

## Horizon Europe: Framework programme for Research & Innovation 2021-27

ERC: [European Research Council](#)

KIC: [Knowledge and Innovation Communities](#)

MSCA: [Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions](#)

R&I: Research & Innovation

EIC : [European Innovation Council](#)

NCP: [National Contact Point](#)

EIT : [European Institute for Technology](#)

A political agreement on Horizon Europe has been reached in December 2020, after long discussion on the amount of the 2021-2027 budget. The new EU research and innovation programme will have a budget of around **€95.5 billion for 2021-2027**.

The programme is organised in three pillars:

## Horizon Europe Structure



- **the first pillar on Excellent Science** rewards excellent researchers in each steps of their careers through individual grants to build a team and pursue groundbreaking research with the ERC, finance mobility of researchers through the MSCA, and support the development of Europe-wide accessible Research Infrastructures.
- The **second pillar focuses on collaborative projects** around six broad topic clusters. For the UEG community the Cluster 1 on Health and the Cluster 6 on Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment are interesting.
- The **third pillar “Innovative Europe”** aims to provide support for emerging and breakthrough innovations with the new EIC programme and structure innovation ecosystems in Europe, linking education, research and innovation through the EIT. The EIT is structured in thematic KICs, among others the Health KIC to foster health innovation.
- In addition, there are **crosssectoral objectives**:
  - o In order to **improve the participation of Eastern European Countries and less research intensive countries**, the Horizon Europe programme will put an increased

- focus on improving the success of these researchers and helping countries to scale-up and reform their R&I systems
- Horizon Europe will also focus on key ambitious goals with **Missions**. Like the Apollo mission aimed to put the first man on the moon, the six ambitious Missions will aim to address important challenges of our time. They will aggregate projects from the three pillars. One of the mission will be on Cancer.

## The Health Cluster

This cluster is itself divided in six “destinations”:

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

In addition, Partnerships brings the European Commission and public/private stakeholders closer to address challenges through concerted R&I initiatives, like the Innovative Health Initiative and partnerships on precision medicine, on rare diseases, on Antimicrobial Resistance.

UEG drafted several Position Papers on [Horizon Europe](#) and on the [Cancer Mission](#).

## Applying to Horizon Europe: which process?

For each subprogramme, calls for proposals are issued by the European Commission. Most of the time, these calls are available in draft versions and experienced stakeholders use these drafts to prepare well ahead of the application deadlines. Contact your university or your NCP as they might have the latest versions.

For the first Pillar, the calls are published on an annual basis without any topic specifications. They are open for the most excellent projects.

For the second Pillar, the calls aim to address challenges, but stay broad in the formulation, i.e. “Indoor air quality and health”, “Prevention of obesity through the life course”. Collaboration with the right experts EU-wide is needed.

For the third Pillar, the European Innovation Council should always have open calls. The KICs have specific calls and procedures.

For the Widening Participation subprogramme, several actions are possible, with specific twinning programmes between two research institutes, or top-up subventions to ensure a certain amount of Eastern European participation in the selected projects.

The calls for proposals with details and deadlines are available on the [EU Platform for funding and tenders](#). You will find all the detailed information on how to apply on this platform.

**UEG supports you with the [Horizon Europe Support Grant](#) to help you prepare your research proposal and with videos and tips to understand and apply to Horizon Europe freely available [in the Library](#) (type “Horizon Europe” or “Horizon 2020”).**