

Newcomers Guide for Horizon Europe: Health Applicants

What do I need to know? The 10 first steps:

1. Is EU funding for me?

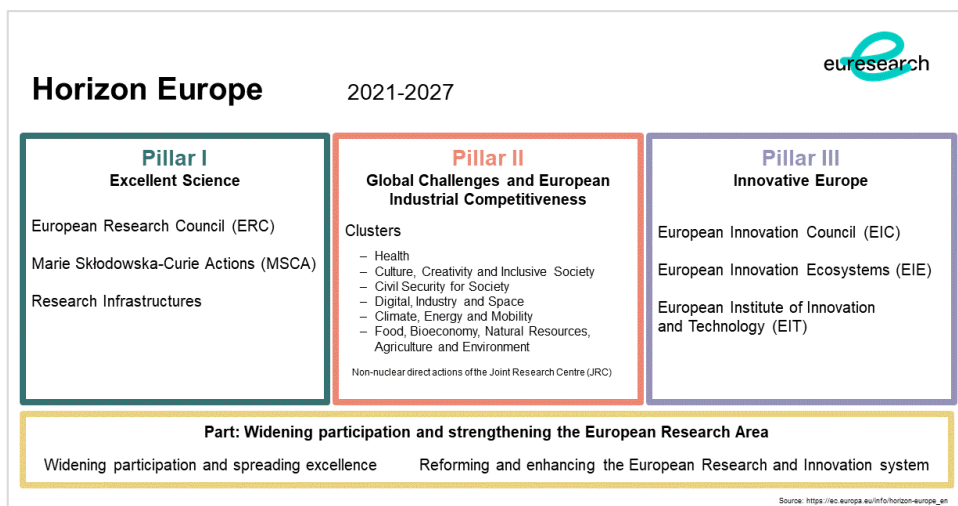
- You want to finance a unique idea/project responding to a challenge defined by the European Commission
- You need external funding to keep researchers in your institute or hire new one
- Your idea can only be implemented via a European cooperation
- You want to improve your international network
- You want to strengthen interdisciplinary collaboration

Researchers and innovators in Switzerland can participate in Horizon Europe. Swiss entities can apply as Beneficiaries as Switzerland is associated to Horizon Europe.

For more information check our [website](#).

2. Horizon Europe in Brief

Horizon Europe is built around 3 pillars. The Health programme is the first of the 6 clusters in pillar II. The aim of pillar II is to tackle global & societal challenges, and concerns of citizens & society. Under Global Challenges the European Commission has identified the problems/ challenges to target. You provide together with your international consortium of experts the best solution to it.



2.1 Objectives and Policy Drivers of the Health Programme

Building on the principle of openness – open science, open innovation and open to the world – the Health cluster aims to deliver solutions for a better health for all by:

- Integration of personalised medicine approaches into healthcare services and systems to the benefit of patients and citizens
- Fighting infectious diseases and the growing threat of antimicrobial resistance
- Addressing the needs of the most vulnerable groups and the global increase of chronic diseases
- Decoding the role of environment including climate change on health and developing mitigating measures
- Exploring the digital potential for health innovation and care, including the building of a 'European health research and innovation cloud'
- Stimulating innovation in the European healthcare domain and industry by exploring the application of advanced technologies, improve the health of the workforce and promote regulatory science

3. What is a Work Programme?

The individual work programmes are the detailed implementation plans for the specific programmes of Horizon Europe. They specify the concrete scientific, technical, economic, and societal objectives of each thematic priority. They give a broad background to the thematic activity, and the detailed technical content of the activity. Each thematic section is self-contained and describes the overall objectives in the respective destinations. Each destination has calls for proposals with specific topics. They also indicate for each call the instruments that will be available and the evaluation criteria that will be applied. Understanding the objectives of the work programme is essential for preparing a good proposal.

4. Which Topics Are Open and How Do I Find Them?

Cluster 1 is implemented in pre-defined top-down calls announced in the work programme. One can only submit a proposal for a topic in an open call. The topics are implemented in 6 destinations with the following priorities:

- Staying healthy in a rapidly changing society
- Living and working in a health-promoting environment
- Tackling diseases and reducing disease burden
- Ensuring access to innovative, sustainable and high-quality healthcare
- Unlocking the full potential of new tools, technologies and digital solutions for a healthy society
- Maintaining an innovative, sustainable and globally competitive health industry

Since the bi-annual work programme is a very lengthy document, we have prepared a summary table (named topic preview, available under downloads on the Health webpage) to provide you with an overview of the topics, available funding and deadlines. If you need a full extended summary with scope and expected impact for each topic to browse through, please contact us at health@euresearch.ch

Once a call is open, the open topics are available on the Funding and Tenders Portal.

The Funding and Tenders Portal is your first entry point for all call related conditions and documents, such as the guide for applicants, proposal templates, and evaluation forms. The direct link to the proposal submission interface is available under each topic.

If you want to be automatically notified of call openings, sign up for the Euresearch e-Alerts by profiling yourself and your interests.

5. How Do I Read a Topic Text?

Each topic has a dedicated page on the F&T Portal with the following structure:

- **Expected outcome** – this describes the key elements of what is expected to be achieved in relation to the specific challenge
- **Scope** – this delineates the problem, specifies the focus and the boundaries of the potential action and describes what has to be addressed







Please keep in mind the deadline and deadline model (single stage or 2-stage) when planning a proposal.

6. Partnering and How to Build a Consortium?

Many calls require a team with at least three partners from 3 different member states or associated countries, and among these 3, one partner must be from a member state.

The following list gives you an overview of the partnering platforms that are available. Please note that the list is not exhaustive and that it is crucial to rely on your own network when setting up your consortium.

For more details, please contact us for the full Checklist for Consortium Advice. You find also more information on the Euresearch [Health webpage](#).

Provider	Icon	Platform	Link
Partner Search (find and contact entities who have been involved in EU projects before)		Funding and Tenders Portal	https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/how-to-participate/partner-search
Partner Search for the Innovative Health Initiative		Innovative Health Initiative	https://www.ihie.europa.eu/apply-funding/find-partners
Partner Search Tool		Health NCP Net 3.0	https://www.health-ncp.net/pdf/partner-search-tool
Cooperation for Innovation & Technology		Enterprise Europe Network	www.swisseen.ch/database
Partnering events		Enterprise Europe Network	www.swisseen.ch/en/events
Preferred partner for clinical trials		ECRIN (European Clinical Research Infrastructure Network)	www.ecrin.org

7. How to Write a Successful Proposal?

Preparation is the most important!

Before you start writing the proposal, make sure to:

- I. Work with the right documents:
 - Work programme - once published on F&T Portal/Reference documents:
 - Topic description:
 - scope
 - expected outcome
 - cross-cutting priorities

Topic conditions and documents:

- List of countries and rules for funding
- Eligibility and admissibility conditions
- Evaluation procedure and forms
- Proposal template (make sure you use the latest one, in the topic description on the F&T portal)
- Additional provisions and documents

II. Familiarise yourself with the *submission platform* of the F&T Portal:

- Create an account on the F&T portal
- Register your institute with a Participant Identification Code (PIC), if it does not exist yet
- Select the topic and call you want to apply to
- Download the most current proposal template (e.g. *standard application form RIA/IA*)
- Familiarise yourself with the EC's "How to"

III. Fulfil the minimum number of partner criterion for the relevant type of action. Ensure that you have the right partners covering the expertise needed for your proposal. For more advice ask for our "Checklist for Consortium Advice Health".

Submit in Time!

Proposals must be submitted online before the deadline of the relevant Call. The F&T Portal provides clear instructions. For more tips and tricks, please ask for the "Checklist for Submission to Cluster 1 Health" guide.

8. How Much Money Do I Get? (The Different Funding Schemes)

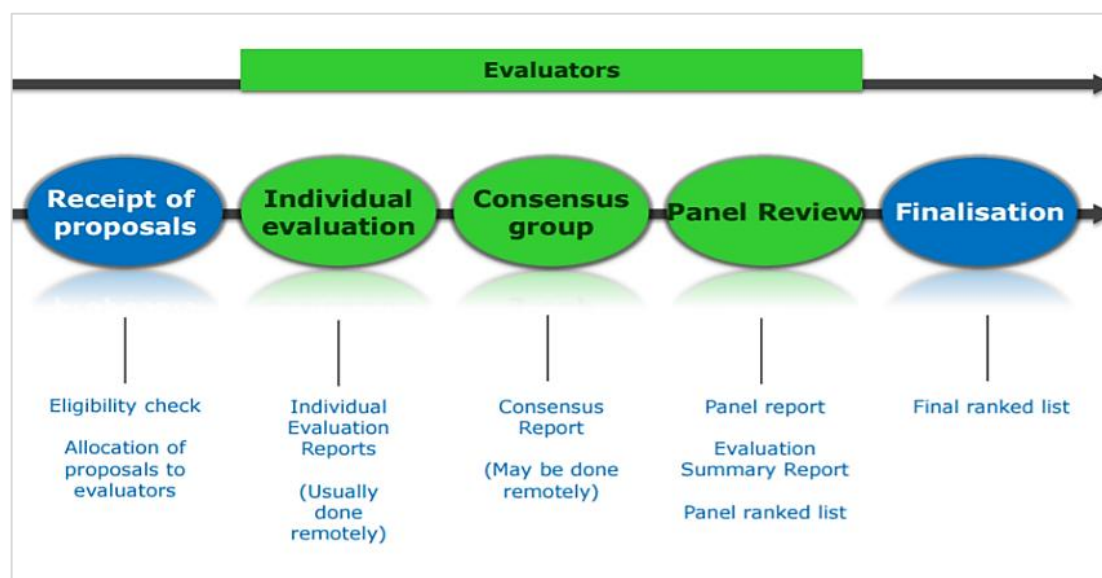
The topics are implemented via different funding schemes. Below is a brief overview of the most common funding schemes with funding rates and conditions.

Funding scheme	Definition	Funding rate	Typical duration	Conditions
Research and innovation action-RIA	Basic and applied research, technology development, testing and validation on a small-scale prototype in a laboratory or simulated environment	100%	36-48 months	≥ 3 legal entities (1 MS + 2 different MS or AC)
Innovation action – IA	Produce plans and arrangements or designs for new, altered, or improved products, processes or services	70% - for profit 100% - not for profit	30-36 months	≥ 3 legal entities (1 MS + 2 different MS or AC)
Coordination and support action-CSA	Accompanying measures such as dissemination, awareness raising, networking, standardisation	100%	12-48 months	≥ 1 legal entity (1 MS)

Pre-Commercial Procurement (PCP)	Enable a transnational buyers' group to reinforce the public procurement of R&I (possibly with first deployment of new solutions)	≤ 100%	48-60 months	≥ 3 legal entities, with ≥ 2 MS/AC Public Procurers, one coming from a MS.
Public Procurement of Innovative Solutions (PPI)	Enable a transnational buyers' group to reinforce the early deployment of innovative solutions by overcoming the fragmentation of demand	≤ 50%		≥ 3 legal entities, with ≥ 2 MS/AC Public Procurers, one coming from a MS.

MS: Member States of the European Union; AC: Associated Countries.

9. How Is My Proposal Evaluated?



Source: European Commission, Horizon 2020 evaluation

After the deadline passes, each proposal is evaluated by a panel of independent experts in the areas covered by the Call. The expert panels score each proposal against a list of criteria that includes financial capacity and operational capacity. Experts will evaluate based on the criteria “excellence,” “impact” and “implementation”. Depending on the so-called funding scheme, different points are in focus when being assessed. On that basis, the best proposals are selected for funding.

Join the database of independent experts. The European Commission appoints independent experts to assist with assignments that include the evaluation of proposals, monitoring of projects, and evaluation of programmes, and design of policy.

If you want to learn more on evaluation and become an evaluator, contact us for more information or directly [register here](#).

10. What Is My Next Step?

You identified a topic in the work programme that is of relevance to your research field and you need help in

- checking if your idea fits into the scope
- eligibility check
- advise in partnering
- proposal writing or you just need more information

Then contact us at health@euresearch.ch

10.1 Important links

- [Horizon Europe](#)
- [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals](#)
- [Digital Single Market \(on digital transformation of health and care\)](#)
- [European One Health Action Plan against Antimicrobial Resistance](#)
- [Cross-border healthcare directive](#)
- [European Cardiovascular Health Plan](#)
- [European Life Science Strategy](#)
- [Critical Medicines Act](#)

10.2 Who is Euresearch and how can we help you?

Euresearch is the Swiss network funded by the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation that provides targeted information, hands-on advice and partner search support for European research and innovation programmes. Our services include information events, fact-sheets, matching of your project idea with open topics, proposal review, and grant preparation. The network is composed of a Network Office in Bern and our Euresearch Offices in all regions, which are located all over Switzerland, hosted by universities, Federal Institutes of Technology and universities of applied sciences.

All our services are free of charge, contact us!

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