activities must focus exclusively on **civil applications** and must NOT:
 - aim at human cloning for reproductive purposes
 - intend to modify the genetic heritage of human beings which could make such changes heritable (except for research relating to cancer treatment of the gonads, which may be financed)
 - intend to create human embryos solely for the purpose of research, or for the purpose of stem cell procurement, including by means of somatic cell nuclear transfer
 - lead to the destruction of human embryos
- Eligible activities are described in the call conditions
 - Specific cases, e.g., inclusion of **clinical trials in health-related proposals** requires applicants to complete the '[additional information on clinical studies](#)' template (see [UKRO article](#))
 - Specific cases, e.g., inclusion of **Financial Support to Third Parties** (*cascade funding*)



Financial Support to Third Parties – specific activity

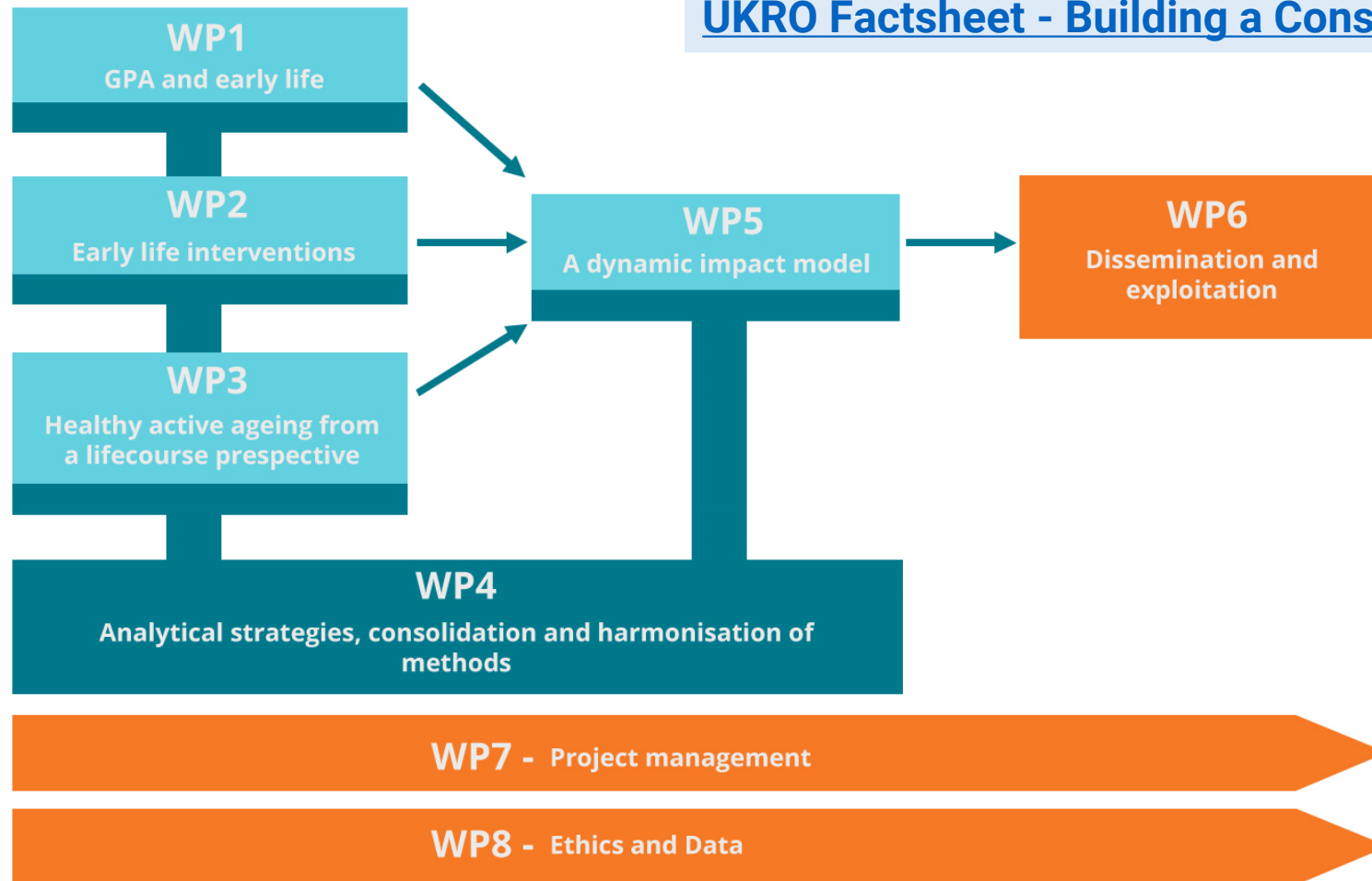
- Only if call conditions allow, projects may foresee to **cascade part of the grant to third parties** (via an open call) to achieve project objectives
 - Used to engage with end-users or solution providers, for instance during a pilot phase
 - Applicants must provide detailed information about their open call rollout in the proposal ([additional Annex template](#)) and complete the dedicated budget category (FSTP)
 - All calls for third parties must be published on the Funding & Tenders Portal, and on the beneficiaries' websites
- Example: [HORIZON-CL4-2024-DATA-01-03: Piloting emerging Smart IoT Platforms and decentralized intelligence \(IA\)](#)

“Financial Support to Third Parties: for max. 20% of funding / max amount 200k €; to increase the innovation capacity of industry, in particular SMEs, through take-up and validation of emerging edge platform interfaces”



Levels of Involvement in collaborative projects

[UKRO Factsheet - Building a Consortium in Horizon Europe](#)



Levels of Involvement

- Coordinator
- Work Package Leader
- Research tasks within a Work Package



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[DynaHEALTH](#) – H2020 project

What are the responsibilities of the coordinator vs partner?

- **The Coordinator is responsible for:**
 - managing the project and the grant (pre-financing and final payments)
 - submitting reports and deliverables
 - acting as intermediary for all contacts with the EU Granting Authority
- **Other Beneficiaries (partners) must:**
 - implement their part of the project (project tasks, deliverables)
 - contribute to the grant administration (inputs to reporting, consortium meetings)

The consortium participants (coordinator and partners) **are jointly responsible for implementing the project activities** (in accordance with their proposal/description of the action). If a project is not finished (or badly implemented), the EU award may have to be reduced for everyone



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Clusters – Thematic Areas

Building on the HELP Module 1:
*EU Framework Programme Lifecycle
and Budget*



Overarching Priorities

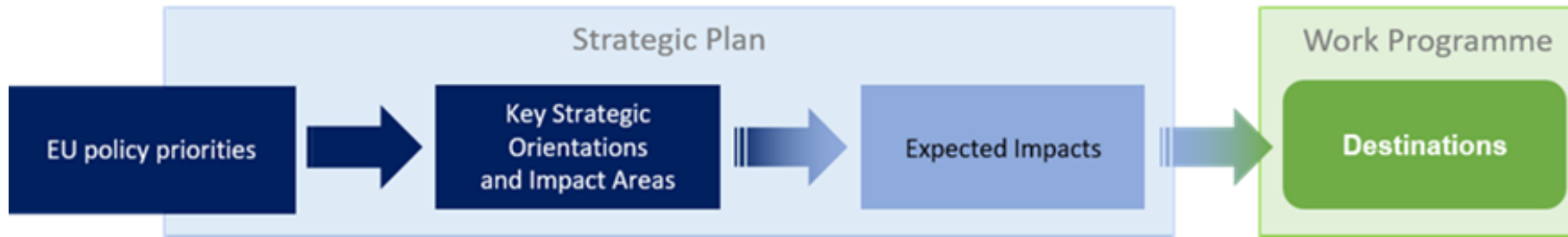
Ambition: To shape the future of Europe and making Horizon Europe the most ambitious research and innovation programme ever introduced

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
- ❖ Interpreted in the context of the [EC Agenda](#): in particular, [European Green deal](#), [Digital transition](#) and the [Recovery Plan for Europe](#) from the Covid-19 crisis, [the New European Innovation Agenda](#) as well as the UN SDGs



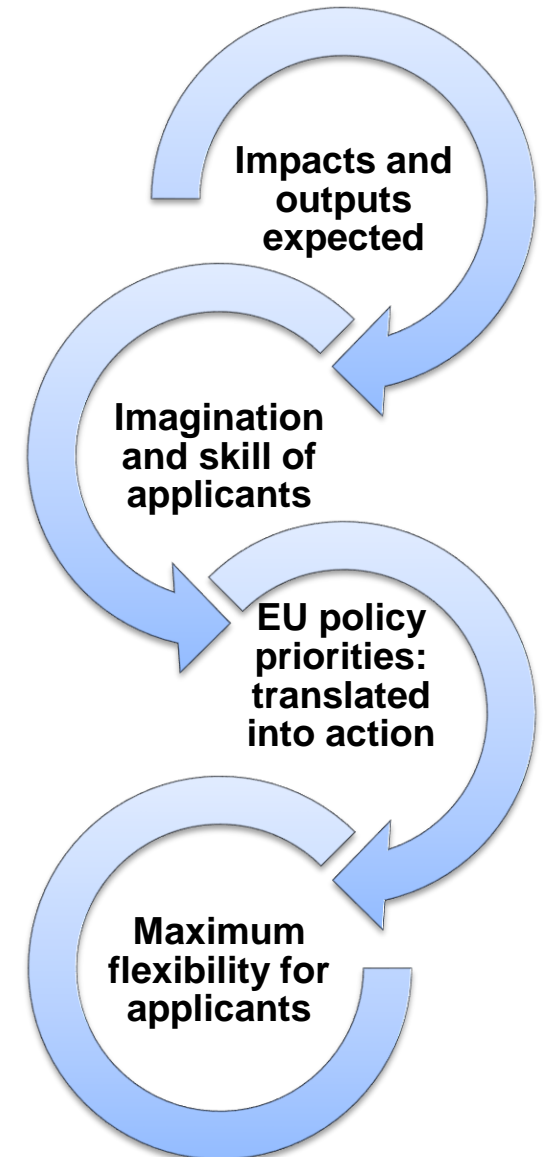
From Policy to Call Topics – Impact-driven Approach



Horizon Europe supports research and innovation through **Work Programmes**, which set out funding opportunities for R&I activities (*calls for proposals*)

Ongoing Horizon Europe Work Programme - **Period covered: 2023-2024**

Implementation by the European Commission and its **executive agencies** via the **Funding and Tender Opportunities Portal** ([UKRO HELP MODULE 2](#))



2025 Work Programme Timeline

Separate drafting process for EIC/ERC



Horizon Europe Strategic Plan 2025-27

Expected in Q1 2024



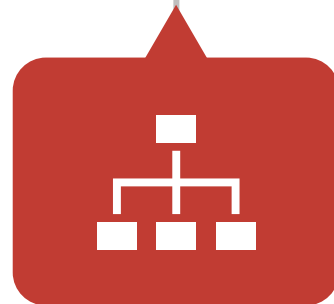
2024 European elections

New EP in June and new Commission in November



Main 2023-24 WP published

6 December 2022 – main funding opportunities **without 2024 Missions calls**



'Mini' 2025 WP published

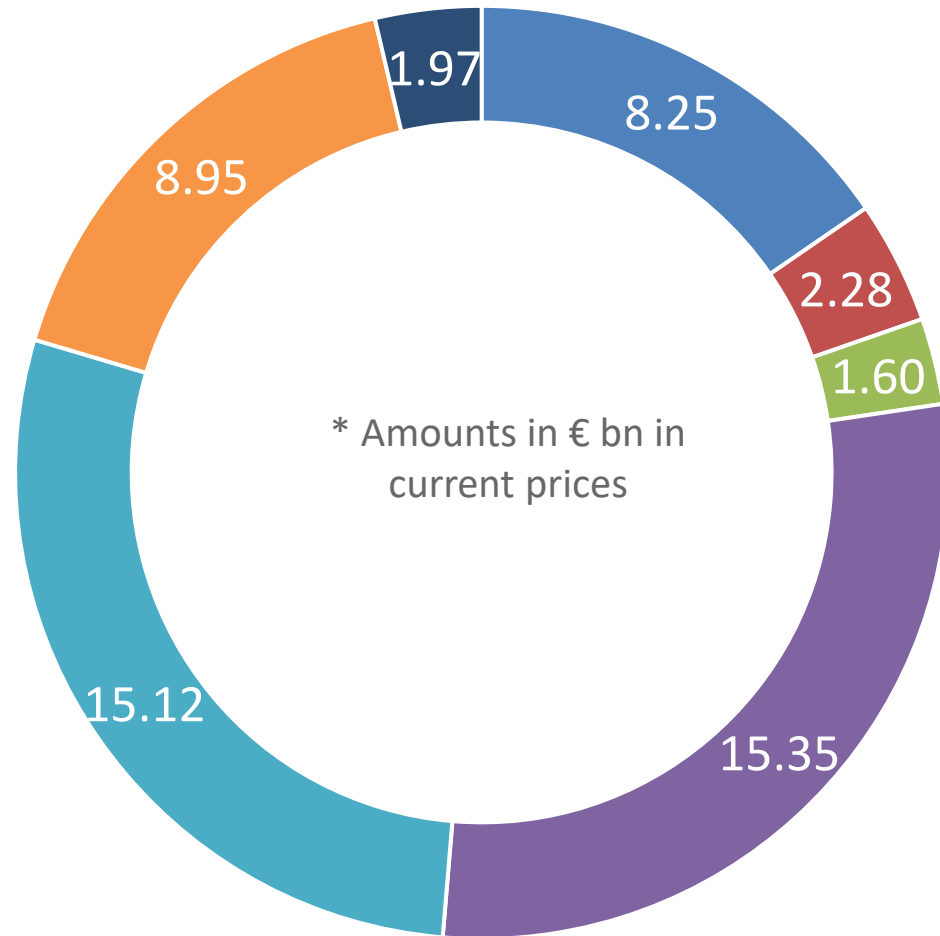
March/April Extension of WP 2023-24, with 'apolitical' calls (e.g. MSCA) for 2025 and topics + **2024 Missions calls**



Rest of main 2025 WP

Q1 2025 - remaining calls under the thematic parts (Clusters) determined by EU policy priorities

Budget for Pillar 2 Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness



- Cluster 1: Health
- Cluster 2: Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society
- Cluster 3: Civil Security for Society
- Cluster 4: Digital, Industry and Space
- Cluster 5: Climate energy and mobility
- Cluster 6: Food, Natural Resources and Agriculture



Cluster – link to UKRO factsheet	Areas of Intervention (DESTINATIONS) Work Programme’s “chapters” which breaks into calls with specific topics	
<u>Health</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health throughout the life course • Non-communicable and rare diseases • Tools, technologies and digital solutions for health and care, including personalised medicine 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental and social health determinants • Infectious diseases, including poverty-related and neglected disease • Health care systems
<u>Culture, creativity and inclusive society</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Democracy and Governance • Social and economic transformations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Culture, cultural heritage and creativity
<u>Civil security for society</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disaster-resilient societies • Protection and Security 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cybersecurity
<u>Digital, Industry and space</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manufacturing technologies • Advanced materials • Next generation internet • Circular industries • Space, including Earth Observation • Emerging enabling technologies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key digital technologies, including quantum technologies • Artificial Intelligence and robotics • Advanced computing and Big Data • Low-carbon and clean industry
<u>Climate, Energy and Mobility</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate science and solutions • Energy systems and grids • Communities and cities • Industrial competitiveness in transport • Smart mobility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy supply • Buildings and industrial facilities in energy transition • Clean, safe and accessible transport and mobility • Energy storage
<u>Food, bioeconomy, natural resources, agriculture and environment</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental observation • Agriculture, forestry and rural areas • Circular systems • Food systems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity and natural resources • Seas, oceans and inland waters • Bio-based innovation systems in the EU Bioeconomy

Some key features of Clusters Work Programmes

- Ensuring **vibrant cooperation between universities, scientific communities and industry, including SMEs, and citizens representatives**, in order to bridge gaps between territories, generations and regional cultures
- **Multidisciplinary approach** to R&I projects
- **Cross-cluster complementarities** (e.g. Green Deal, Digital Transition, New European Bauhaus, Antimicrobial Resistance)
- **Clustering and cooperation with other projects** (within same call and other calls) is always encouraged, sometimes explicitly requested in the call text (i.e. applicants should incorporate networking activities in their projects)



Co-creation with Industry

European Co-programmed Partnerships

Many topics across Clusters (in particular C4 and C5) are developed in close cooperation with industry – via the Co-programmed European Partnerships mechanism (e.g. AI, Data and Robotics, Made in Europe, Processes4Planet, Built4People Batt4EU Partnership, Clean Steel)

Fully implemented through Horizon Europe Work Programmes

May include additional requirements to ensure synergies with other Partnerships

Lower funding rate e.g. 60% (except for non-profit legal entities) to enhance industrial contributions

Usually topics starting above TRL 4 and reaching TRL 7/8 (Impact and solutions across industry sectors)

Synergies with other EU Programmes – e.g. Space in Cluster 4 – Role of EUSPA and ESA

- The Space calls in Cluster 4 are split across two overarching themes; space-based technology infrastructure and services (managed by one of the Horizon Europe executive agencies - HaDEA), and applications.
- **Calls related to development of applications** for Galileo, EGNOS and Copernicus, as well as to PRS and GOVSATCOM applications are launched and managed **by the European Union Agency for the Space Programme (EUSPA)** and can be found under “Other Actions” in the Work Programme and on the FTOP.
 - e.g. 2023 opportunities under the [HORIZON-EUSPA-2023-SPACE](#) call
 - EUESPA dedicated [info and brokerage sessions](#)
- In addition, European Space Agency ([ESA](#)) manages **calls for tenders** on topics included under “Other actions” of the Work Programme



Horizon Europe

Cluster 1 - 'Health'



Cluster 1 Objectives



This cluster funds activities aimed at **improving and protecting the health** of citizens at all ages, by **developing innovative solutions** to prevent, diagnose, monitor, treat and cure diseases. It will also focus on mitigating health risks, protecting populations and **promoting good health**, as well as on making **public health systems** more cost-effective and sustainable.

Funded R&I also supports the post-Covid Recovery Plan – making EU society more resilient and health systems better prepared to any future public health emergency.

Destinations



Staying healthy in rapidly changing society



Living and working in a health-promoting environment

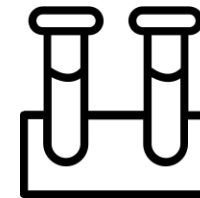


Tackling diseases and reducing disease burden

Ensuring access to innovative, sustainable and high-quality health care

Unlocking the full potential of new tools, technologies and digital solutions for a healthy society

Maintaining an innovative, sustainable and globally competitive health industry



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Cluster 1 – examples of topics

Topic	Title	Action
HORIZON-HLTH-2024-STAYHLTH-01-05-two-stage	Personalised prevention of non-communicable diseases - addressing areas of unmet needs using multiple data sources	RIA
HORIZON-HLTH-2023-ENVHLTH-02-03	Health impacts of endocrine-disrupting chemicals: bridging science-policy gaps by addressing persistent scientific uncertainties	RIA
HORIZON-HLTH-2023-DISEASE-03-07	Relationship between infections and non-communicable diseases	RIA
HORIZON-HLTH-2022-CARE-08-02	Pre-commercial research and innovation procurement for building the resilience of health care systems in the context of recovery	PCP
HORIZON-HLTH-2023-TOOL-05-08	Pandemic preparedness and response: In vitro diagnostic devices to tackle cross-border health threats	IA
HORIZON-HLTH-2024-IND-06-09	Gaining experience and confidence in New Approach Methodologies (NAM) for regulatory safety and efficacy testing	CSA

Horizon Europe

Cluster 2 - 'Culture, creativity and inclusive society'



Cluster 2 Objectives



- To support EU priorities on **democratic governance** and **citizens participation**, on promotion of **cultural heritage**, and responding to **multifaceted social, economic, technological and cultural transformations**.

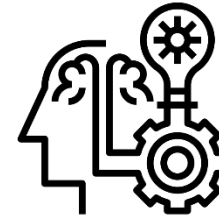
Funded research will provide multidisciplinary **expertise** of social sciences and humanities for **understanding contemporary transformations** of society and **evidence-based policy options** for the post-Covid EU green and digital **recovery**.



Destinations

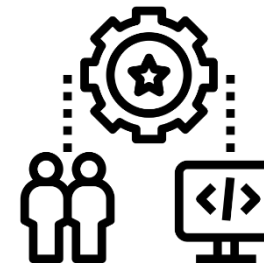


Innovative Research on
Democracy and
Governance



Innovative Research on
the European Cultural
Heritage
and the Cultural and
Creative Industries

Innovative Research on
Social and Economic
Transformations



Cluster 2 – examples of topics

Topic	Title	Action
HORIZON-CL2-2023-DEMOCRACY-01-01	Detecting, analysing and countering foreign information manipulation and interference	RIA
HORIZON-CL2-2024-DEMOCRACY-01-08	Culture, the arts and cultural spaces for democratic participation and political expression, online and offline	RIA
HORIZON-CL2-2024-HERITAGE-01-01	New European Bauhaus – Innovative solutions for greener and fairer ways of life through arts and culture, architecture and design for all	IA
HORIZON-CL2-2023-HERITAGE-ECCCH-01-01	A European Collaborative Cloud for Cultural Heritage	IA
HORIZON-CL2-2024-HERITAGE-01-04	Europe’s cultural heritage and arts – promoting our values at home and abroad	IA
HORIZON-CL2-2024-TRANSFORMATIONS-01-01	Policy recommendations from socio-economic impacts of loneliness in Europe	CSA



Horizon Europe

Cluster 3-‘Civil Security for Society’



Cluster 3 Objectives



Supporting the implementation of EU policy priorities relating to security, including **cybersecurity, disaster risk reduction and resilience**. It builds on lessons learnt from the COVID-19 crisis in terms of prevention, mitigation, preparedness and capacity building for crises (including health crises).

Projects need to **consider human factors and the societal context**, and ensure the respect of fundamental rights, including privacy and protection of personal data.

Funding to develop **'fit for purpose' solutions** for the biggest security issues. This includes persistent security threats like terrorism and crime, including cybercrime, as well as natural and man-made disasters.



Destinations



Better protect the EU and its Citizens Against Crime and Terrorism



Effective Management of EU External Borders



Protected Infrastructure



Increased Cybersecurity

A Disaster-Resilient Society for Europe

Strengthened Security Research and Innovation



Cluster 3 – examples of topics

Topic	Title	Action
HORIZON-CL3-2024-FCT-01-03:	Lawful evidence collection in online child sexual abuse investigations, including undercover	RIA
HORIZON-CL3-2024-BM-01-02	Interoperability for border and maritime surveillance and situational awareness	IA
HORIZON-CL3-2024-INFRA-01-01: Open Topic	“Proposals are welcome to address new or unforeseen challenges and/or creative or disruptive solutions for increasing the resilience of critical infrastructure, that are not covered by the other topics”	IA
HORIZON-CL3-2024-CS-01-02	Post-quantum cryptography transition	RIA
HORIZON-CL3-2024-SSRI-01-01	Demand-led innovation through public procurement	PCP
HORIZON-CL3-2024-DRS-01-04	Hi-tech capacities for crisis response and recovery after a natural-technological (NaTech) disaster	RIA



Horizon Europe

Cluster 4 - 'Digital, Industry and Space'



Cluster 4 Objectives

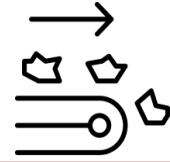
Shaping **competitive and trusted technologies** for a European industry. Developing **global leadership in key areas**, this will build towards a **digital, low-carbon and circular industry** that will form the foundation of advances and innovation to the global challenges affecting society. **Digital and industrial technologies, including in space**, are the foundation of all sectors of the economy and society. To support a competitive Europe and to be a global leader, research and innovation investment is needed to **strengthen Europe's industrial base and enhance its resilience and flexibility** both in terms of technologies and supply chains.



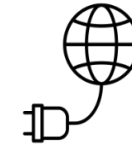
Destinations



**Climate Neutral,
Circular and Digitised
Production**



**Increased Autonomy
in Key Strategic
Value Chains For
Resilient Industry**

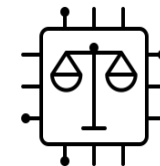


**World Leading Data
and Computing
Technologies**

**Digital and Emerging
Technologies for
Competitiveness and
fit for the Green Deal**

**Open, Strategic
Autonomy
in Space-Based
Infrastructures,
Services, Applications
and Data**

**Human-Centred
Ethical Development
of Digital and
Industrial
Technologies**



Cluster 4 – examples of topics

Topic	Title	Action
HORIZON-CL4-2024-TWIN-TRANSITION-01-35:	Turning CO2 emissions from the process industry to feedstock (Processes4Planet partnership)	IA
HORIZON-CL4-2024-RESILIENCE-01-36	Advanced biomaterials for the Health Care	IA
HORIZON-CL4-2023-DATA-01-04:	Cognitive Computing Continuum: Intelligence and automation for more efficient data processing (AI, data and robotics partnership)	RIA
HORIZON-CL4-2024-DIGITAL-EMERGING-01-54	Smart photonics for joint communication & sensing and access everywhere (Photonics Partnership)	RIA
HORIZON-CL4-2024-SPACE-01-64	Quantum Space Gravimetry Phase-B study & Technology Maturation	RIA
HORIZON-CL4-2024-HUMAN-01-07	Collaborative intelligence – combining the best of machine and human (AI Data and Robotics Partnership)	RIA

Horizon Europe

Cluster 5 - 'Climate, Energy and Mobility'



Cluster 5 Objectives

To accelerate the green and digital transitions with associated transformation of the European economy, industry and society to achieve **climate neutrality in Europe by 2050**. This encompasses the transition to **greenhouse gas neutrality of the energy and mobility sectors** by 2050 at the latest (as well as that of other sectors not covered by this cluster), while boosting their **competitiveness, resilience, and utility for citizens and society**. Europe has been at the forefront of climate science and is committed to keep delivering the knowledge for **enabling efficient pathways** and just transitions to climate neutrality.



Destinations



Climate Sciences
and Responses



Cross-Sectoral
Solutions for the
Climate Transition

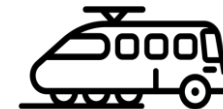


Sustainable, Secure
& Competitive
Energy Supply 2021-
24

Efficient, Sustainable
and Inclusive
Energy Use

Clean and
Competitive
Solutions for All
Transport Modes

Safe, Resilient
Transport and Smart
Mobility Services for
Passengers and
Goods



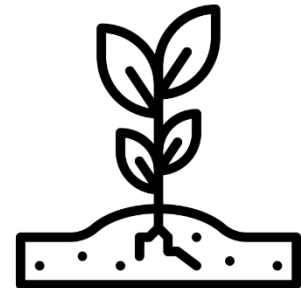
Cluster 5 – examples of topics

Topic	Title	Action
HORIZON-CL5-2024-D1-01-02	Inland ice, including snow cover, glaciers, ice sheets and permafrost, and their interaction with climate change	RIA
HORIZON-CL5-2024-D2-02-02	Post-Li-ion technologies and relevant manufacturing techniques for mobility applications (Generation 5) (Batt4EU Partnership)	RIA
HORIZON-CL5-2024-D3-02-04	Critical technologies for the future ocean energy farms	RIA
HORIZON-CL5-2024-D4-01-01	Low-disruptive renovation processes using integration of prefabricated solutions for energy-efficient buildings	IA
HORIZON-CL5-2024-D5-01-16	Structuring the Waterborne transport sector, including through changed business and industrial models in order to achieve commercial zero-emission waterborne transport (ZEWTP Partnership)	CSA
HORIZON-CL5-2024-D6-01-06	Optimising multimodal network and traffic management, harnessing data from infrastructures, mobility of passengers and freight transport	RIA



Horizon Europe Cluster 6

Food, Bioeconomy,
Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment



Cluster 6 Objectives

Reducing environmental degradation, halting and **reversing the decline of biodiversity** on land, inland waters and sea and better managing natural resources through **transformative changes of the economy and society in both urban and rural areas.**

These include tackling the causes and impacts of climate change, environmental and biodiversity decline, **protection of natural resources** and the **resilience of the food production** systems, as well as maximising the reach of the **bioeconomy** sectors and the **circular economy.**



Destinations



Biodiversity and ecosystem services



Fair, healthy and environment-friendly food systems from primary production to consumption



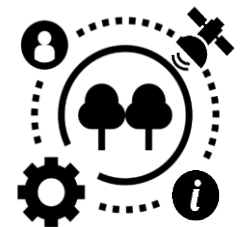
Circular economy and bioeconomy sectors

Clean environment and zero pollution

Land, ocean and water for climate action

Resilient, inclusive, healthy and green rural, coastal and urban communities

Innovative governance, environmental observations and digital solutions in support of the Green Deal



Cluster 6 – examples of topics

Topic	Title	Action
HORIZON-CL6-2024-BIODIV-01-1	Invasive alien species	IA
HORIZON-CL6-2024-FARM2FORK-01-7	Impact of the development of novel foods based on alternative sources of proteins	RIA
HORIZON-CL6-2024-CircBio-01-2	Circular solutions for textile value chains based on extended producer responsibility	IA
HORIZON-CL6-2024-ZEROPOLLUTION-02-e	Holistic approaches for effective monitoring of water quality in urban areas	IA
HORIZON-CL6-2024-CLIMATE-01-7	EU-China international cooperation on improving monitoring for better integrated climate and biodiversity approaches, using environmental and Earth observation	RIA
HORIZON-CL6-2024-COMMUNITIES-02-2	New sustainable business and production models for farmers and rural communities	RIA
HORIZON-CL6-2024-GOVERNANCE-01-11	Biodiversity thematic networks to compile and share knowledge ready for practice	CSA

Clusters - Remaining Deadlines for 2024 calls

Cluster Work Programme	2024	EC Info Day recording	UK NCP page
1. Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 19 September 2023 (two-stage) • 11 April (single stage calls) 	Events The research and innovation community platform (europa.eu)	Health - Innovate UK KTN (ktn-uk.org)
2. Culture, creativity and inclusive society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 February 	Events The research and innovation community platform (europa.eu)	Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society - Innovate UK KTN (ktn-uk.org)
3. Civil security for society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 November 	Coming later in the year	Civil Security - Innovate UK KTN (ktn-uk.org)
4. Digital, Industry and space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 February • 19 March • 21 March • 5 October (two-stage calls) 	Events The research and innovation community platform (europa.eu)	Digital, Industry and Space - Innovate UK KTN (ktn-uk.org)
5. Climate, Energy and Mobility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16 January • 5 March • 18 April • 5 September 21 January 2025 	Events The research and innovation community platform (europa.eu)	Climate, Energy and Mobility - Innovate UK KTN (ktn-uk.org)
6. Food, bioeconomy, natural resources, agriculture and environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 21 February (two-stage calls) • 22 February • 28 February • 17 September (two-stage calls) 	Events The research and innovation community platform (europa.eu)	Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment - Innovate UK KTN (ktn-uk.org)


Recordings from Commission's information events for 2024 calls

Dedicated **EC information days** with brokerage events organised by NCPs


Using **B2Match platform** to schedule online meetings with potential partners

https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/events/horizon-europe-info-days_en


Recent info days




Info days
Horizon Europe - Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) Doctoral Networks 2022 - Coordinators' Information Day
Wednesday 8 November 2023, 09:00 -
Thursday 9 November 2023, 12:30 (CET)
Online only




Info days
Horizon Europe info day - Cluster 2
Wednesday 18 October 2023, 09:30 - 16:00 (CEST)
Online only




Info days
Horizon Europe info day - Cluster 5
Tuesday 17 October 2023, 09:00 - 17:00 (CEST)
Online only
Live streaming available



Info days
Horizon Europe info day - Cluster 4
Wednesday 11 October 2023, 09:00 -
Thursday 12 October 2023, 16:15 (CEST)
Online only



Info days
Horizon Europe info day - Cluster 6
Wednesday 27 September 2023, 09:00 -
Thursday 28 September 2023, 17:00 (CEST)
Brussels, Belgium
Live streaming available



Info days
Horizon Europe info day - Cluster 3
Tuesday 27 June 2023, 09:00 - Wednesday 28 June 2023, 17:30 (CEST)
Brussels, Belgium



UK Research Office
Brussels

Evaluation basics



International peer review – evaluators selection rules

Selection of experts is made (as and when needed) from the central database, on the basis of selection criteria such as:

- professional expertise and experience,
- language skills (English in particular),
- geographical diversity,
- business-sector balance,
- gender balance (target of 40% of the under-represented sex),
- regular rotation (target of 25% of newcomers), and
- absence of conflict of interest.

Diversity of expertise, nationalities and sector representation among Horizon Europe evaluators is usually wider than in national R&I calls, therefore **applicants should avoid country-specific terminology or assumptions on the level of reviewers' knowledge in the specific project area.**

[EU Experts Call for Expression of Interest 2021-2027](#)



Encourage your academics to register as an expert

[European Commission's database of external experts](#)

- **Evaluation** of proposals, prize applications and tenders
- **Monitoring** of actions, grant agreements, public procurement contracts

In addition, experts provide opinion and advise on:

- **Preparation, implementation and evaluation of EU programmes and design of policies.**

[UKRO webinar on Evaluator's work – recording available](#)



European Research Executive Agency @REA_research · Mar 26

#HorizonEU and other funding programmes Call for #Experts just out

Are you an expert in your field? 🧑🏫🧑🏻🧑🏼

Send or update your application for a chance to help us select the best projects for #EUfunding 🎯

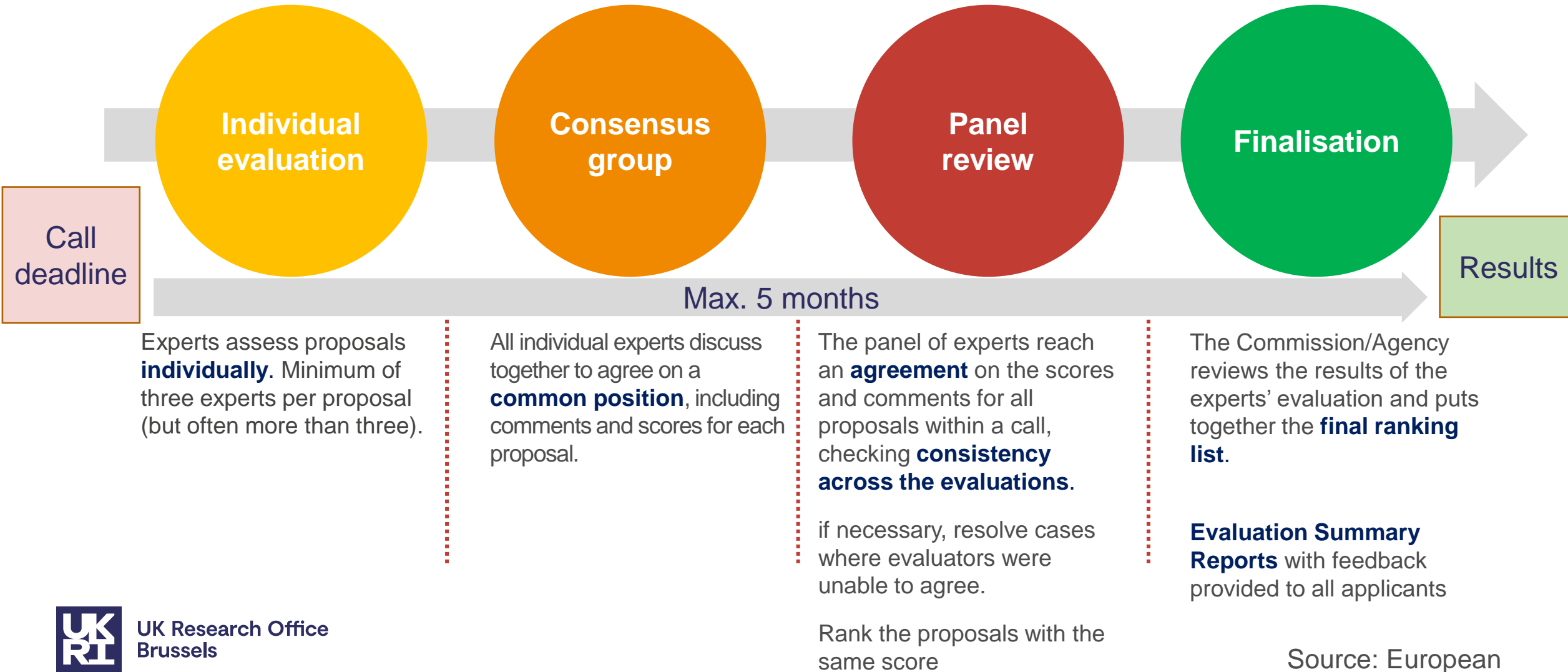
Register now europa.eu/cu98rW

#EUjobs #EUcareers 📺📌

Every year around 20,000 experts take part in evaluating proposals and reviewing projects under Horizon 2020, the EU's research and innovation programme.

7.5K views 0:04 / 0:41

Standard evaluation process in Pillar 2



Piloting 'blind' evaluation (at stage one in two-stage calls)

- Experts evaluate without knowing the identity of participants (only at stage 1)
- The call topic would include an additional admissibility criterion: applicants cannot be disclosed in the narrative part of the proposal (see [UKRO articles](#))
- Applied in all two-stage calls of Clusters Work Programmes 2023-24

WHY this pilot?

- Some concerns that evaluators may be swayed – perhaps unconsciously – in favour of proposals from well-known organisations in countries with better performing R&I
- 'Blind' evaluation is a way to remove any real perceived effect of reputational bias
- There is no evidence that the current proposal evaluation system is systematically biased – results of the pilot will help analyse this concern



Evaluation Criteria

	Excellence	Impact	Quality and efficiency of the implementation
Research and Innovation Actions (RIA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clarity and pertinence of the project's objectives, and the extent to which the proposed work is ambitious, and goes beyond the state-of-the-art. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Credibility of the pathways to achieve the expected outcomes and impacts specified in the work programme, and the likely scale and significance of the contributions due to the project. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quality and effectiveness of the work plan, assessment of risks, and appropriateness of the effort assigned to work packages, and the resources overall.
Innovation Actions (IA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Soundness of the proposed methodology, including the underlying concepts, models, assumptions, interdisciplinary approaches, appropriate consideration of the gender dimension in research and innovation content, and the quality of open science practices including sharing and management of research outputs and engagement of citizens, civil society and end users where appropriate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suitability and quality of the measures to maximise expected outcomes and impacts, as set out in the dissemination and exploitation plan, including communication activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity and role of each participant, and extent to which the consortium as a whole brings together the necessary expertise.

Evaluation criteria

	Excellence	Impact	Quality and efficiency of the implementation
Coordination and support actions (CSA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clarity and pertinence of the project's objectives.• Quality of the proposed coordination and/or support measures including soundness of methodology	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Credibility of the pathways to achieve the expected outcomes and impacts specified in the work programme, and the likely scale and significance of the contributions due to the project.• Suitability and quality of the measures to maximise expected outcomes and impacts, as set out in the dissemination and exploitation plan, including communication activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Quality and effectiveness of the work plan, assessment of risks, and appropriateness of the effort assigned to work packages, and the resources overall.• Capacity and role of each participant, and extent to which the consortium as a whole brings together the necessary expertise.

The elements considered under each criterion can vary across types of projects and Horizon Europe schemes (e.g. European Research Council / MSCA Fellowships)



Other Key Horizon Europe Considerations

- **Horizontal Issues**
 - [Gender](#)
 - [Social Sciences and Humanities](#)
 - [Open Science](#)
 - [Ethics](#)
 - [International Co-operation](#)
- **Financial Rules**
 - Overview in UKRO [HELP Module 3](#)
 - [Lump sum funding page](#)

[UKRO Factsheets on horizontal issues](#)
can help navigate through the Programme

UKRO [Factsheets on L&F Basics](#)
and dedicated [L&F Q&A articles](#)

Scoring

- Unless stated otherwise in the call conditions, calls will be evaluated according ‘**Excellence**’, ‘**Impact**’ and ‘**Quality and efficiency of the Implementation**’
- Experts score each award criterion on a scale **from 0 to 5** (half point scores may be given):

0 – Proposal fails to address the criterion or cannot be assessed due to missing or incomplete information

1 – Poor. The criterion is inadequately addressed or there are serious inherent weaknesses

2 – Fair. The proposal broadly addresses the criterion, but there are significant weaknesses

3 – Good. The proposal addresses the criterion well, but a number of shortcomings are present

4 – Very good. The proposal addresses the criterion very well, small number of shortcomings are present

5 – Excellent. The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion. Any shortcomings are minor

- The max. overall score is thus **15** (3x5), unless a weighting is applied (specific call conditions)
- **Thresholds** apply to each individual criteria (default is **3** unless otherwise specified)
- Proposals are evaluated on their own merit, not on the potential should certain changes be made
- Proposals with an inflated budget are likely to receive a lower score

- For more information on the evaluation process see [Experts Roles and Tasks](#) and [Evaluation Criteria](#) sections of the [Funding & Tenders Opportunities Portal Online Manual](#) as well as the [General Annex](#) to the Work Programme.



1-stage and 2-stage calls scoring

Stage 1 – short proposal (10 pages, see [RIA/IA template](#) and [CSA template](#))

- **Experts only evaluate Excellence and Impact** ('dynamic' threshold of 4)
The level of overall threshold is set at a level that ensures the total requested budget of proposals admitted to stage 2 is as close as possible to three times the available budget, and not less than two and a half times the available budget. **Blind evaluation pilot applies.**
- Results: around **3 months** from the deadline for submission for the first stage

Stage 2 – full proposal ([RIA/IA template](#) 45 pages, [CSA template](#) 30 pages)

- All three criteria evaluated **Excellence, Impact, Implementation**
- Results: around **5 months** from the deadline for submission for the second stage

Page limit can differ in some calls (e.g. lump sum funding topics) –
always download the proposal template from the specific topic call
page (submission system)

Exceptional funding

During the **evaluation** experts give their opinion on the exceptional funding to participants from **non-EU countries not eligible for funding and international organisations**.

Participation is considered **essential for the action** if there are clear benefits for the consortium, such as:

- outstanding competence/expertise
- access to research infrastructure
- access to particular geographical environments
- access to data.

Evaluators' assessment helps the EU services take a decision on exceptional funding for these participants

Proposals with the same score

The conditions for dealing with ex aequo proposals:

- Proposals that **address aspects of the call** that have not otherwise been covered by more highly ranked proposals will be considered to have the highest priority
- Score awarded for **Excellence**. When these scores are equal, priority will be based on scores for Impact. In the case of Innovation Actions, the score for **Impact** always prevails (weight of 1.5)
- **Gender balance among researchers** named in the proposal who will be primarily responsible for carrying out the project
- Any further prioritisation will be based on **geographical diversity** (*new*) or **other factors related to the objectives of the call**, or to Horizon Europe in general. These may include, enhancing the quality of the project portfolio through synergies between projects or, where relevant and feasible, involving SMEs



Evaluation of lump sum proposals

- **Standard evaluation process** (same criteria, scores, timeline, etc)
- Experts are requested to evaluate whether the **proposed resources and the split of the lump sum allow completing the activities described** in the proposal and ensure that the **cost estimations** are reasonable and **non-excessive**
 - **For reference of personnel costs**, experts use the [Horizon Europe dashboard](#)
 - Applicants **justify high personnel costs** (higher than in the dashboard) in the '*Any comments*' tab of the Excel detailed budget table
- If the experts find overestimated costs, they make concrete **recommendations on the budget that are recorded in the Evaluation Summary Report**. This will be reflected in a **modified lump sum amount** in the grant agreement





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Thank you



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