

Navigating the Horizon Europe Framework

What will you learn in this module?

In this module you will learn about ...

- Horizon Europe objectives
- Horizon Europe Framework structure
- Access to information
- Basic terms used in EU funding

Horizon Europe Objectives

What is Horizon Europe?

Horizon Europe is the ninth European Research and Innovation Framework programme, from 2021 to 2027. These programmes are investment mechanisms that foster global research and industrial leadership. To achieve their goals, Horizon Europe will strengthen the European knowledge base through frontier research, spurring breakthrough innovation and supporting the development and demonstration of innovative solutions, as well as helping to restore Europe's industrial leadership and open strategic autonomy.

The most common procedure establishes public calls on certain topics where any objective-driven consortia can apply during a limited period of time. The calls have a competitive nature, and the consortium requires certain conditions such minimum number of partners, location of the partners, etc. All requirements for each call are public and defined in the call.

For the first time – in this European Research and Innovation Framework – the calls are now organised into missions. These missions are “Sets of measures to achieve bold, inspirational, and measurable goals within a set timeframe. There are 5 main mission areas as part of Horizon Europe”. These are:

- Adaptation to climate change including societal transformation,
- Cancer,
- Climate-neutral and smart cities,
- Healthy oceans, seas, coastal and inland waters,
- Soil health and food.

Each call follows a funding scheme referred to as “type of action”. The type of action, the funding scheme, considers:

- the scope of what is funded,
- the reimbursement rate,
- specific evaluation criteria to qualify for funding and
- the use of simplified forms of costs like lump sums.

The different types of action combine different characteristics of the abovementioned. The funding schemes include: Coordination and support actions (CSA), Innovation actions (IA), Innovation and market deployment actions (IMDA), Pre-commercial procurement actions (PCP actions), Prizes, Programme co-fund actions (CoFund), Public procurement of innovative solutions actions (PPI actions) Research and innovation actions (RIA), Training and mobility actions (TMA). See further information in the Horizon Europe glossary https://www.horizoneuropencpportal.eu/sites/default/files/2021-05/glossario%20bridgeHE_0.pdf

There is another important novelty related to Open science policy; it is mandatory that “open access to publications and open science principles are applied throughout the programme”. This open science policy consists of the sharing of knowledge, data and tools in the Research and Innovation (R&I) process, in open collaboration with all relevant knowledge actors (public authorities, academia, industry, and other stake holders as citizens and society at large).

The Horizon Europe programme is not only a motivational funding source that builds relationships between HEIs and SMEs across Europe, but it is also a very competitive programme with a modest or low success rate. Thus, the project needs to thoroughly reflect the propose of the call. Be sure to have the latest information and updates about your chosen topic and its scope, as well as the expected impact of the project and the type of action it represents, before starting to work on the project. You can do this by consistently checking the Funding & Tenders opportunities portal updates, <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/funding-updates>



Tip for HEIs

Consider Pillar 1 “Open Science” and Pillar 2 “Global Challenges and Industrial Competitiveness” of Horizon Europe for funding opportunities.



Tip for SMEs

Consider Pillar 2 “Global Challenges and Industrial Competitiveness” and Pilar 3 “Open Innovation” of Horizon Europe for funding opportunities.

Suggested readings

Horizon Europe - Investing to shape our future – [link](#)

This document is a brief presentation of the Horizon Europe programme. It is available in 22 languages.

Horizon Europe first Strategic Plan – [link](#)

This document illustrates the goals, structure, contents and strategic orientations and agenda for research and innovation investments over the period 2021-2024 on the political priorities of the European Commission.

Horizon Europe, open science- Early knowledge and data sharing, and open collaboration – [link](#)

Factsheet of Open Science available in a great range of European languages.

Further information about the missions – [link](#)

Webpage for further information and understanding of the Horizon Europe missions.

Horizon Europe Structure

What is the structure of Horizon Europe?

As an investment mechanism, Horizon Europe allocates resources with different intensity (amount, involved agent requirements) and conditions (determined in each call) according to figure 1 below.

Under Horizon Europe along with the most known programme and its exclusive focus on civil applications (and the reference herein), there are included selective and specific programmes for defence and nuclear research and innovation called Euratom.

The specific programme focusses on civil applications structures through 3 verticals, known as pillars, and a horizontal one. As mentioned [in What is Horizon Europe \(Marter Innovate https://www.horizon-eu.eu/\)](https://www.horizon-eu.eu/):

PILLAR 1: The Excellent Science Pillar aims to increase the EU’s global scientific competitiveness. It supports frontier research projects driven by top researchers through the European Research Council, funds fellowships for experienced researchers, doctoral training networks and exchanges through Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions and invests in world-class research infrastructures.

PILLAR 2: The Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness Pillar supports research relating to societal challenges and reinforces technological and industrial capacities through clusters. It sets ambitious goals for EU missions. It also includes the Joint Research Centre which supports EU and national policymakers with independent scientific evidence and technical support.

PILLAR 3: The Innovative Europe Pillar aims to make Europe a frontrunner in market-creating innovation via the European Innovation Council. It also helps to develop the overall EU innovation landscape through the European Institute of Innovation and Technology which fosters integration of the knowledge triangle of education, research and innovation.

HORIZONTAL PILLAR: Widening Participation and Strengthening the European Research Area (ERA) by increasing support to the EU Member States in their efforts to make the most of their national research and innovation potential, fostering closer collaborations and spreading excellence.”

Thus, the broader opportunities of the Horizon Europe is aimed at civil applications covering all the way from the research lab to the market. In this sense, the core of the programme for SMEs focuses on civil applications, pillars II and III; these are “Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness” and “Innovative Europe”, respectively, while researchers will also be very interested in pillar I, “Excellent Science” and pillar II“

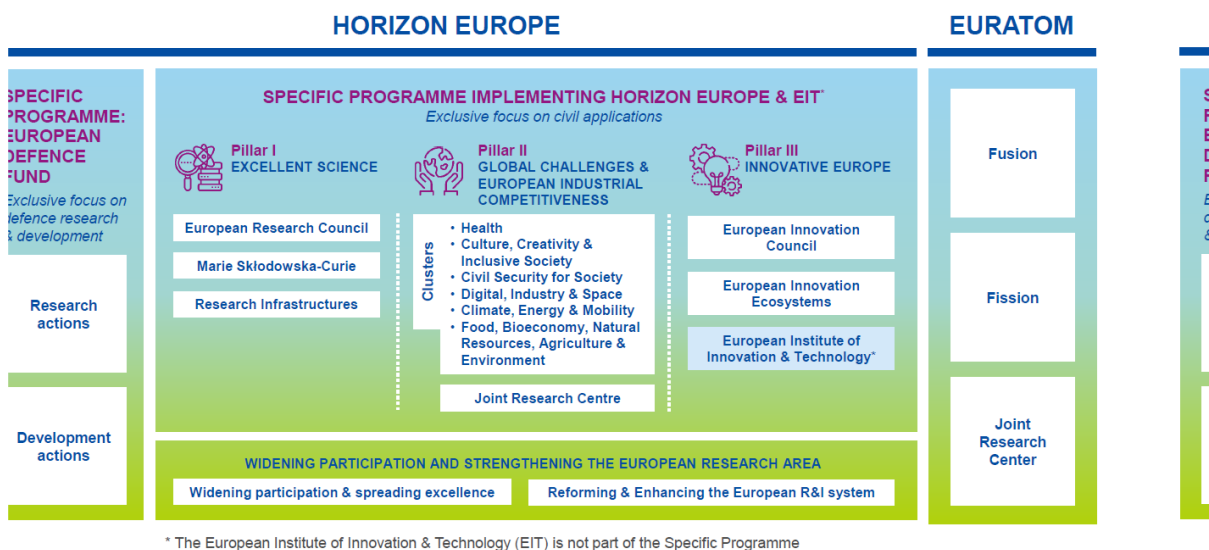


Figure 1 Horizon Europe Framework. (Source: Horizon Europe - Investing to shape our future)





HORIZON EUROPE BUDGET		Total
Horizon Europe programme structure		<i>in € million</i>
	EXCELLENT SCIENCE <i>of which</i>	25 011
	The European Research Council (ERC)	16 004
	Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA)	6 602
	Research infrastructures	2 406
	GLOBAL CHALLENGES AND EUROPEAN INDUSTRIAL COMPETITIVENESS <i>of which</i>	53 516
	Health	8 246
	Culture, creativity and inclusive society	2 280
	Civil Security for Society	1 596
	Digital, Industry and Space	15 349
	Climate, Energy and Mobility	15 123
	Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment	8 952
	Non-nuclear direct actions of the Joint Research Centre (JRC)	1 970
	INNOVATIVE EUROPE <i>of which</i>	13 597
	European Innovation Council (EIC)	10 105
	European innovation ecosystems	527
	European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)	2 965
	WIDENING PARTICIPATION & STRENGTHENING THE EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA <i>of which</i>	3 393
	Widening participation and spreading excellence	2 955
	Reforming and enhancing the European R&I System	438
TOTAL HORIZON EUROPE		95 517

Figure 2 Horizon Europe Budget. (Source: Horizon Europe)

Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness". Therefore, university-industry collaboration opportunities mainly fall under pillar II, "Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness".

The Horizon Europe Budget is outlined in figure 2 above.

There is a specific webpage for funding and tender opportunities (link), in which the following information can be found:

- Searching for funding and tenders, including updates and archives.
- How to participate: key steps, reference documents, participant register and partner search,
- Projects and results,

- Work as an expert: where the Commission call for experts or interested experts can submit their disposition for evaluation purposes.
- Support: a support overview, manuals and guidance, FAQs, a helpdesk and other support services.

The funding & tenders search page is shown in figure 3. Figure 4 details the search criteria and information that the user will see.

Please note the differences between the terms "call" and "topic". "Call" refers to "a group of topics with one opening and closing date that are open in parallel and address the same policy domain"; while "Topic" denotes "a part of a call addressing the same expected outcome and scope" (BRIDGE2HE, 2021).

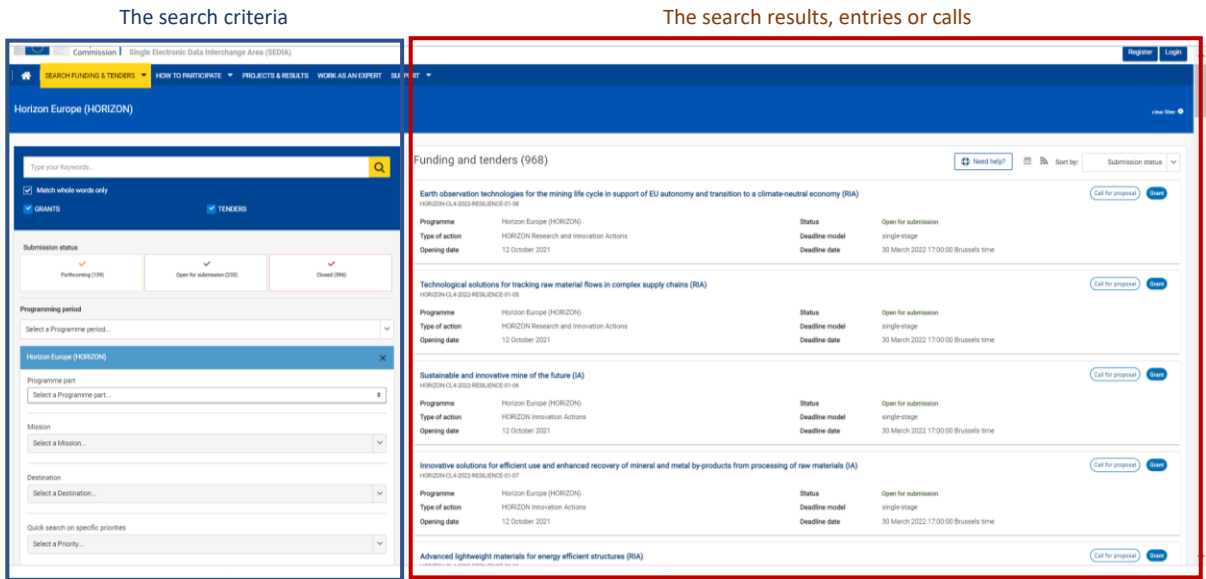


Figure 3 The Funding & Tender Search page

Search criteria: Filters for the search	First Information of each entry resulted according to the search criteria:		
Grants and or tenders	The Call		
Submission status	The topic: different subjects according to the call		
Programming period	Programme	Status	
Programme part (pillar)	Type of action	Deadline model	
Mission	Opening date	Deadline date	
Destination	Earth observation technologies for the mining life cycle in support of EU autonomy and transition to a climate-neutral economy (RIA) Call for proposal Grant HORIZON-CL4-2022-RESILIENCE-01-08		
Quick search on specific priorities	Programme	Horizon Europe (HORIZON)	Status: Open for submission
Filter by call	Type of action	HORIZON Research and Innovation Actions	Deadline model: single-stage
Type of grants calls	Opening date	12 October 2021	Deadline date: 30 March 2022 17:00:00 Brussels time
Tenders' searching filters			

Figure 4 The search criteria and information that users will be able to see

Suggested readings

Key steps on how to participate – [link](#)

Horizon Europe webpage with the key steps on how to participate in the programme.

Tools

FAQs – [link](#)

The webpage with the most frequent questions of the Horizon Europe programme answered by the UE.

Horizon Europe Glossary – [link](#)

A basic glossary for terminology of the Horizon Europe programme gathered by the National Contact Points in the project BRIDGE2HE.

Other relevant information

- **NCP: National Contact Point (NCP).** NCPs are recognized support structures at country level. Normally, they are independent organizations of different nature (Ministries, Academies of Science, Research agencies, etc) that act as information providers to help applicants to access the Programme in their native language. You can find your NCPs here: <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/support/ncp>
- **Info days:** Normally, there are several info days organised at international, national or regional level. Info days on a European level can be found here: https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/events/upcoming-events/horizon-europe-info-days_en
- Other intermediaries of the innovation ecosystem that are interested or might be

willing to share interest in Horizon Europe: Technology and Science parks, Clusters, KTOs-Knowledge Transfer Office of Research Centres or Universities. These agents are very helpful for mentoring on getting to start.

References

BRIDGE2HE with NCPs. (nd) Horizon Europa Glossary: a simple guidance through HEU terminology, https://www.horizoneuropencpportal.eu/sites/default/files/2021-05/glossario%20bridgeHE_0.pdf

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