



Information and Networking webinar to support cooperation  
with EaP countries in R&I (19 March 2026)



#HorizonEU

THE EU  
RESEARCH &  
INNOVATION  
PROGRAMME 2021 – 27

HORIZON  
EUROPE



Horizon Europe proposal  
preparation

RESEARCH  
AND  
INNOVATION

# HORIZON EUROPE – SHORT OVERVIEW

## SPECIFIC PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTING HORIZON EUROPE & EIT\*

*Exclusive focus on civil applications*



### Pillar I EXCELLENT SCIENCE

European Research Council

Marie Skłodowska-Curie

Research Infrastructures



### Pillar II GLOBAL CHALLENGES & EUROPEAN INDUSTRIAL COMPETITIVENESS

Clusters

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

Joint Research Centre



### Pillar III INNOVATIVE EUROPE

European Innovation Council

European Innovation  
Ecosystems

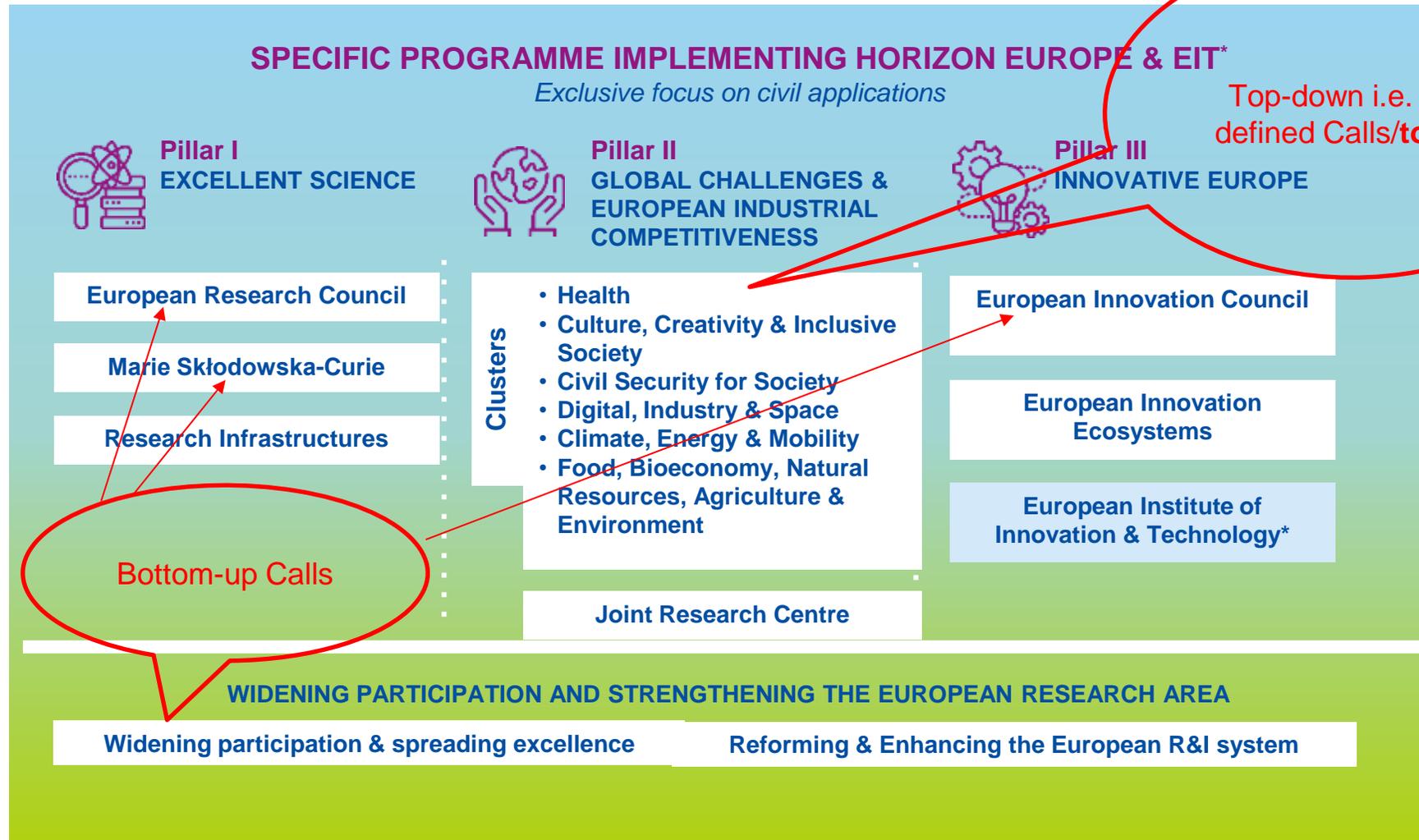
European Institute of  
Innovation & Technology\*

## WIDENING PARTICIPATION AND STRENGTHENING THE EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA

Widening participation & spreading excellence

Reforming & Enhancing the European R&I system

# HORIZON EUROPE – SHORT OVERVIEW



# HORIZON EUROPE - SHORT OVERVIEW

## SPECIFIC PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTING HORIZON EUROPE & EIT\*

*Exclusive focus on civil applications*

Mostly **individual** projects



**Pillar I**  
EXCELLENT SCIENCE



**Pillar II**  
GLOBAL CHALLENGES &  
EUROPEAN INDUSTRIAL  
COMPETITIVENESS



**Pillar III**  
INNOVATIVE EUROPE

**Collaborative** projects  
= consortium needed!

European Research Council

Marie Skłodowska-Curie

Research Infrastructures

Clusters

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

Joint Research Centre

European Innovation Council

European Innovation  
Ecosystems

European Institute of  
Innovation & Technology\*

Some **individual** projects (e.g. PostDoc Fellowships)

## WIDENING PARTICIPATION AND STRENGTHENING THE EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA

Widening participation & spreading excellence

Reforming & Enhancing the European R&I system

# Key steps in proposal preparation

1. To find and understand the appropriate **call**. I.e.:
  1. Appropriate funding scheme (e.g. Staff Exchange, Twinning, etc.), on any field;
  2. Appropriate research Topic (Health; Environment; Food; etc.).
2. To find the necessary **Partners** (only few calls are open for individual applications). **This is the most decisive step.**
3. To draft the proposal **collectively**.

# How to find a call/topic suitable for your lab?

- **Two ways exist:**

1. **Web search of the 'Horizon Europe Work Programme'** for Health or Digital or Food or... But also for the MSCA (e.g. Staff Exchanges) or Widening (e.g. Twinning), etc.

This is a pdf file including **all the calls/topics** for the ongoing 2 years. The current one (2026 – 2027) has been published mid-December 2025.

→Download the file→ go through the table of contents → see the full text

2. **Searching in the Funding & Tenders Portal** of the European Commission

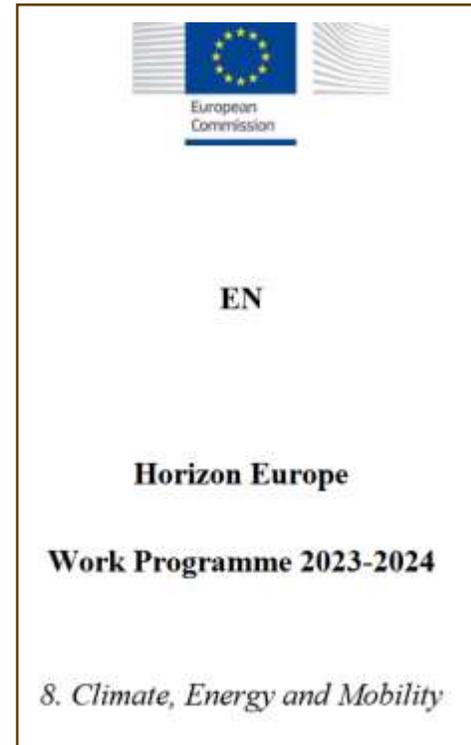
Additional features: a) Searching with 'keywords' across the Work Programmes;

b) Partner search tool

# 1. How to find a call? → Work Programme

## What information do thematic work programmes provide?

- Introduction
- Overview of the scheduled call(s)
- **Description of the topics**
- **Call Key data:**
  - Opening date, deadline
  - Type of Action (RIA, CSA, IA, etc)
  - indicative budget per Topic/Call
  - one-stage/two-stage procedure
  - indicative date for evaluation outcome & grant signing
- Budget



<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/how-to-participate/reference-documents;programCode=HORIZON>

## Reference Documents

### Grants

This page includes reference documents of the programmes managed on the EU Funding actions.

Please select the programme to see the reference documents.

### Procurement

Reference Documents related to tendering opportunities are published on TED eTendering

Q Filter

- + Legislation
- Work programme & call documents
  - + 2021-2022
  - 2023-2024
    - HE and Euratom Work Programme on Horizontal Expenditure 2023-2024 >
    - 1. General introduction >
    - 2. Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions >
    - 3. Research Infrastructures >
    - 4. Health >
    - 5. Culture, creativity and inclusive society >
    - 6. Civil Security for Society >
    - 7. Digital, Industry and Space >
    - 8. Climate, Energy and Mobility >
    - 9. Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment >
    - 10. European Innovation Ecosystems (EIE) >
    - 11. Widening participation and strengthening the European Research Area >
    - 12. Missions >
    - 13. General Annexes >
  - + EIC Work Programme 2023
  - + ERC Work Programme 2023
- + Grant agreements and contracts
- + Simplified cost decisions
- + Guidance

# Call example

## Future-proofing historical buildings for the clean energy transition

HORIZON-CL5-2023-D4-01-02

**Programme** Horizon Europe (HORIZON)

**Type of action** HORIZON Research and Innovation Actions

**Opening date** 13 December 2022

**Status**

**Deadline model**

**Deadline date**

Call for proposal

Grant

**Open for submission**

single-stage

20 April 2023 17:00:00  
Brussels time

**HORIZON-HLTH-2024-DISEASE-03-13-two-stage: Validation of fluid-derived biomarkers for the prediction and prevention of brain disorders (6-8 M€/ 25 M€)**

**Expected Outcome:** This topic aims at supporting activities that are enabling or contributing to one or several expected impacts of destination 3 “Tackling diseases and reducing disease burden”. To that end, proposals under this topic should aim for delivering results that are directed, tailored towards and contributing to most of the following expected outcomes:

- The scientific and clinical communities make effective use of state-of-the-art information, data, technologies, tools and best practices to underpin the development of the diagnostics, and as such can also facilitate the development of effective therapeutics and/or preventive strategies.
- The scientific and clinical communities advance the field through a better understanding of mechanisms underlying brain disorders at the molecular, cellular and systemic level.
- The scientific and clinical community make wide use of newly established and where relevant open access databases and/or integrate them with existing infrastructures for storage and sharing of collected data according to FAIR principles, thereby encouraging further use of the data.
- Policymakers, funders, scientific and clinical communities, patient organisations, regulators and other relevant bodies are informed of the research advances made, while health professionals envisage use of the biomarker tests for early detection of the disorder and for guiding patients in the selection of personalized treatments/interventions.
- Patients and caregivers are sufficiently engaged with the research, which also caters for their needs.

**Scope:** Treatments for some high-burden brain disorders are potentially on the horizon. Consequently, many patients and citizens will want to know if they are eligible for these treatments. For some disorders, a definitive diagnosis is difficult, expensive and time consuming. Simple blood or other fluid-derived (e.g. saliva, urine, sweat) tests for markers that may indicate early signs of the disorder, and which can be deployed for widespread clinical use are needed.

The brain disorders within the scope of this topic fall under two categories, namely those listed under chapters six and eight of the International Classification of Diseases. Proposals in the area of mental disorders are encouraged. Proposals should address all of the following aspects:

- Proposals should aim to validate biomarkers that can reliably confirm early stages of the human brain disorder and guide treatment/ intervention selection.
- Proposals should aim to provide evidence supporting the regulatory acceptance of the biomarkers.
- Exploitation of existing data, biobanks, registries and cohorts is expected, together with the generation of new key data.
- Inclusion of patients or patient organisations in the research is strongly encouraged, as to ensure that their views are considered.
- Sex and gender aspects, age, socio-economic, lifestyle and behavioural factors should be taken into consideration in the study.

**As soon as an appropriate call/topic is found...**

**How to 'decode' a call text**

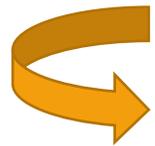
# Deconstructing a call text

- **Specific Conditions:** main information about the call
- **Expected Outcomes:** what is supposed to be **achieved**
- **Scope:** presents what exactly is expected to be **done**



# Decoding a call text

- **Specific Conditions:** main information about the call
- **Expected Outcomes:** what is supposed to be achieved



**Outcomes ... → Impact**

- **Scope:** presents what exactly is expected to be done



**Research & Innovation  
Work to be done**



**Consortium**

→ Check Destination as additional /background information/policy context (see Work programme)

## Therefore, how to deconstruct a call text?

- Read carefully the *Horizon Europe topic*;
- Highlight all words and sentences related to the ‘**research work**’ to be done during the 3-4 years duration of the project. This reflects the competences (= **consortium**) that are needed.
- At a later stage during proposal preparation you need to highlight all words and sentences related to the expected **impact**.

## Therefore, how to deconstruct a call text?

- Read carefully the *Horizon Europe topic*;
- Highlight all words and sentences related to the ‘**research work**’ to be done during the 3-4 years duration of the project. This reflects the competences (= **consortium**) which is needed.
- At a later stage during proposal preparation you need to highlight all words and sentences related to the expected **impact**.

## Land, ocean and water for climate action (HORIZON-CL6-2021-CLIMATE-01)

### Resilient livestock farming systems under climate change Specific conditions

*Expected EU contribution per project*

The EU estimates that an EU contribution of around **EUR 12.00 million** would allow these outcomes to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of a proposal requesting different amounts.

*Indicative budget*

The total indicative budget for the topic is **EUR 12.00 million**.

*Type of Action*

Research and Innovation Actions

**Color code:** **WORK** (Underline)      **CONSORTIUM** (“C” in margin)

**OUTCOMES/IMPACT** (“I” in margin; at second stage)

**Expected Outcome:** A successful proposal will contribute to the European Green Deal and international objectives to foster climate change mitigation and adaptation in agriculture. It will in particular support the Farm to Fork Strategy objective for a transition to a fair, healthy and resilient European agriculture. It will contribute to climate action on land and more specifically towards climate neutrality by reducing GHG emissions and enhancing natural carbon sinks: better understanding and mobilising the mitigation and adaptation potential of livestock farming and related sectors based on the sustainable management of natural resources.

The following outcomes are expected:

- Enhanced adoption by farmers and other relevant actors of innovations that increase the mitigation and adaptation capacity of livestock farming systems to climate change, at animal, population and farm level, therefore improving the resilience of production systems as well as animal health and welfare.
- Improved capacity to assess the environmental and socio-economic impact of mitigation and adaptation practices and options at different scales, alone and in combination.
- Consolidated transition towards a resilient livestock production with novel integrated approaches (in terms of management, breeding, feeding, local resources use, etc.) defined for different climate change scenarios

**IMPACT ("I" in margin; at second stage)**

**Scope:** Terrestrial livestock production is considered a large contributor to anthropogenic GHG emissions worldwide. Although emission intensity in Europe is lower in comparison to many other regions of the world, options to better assess and improve the emissions balance of terrestrial livestock production, weather intensive or extensive/low input, including organic, are necessary, including the evaluation of appropriate indicators of GHG emissions in different breeds, environments and production systems in order not to rely solely on a reduction of the demand in food of animal origin to improve the emission balance of the sector. A variety of options have been identified, but are not yet common practice, and the potential of breeding to contribute to an improved GHG balance was not much investigated so far. In addition, the likelihood of further climate change occurring, and the increasing scale of potential climate impacts require addressing agricultural adaptation of the livestock sector as well.

The proposals should investigate at different levels (animal, herd, farm and sector, region) and with a coherent approach, practices and innovations that enable a reduction of the net GHG emissions by terrestrial livestock, while striving to ensure farm viability and resilience of productions systems, including adaption to climate change, and taking into account the impact on the environment and biodiversity. Trade-offs within and between the different levels should be addressed. At animal level, the research should use systems biology to study interactions between host and environment (e.g. feed and microbes) and how this interplay affects the efficiency of feed utilisation (energy and proteins) and GHG emissions, not least methane. Proposals will define and investigate traits/phenotypes, and the potential of breeding, to reduce GHG animal emissions or/and adapt to climate change. At farm level, different husbandry practices should be addressed. At sector/regional level, a system approach should investigate how different actors can cooperate to improve the GHG balance of livestock production, optimising the use of resources, including feed (e.g. production and origin), improving circularity. In addition to biophysical research, the proposals should address the potential socio-economic impact of the proposed practices and innovations, and look at options to facilitate their uptake. Proposals should develop or refine related tools for a proper assessment of practices and proposed innovations. Proposals should take into account novel farming systems and future scenarios, different breeds, particularly local breeds, various management approaches, climatic conditions and regional specificities. Proposals should address at least cattle and pigs and may address any other relevant species.

Proposals should fall under the concept of the multi-actor approach and ensure adequate involvement of the farming sector, terrestrial livestock breeders, advisers and other relevant actors.

The proposals should take into account other EU-funded projects, including those funded under the ERA-NETs SusAn and ERA-GAS.

The identification of the suitable call,  
then the decoding and understanding  
the call, constitutes the  
basis/prerequisites for  
searching adequate partners to form  
a consortium  
(=bottleneck in proposal preparation)

## The most decisive step: Partner Search – joining a consortium

- Use your **existing contacts** (if possible with experience in EU funding programmes)
- Use the **Partner Search Tool** on the **Funding and Tenders portal**: under each call/topic there is a list of interested to that topic research entities that you can contact.
- Search the **CORDIS database** for participants in similar projects in FP7/H2020/HE:  
[http://cordis.europa.eu/projects/home\\_en.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/projects/home_en.html)
- Use **social media** (e.g. LinkedIn forums) or **web search** for adequate research entities
- Use the European NCP networks, **National NCPs**, **COST actions**...  
<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/support/ncp>  
<https://www.cost.eu/cost-actions-event/browse-actions/>

# How long it takes to prepare a proposal?

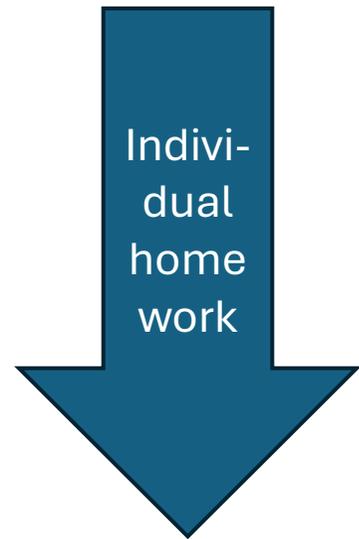
- You should start the proposal preparation the **earliest possible** (i.e. as soon as the Work Programmes are published), and **certainly not less than 6-8 months before the deadline**.
- Not because the drafting will take that long but for **searching and securing adequate partners** to form the appropriate consortium.

# Last step: drafting the proposal (major steps)

- Developing first a **sound Work Plan** (Work Packages and Tasks), covering all the 'research work' expected by the call to be done
- Then explaining why your approach is **Excellent** and your **Methodology** the most appropriate
- Finally, explaining why your project will have the expected by the call **Outcomes** and **Impact**

*But in most of the cases, this work is done **collectively** by the consortium members*

# To sum up: HE proposal preparation...

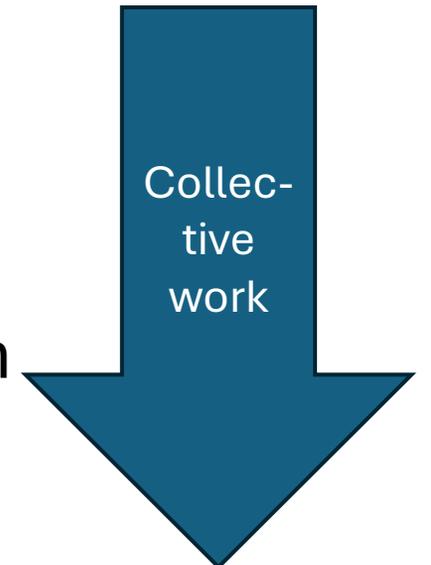


- ↓ Finding a call/**topic**
- ↓ Understanding/**decoding** the topic
- ↓ Required competences (= **consortium**)

- ↓ **Partners search**
- ↓ Forming or joining a consortium

↳ **Collective drafting**, proposal submission

*...and collective implementation!*



---

Information and Networking webinar to support cooperation  
with Eastern Partnership (EaP) Partner countries in R&I (19 March 2026)

# Thank you for your attention!

