

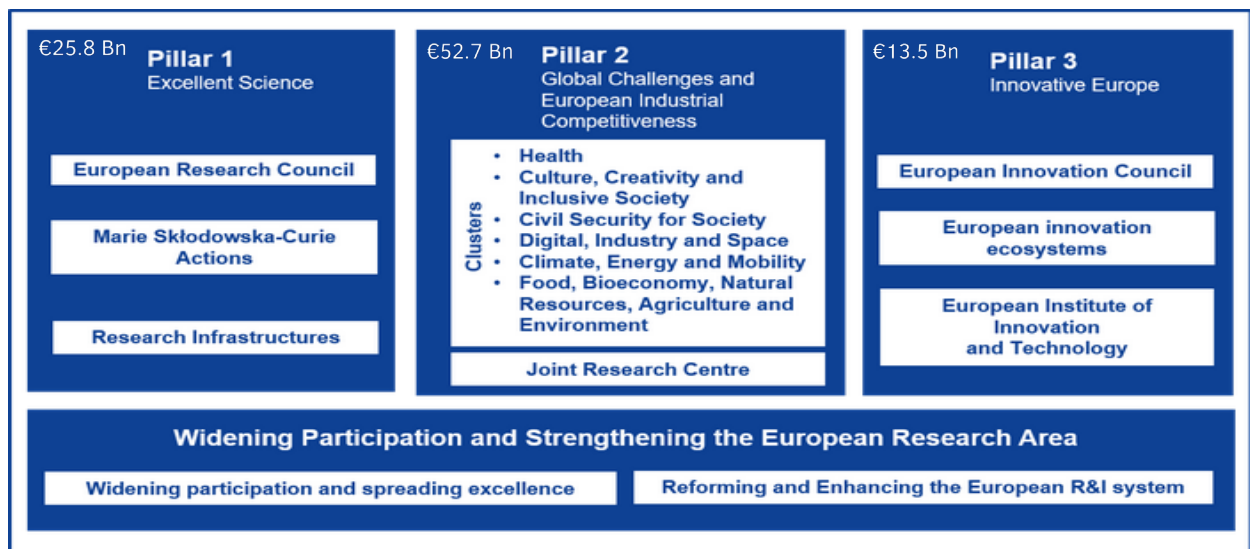


## Horizon Europe

**Horizon Europe is the 9th European Framework Programme funding research and innovation.** The European Commission proposes a budget of ~100 bn. EUR for 2021-2027. First calls are expected in January 2021.

The participation status of Switzerland for Horizon Europe is currently under discussion. The aim is a full association of Switzerland to Horizon Europe.

Horizon Europe has further evolved the three pillars structure from the 8<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme [Horizon 2020](#). Each pillar has a particular driver.



Source: European Commission, the next EU research & innovation investment programme (2021 - 2027), Jan 2020

### Pillar 1 Excellent Science

Offers mostly bottom-up funding opportunities for excellent research. It aims strengthening basic research in Europe, offering European Research Council grants (ERC), and Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions (MSCA) mobility grants. Further it offers funding for the establishment and operation of research infrastructures of European importance.

### Pillar 2 Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness

Offers funding for thematically prescriptive calls, so called top-down topics. To apply for funding, a minimum of 3 partners from 3 different EU member States or associated countries are required in most cases (collaborative projects). The planned topics currently are grouped in 6 thematic clusters, which are aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations.

### Pillar 3 Innovative Europe

Offers funding for the scaling up of innovative products & technologies. Two main funding instruments are

- Pathfinder: advancement of promising technologies from basic research to market maturity
- Accelerator: support to SMEs for advancing their technologies from TRL 6 towards market entry.

### Pillar 2 will launch Missions

A mission is a portfolio of actions across disciplines intended to achieve a goal within a set timeframe, with impact for society and the European population. They are an integral part of the Horizon Europe Framework Programme, and will be implemented through the 2nd pillar thematic calls. Currently 5 mission areas have been defined: adaptation to climate change including societal transformation; cancer; climate-neutral and smart cities; healthy oceans, seas, coastal and inland waters; soil health and food. [More](#)

### Thematic Areas

Further Pillar 2 will cover specific thematic areas (implemented through so called programmes) in following areas: metrology; key digital and enabling technologies; EU air traffic, aviation and rail; sustainable bio-based solutions; hydrogen and sustainable energy storage; clean, connected mobility and innovative SMEs. [More](#)

### Strengthening the European Research Area - Horizontal Programmes

Funds measures to support widening countries (lower R&I performers) to further raise research excellence.

### Horizon Europe: Next steps

1. Strategic planning with open consultations in 2019
2. Definition of first work programmes in 2020
3. Publication of first work programmes end of 2020
4. Official start on 1.1. 2021

More information is available via Euresearch website [www.euresearch.ch/HorizonEurope](http://www.euresearch.ch/HorizonEurope) or our National Contact Points. [Register](#) to our e-alerts and newsletter to get regular updates.

### Digital Europe Programme

The [Digital Europe Programme](#) (DEP) will complement Horizon Europe. With a planned overall budget of €9.2 billion, it will support and accelerate the digital transformation of Europe's society and economy. The programme should boost the uptake of digital technologies in public administration, areas of public interest and industry. It focuses on 3 key fields: high performance computing, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity,

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**Euresearch** is the organisation in Switzerland contracted by the Swiss government to inform and advise on the European Research and Innovation Programme Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe.