



UK Research
and Innovation

Research Managers Event – Supporting participation in Horizon Europe

Warwick University
Tuesday 14th July 2026



House Keeping

- Refreshments are available in lounge on ground floor. Lunch is in the main restaurant during the times shown on the agenda
- Restroom facilities are located
- No fire alarms are expected – if an alarm does sound, please make your way towards the back of the car park
- We encourage constructive dialogue, inclusive behaviour and respect for speakers and other attendees
- UKRI staff will be taking photos throughout the day which will be shared with staff at Leeds University
- Wi-Fi is available via eduroam or The Cloud
- There will be Q&A /Feedback sessions. We appreciate there may be lots of questions, if we do not get around to answering all questions, please approach us throughout the day or drop your questions to the relevant NCP's functional mailbox. These details can be found on the GOV website.



Purpose of today

This event is designed to strengthen the capability of UK research managers supporting Horizon Europe participation. By the end of the event, attendees will:

- Gain insight into supporting researchers and innovators across the full application lifecycle
- Understand how to develop stronger, more competitive proposals
- Learn effective institutional practices to improve success rates
- Build confidence in navigating Horizon Europe pillars, processes and funding mechanisms
- Exchange best practice and lessons learned from peers
- Develop valuable networks to support ongoing collaboration and knowledge sharing

Agenda – Excellence & Collaboration

09:30 – Welcome address, introduction to Horizon Europe Team

09:45 - DSIT update: UK participation trends & success rates.

10:05 – UKRI Brussels update

10:25 – Break

10:45 – Breakout Session 1: University support systems to succeed with Horizon Europe (Part 1)

12:00 – Lunch

13:00 – Breakout Session 1: Feedback (Part 2)

13:15 – Lump Sum Funding

14:10 – Breakout Session 2: Developing collaborative proposals within Horizon Europe (Part 1)

14:40 – Break

15:00 - Breakout Session 2: Developing collaborative proposals within Horizon Europe (Part 2)

15:50 – COST

16:15 – Reflections and closing remarks

16:30 – Meeting close



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Our Goal is to *maximise the value to the UK of participation in Horizon Europe, to advance knowledge, transform lives and drive growth*



We do this by

- **Managing the Guarantee Programme** to support successful Horizon Europe applicants for Work Programmes 2021-23
- Generating and utilising policy insights from Brussels **to influence the UK's strategic alignment** with, and benefits from, Horizon Europe - in current and future Framework Programmes
- **Hosting UK National Contact Points** to provide expert advice and support for UK applicants, and to advise government policy leads on programmatic/thematic areas



National Contact Points



Forward Look

- Focus on **boosting UK participation** during remainder of Horizon Europe (FP9) – lots of opportunities remain, important the UK continues to participate
- Continuing to **deliver high quality support** for Horizon European engagement, and develop this to better meet the needs of all sectors
 - £10m ERC Porting Pilot to support ERC grant holders wishing to transfer to a UK institution
 - Improved website and online resources
 - Dedicated sector-specific brokerage events and training
- Looking to **FP10 - understanding and influencing**, in support of the UK government's overall UK position

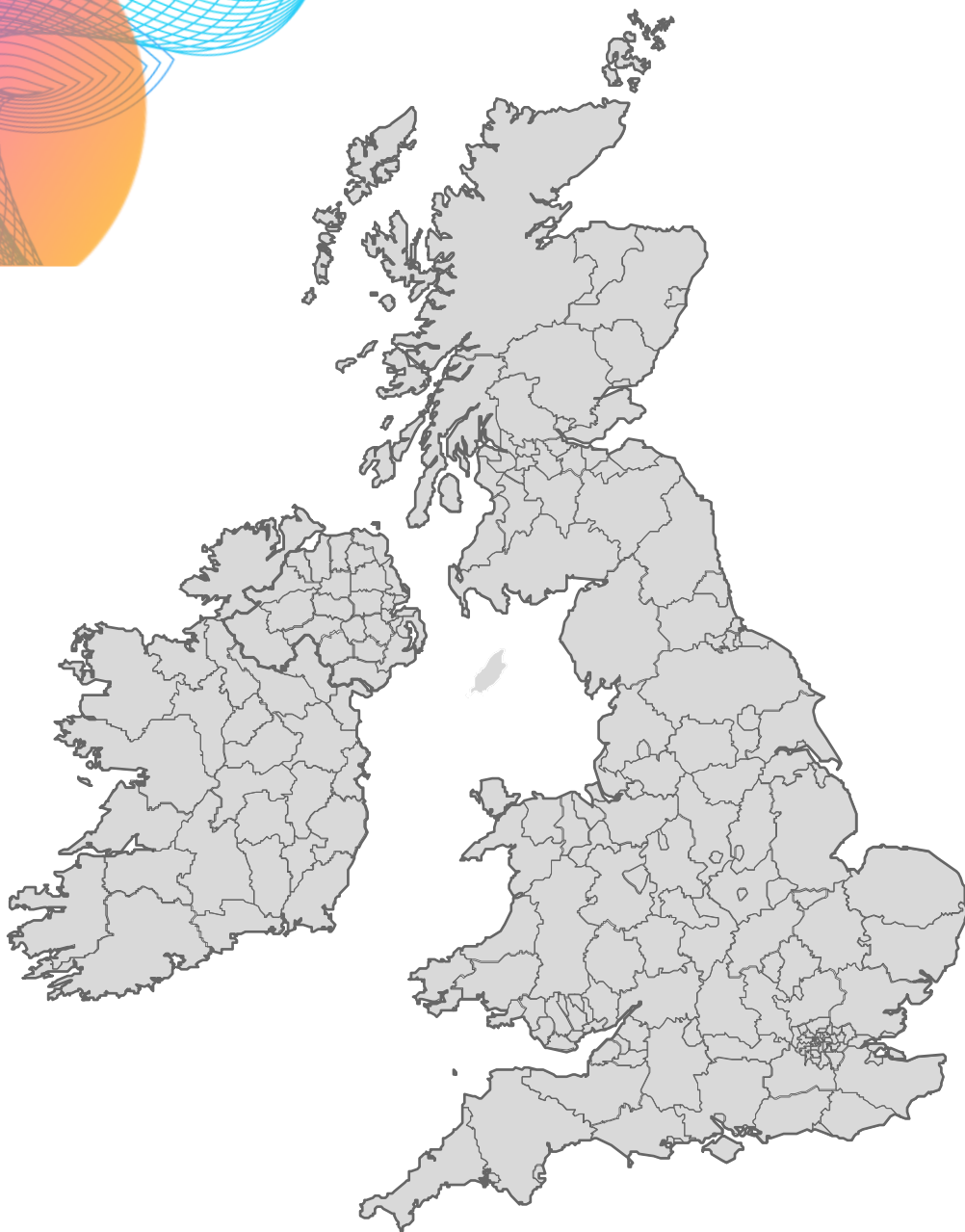
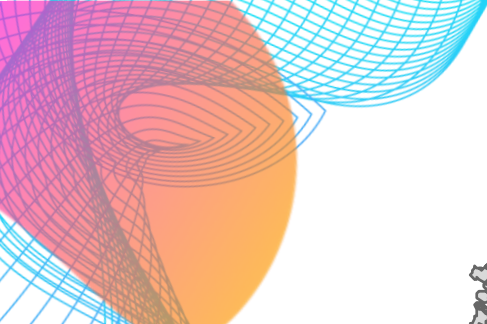




Department for
Science, Innovation
& Technology

Horizon Europe Boosting UK participation

Warwick 14/07



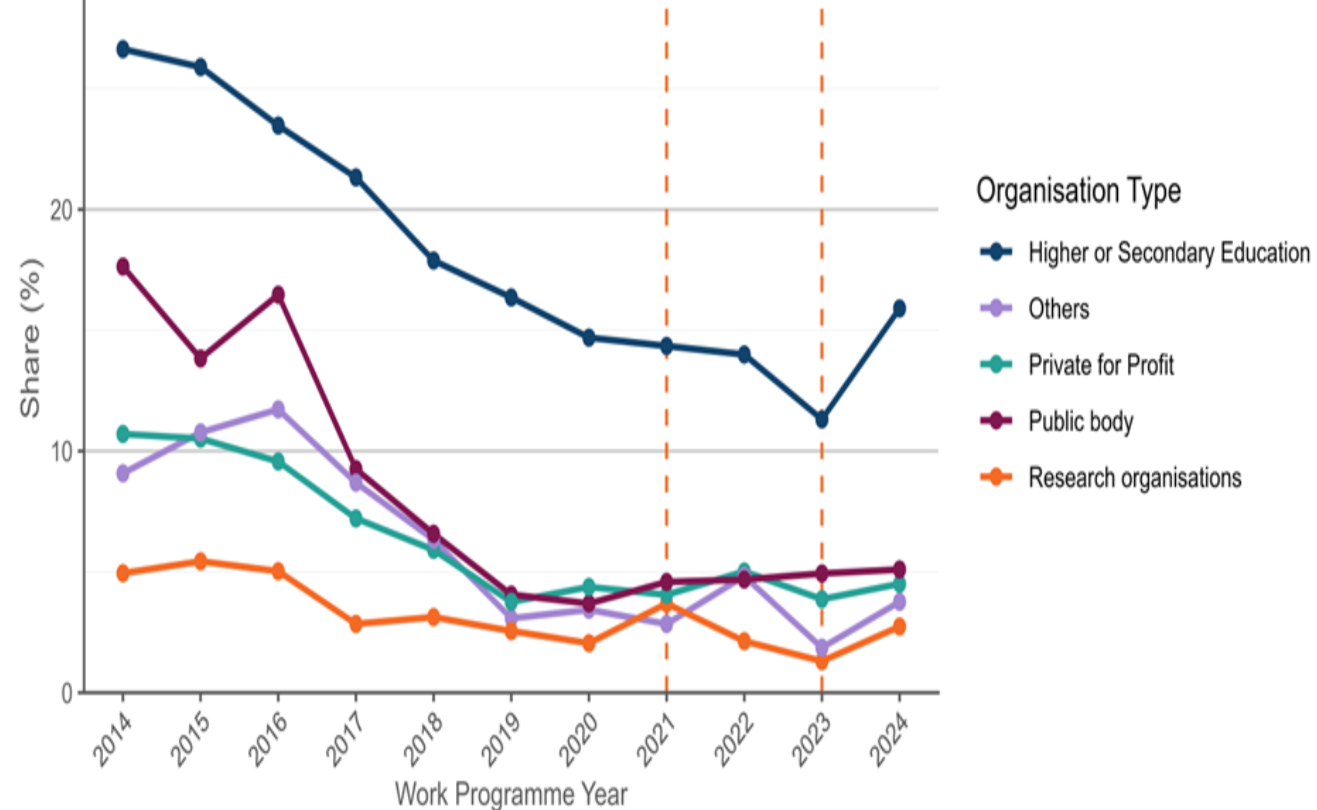
UK Performance

- DSIT has published statistics on the UK's performance in Horizon Europe and its predecessor, Horizon2020, over 2014-2024.
- The UK received 9.3% funding share in 2024 – up from 5.8% in 2023.
- The UK has received 14.3% of the funding from Pillar 1 and 6.2% from Pillar 2 in 2024. Most Pillar 2 clusters are increasing or staying steady.
- The UK's Success rate is 14% – around the same as our H2020 average.
- Recovery to levels seen towards the end of Horizon 2020 (around 2018–2019), though still below earlier peaks

Organisation Types

- Funding shares peaked around 2014–15 across all organisation types, then declined steadily across H2020, with a recent but uneven recovery.
- All organisation types saw large falls in funding share to their lowest points, with Higher and Secondary Education Organisations experiencing the largest absolute decrease (15.3ppt), whereas Other organisations experienced the largest relative decrease (83.8%).
- From 2023 to 2024, all organisation types saw some recovery, but funding shares remain below previous peak levels.
- Higher and Secondary Education organisations recorded the largest absolute increase (in percentage points), while Research organisations saw the largest relative increase, followed by 'Other' organisations.

UK H2020/HEU Funding Share by Organisation Type (%): Work Programme, 2014-2024



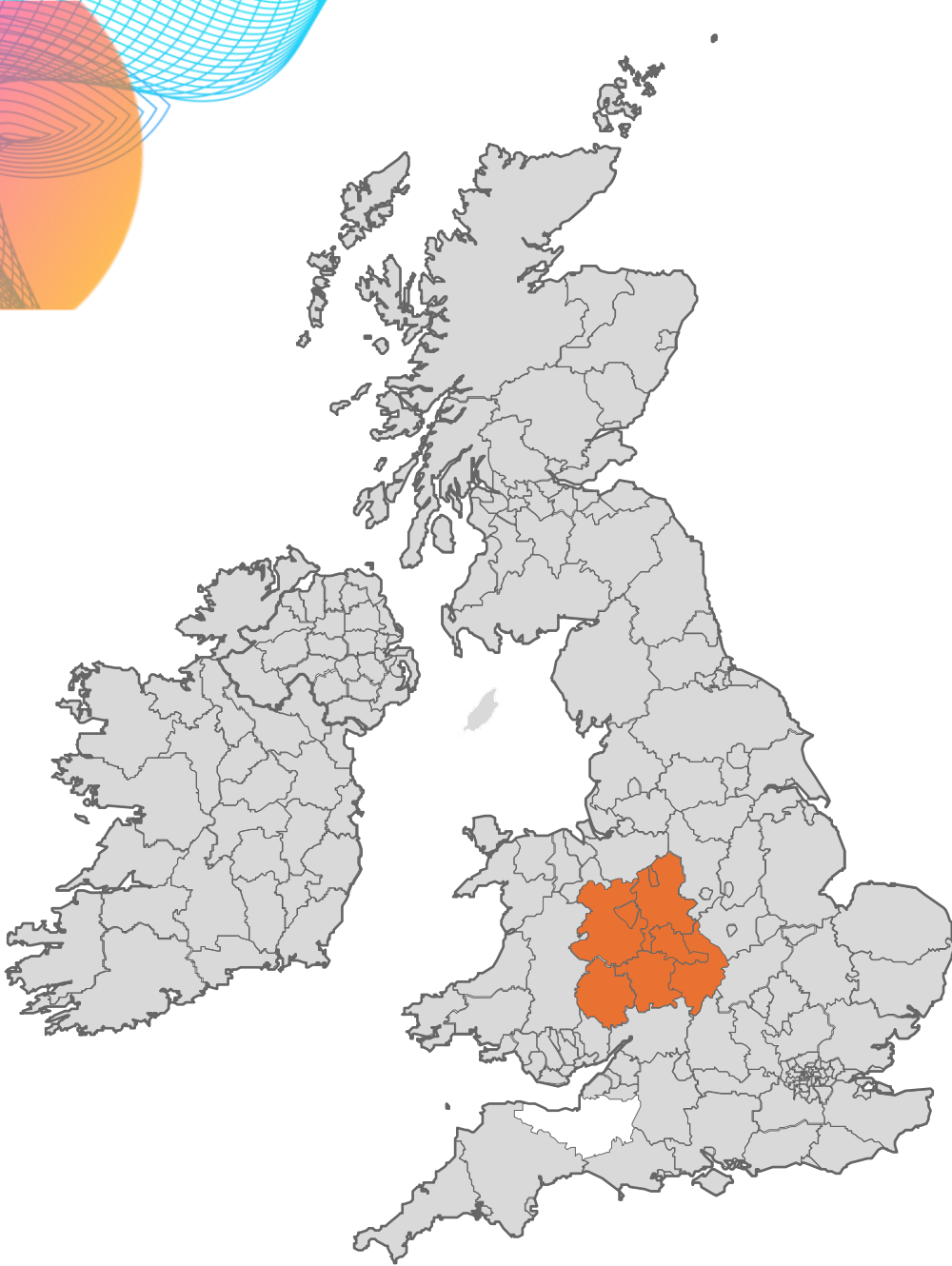
Note 1: Values interpreted as 'out of the total funding granted to each organisation type, what % goes to the UK'.

Note 2: 2021-23 data source - 'applicant requested grant'; all other years - 'net EU contribution'.

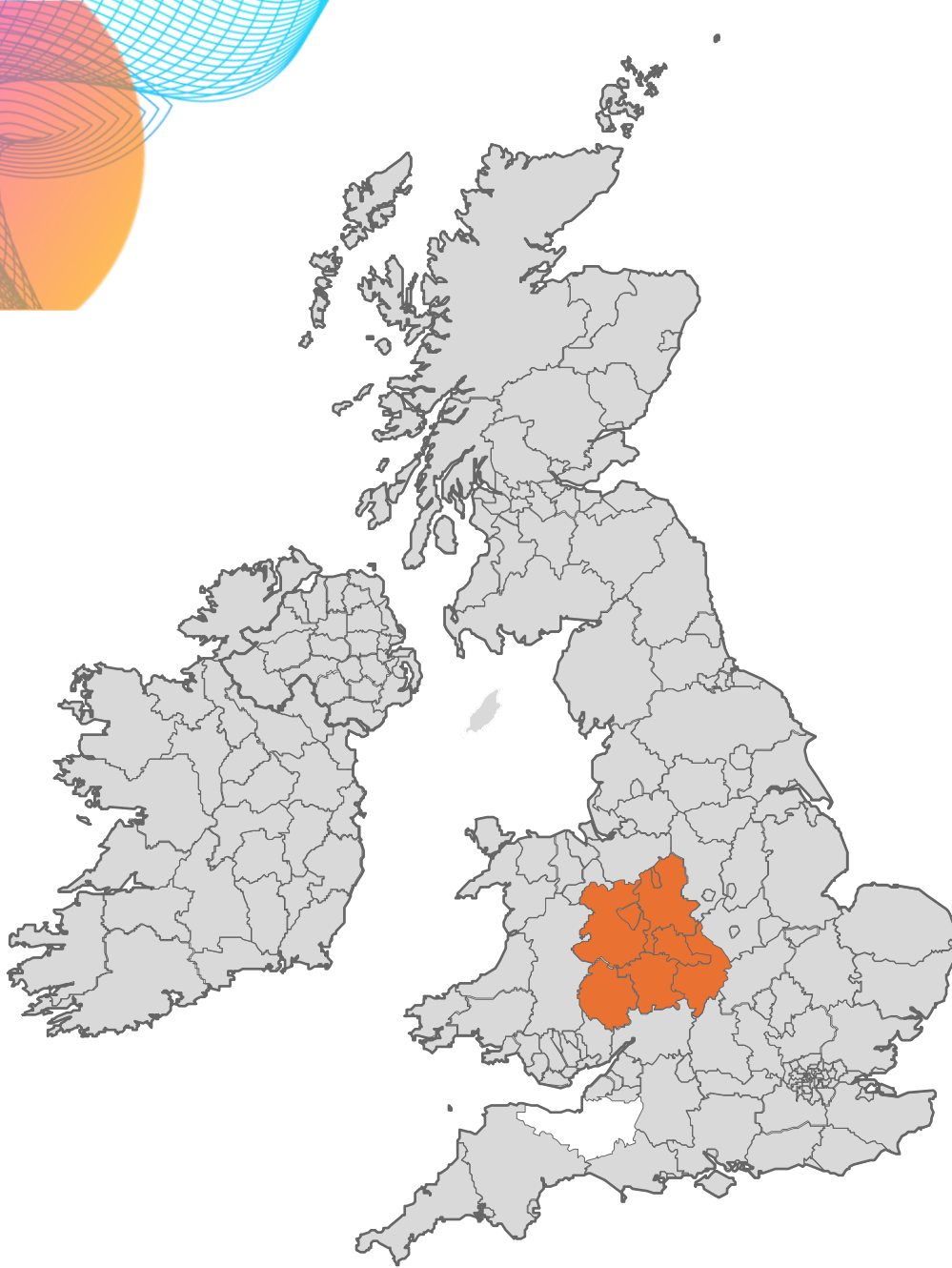
West Midlands Performance 24/25

- West Midlands has been awarded £71m from Horizon Europe in 2024¹.
- By pillar, West Midlands has been awarded around²:
 - €47m from Pillar 1;
 - €53m from Pillar 2 (most participations/funding awarded in cluster 5/6), and
 - €0.82m from Pillar 3 in 2024/5.

Sources: 1. 'Statistics on UK participation in EU Framework Programmes' (Gov.uk); 2. Horizon Projects Dashboard, July 2026. All calls with deadlines in 2024 and uploaded to Dashboard by 2/7/26.



West Midlands Performance 24/25



- Higher/Secondary Education Establishments took 78% of funding, with Private for-profit entities taking 16%
- Warwick University has been awarded around€37m from Horizon Europe in 2024/5.
- The most common international partners were Germany, Spain and France.

Source: Horizon Projects Dashboard, July 2026. All calls with deadlines in 2024 and uploaded to Dashboard by 2/7/26.



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Update on FP10

Georgina Drury, Head of UKRI Brussels

UKRI Horizon Team – Research Managers Event
University of Warwick
14 July 2026



Talk outline

- ❖ UKRI Brussels
- ❖ Our strategic priorities
- ❖ The next Multiannual Financial Framework
- ❖ ECF
- ❖ Horizon Europe 2028-2034
- ❖ Outlook for the UK



UKRI Brussels



- Establishing a UKRI Brussels overseas office in 2026, co-located at UK Mission to the EU
- Will operate in a similar fashion to UKRI other overseas offices in Washington DC, Ottawa, New Delhi and Beijing
- Positioned as a 'research & innovation liaison' office – representing UKRI and the UK in Brussels and linking across UKRI and the wider UK sector



Who are we?

Georgina Drury – Head of Office



- UKRO Deputy Director from Feb 2023
- Head of UKRI Brussels - November 2025
- Previous roles in UK HEI sector, UKRI, MRC, BBSRC.
- Research background in molecular genetics – cell death and DNA repair

Aimée Allsopp – Senior Policy Manager



- Started in February 2026
- Previously worked in UKRI Int'l Global Affairs team – Science Europe, Global Research Council
- Worked for international development consultancies on EU-funded projects

UKRI Brussels - strategic and operational priorities

1. **Establish effective, trusted relationships across the Horizon Europe policy landscape,** working with both UK-based and Brussels-based stakeholder groups
2. **Establish effective, trusted relationships with DSIT Horizon teams, and the UKMis Brussels Research & Innovation Team,** working collaboratively to augment UK Government strategy
3. **Develop evidenced insights to inform and influence the UK's strategic alignment with, and success from, Horizon Europe.** Aligning to the UK government's formal association position, UKRI's strategy, and the UK R&I sector's policy positions
4. **Foster a culture of open, collaborative, inclusive working, across UKRI International, the Horizon Europe Team and wider UKRI colleagues**

Brussels liaison – priority stakeholders

- Priorities reflected in UKRI position as a research-liaison office
- R&I intensive networks
- Funders
- Innovation

LE
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CESAER

The strong and united voice of universities
of science and technology in Europe



Austria >
Belgium (Flanders) >
Belgium (Wallonia-Brussels) >
Cyprus >
Czech Republic >
Denmark >
Estonia >
Finland >
France >
Germany >
Hungary >
Ireland >
Israel >
Italy (CNR) >



> Italy (ENEA)
> Latvia
> Lithuania
> Moldova
> The Netherlands
> Norway
> Poland
> Romania
> Slovakia
> Slovenia
> Spain
> Sweden
> Switzerland
> United Kingdom

Informal Group of Liaison Offices- IGLO

- Main Brussels network for UKRI Brussels
- Research & Innovation Liaison Offices posted in Brussels
- A range of remits – generally representing the interests of funders, researchers and innovators
- Regular network meetings, events and Working Groups
- Regular liaison with the Commission
- IGLO Associated Countries group

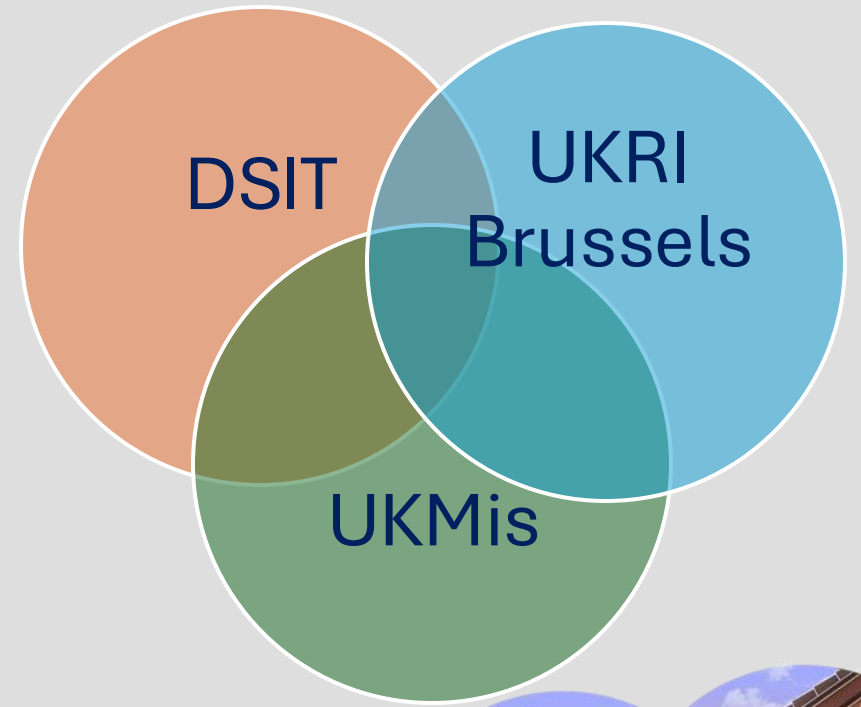


Switzerland, Israel, UK, Norway, Moldova, Ukraine

[South Korea also a part of our group]

How are we working with DSIT to support UK Government strategy?

- Shared, overlapping priorities - led by DSIT objectives
- The UKRI 'niche'
 - Research & Innovation liaison offices
 - Research intensive university networks
 - Funder networks e.g. Science Europe
 - Organisations supporting innovation e.g. EARTO, Business Europe
- Ensuring open channels of communication between us, UKMis and DSIT



Celebrating the UK's contribution to Horizon Europe – Event at the Ambassador's Residence, 26 February '26

- With the UK Mission to the EU and Australia, Canada, Iceland, Japan, New Zealand, Switzerland
- Panels on openness and trusted research, and energy security
- Research stands and showcase
 - UK contributions on quantum, digital twinning, space, clean energy, polar research
- Demonstrated the contribution that ACs make to Horizon Europe
 - 'Like-minded' countries – shared priorities in sensitive / strategic research areas



UK Mission to the EU – [LinkedIn post](#)

[Showcase conclusions](#)



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The next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF), the European Competitiveness Fund (ECF), and FP10



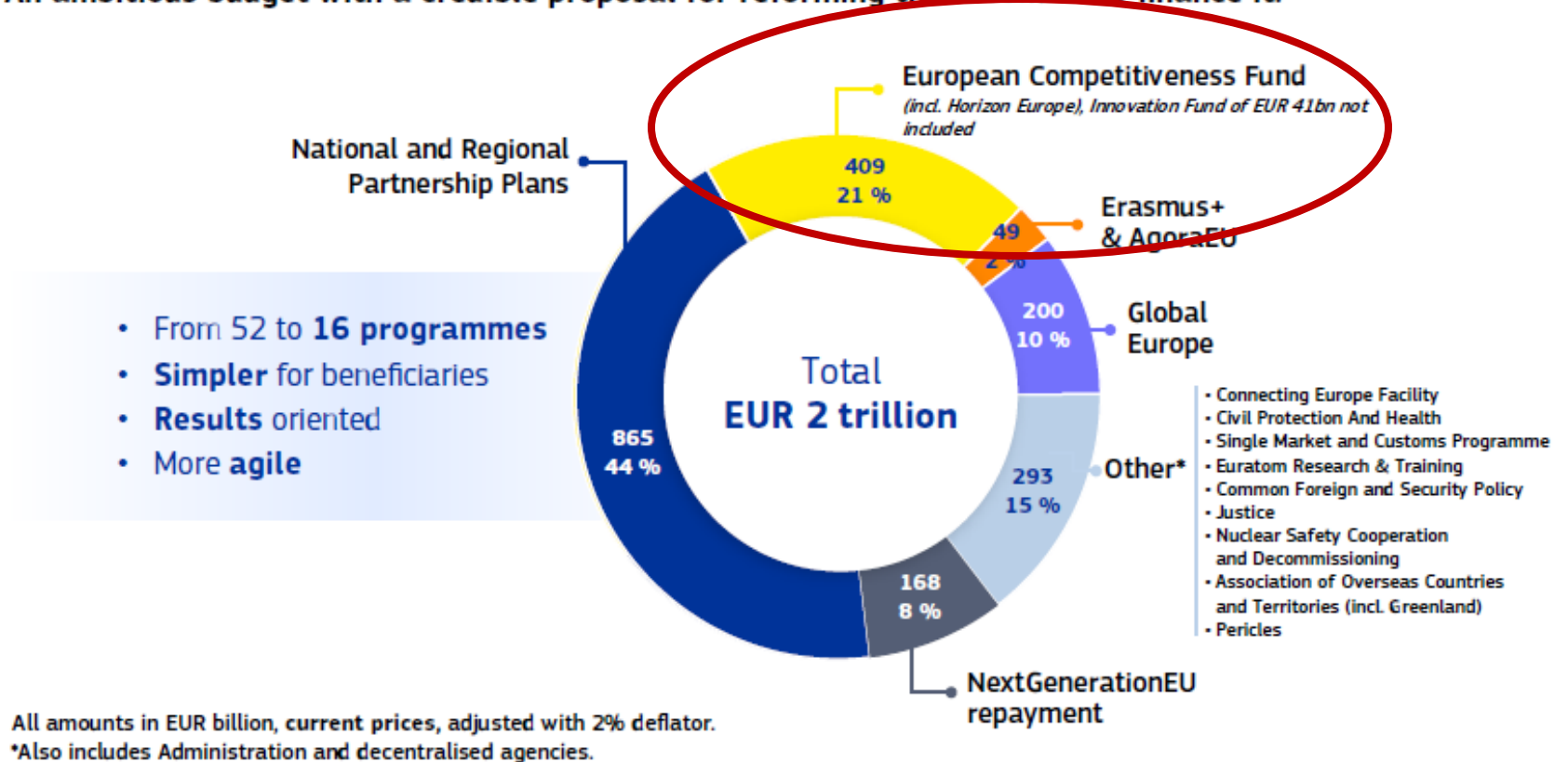
The next MFF

➤ Recap – a FP is the European Union’s **flagship funding programme for research and innovation**

➤ FPs are part of the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) which accounts for all EU budget

- €2tn in current prices for a 7-year period (2028-34)
- *Initial proposals suggested that FP10 would comprise part of a new initiative – the European Competitiveness Fund*

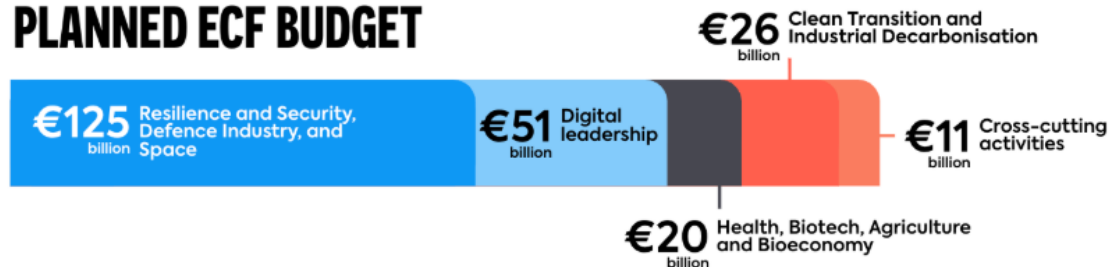
An ambitious budget with a credible proposal for reforming the revenues to finance it.



The ECF

- **European competitiveness now a major strategic driver**
 - To ensure Europe can keep pace with the US and China
- **The Draghi Report 2024 - *The Future of European Competitiveness***
 - Slowing productivity, demographic challenges, rising energy costs, and increased global competition are putting pressure on Europe's long-term prosperity
 - The EU must set out how it will secure sustainable growth for the future
 - Four Pillars:
 - (1) Closing the Innovation Gap
 - (2) Decarbonisation and Energy
 - (3) Security and Dependencies
 - (4) Financial support
 - **The report recognises the huge potential for R&I to drive competitiveness – and the changes that need to occur for innovative companies to flourish in Europe**

PLANNED ECF BUDGET



The ECF

- Merges 14 existing programmes into a single framework articulated across four policy windows
- Will support strategic sectors and technologies to boost economic output
- Ensure strategic autonomy – e.g. in clean energy, technology sovereignty and defense
- Aims to secure supply chains
- Scaleup innovation
 - Ensure there are funding instruments to pull lower-TRL research through to commercialisation

As Mario Draghi stated in his report: “***The EU should actively and more strategically deepen its relationships with like-minded countries. The richer and stronger mutual ties with like-minded partners are, the more all parties will benefit.***”

Influencing FP10

- FPs - developed by the Commission to cover 7year funding periods – FP10 will run 2028-34
- **Pre-FP10 proposal publication** - various Reports, Position Papers, and lobbying statements proposed plans for and offered critique – **with the aim to influence the Commission's plans for FP10**
 - UK position published Sept 2024
- Initial ECF proposal suggested that FP10 may be subsumed into the ECF – **strong and unified lobbying for a standalone programme**
 - In March 2025 EU research ministers adopted the Warsaw Declaration, calling for a “self-standing” Framework Programme.
- Widespread lobbying for significantly increased budget - €200bn - €220bn
- “Evolution **not** revolution”

The FP10 proposal – “Horizon Europe 2028-2034”

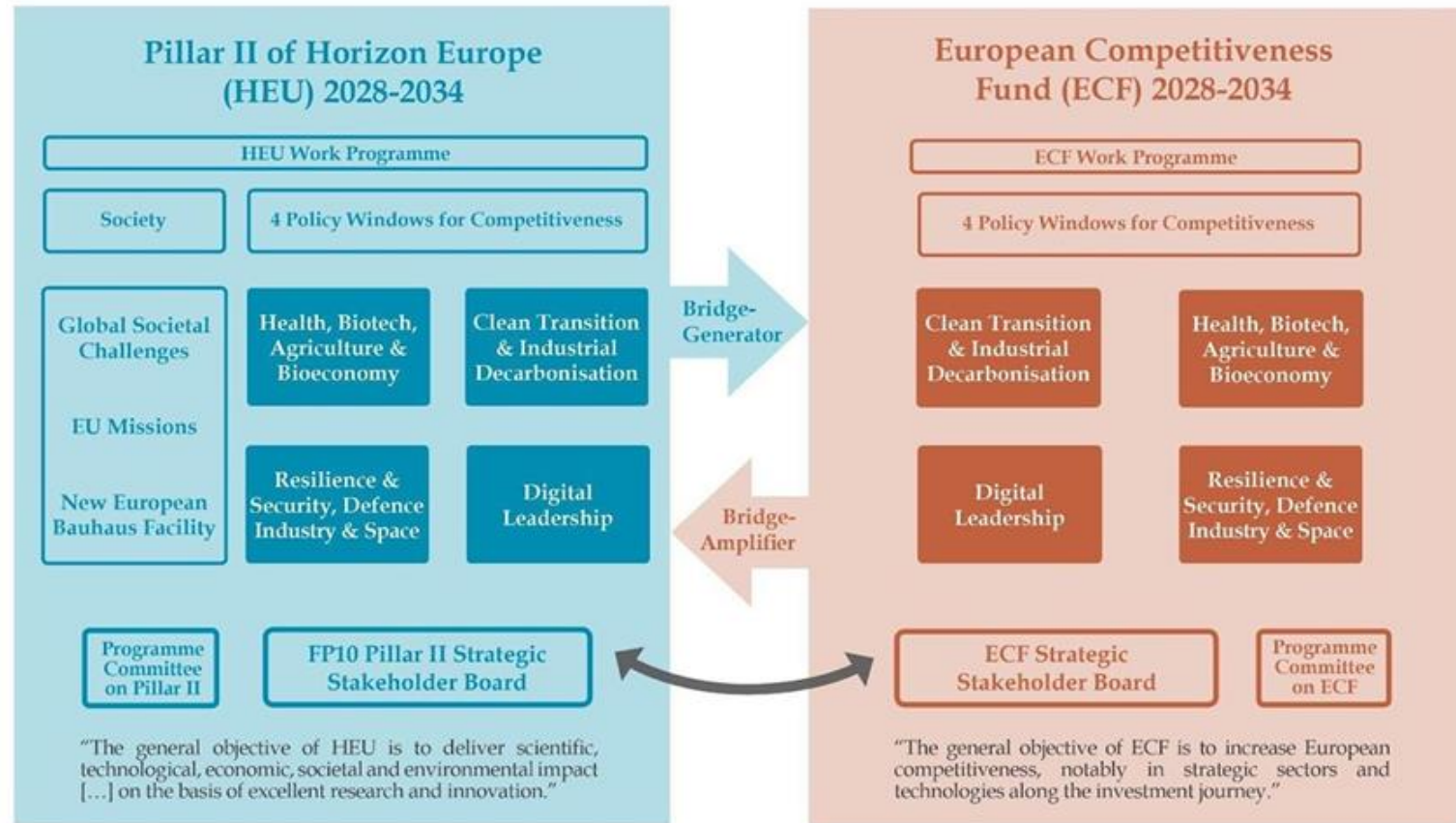
Pillar I	Pillar II	Pillar III	Pillar IV
EXCELLENT SCIENCE	COMPETITIVENESS AND SOCIETY	INNOVATION	EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA
€44.079 BILLION	€75.876 BILLION	€38.785 BILLION	€16.262 BILLION
EUROPEAN RESEARCH COUNCIL	COMPETITIVENESS ¹ : 1. Clean Transition and Industrial Decarbonisation 2. Health, Biotech, Agriculture and Bioeconomy 3. Digital leadership 4. Resilience and Security, Defence Industry and Space	EUROPEAN INNOVATION COUNCIL	ERA POLICIES
MARIE SKŁODOWSKA-CURIE ACTIONS		INNOVATION ECOSYSTEMS AND THE KNOWLEDGE TRIANGLE	RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURES
SCIENCE FOR EU POLICIES	SOCIETY: 1. Global societal challenges 2. EU Missions 3. New European Bauhaus Facility		WIDENING PARTICIPATION AND SPREADING EXCELLENCE

- Standalone programme
- €175bn
- Preserve pillar structure
- Strengthened ERC for bottom-up research
- Emphasis on collaborative instruments
- ‘New’ 4th pillar – cross-cutting elements
- Competitiveness ‘policy windows’ will be mirrored in the ECF
- Simplification – lump sum by default
- Reduce the number of European Partnerships

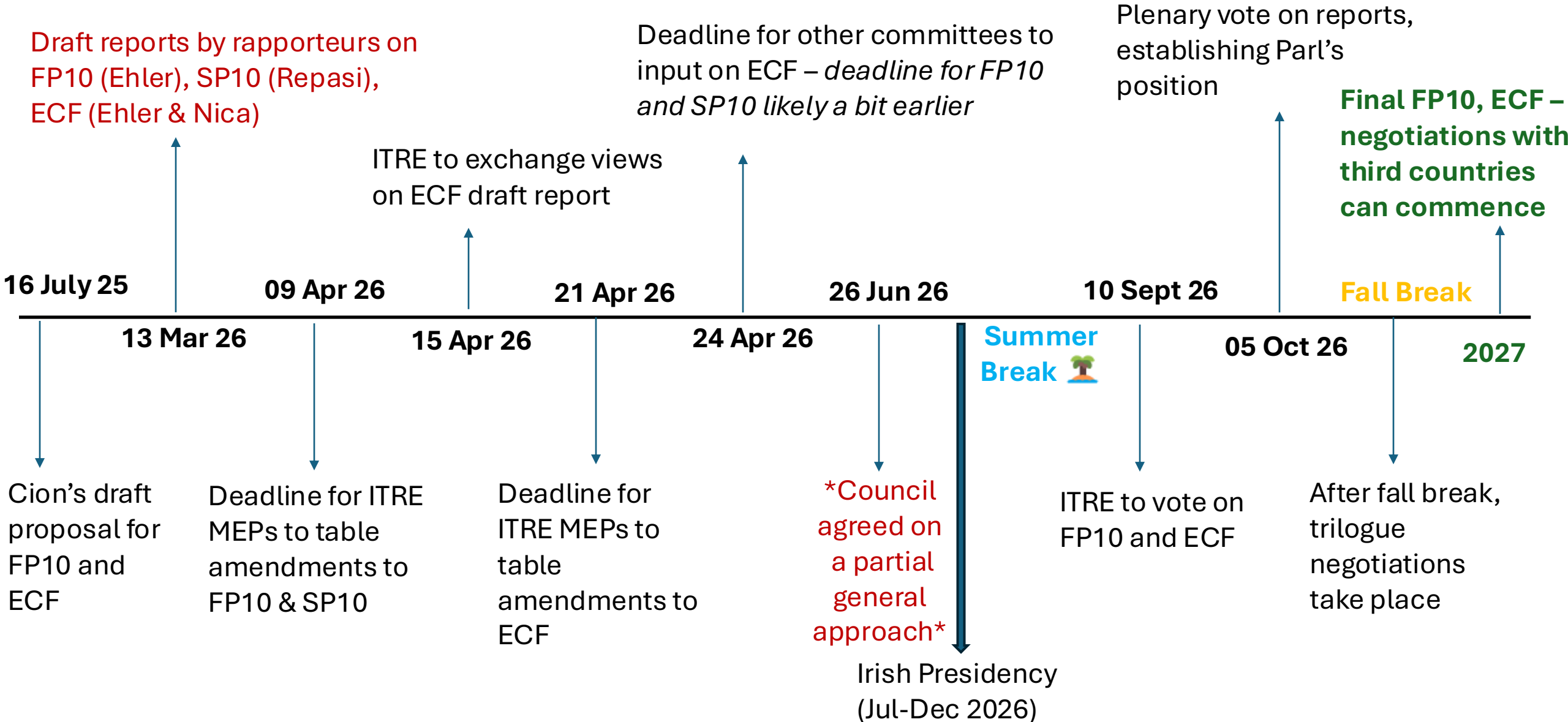
Four policy windows: (1) clean transition and decarbonisation; (2) Health, biotech, agri; (3) Digital; and (4) Defense and space

FP10 and the ECF – supporting the innovation journey

- Widespread agreement on tight linkage needed between FP10 and the ECF
- **Practical information on HOW has been lacking**
- Recent paper proposes a *structured interface model that enables predictable, low-friction connectivity across programme interface, governance, and operational implementation.*
- **FP10 as the bridge generator:** producing knowledge, innovations and societal solutions, supporting talent
- **ECF as the bridge amplifier:** accelerating development and uptake through scaling, deployment, ecosystem-building, skills, infrastructure and market creation



Horizon Europe 28-34 (FP10) Development Timeline



European Parliament – draft position paper on FP10 on 13 March

On 13 March, Rapporteur MEP Christian Ehler and Rapporteur MEP René Repasi published their draft reports for Horizon Europe 2028-34.

MEP Christian Ehler proposes a budget of €220bn.

Key elements include:

- New instrument for Pillar I, the **‘Fast Track to Excellence’** to support bottom-up, small-scale, blue-sky collaborative research activities
- **Creation of two councils for Pillar II**, a Council for European Competitiveness Research and a European Council for Global Societal Challenges Research, **both comprised of leading experts**
- Calls for the **autonomy of the European Innovation Council**
- Introduce a European instrument for country-agnostic support of **Researchers at Risk** through a **European Fellowship scheme**
- **European Partnerships should only be used when essential**

In Parliament’s draft report for ECF, rapporteurs Christian Ehler and Dan Nica, call for **Horizon Europe Pathway Actions**, which would build exclusively on Horizon Europe project results, funding deployment, commercialisation, scaling, licensing, standardisation or other forms of knowledge translation.



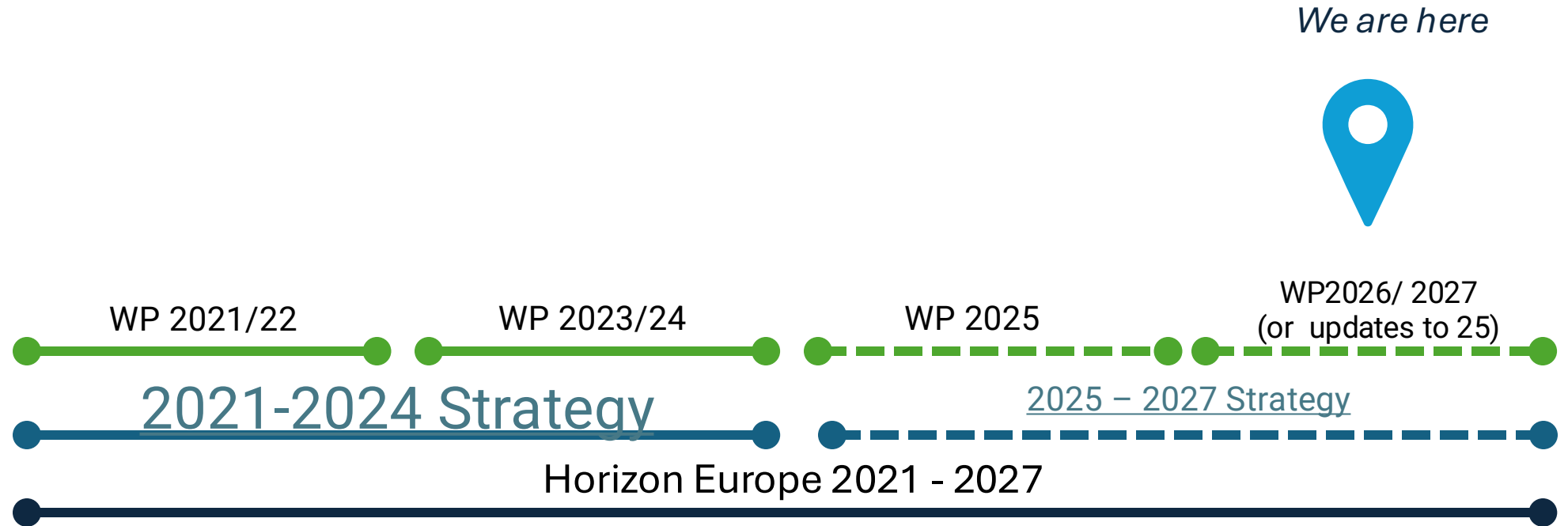
European Council – agreement on Partial General Approach reached 26 June

The Council position is 'partial' because it excludes financial and horizontal issues, which are discussed in the overall MFF negotiations. The budget proposed for HE 2028-34 is €167.9bn.

Key elements include:

- **Strengthens the Council and Member States' role** in setting the programmes strategic priorities
- Supports the Commission's proposal for **shared governance between FP10 (Pillar II) and ECF**
- Limits FP10's actions up to **TRL 8**
- Support for **autonomy of the Scientific Council of the European Research Council and its president.**
- New instrument for **bottom-up and collaborative research**
- **European Partnerships:** Pushed towards a **mission-oriented** logic, with clear, time-bound objectives and are framed within a coherent **portfolio approach** expected to cover the full R&I value chain.
- **Lump sum** is an option among other forms of funding, rather than being default
- **Dual-use-by-design approach**
- **European Innovation Council (EIC)** should be able to support **defence-related projects.** However, Member States propose introducing a capped allocation for defence funding
- Incorporates **key cross-cutting principles** more explicitly, including gender equality and simplification

Where are we in the FP cycle



Outstanding issues to influence on

- European partnerships, widening, and strategic priority setting
- Alignment between FP10 and ECF
- Subsequent negotiations will tension the FP10 budget along with the rest of the MFF

Outlook for the UK and FP10 association

UK Government position

- Welcomes FP10 proposal
- Shared priorities for investing in research and innovation to drive economic growth
- Pleased to see provisions for third country association
- Seeking value for our research community and the taxpayer

UK Government – has co-authored letters to the Commission with New Zealand, Canada and Switzerland on our shared values and the important of trusted partners in strategic research

Key advocacy priorities

- For openness of the programme to the UK as a trusted partner to the EU
 - *ACs contribute over 30% of Horizon Europe budget*
- Assurances and/or mechanisms welcome that enable swift association from the start



Other advocacy positions – making links to strengthen our influence

CESAER, published an [opinion piece](#) in Science Business, rebutting the ‘EU preference’ logic: *‘If the EU applies an ‘EU preference’ logic to the next Framework Programme for research and innovation (FP10), it will weaken one of its greatest strategic assets: a research system built on openness, excellence and international collaboration...That would be a serious mistake’.*

The Guild published a [statement](#) to warn against EU preference in FP10.; calling for balanced research security and for **distinct treatment for Switzerland and the UK**.

The EIRO Forum stated that ‘some associated countries are among the EU’s closest research and innovation partners’ and ***‘It is in the mutual interest of EU Member States and their trusted partners to preserve openness, reciprocity and long-term stability of the association framework’.***

In a [joint statement from June 2023, LERU, The Guild and CE7](#) state “Excellent R&I demands a FP that is open to the world, with a focus on association of the leading R&I nations..... ***it is essential that the UK and Switzerland are preferential partners in a distinct category, on account of their long, close and trusted integration in European collaborative research and innovation.***”



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Thank you

Please email info@ukri.org
if you have any further questions.





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Break

10:25 – 20 minutes

Next Session: University support systems to succeed with Horizon Europe.



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Horizon Europe Research Managers Event

Pillar I : What does excellence mean in ERC and MSCA?

University of Warwick, 14 July 2026

Raquel Meco Melguizo | UK National Contact Point for MSCA

Dr Antonino Puglisi | UK National Contact Point for the ERC

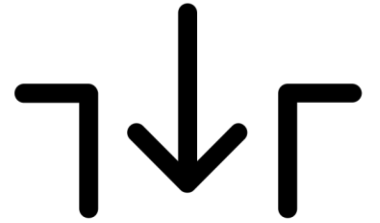
The evaluation logic



- **Scientific excellence** is the main evaluation criterion
- The research project, the Principal Investigator (and the HI *for the MSCA*) are **assessed**
- The PI (*or fellow*) is assessed in relation to the **capacity** to successfully execute the project

You starting point: the knowledge gap

- The proposal **should not start with methods or tools**
- You should focus on a **major unresolved scientific problem**
- The key question is not “what can we do?” but “**what do we still not understand?**”



The excellence triangle

SCIENTIFIC QUESTION

What is the major problem unresolved?



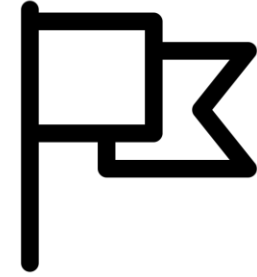
AMBITION

What can challenge the current understanding?

TRANSFORMATIVE GAIN

What changes if the project succeeds?

Common red flags



- The proposal starts with methods instead of the **scientific problem**
- Ambition is asserted, but the **conceptual gain** remains unclear
- The **PI profile** does not fully support the strongest project claims



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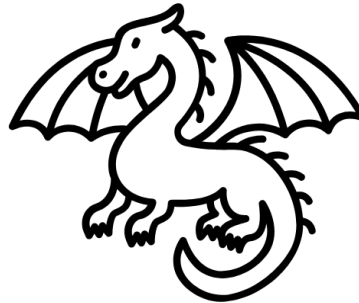
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Spin spin spin

The key elements to sell a compelling story



Hero/ine



Dragon



Secret gun

Case Study

Researcher: Christopher Columbus

Host Institution: University of Genoa (Italy)

Proposal: “How To Reach the Indies via the Ocean”



Christopher Columbus | First Attempt, 1485

Proposal: “How To Reach the Indies via the Ocean”

Reviewers: Panel Chair of ocean wanderers was King John II of Portugal

Feedback

HOW? Not much methodology

...besides, your math is wrong! (the Indies were determined by experts to be much farther away)

WHY? We think it's easier to go to India eastward



Christopher Columbus | Second Attempt, 1488

Proposal: “How To Reach the Indies via the Ocean, *by leveraging trade winds*”

Reviewers: King John II of Portugal

Feedback: Your story is nice, but there is no dragon. Bartolomeu Dias has just solved our problem



DENIED

Christopher Columbus | Third Attempt, 1489

Proposal: “How To Reach the Indies inexpensively via the Ocean, by leveraging trade winds”

Reviewers: Ferdinand II of Aragon & Isabella I of Castile

Feedback: More interesting, but still not too strong a dragon



DENIED

Christopher Columbus | Fourth Attempt, 1489

Proposal: “How To Reach the Indies inexpensively via the Ocean, by leveraging trade winds, with potential industrial exploitation”

Reviewers: Ferdinand II of Aragon & Isabella I of Castile

Feedback: The king's clerk persuaded the queen by arguing that Columbus would take his ideas elsewhere, and approved the funding





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Thank you



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UKRIforResearchers

erc-uk@ukro.ac.uk
mariecurie-uk@ukro.ac.uk



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Questions?



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Supporting Universities in the Horizon Europe's Journey

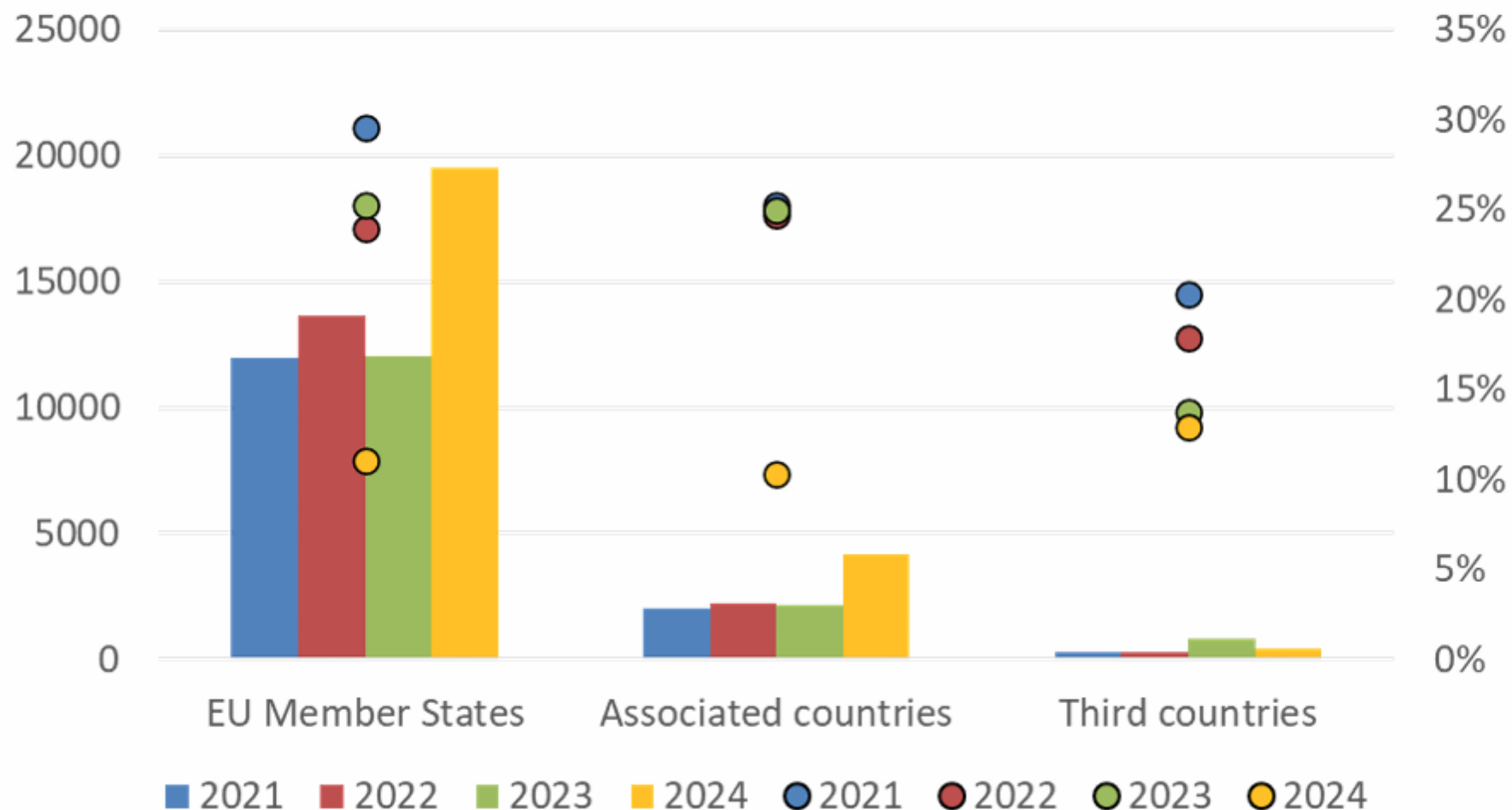
Cinzia Porcedda

UK National Contact Point Horizon Europe
Climate and Built Environment– Cluster 5

Cinzia.Porcedda@iuk.ukri.org

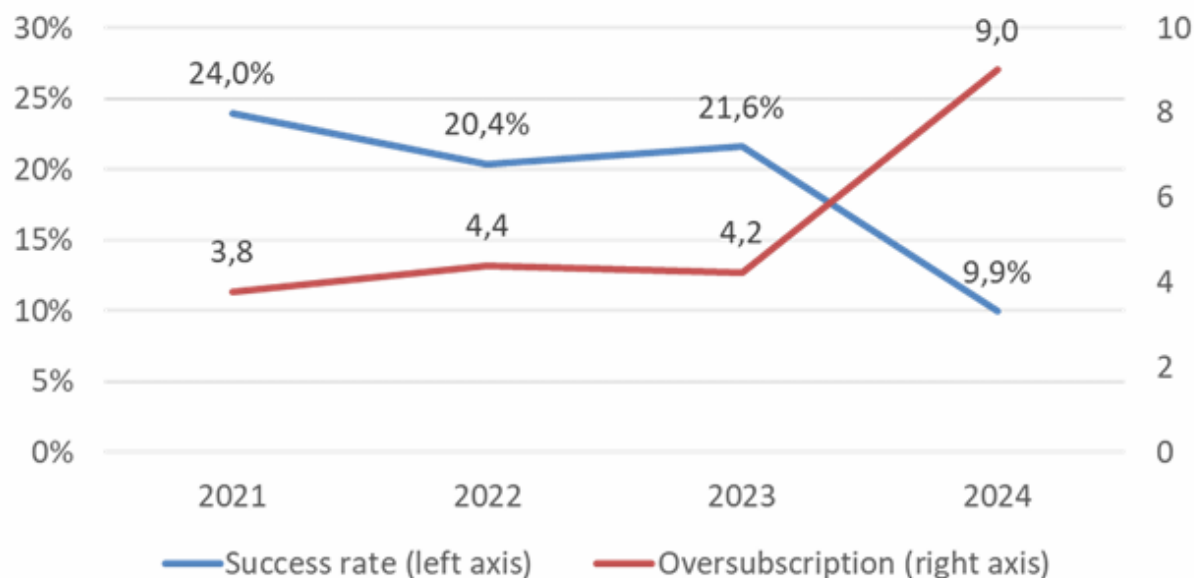
NCP-Climate@iuk.ukri.org

Applications and success rates per country group

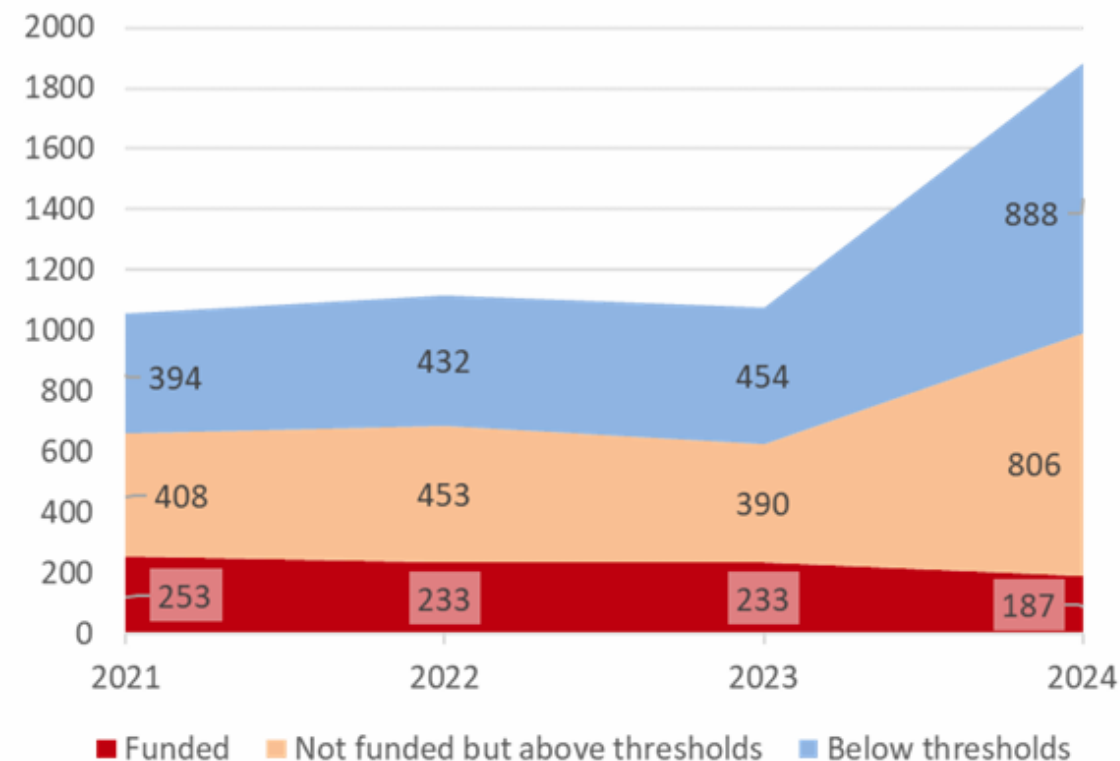


Success rates and oversubscription (CL5)

Evolution of success rates and oversubscription



Number of eligible proposals in CL5 per year



Share of high-quality proposals:

2021: 63%
2022: 61%
2023: 58%
2024: 53%

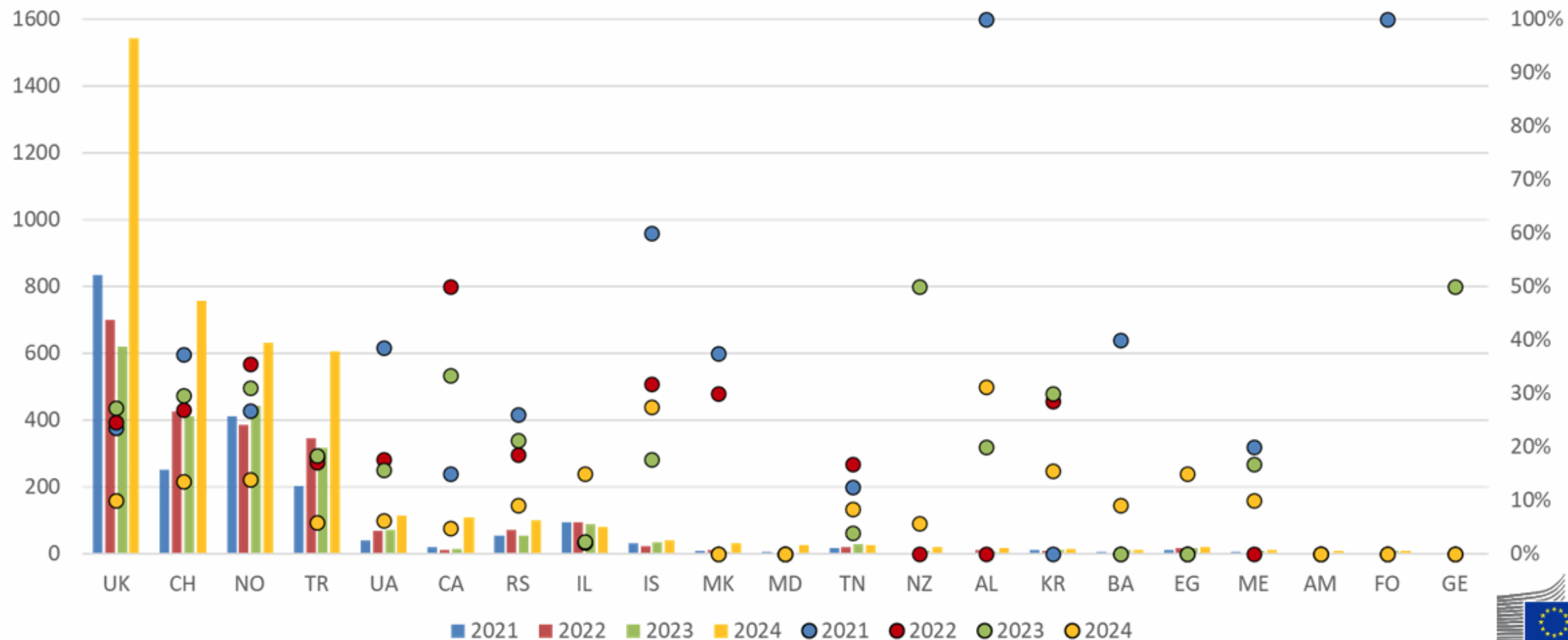
Success rates of high-quality proposals:

2021: 38%
2022: 34%
2023: 37%
2024: 19%



Associated countries – Applications and success rates

Number of eligible applications per associated country and success rate per year



Countries with highest increase in applications in 2024

Increase of applications in 2024 compared to average applications during 2021-2023 (total average: +163%):

- Canada: +760%
- United Kingdom: +215%
- Türkiye: +210%
- Switzerland: +209%
- Cyprus: +192%
- Latvia: +190%
- Ukraine: +190%
- Greece: +187%
- Lithuania: +177%
- Poland: +175%
- Spain: +169%

Only Israel and Georgia didn't increase the number of their applications in 2024.



Where Institutions Excel and Where They Most Commonly Face Challenges

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Where institutions tend to succeed

Strong scientific and technical excellence

Established international and multi-sector partnerships

Coordination of collaborative R&I projects

Access to research infrastructures, testbeds and pilot facilities

Stakeholder engagement and co-creation approaches

Interdisciplinary research capability

Clear alignment with Cluster Destinations and expected outcomes

Experience with EU funding and consortium management

Strong academic publication record

Established networks in Europe and associated countries

Where institutions commonly face challenges

Demonstrating a convincing pathway to impact

Building balanced consortia with clear roles for all partners

Interpreting call scope too narrowly or too broadly

Scaling innovations beyond research into deployment and market uptake

Meaningful involvement of end-users, industry and public authorities

Integrating different disciplines, including SSH, into a coherent project plan

Translating excellence into measurable societal, economic and policy impacts

Research managers can have the greatest impact in helping academics to draft High-Scoring Proposals

- Support academics to take a step back and start from reading the Call Topic, deconstructing it and map the concept idea to the outcomes, objectives and target groups.
- Thinking outside the boxing
- Respond directly to the expected outcomes
- Address policy objectives
- Ensure a cross-mapping between the actors and expected outcomes
- Demonstrate measurable route (Pathway) towards impact

Fund the challenge, not the researcher

- Build the Right, Balanced and Diverse Consortium
- Complementary expertise
- End-user involvement
- Industry participation where relevant
- Policy and implementation actors
- Research managers should challenge academics to answer: "Why is every partner essential?"

Support Academic to go pass the Silos Approach

Tip for Research Institutions: Make the Multi-Actor Approach your Mantra

- The **Multi-Actor Approach (MAA)** is based on an approach that involves all relevant people to **co-create and share knowledge, best practice and innovative solutions** responding to the needs of the users, farmers, foresters and advisors.
- For example, in Cluster 6 this has been extended to include forestry and rural areas, food, bioeconomy, environment, fisheries and aquaculture
- Aims to make the research and innovation process and its outcomes more
 - *reliable*
 - *demand-driven*
 - *shared and relevant to society*



Few last tips.....

- A **Strong Pathway towards Impact** must show that the “the Academic” thought beyond “good research” to actual change: Be the Critical Friend that helps them to do so
- Reminds the Academics that it’s not about a strong Research and Innovation Idea but about whether it address the challenge and it’s implementable and scalable
- Don’t forget to ensure the Consortium is gender balanced: Be the Sanity Check Friend
- Engage with the relevant NCP early, to gather strategic insights and support, not just at the proposal drafting phase

Summarising your project idea: Through [project activities], the project will deliver [outputs], which will be taken up by [target users] as a result of [dissemination and exploitation activity], leading to [outcomes] and contributing to [expected impacts] under the Horizon Europe Key Impact Pathways.



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Questions?



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Thank you



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UKRIforResearchers

Cinzia.Porcedda@iuk.ukri.org
[NCP -Climate@iuk.ukri.org](mailto:NCP-Climate@iuk.ukri.org)



Boosting Horizon Europe Success:

Warwick Case Study

Lelia Buretia, EU Research Development Officer, Research and Impact Services

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The application lifecycle at Warwick

1. Starts from **investigator** in department:
 - May have heard of EU opportunity from: own network (e.g. PI experienced with HE); EUTOPIA consortium-building call; funding opportunity newsletters/ emails; info sessions as run in-department and by EU RDO
 - Then:
 - Discusses in department/ may obtain departmental feedback and advice on next steps
 - Contacts R&IS pre-award for costings
2. Exchange between R&IS officer and PI to finalise costings (Worktribe is used) and the proposal
 - Officer may also advise on eligibility and partners and may review and provide feedback on the proposal
 - Feedback on the proposal also provided by myself and Research Strategy Development Managers (the latter for larger/ strategic bids)
 - RSDMs also support liaison with R&IS Director/ PVC for Research to sign letters of commitment where needed
3. PI submits on EU Funding & Tenders Portal with the R&IS pre-award officer often added to the Portal for reference
4. If successful: DoH, grant and consortium agreements and any follow-on amendments are also handled by the RIS Pre-award team (usually the same Officer as the one that was involved in the Submission)
 - Reporting usually handled by the PI in collaboration with their department admin/ research manager

Initiatives that delivered successful outcomes

And their shortcomings...

- 1. Proposal Development Series: Pilot for ERC Consolidator Grant 2025 (ERC-2025-COG)**
- 2. Cohort support in the History department for MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships**
- 3. Internal Seed Funds**
- 4. EUTOPIA University Alliance**
 - *Besides the usual (training in-house and via consultancies such as Yellow Research and OxygenEUm for ERC and MSCA respectively; proposal reviews; mock interviews for shortlisted applicants)*
 - *Note: the challenges of monitoring application/ success outcomes of those who attended training*

Proposal Development Series

- **Pilot for ERC Consolidator Grant 2025 (ERC-2025-COG)**
 - 3 online sessions for a selected cohort: Overview of the ERC COG, Pitch your proposal idea, Feedback on proposals
 - 10 attendees with concrete plans to apply to ERC-2025-COG: 5 attendees per cohort, 2 cohorts
 - Session timeframe: Oct 2024- Dec 2024, deadline for submission in Jan 2025. Each session scheduled approx. 1 month apart.
 - Started out with 9 attendees, 2 did not attend at all; 6 attended all sessions, 1 provided proposal drafts only
 - 6 submitted a proposal to the ERC-2025-COG
 - 1 was funded (Claire Blencowe, Sociology), 2 may reapply in the future
 - Unlikely the success rate was any higher than it would have been without the Series (approx. 11% success rate);
 - Series temporarily discontinued; could be reinstated at a later date;
 - Encouraged applicants to get in touch for proposal reviews and to see this as a process spanning several months.

Cohort support in the History department

- **MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships (2024, 2025, 2026...)**
 - Department initiative for a cohort of MSCA Postdoc applicants and their supervisors
 - Joint applicant- supervisor meetings at cohort level, all facilitated by experienced MSCA academic (Pierre Purseigle)
 - Teams site (resources, example proposals)
 - In 2024, the department submitted 4 applications, all successful
- Subsequent years (2025, 2026), reduced capacity so less structured approach
 - For the 2026 call, approach was rolled out in the Arts Faculty
 - Pierre delivered two hybrid info sessions for MSCA Postdoc Applicants and developed resources
 - Followed by 1-1 engagement with the applicants and supervisors to develop and review the proposals
- Working with RSDMs and R&IS to embed approach and use at Faculty and wider levels
- Future implementation depends on academic availability which is restricted going forward
- Will rely on academics with supervisory experience going forward, wherever possible trying to combine the unique perspective brought by being in 2 or more of the roles: Fellow, supervisor, evaluator roles

Internal Seed Funds for proposal development

1. Horizon Europe Seed Fund

- 2nd year running; £75K, awards up to £7.5K for consortium building and consultancy leading to a Horizon Europe proposal (mostly Pillar 2, but MSCA DN and ERC Synergy/ Plus grant also eligible)
- About 23 Seed Fund projects, about half of these projects have applied for HE funding so far
- So far resulted in 1 Pillar 2 Cluster 6 project approx. £6 Mil, Warwick is coordinating at an income of £1.2 Mil

2. International Strategy Funds

- Funds ranging from £5K- £20K/ project for international collaborations with international strategic partners (distinct funding pots for engaging with 10 international universities)
- International Partnerships Fund- engaging generic international universities/ institutions
 - Pillar 2 Cluster 1 (Health) project in the Medical School worth £411K to Warwick (funded by UKRI Guarantee)

Some issues with Seed Funds: hard to guarantee submission to a particular call/ round; actually spending the funds by the end-of-July spending deadline...

EUTOPIA University Alliance

- 10 European universities, 6 Global Partners to create new opportunities for learning, research and collaboration

1. Researcher Days and Network Studio

- Selected academics from (all or a few) member universities get together to establish collaborations around a given interdisciplinary research topic, e.g. Urban Mobility, Sustainability, AI, Water, Health & Wellbeing, Physics of Life
- Potential to lead to a joint Horizon Europe proposal
- MSCA DN DurAMat (2023) coordinated by Vrije Universiteit Brussel; Warwick funded through UKRI Guarantee
 - Also the result of a EUTOPIA seed fund grant for researcher networking

2. Ad-hoc referrals via EUTOPIA

- Contacted to join an existing consortium/ enquiries about coordinating, e.g. COST Action on Climate Change; invites to join Pillar 2 Cluster 2 or NEB calls – applications still not automatic; no known successes yet
- Clinical AI MSCA DN discussions stemming from a VUB Network Studio
 - Brought Warwick and VUB researchers together to discuss an MSCA DN proposal to the 2024 round- set up joint meetings to discuss topic, proposal roles, etc. but due to lack of coordinator did not materialise

Thank you



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Breakout session 1:

University support systems to succeed with Horizon Europe.

Objective:

To explore how institutions support successful Horizon Europe participation and identify effective practices across the sector.

Breakout session 1: Table Discussion

Objective: To explore how institutions support successful Horizon Europe participation and identify effective practices across the sector.

1 & 2	Identifying and nurturing talent
3 & 4	Institutional methods for cultural awareness of Horizon Europe
5 & 6	Proposal development and peer review
7 & 8	Building a culture of excellence
9 & 10	Increasing participation and widening engagement

Aim: Share our collective knowledge and insights by co-creating a slide set for each of these topics

Approach:

- What does your institution currently do?
- Where are the gaps or challenges?
- What is working well / what would good look like?
- What is one action that could realistically be implemented within the next six months?



Output: 1min highlights

- One challenge commonly faced by institutions
- One example of good practice
- One practical action that could improve collaborative proposal development



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Lunch

12:00 – 60 minutes

Next Session: Legal and Financial top tips



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Legal & Financial Top Tips

Błażej Thomas

UK National Contact Point for the
European Institute of Innovation and
Technology (EIT)

Legal framework

Grant Agreement (GA)

Actual costs vs lump sums

Actual costs

- Individual costs items which must meet the general and specific conditions to be eligible (e.g. incurred directly by the beneficiary, during the project's duration, etc.)

Lump sums

- A global amount set by the EC and paid at the end of a completed task/ Work Package, regardless of the actual costs incurred.
- **No EC financial audits!**

Unit costs

- Set a price per unit (e.g. per month in ...). The relevant amount is multiplied by the number of units, with the result amount dependent on the actual number of units.

Flat rates

- A percentage applied to other types of costs.
- Indirect costs - 25% flat rate on direct eligible costs.

Actual costs – budget categories

Actual costs

- Individual costs items which must meet the general and specific conditions to be eligible



Personnel costs



Subcontracting costs



Purchase costs

- Travel and subsistence
- Equipment
- Other goods, works and services



Other costs

- Financial support to third parties
- Transnational/ virtual access to Research Infrastructures
- Internally invoiced goods and services...

Actual costs – general eligibility conditions

Actual costs

- Individual costs items which must meet the general and specific conditions to be eligible

- actually incurred by the beneficiary
- incurred during the action duration set out in Article 4 (with the exception of costs relating to the submission of the final periodic report, which may be incurred afterwards)
- declared under one of the budget categories set out in Annex 2
- incurred in connection with the action as described in Annex 1 and necessary for its implementation
- identifiable and verifiable
- in compliance with applicable national laws on taxes, labour and social security
- reasonable, justified and must comply with the principles of sound financial management, in particular regarding economy and efficiency

Actual costs – ineligible costs

Actual costs

- Individual costs items which must meet the general and specific conditions to be eligible

- debt and debt service charges
- provisions for future losses or debts
- currency exchange losses
- interest owed
- excessive or reckless expenditure
- bank costs charged by the beneficiary's bank for transfers from the granting authority
- deductible or refundable VAT (including VAT paid by public bodies acting as public authority)
- costs incurred or contributions for activities implemented during grant agreement suspension.
- costs related to return on capital and dividends paid by a beneficiary

Lump sums – costing bids

Lump sums

A global amount set by the EC and paid at the end of a completed task/ Work Package, regardless of the actual costs incurred.

No EC financial audits!

- You must provide cost estimations for each cost category per beneficiary/affiliated entity and per work package in a special **Excel budget table/online budget table for some topics**
- The cost estimations must be **an approximation of your actual costs**. They:
 - ❖ are **subject to the same eligibility rules as in actual costs grants**
 - ❖ must be reasonable and in line with your usual practices
 - ❖ must be in line with and necessary for your proposed activities
- The cost estimations are used to generate **a breakdown of fixed lump sum shares per work package and per participant**.

No CFS (audit certificate) in lump sum grants!

Lump sums – budget allocation (Annex 2)

Lump sums

A global amount set by the EC and paid at the end of a completed task/ Work Package, regardless of the actual costs incurred.

No EC financial audits!

	WP1	WP2	WP3	WP4	WP5	WP6	WP7	WP8	Total
Beneficiary A	250.000			50.000	300.000	250.000		300.000	1.150.000
Beneficiary B		250.000	350.000	50.000			100.000	150.000	900.000
Beneficiary C	100.000	100.000		50.000		280.000			530.000
Beneficiary D		120.000		50.000			100.000	150.000	420.000
Total	350.000	470.000	350.000	200.000	300.000	530.000	200.000	600.000	3.000.000

Shares of the lump sum per WP

Lump sum
=
Maximum grant
amount

Once the lump sum per WP is fixed in the Grant Agreement, it will not be questioned if the actual costs change later.

You can **use the budget as you see fit** as long as the project is implemented as agreed. **The actual distribution of the lump sum is invisible to the Granting Authority!**

Lump sums – Reporting and payment

Lump sums

A global amount set by the EC and paid at the end of a completed task/ Work Package, regardless of the actual costs incurred.

No EC financial audits!

- The coordinator declares **work packages as Completed or Not Completed**. This should be justified by the technical periodic report.
- An **incomplete work package can be completed and paid in a subsequent reporting period**.
- **At the final reporting period, it is possible to declare Partially Completed work packages**, and to enter the percentage of completion.

Status of completion

Number	Title	Lead Beneficiary	Status of Completion	Completion %
WP1	wp1	AST GmbH	Partially Completed	60.00
WP2	wp2	AAA	Completed	100.00
WP3	wp3	AST GmbH	Partially Completed	50.00
WP4	wp4	AAA	Not Completed	0.00
WP5	wp5	AST GmbH	Not Completed	0.00

Lump sums – keeping records

Lump sums

A global amount set by the EC and paid at the end of a completed task/ Work Package, regardless of the actual costs incurred.

No EC financial audits!

You need (e.g.)



- ☐ Technical documents
- ☐ Publications, prototypes, deliverables
- ☐ Documentation required by good research practices such as lab books
- ☐ ...any document proving that the work was done as detailed in Annex 1



Same as for all Horizon Europe grants

You don't need



- ☐ Time-sheets
- ☐ Pay-slips or contracts
- ☐ Depreciation policy
- ☐ Invoices
- ☐ ...any documents proving the actual costs incurred

Source: European Commission

Resources available

One dedicated [lump sum page](#) on the Funding & Tenders Portal with:

Guidance documents

- [What do I need to know? & Quick guide](#)
- [Frequently asked questions](#)
- [Detailed guidance for participants](#)
- [Lump sum briefing slides for experts](#)

Reference documents

- [Model Grant Agreement Lump Sum](#)
- [Decision authorising the use of lump sum contributions under the Horizon Europe Programme](#)

Studies

- [European Commission assessment](#) (October 2021)
- [European Parliament \(STOA\) study on lump sums in Horizon 2020](#) (May 2022)

Events

- Future events
- Past events and recordings

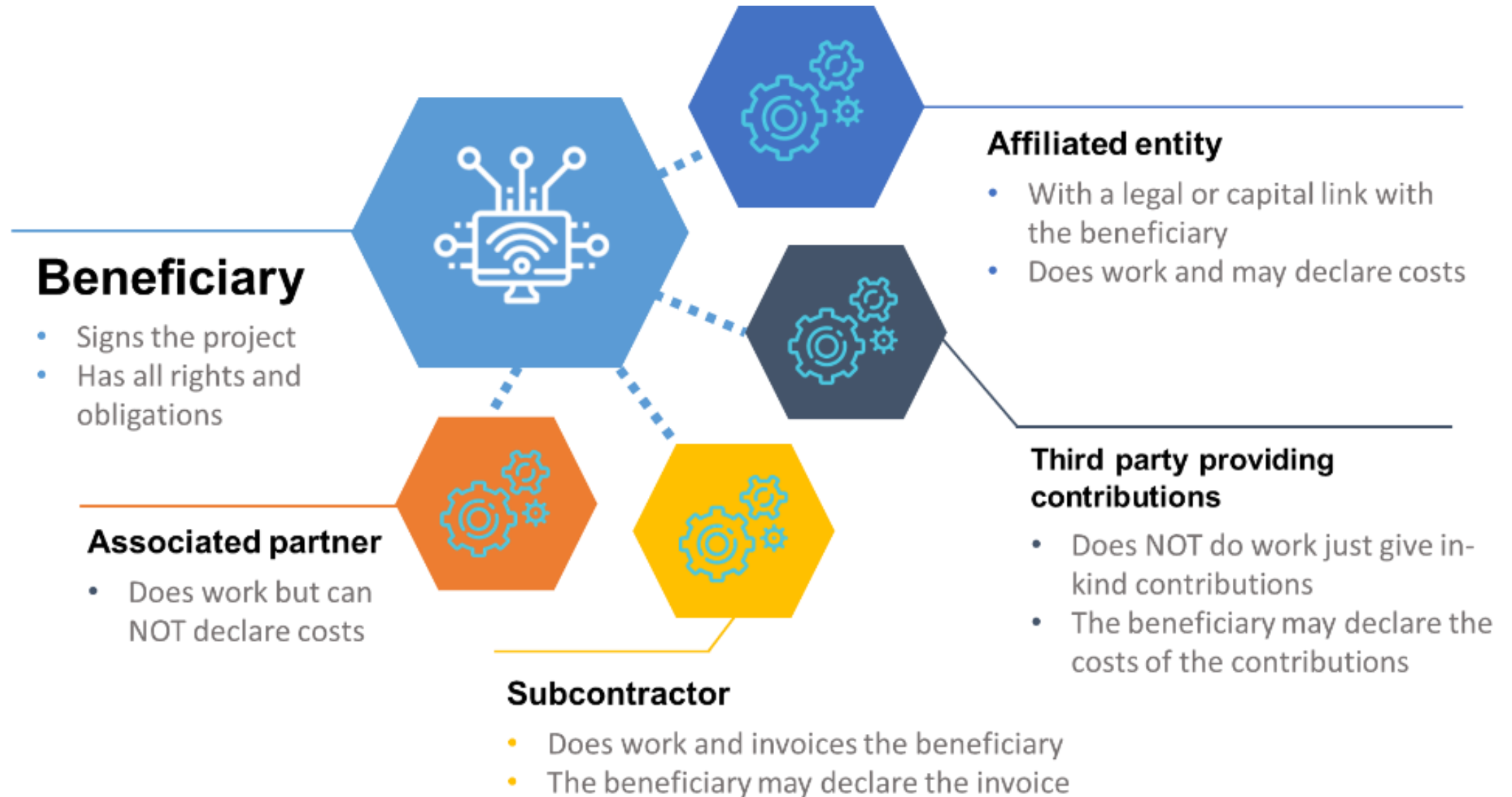
Funding opportunities

- List of Horizon Europe topics using lump sum funding



Source: European Commission

Participation options



Third parties in Horizon Europe

Third parties

Subcontractors

Affiliated
Entities

Associated
Partners

Implement action tasks =
perform core project activities
identified in Annex 1

Contractors
(goods, works
and services)

Third parties providing in-kind
contributions

Free of charge

Against
payment

Do not implement action tasks but
enable the beneficiary to do so

Third parties in Horizon Europe

Third parties

Subcontractors

Affiliated
Entities

Associated
Partners

Contractors
(goods, works
and services)

Third parties providing in-kind
contributions

Free of charge

Against
payment

Always codify the participation of third parties in your project
using one of the relevant articles from the GA!

Subcontracts vs contracts for goods, works...

Subcontracts

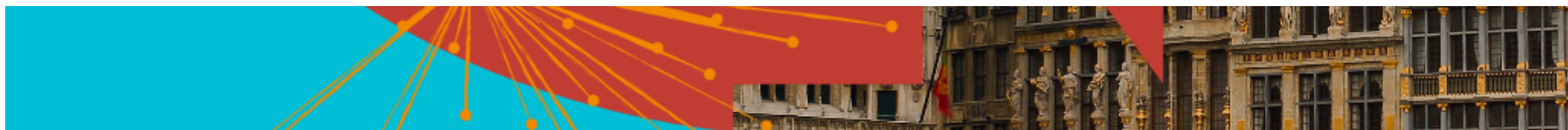
- **Subcontracts concern the implementation of ‘action tasks’** described in Annex 1.
- The price for the subcontracts will be declared as ‘Subcontracting costs’ in the financial statement.

In principle, you should not include the name of the subcontractor in your Horizon Europe proposal!

Purchases

- Purchases concern any other contracting cost (travel, equipment, catering, translations, CFS...) that are necessary for the beneficiaries to implement the work **but do not constitute by themselves an action task described in Annex 1**
- The price for these contracts will be declared in one of the ‘Purchase costs’ columns in the financial statement.

Factsheet: HEU Legal & Financial Basics



[Home](#) > [UKRO Factsheet – Legal and Financial Basics of Horizon Europe](#)

Factsheet

[◀ Back](#)

UKRO Factsheet – Legal and Financial Basics of Horizon Europe

This factsheet offers an overview of the most important legal and financial rules of Horizon Europe.

From: UKRO
Published: 6 January 2023
Last updated: 13 January 2026 - [see all updates](#)

Related content

⇒ [Horizon Europe factsheets](#)

Documents



[UKRO Factsheet - Legal and Financial Basics of Horizon Europe](#)

PDF, 362 KB

If you cannot open or read this document, you can ask for a different format.

<https://www.ukro.ac.uk/publications/legal-and-financial-basics>



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and Innovation**

Thank you

Chris Young

Horizon Europe UK Legal and
Financial National Contact Point
NCP-rules@iuk.ukri.org

Błażej Thomas

Horizon Europe UK National
Contact Point for EIT
NCP-eit@iuk.ukri.org



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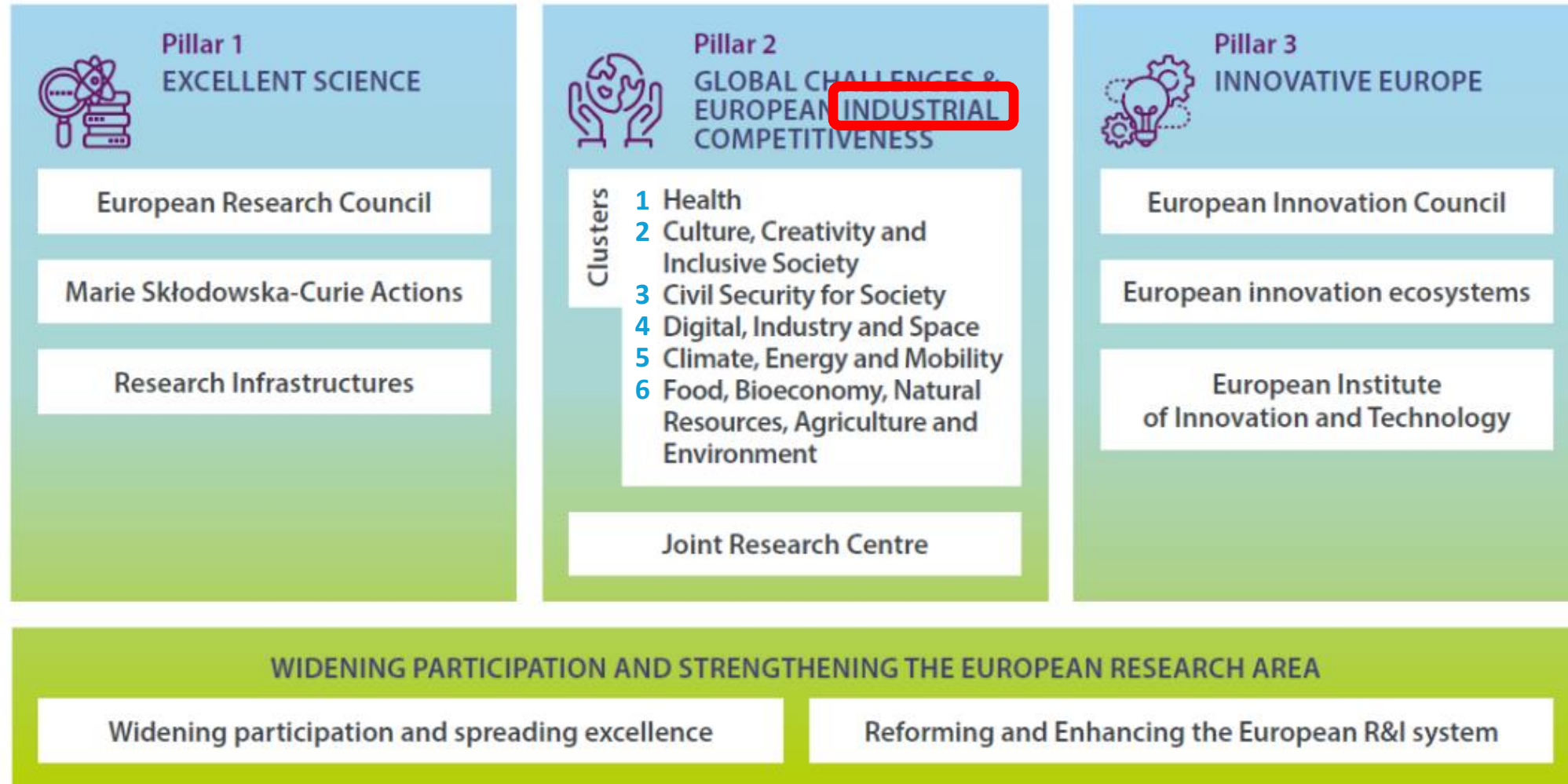
Creating/Joining a winning Horizon Europe consortium

Louise Mothersole

louise.mothersole@iuk.ukri.org

Horizon Europe UK National Contact Point for Mobility

Consortia required in Horizon Europe?



Why International collaboration is important

- Solve global grand challenges through collaborative R&I
- Collaborate with world leading organisations to learn from the best
- Access cutting edge technologies, infrastructure, talent & markets
- Contribute to the dialogue on standards, regulations and research policies
- Ensure that technology development aligns with global marketplace
- Collaborative relationships frequently become commercial ones – developing system solutions in supply chain partnerships
- **Creating jobs, growth and stronger supply chains**

Consortium eligibility criteria



There are several types of eligibility, and it can be confusing:

- Eligibility to be one of the minimum number of participants necessary in a consortium/project
- Eligibility to receive funding as part of a consortium/project
- Eligibility to be part of a consortium/project



From the (RIA/IA) Proposal Template:

Quality and efficiency of the implementation – aspects to be taken into account

- 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.

From the [General Annexes](#): “Applications for ‘Coordination and support’ actions may be submitted by one or more legal entities, which may be established in a Member State, Associated Country or, in exceptional cases and if provided for in the specific call/topic conditions, in another third country”

What constitutes a winning consortium?

One that can **deliver** the expected outcomes within the stated scope and budget
and give the evaluators confidence that they can

Common to see universities, big business, small business, research and technologies organisations, consultancies, local authorities, national authorities all within the one consortium. There is no 'typical' or 'model' consortium structure/membership

Useful to include exploitation partners – someone who is going to take the outputs of the project and actually implement them (e.g. a pharmaceutical company, end user cohort, etc) to show immediate impact

Useful to include the end user community, possibly as an advisory board (not direct beneficiaries but costs e.g. travel can be included in 'other costs') or associate partners, again to demonstrate route to implementation

**Check any specific requirements for the Topic e.g.
Multi-Actor Approach**



Evaluating the Quality of implementation (2/2)

Following questions are adapted to RIA and IA type of actions (ToA). Similar questions will be asked for other ToAs, in line with the instructions in the specific applications forms.

Assess the quality of participants and the consortium as a whole:

(Note that important information on role of individual participants and previous experience is included in part A of proposal)

- Does the consortium match the project's objectives and bring together the necessary disciplinary and inter-disciplinary knowledge?
- Does the consortium include expertise in open science practices, and gender aspects of R&I, as appropriate?
- For topics flagged as SSH relevant, does the consortium include expertise in social sciences and humanities?
- Do the partners have access to critical infrastructure needed to carry out the project activities?
- Are the participants complementing one another (and cover the value chain, where appropriate)?
- In what way does each of them contribute to the project? Does each of them have a valid role, and adequate resources in the project to fulfil that role (so they have sufficient operational capacity)?
- Is there industrial/commercial involvement in the project to ensure exploitation of the results?

Always provide well-supported reasons to justify your evaluation. For instance, if you think that the consortium brings (or doesn't bring) together the necessary expertise, **add always the rationale behind your opinion.**

Participants' previous publications, in particular journal articles, are expected to be open access and existing datasets FAIR and 'as open as possible, as closed as necessary'. Evaluate positively if this is sufficiently addressed.



European
Commission

Examples of ESR comments

- The capacity and role of each participant, and the extent to which the consortium as a whole brings together the necessary expertise are **very good**.
- While the partners in the consortium bring the necessary expertise and knowledge to carry out the proposed work and have complementary skills, the involvement of large OEMs is not sufficiently considered to support effective exploitation and large-scale uptake. **This is a shortcoming.**
- The role of each partner is not justified in sufficient detail, given the large scale of the consortium. In addition, the effort allocated to the project coordinator (Partner 1) is low without sufficient justification. **This is a shortcoming.**
- The partners have access to the appropriate infrastructure needed to carry out the proposed activities

Collaborative Projects – who does what?

Start here...

Beginner

Partner:

- Just responsible for your own tasks as described in the application/Grant Agreement
- Must meet your own deliverables on time (or clearly communicate any delays)
- Least admin but usually also least visibility

... gain experience...

Intermediate

Work Package (WP) Lead:

- Work Packages (WPs) are sub-projects that make up the EC project
- WP Leader monitors their WP, ensures WP partners submit their deliverables on time
- Must have good communication with Coordinator for the project to function well
- Good stepping stone to coordinating your own project

...(maybe) lead your own project

Expert

Coordinator:

- Submits application
- Project liaison with EC
- Project ‘banker’
- (Usually) overall scientific leader of the project
- A lot of work. Needs experience of how projects function plus project management skills

European Commission for Cluster 5: *“Never in the history of Horizon Europe has a proposal from a team of **just** newcomers to the programme been successful”*

Top Tip: Treat joining a consortium as a project in its own right. Develop a plan, allocate resources, set milestones, have regular progress reviews, etc.

Formal consortium building mechanisms

Participant portal – Every topic on the [EU Funding & Tenders Portal](#) has a 'Partner Search' function where you can upload your profile and review others that have done so

Partner Search – under the '[How to participate](#)' top in the EU Funding and Tenders Portal where you can also search for past projects and organisations

Online Brokerage Events and tools – European Commission, Technology Platforms, Co-Programmed Partnerships and Undertakings, Enterprise Europe Network, etc., will organise virtual events with e.g. Meeting Mojo, B2B and other tools such as [GREENET](#)



Searching the formal consortium building mechanisms is a bit like looking for a needle in a needlestack – they all look like needles so finding the ones for you can be difficult

The best way to create/join winning teams

Being an **effective networker** is much more useful than submitting a profile into a portal and awaiting contacts. Don't wait to be invited to the party, push yourself forward

- Use your existing professional networks – if you don't know who the sector leaders are in Europe then you should find out (LinkedIn is a great resource)
- Attend networking events such as conferences and workshops.
- **Join the relevant technology platforms, networks, associations and partnerships**

Top Tip: ask your NCP for suggestions in your sector for events and associations

- Be an **active** member – say 'hi' when you join the virtual room. Ask questions, support others' opinions, act as if you are already well known to all in the virtual room
- Volunteer to draft working papers, take notes, send in useful information – be helpful
- Speak up at workshops – demonstrate Thought Leadership
- Show that you would be a valuable partner for collaborative projects and that without you they won't win – you have the secret sauce that is necessary for their success

TOPIC NUMBER AND NAME

Your
Organisation
Logo / Brand

Proposed Approach

What is your understanding of the part of the problem you can solve?

*What part of the Scope do you want to address? **Be specific.***

Top Tip: print this out in A5 and take a few copies with you to hand to likely partners

Organisational Capabilities

What skills, capabilities, facilities does your organisation have that will be vital for this project?

Is your organisation academic, SME, big business, etc (and explain the benefits to this project of whichever you are)

Experience

What previous, relevant, work or track record can you bring to the team?

Include your ability to attract the 'Big Names' in the sector (e.g. leading academics, major thought leaders)

Administrative Information

Are you planning on being the Coordinator or a Partner?

*Your contact details including:
Name, email and phone number
What country are you from*

Your organisation's Participant Identification Code (PIC)

How to find partners with a track record of success

- Search [Cordis](#) using key words for relevant projects already underway
 - E.g. searching for ‘hypertension’ returns [30 projects](#)
 - 1st listed is a project called ‘Hypermarker: Personalised pharmacometabolomic optimisation of treatment for hypertension’
 - Gives project coordinator as UNIVERSITAIR MEDISCH CENTRUM UTRECHT and **gives the opportunity to contact them and their partners**
 - Contact is to the Project Participant, not just a central administrative function

Coordinator

 UNIVERSITAIR MEDISCH CENTRUM UTRECHT

Address

HEIDELBERGLAAN 100
3584 CX Utrecht
 Netherlands

Activity type

Higher or Secondary Education Establishments

Links

[Contact the organisation](#)  [Website](#) 
[Participation in EU R&I programmes](#) 
[HORIZON collaboration network](#) 

Participants (10)

Contact relevant past or ongoing projects

- Most projects have websites. All projects have an obligation to ‘communicate, disseminate and exploit’
 - Check the website for ‘contact us’ – they often have original email addresses
 - Check the website for events – they often have webinars, workshops, etc
- Contact them (via Cordis if no website or contact details given on it)
 - Tell them their project is really interesting
 - Get into a dialogue
 - Then ask what are they doing next
- Remember that these people know how to write a winning bid – they did it

Summary

Get out there and network – getting into the winning team is as important as writing a good proposal



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Questions?



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Thank you



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Break

14:40 – 20 minutes



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Breakout session 2:

Developing collaborative proposals within Horizon Europe

Part 2: Table Discussions

Breakout session 2: Table Discussion

Objective: To explore practical approaches to building successful collaborative Horizon Europe proposals.

Approach: ~10min on each of the following questions

- What are the biggest challenges your institution faces when building or joining Horizon Europe consortia?
- How do you go about identifying what partners are needed at the project concept stage?
- What practical tips could you offer, or examples of good practice have you seen, for successfully engaging and drawing in partners to join your consortia?
- How could research managers and their institutions further support academics develop collaborations for Horizon Europe opportunities?



Output: 1min highlights

- One challenge commonly faced by institutions
- One example of good practice
- One practical action that could improve collaborative proposal development



Department for
Science, Innovation
& Technology

COST – UK CNC

Shivali Bhatt (DSIT)



European Cooperation in Science & Technology

COST provides networking opportunities for researchers and innovators in order to strengthen Europe's capacity to address scientific, technological and societal challenges



ALL FIELDS OF S&T

(mono- or interdisciplinary,
new and emerging fields)



ALL PARTNERS

(academia, public organisation, industry,
NGO, International Organisations)



BOTTOM-UP APPROACH



ALL CAREER STAGES

(young and experienced researchers)



ALL COUNTRIES

- 41 COST Members
+ 1 Cooperating Member
- 16 Near Neighbour Countries
- Global cooperation

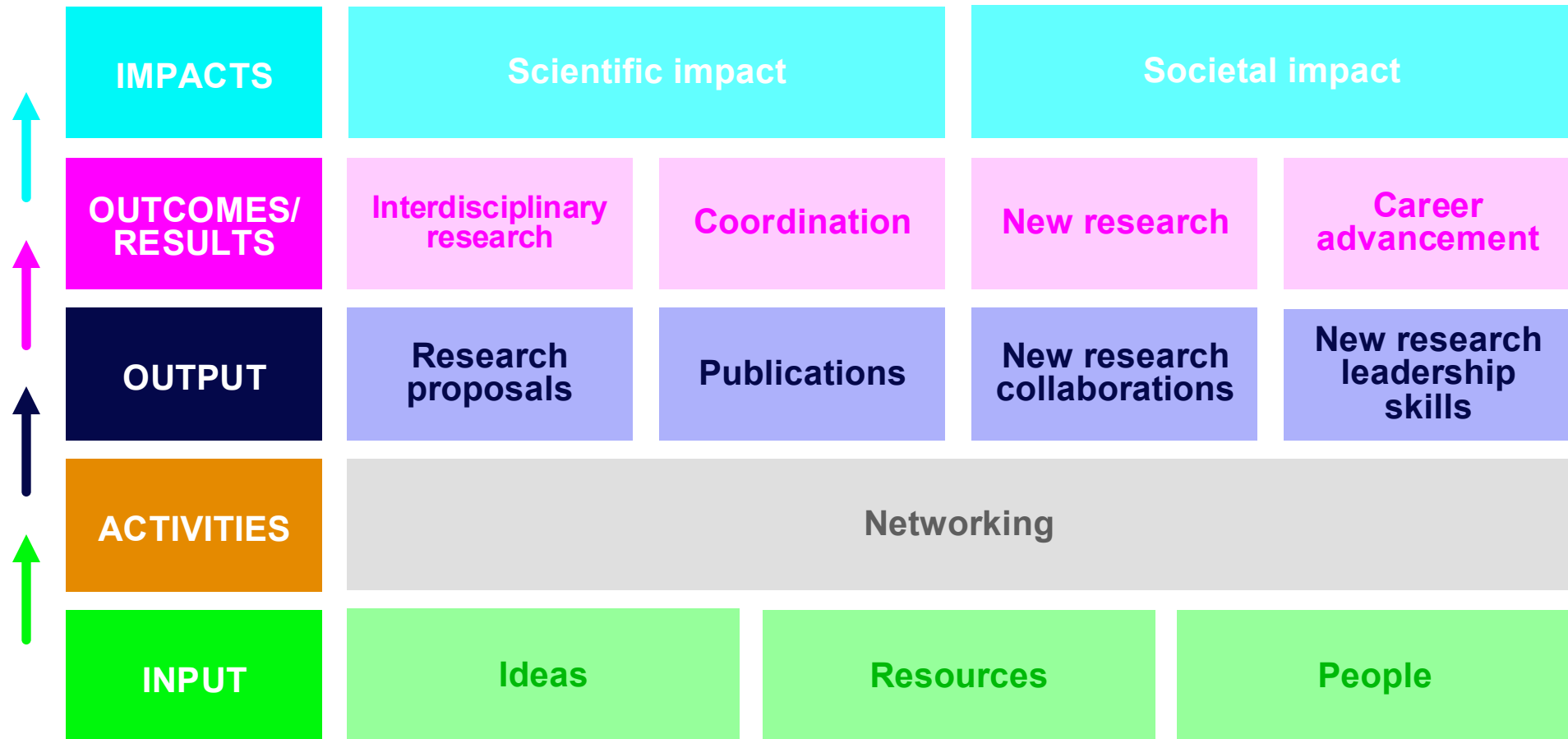
OPEN BY NATURE



COST Impact Model



Department for
Science, Innovation
& Technology



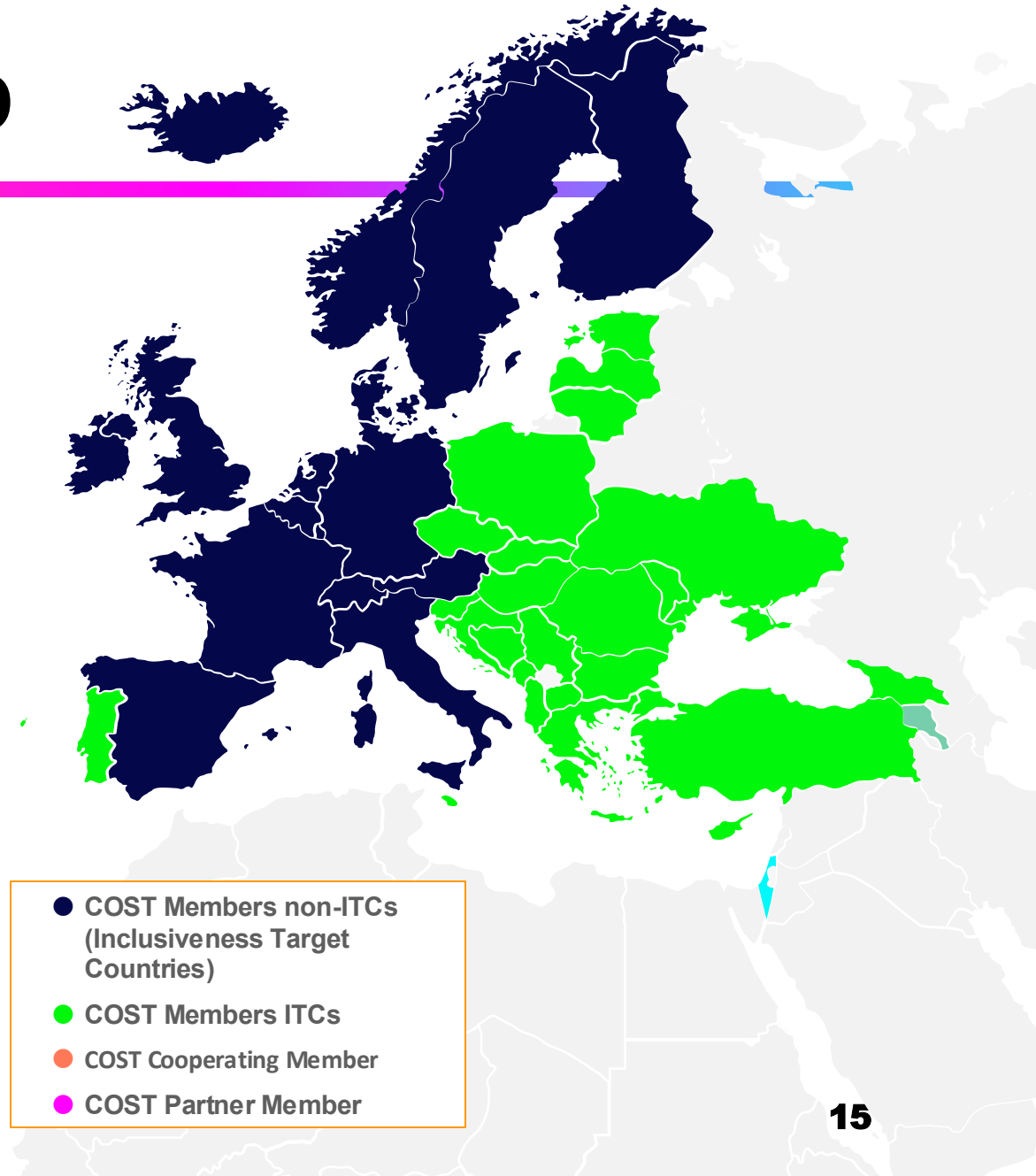
COST Membership

41 Full COST Members

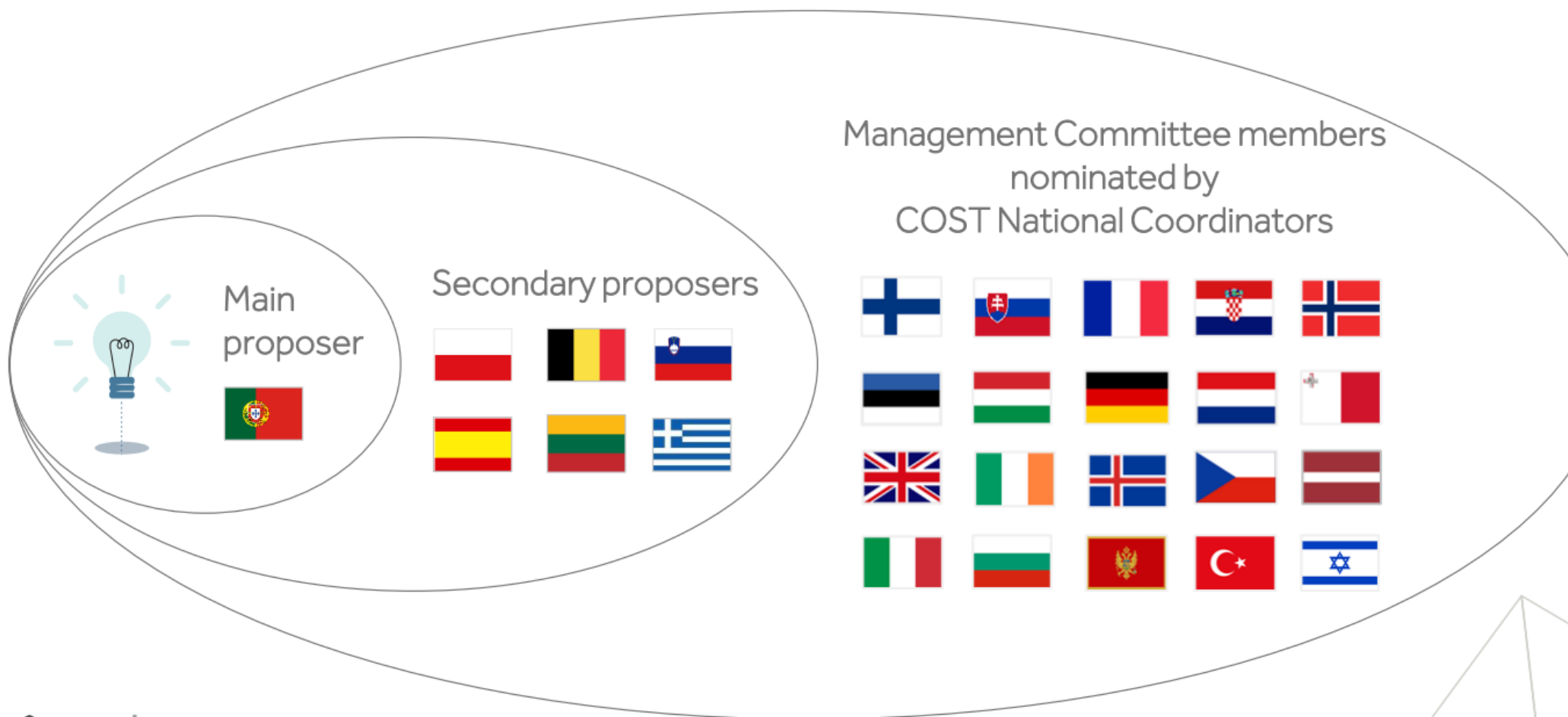
- | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| ● Albania | ● Germany | ● The Republic of North Macedonia |
| ● Armenia | ● Greece | ● Norway |
| ● Austria | ● Hungary* | ● Poland |
| ● Belgium | ● Iceland | ● Portugal |
| ● Bosnia and Herzegovina | ● Ireland | ● Romania |
| ● Bulgaria | ● Italy | ● Serbia |
| ● Croatia | ● Latvia | ● Slovakia |
| ● Cyprus | ● Lithuania | ● Slovenia |
| ● Czech Republic | ● Luxembourg | ● Spain |
| ● Denmark | ● Malta | ● Sweden |
| ● Estonia | ● The Republic of Moldova | ● Switzerland |
| ● Finland | ● Montenegro | ● Türkiye |
| ● France | ● The Netherlands | ● Ukraine |
| ● Georgia | | ● United Kingdom |

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| 1 Cooperating Member | 1 Partner Member |
| ● Israel | ● South Africa |

- COST Members non-ITCs (Inclusiveness Target Countries)
- COST Members ITCs
- COST Cooperating Member
- COST Partner Member



How it works?



COST Open Call 2025

The highest number of proposals ever

1090 submitted proposals* before eligibility check

*29% increase in submissions compared to 2024



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- **All submitted proposals – by field** - <https://www.cost.eu/oc-2025-1-initial-analysis/> * 55% of proposals have two or more Main Fields of Science.
- **42 COST countries submitted** as a main proposer – IT (110); **UK (109)**; ES (96).
- **Networks** - The average size is **47 proposers** (main and secondary).
- **Gender balance** - remains **52% male/48% female** main proposers.
- **Inclusiveness** - **25% younger/75% experienced** researchers as main proposers.
- **31% ITCs/ 69% COST Member Countries** as main proposers' institutions

COST OPEN CALL 2026



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COST Open Call 2026 - what's new? - COST

COST OPEN CALL

One-stage **online submission** of proposals (e-COST)

Open for submissions as from 31 July 2026

Proposal should focus on
Excellence in S&T and Networking,
Impact and Implementation

Up to 80 COST Actions
approved per collection

Main Proposer +
secondary proposer

Collection date:
28 October 2026, 12:00 CET

www.COST.eu
opencall@cost.eu





OC 2026 – SESA changes!

Evaluation

SESA



ELIGIBILITY!

- At least 50% Inclusiveness Target Countries
- At least 40% Young Researchers and Innovators
- Peaceful purpose
- Anonymous
- One proposer one role per Open Call
- English

1

EXTERNAL REMOTE EVALUATION

- 3 Independent External Experts
- Technical Annex

2

CONSENSUS REPORT AND QUALITY CHECK

- Appointment of a rapporteur

3

SELECTION BY THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

- Assessment of acceptability
- Shortlist

4

APPROVAL BY COST COMMITTEE OF SENIOR OFFICIALS

- Results 7-8 months after submission



Evaluation Criteria



EXCELLENCE IN S&T AND NETWORKING

- Soundness of the challenge
- Research coordination and capacity-building objectives.
- Progress beyond the state-of-the-art
- Added value of networking in S&T excellence
- Critical mass of the network



5 QUESTIONS

Range of marks: 0 – 5
Threshold: 3



IMPACT

- Impact on science, society, policy, or any other relevant area, and short-, medium- or long-term.
- Involvement of stakeholders, their role and added-value.
- Plans for communication, dissemination and valorisation of results and target audience



3 QUESTIONS

Range of marks: 0 – 5
Threshold: 3



IMPLEMENTATION

- Coherence of the Action structure and effectiveness of the work plan



1 QUESTION

Range of marks: 0 – 3



Questions?



UK Research
and Innovation

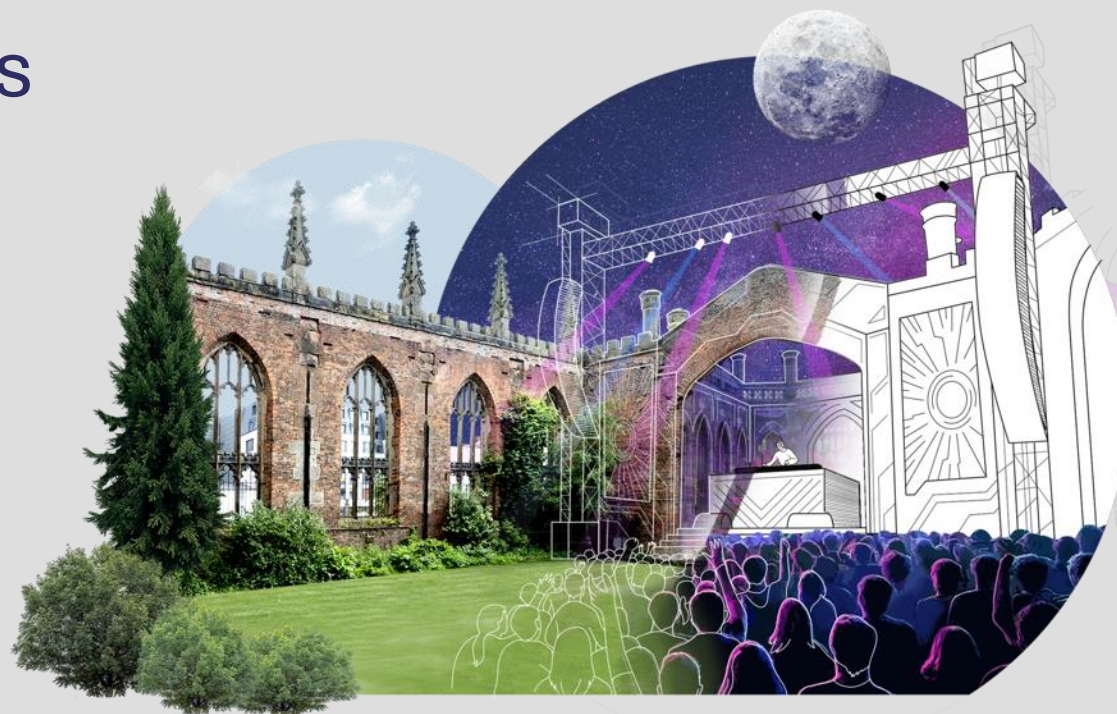
Thank you

Closing Remarks

Nichola Badcock & Perry Guess

Stay updated on Horizon Europe:

- Sign up to the [NCP newsletters](#)
- Check the [UKRO portal](#) and the [Horizon Hub](#)
- Follow UKRO and the NCPs on LinkedIn
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UK Research
and Innovation

Closing remarks

Nichola Badcock & Perry Guess





UK Research
and Innovation

Thank you

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QR CODE

