

Horizon Europe

The European
Framework
Programme for
Research
and Innovation
2021 – 2027



Editorial

Dear reader,
no country on its own can overcome the huge challenges facing all of us, such as climate change, an ageing society, the fight against disease and achieving equal opportunities for everyone. In our search for solutions we need to work together internationally in order to generate new knowledge and make good use of the knowledge we have. We need to enhance cooperation in basic and applied research and in innovating marketable products, processes and services.

The European Union's Framework Programmes for Research and Innovation are the most comprehensive instrument in the world for working in partnership. They are therefore of key importance to Switzerland, which highly values international cooperation in education, research and innovation. After the Swiss National Science Foundation, they are the second most important source of public funding for research and innovation, and the most important for Swiss businesses. The ETH Domain, the cantonal universities and universities of applied sciences on the one hand, and research partners in industry, small businesses and non-profit organisations on the other, can all compete for and benefit from EU research grants.

Our participation in the EU Framework Programmes, based on a tradition going back over 30 years, brings us considerable benefits. It helps to generate knowledge in Switzerland, improves the competitive

strength of our economy, creates jobs and has a positive impact on society. And finally, it demonstrates that our country, which is so strong in research and innovation, is willing to take on responsibility in these fields at an international level.

Let us continue along the path of cooperation with our European partners, which has already brought us such success. By participating in these programmes, our top-level researchers can aspire to achieve top-level results.

So, welcome on board! And in case you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact the Euresearch Network, which is funded by the federal government to provide information, advice and other support to researchers all over Switzerland.

Martina Hirayama

State Secretary for Education
Research and Innovation



Table of contents

1. <i>Overview of Horizon Europe</i>	6
2. <i>Benefits of EU Funding</i>	8
3. <i>How to Participate in Horizon Europe</i>	9
Who can Participate in Horizon Europe?	9
Who can get Funds from Horizon Europe?	9
Further Conditions	9
4. <i>Terms used in Horizon Europe</i>	10
5. <i>Euresearch Services</i>	12
Contacts & Euresearch Map	13

Overview of Horizon Europe

Horizon Europe is the European Union’s latest funding programme for research and innovation. It will run from 2021 – 2027 and funds projects at different stages along the entire research and innovation cycle – from exploring new scientific questions to substantiating the resulting models; from developing promising technologies based on new concepts to applying these in breakthrough innovations; and finally, by helping the most auspicious products and solutions to enter the market.

All in all, the programme aims to **boost Europe’s competitiveness** and growth.

Projects may be undertaken by any kind of organisation, regardless of whether they belong to the public or the private sector and irrespective of their size. An active involvement of citizens and civil society representatives in the projects is strongly encouraged.

The programme as a whole is committed to implementing the UN’s 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) within all its areas. It covers every domain and discipline, ranging from big data, pharma, biotech, artificial intelligence and nano-technology to sociology and philosophy. Funding is offered for **cutting-edge research** within a given thematic area (top down) as well as for projects without a prescribed thematic focus (bottom up).

Last but not least, Horizon Europe also aims at synergies with other EU programmes such as the Digital Europe Programme (DEP), Euratom or ITER (International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor).

Horizon Europe consists of 3 so-called “pillars” and 1 horizontal programme:

Pillar 1, “Excellent Science”, focuses on bottom-up projects at the frontiers of research (European Research Council, ERC), career development and mobility (Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions, MSCA) and multinational research infrastructures.

Pillar 2, “Global Challenges”, is divided into 6 broad thematic areas (“clusters”): Health; Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society; Civil Security for Society; Digital, Industry and Space; Climate, Energy, and Mobility; Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment.

Pillar 3, “Innovative Europe”, is dedicated to supporting start-ups and other fast-growing companies to bring new, if possible “disruptive”, technologies to market.

The **horizontal programme**, “Widening Participation and Strengthening the European Research Area”, aims to support lower-performing EU Member States whose research and innovation capacities and performance need strengthening.



Benefits of EU Funding

The European Research and Innovation Programmes offer a wide range of funding opportunities. Each participant, whether a small- or medium-sized enterprise, university, public or private research centre, industry or non-governmental organisation, will be able to identify the funding scheme

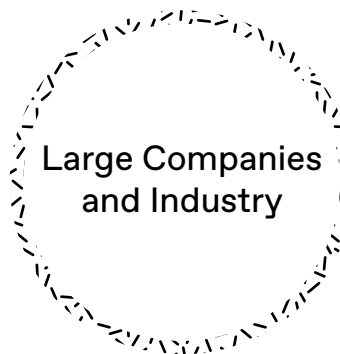
best-suited to their needs. An overview of the main advantages, per type of entity, is given below. A legal entity is any natural or legal person, such as a self-employed person, a company, a university or an association. The entity can be either for-profit or non-profit.



Apart from the financial benefit, one of the main advantages of participation in European projects is the integration within **international research networks**. As a consequence, the participant(s) can have access to a wide range of research infrastructures, techniques, methods and results. As European funding programmes are generally of excellent R&I quality, participants will also gain international prestige and can attract excellent researchers to their organisation.



European funding programmes can provide the financing necessary to kick-start a new R&D project. This is especially the case in Switzerland, as the Swiss government (SNSF, Innosuisse) does not grant funding directly to private businesses. On top of the **financial incentive**, European projects open the door to collaboration with competent **research partners** across Europe and beyond. This can result in new products, markets and business opportunities. Another attractive benefit is the possibility to recruit researchers with a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship.



Participating in European projects is an excellent way to complement a company's **strategic R&D roadmap**. While being part of a European project, companies get to play a role in the future European R&D agenda, can extend their networks and potentially access new markets and business partners. Competitiveness is key to business success, and R&D performance is an essential element in this regard. European funding opportunities provide a very constructive set-up, allowing companies to work with the best research organisations.



European projects are increasingly required to adopt a holistic or systemic approach and to demonstrate tangible impacts even within project duration. This implies that even in technical areas, the implications for and connections to all aspects of society, from citizen involvement and deliberation, to ethics and social sciences, must now be taken into consideration. Organisations/societal actors directly concerned with any issue at stake should accordingly get involved in projects **as full partners**. This in turn generates many opportunities for different kinds of organisations, traditionally not associated with the R&D ecosystem.

How to Participate in Horizon Europe

Who can participate in Horizon Europe?

Any → **legal independent entity** from anywhere around the world can participate in Horizon Europe programmes.

A legal entity acts independently when less than 25% of its capital or voting rights are held by another enterprise.

Who can be funded in Horizon Europe?

Horizon Europe funds are only available to legally independent entities based in a European Union Member State, an Associated Country to Horizon Europe, a country specifically mentioned in the Work Programme or a country that has a bilateral agreement with the EU. As an exception, if a project partner can be proven to be essential for your project, they can be located anywhere in the world.

Further Conditions

If you meet the eligibility requirements, you can now search for an open call and apply to it! Just be aware that for collaborative projects, you need a consortium with at least 3 entities based in at least 3 different EU and/or Associated Countries, with at least 1 entity based in an EU Member State.

The evaluation of your proposal takes place within a maximum period of 5 months after the deadline of the call. If your project is successful, the Grant Agreement is signed within 3 months of the evaluation.

Most of the programmes under Horizon Europe reimburse up to 100% of eligible costs. However, for Innovation Actions, for-profit entities can claim only 70% of their eligible costs. Co-funding Actions reimburse 30 – 70% of → **eligible costs**.

Terms used in Horizon Europe

Every Framework Programme has its own language. The most noteworthy new concepts and terms in Horizon Europe are “**Clusters**” and “**Missions**”. Here are the definitions of the most important terms and expressions used by the European Commission in Horizon Europe documents:

Calls

- Procedure for inviting applicants to submit project proposals with the aim of receiving EU funding.
- Calls are often divided into topics (‘call’ and ‘topic’ are often used synonymously)

Cluster

- Topics covering global challenges are combined in 6 broad thematic areas (“Clusters”): Health; Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society; Civil Security for Society; Digital, Industry and Space; Climate, Energy, and Mobility; Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment.

Consortium Agreement

- Internal agreement between consortium members. It sets out their rights and obligations when implementing a project in accordance with the Grant Agreement.

Dissemination

- Making the results of a project public.

Exploitation

- Making use of the results produced in an EU project for further activities.

Grant Agreement

- The grant contract concluded between the EU and the beneficiaries. It establishes the rights and obligations that govern the grant. It consists of a core text and annexes (for instance, fixing the project content and the project budget).

Missions

- Ambitious, bold goals to tackle issues that affect our daily lives. The 5 defined missions are related to cancer, carbon-neutral cities, climate, ocean, and soil. They are co-designed with citizens, stakeholders, the European Parliament and Member States.

Partnerships

- The aim of European partnerships between the EU and Associated Countries, the private sector, as well as foundations and other stakeholders, is to deliver results on global challenges and modernise industry.

Topic

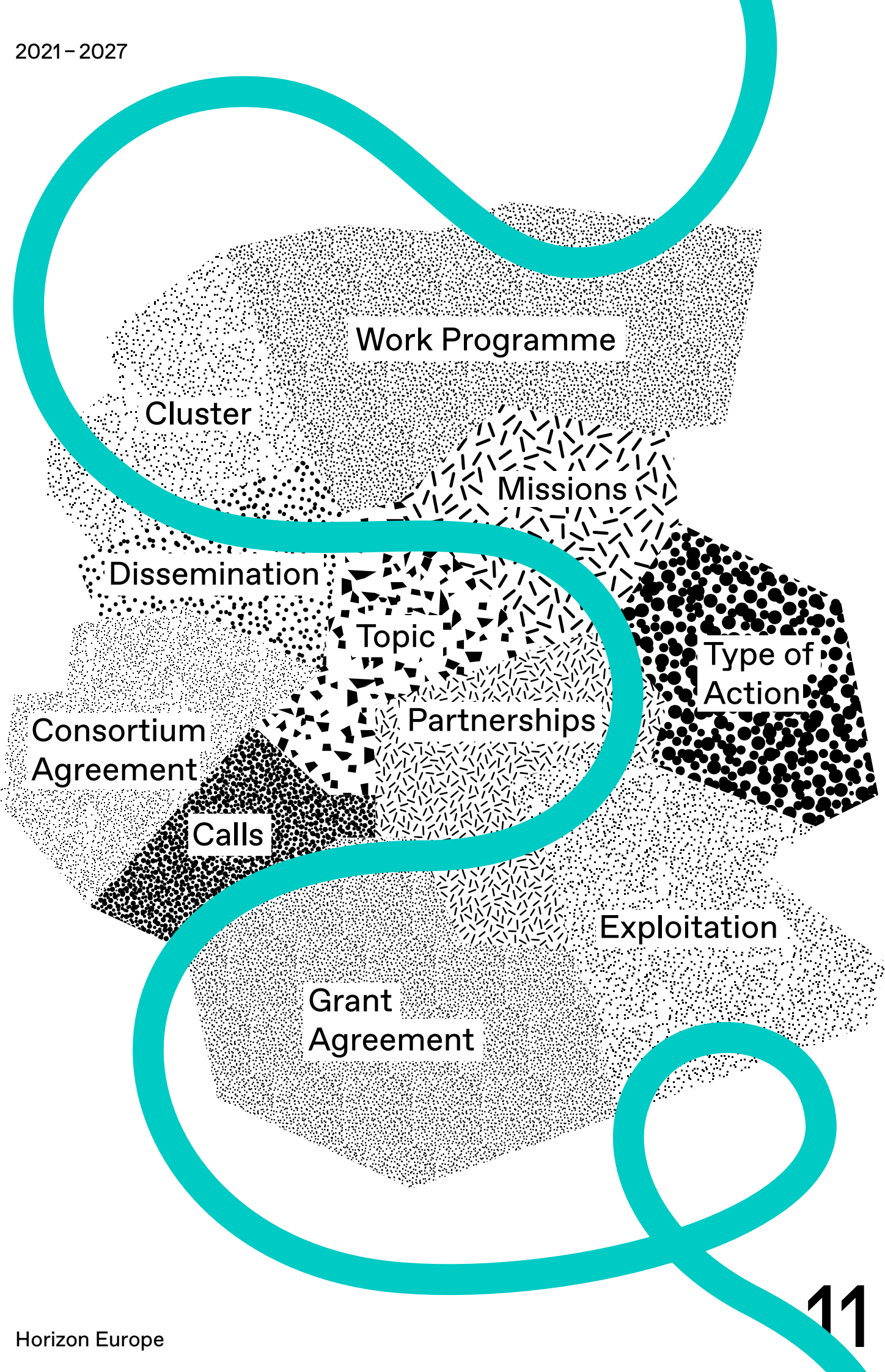
- Calls for proposals are subdivided into topics. A topic defines a specific subject or area for which applicants are invited to submit proposals. The description of a topic comprises its specific scope, the type of Action, evaluation criteria and the deadline for the submission of proposals.

Type of Action (ToA)

- Funding scheme in Horizon Europe with common features (scope, single or multi-beneficiary, purpose, reimbursement rates, etc.).

Work Programme (WP)

- Multi-annual document by which the European Commission establishes the activities that will be undertaken during the WP period (e.g. grants, procurements)



Services

Euresearch is the Swiss guide to European research and innovation. It comprises an information and advisory service on the European Research and Innovation Framework Programmes. It has offices in all the Swiss regions and a Network Office in Bern. The Regional Offices are your first point of contact for all your research and innovation questions. The Network Office hosts the National Contact Points and the central Network services. Euresearch is a non-profit organisation supported by the Swiss Confederation.

Contact us — our services are free of charge!

Stay up to date on the latest European research and innovation opportunities by creating a profile in our database. You will receive our tailor-made email alerts on events, calls for proposals, news, and partner searches. → [Visit our website](#) and subscribe to our newsletter “Euresearch Info”.

We Inform

Euresearch provides you with an overview of the European research and innovation programmes. We help you find the most appropriate funding scheme for you and your institution or company.

We Advise

Euresearch advises you on how to proceed with your proposal application. With our pre-screening service, we can provide feedback on your proposal before you submit. We also support you with the overall management of your project.

We Connect

To collaborate in research and innovation in Europe, having the right partners on board is crucial. We support you in your search for the right cooperation partners.

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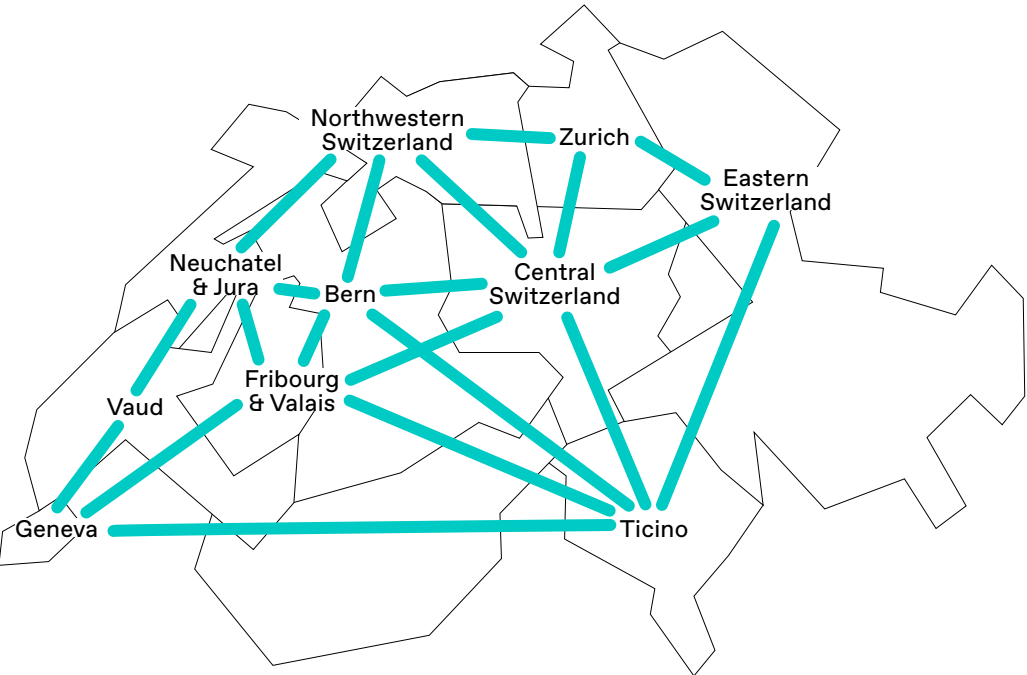
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