



ENRF Briefing Note on “How to get prepared for Horizon Europe!”

What do we know at this stage on the new EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation – Horizon Europe.

The European Commission's proposal for Horizon Europe is an ambitious €100 billion research and innovation programme to succeed Horizon 2020. Following the political agreement, the European Commission started to put in place a strategic planning process, which result will be set out in a multiannual Strategic Plan to prepare the content in the **work programmes** and **calls for proposal for the first 4 years of Horizon Europe**. The strategic planning process will focus in particular on the Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness pillar (Pillar 2) of Horizon Europe. It will cover the Widening Participation and Strengthening the European Research Area part of the programme as well as relevant activities in other pillars.

» Horizon Europe structure

[Horizon Europe](#) is based on **3 Pillars: Pillar 1 - Excellent Science; Pillar 2 - Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness; Pillar 3 – Innovative Europe; + 1 horizontal pillar: Widening Participation and Strengthening the European Research Area**. Key in Horizon Europe is the open science approach, meaning all what is produced within the scope of a project should be open to all; open innovation, open to the world.



↳ Pillar 1 - Excellent Science

This pillar supports researchers through fellowships, exchanges, and funding the projects defined and driven by researchers themselves. The pillar operates within the European Research Council (ERC), Marie-Skłodowska-Curie Actions, and Research Infrastructures. With more focus on the higher education level, it aims at nurturing innovation and entrepreneurship in Education across Europe to provide skills and competencies needed to make Europe more competitive at Global level.

- **ERC Grants** – no changes expected from what exists already now. However, there should be a bottom up approach with scientists coming up with scientific ideas to be submitted and evaluated on their excellence. But the ERC, as basic science, and the ERC grantees are the starting point in the innovation cycle. Researchers should become innovators. The European Commission wants the research results to be transformed into useful innovations. As regards the outreach, ERC grantees do not have to develop a website, nor a lot of dissemination activities. The ERC and the grantees will be collaborating with the European, the national, and the regional research and financing agencies to support the wider dissemination of the results, at European and Global level.

- **Marie-Sklodowska-Curie Actions** – No major changes here either. Here the public outreach is an important criterion as for the ERC grants. It is important to consider the different funding schemes that are still available (Social funds, Erasmus, etc.) and try to find synergies.
- **Research Infrastructures** – No major change here either, but connectivity and the link between the European infrastructures is an important factor in Horizon Europe. The [European Open Science Cloud](#), where researchers and research organisations can access and share research results, is an important tool. So, reusability, interoperability and scalability are key factors in this Open Cloud with money being allocated within Horizon Europe to solve all these technical challenges.

↳ **Pillar 2 - Global Challenges & Industrial Competitiveness**

Directly foster research related to societal challenges around issues of major concern for all as: health, climate, clean energy, mobility, security, digital, etc. These themes are built as Clusters. For that the [Joint Research Centre](#) provides the EU with an independent scientific evidence and technical support. Within this pillar, the industrial leadership is supposed to get prominent. This is the pillar where most of the money from Horizon Europe will be allocated to. It aims at exploiting the European strengths and assets by generating new knowledge translating it into new innovations.

With this Pillar, the Clusters are not silos anymore, trying to solve the Global challenges – very much connected with the European Industrial competitiveness, which means that in each project, there may have collaboration between the economical, industrial, and other partners. Economic and Industrial partners are key as collaborators. It is important to keep in mind that we should not consider only one specific discipline (Silo) when we want to submit a project. E.g.: Health related project will include for example social science and humanity aspects, environmental aspects, IT specific issues, etc. Each project should be interdisciplinary. All clusters are connected to SDGs:

Clusters Contribution to SDGs



It is key to contact your [national contact points](#) (see previous ENRF BN). Projects will be submitted through the usual calls, but **the calls and the topics description have changed a lot**. There are **15 impact areas**, to which each specific cluster will be contributing to. And the calls are now called ‘**Destinations**’. The most important in a project proposal will be the **expected outcomes**.

- **The Joint Research Centre** – is the European Commission's science and knowledge service which employs scientists to carry out research in order to provide independent scientific advice and support to EU policy development. They have now a different role than the one they had on H2020. They will be publishing reports for the 3 pillars. Thus, it is important to follow-up what is happening in the JRC.
- **R&I Missions** – with 5 mission Boards, aiming to help to specify, design, and implement [missions](#) in Horizon Europe. Each mission has 15 experts coming from innovation, research, policymaking, civil society, and relevant organisations. Each mission (e.g. the Cancer Mission) area as an assembly that gathers a large number of experts. They will not be closed with the end of the framework programme; they have targets until 2030.

↳ **Pillar 3 - Innovative Europe**

This is a new pillar aiming to make Europe a front runner in market-creating innovation, by trying to support start-ups and SMEs, developing the innovation ecosystem. A new funding body, the European Innovation Council offers a one-stop opportunity for high potential and breakthrough technologies and innovative companies with potential for scaling

up at international and European level. The pillar includes the activities of European Innovation Ecosystems and European Institute of Innovation and Technology.

- **European Innovation Council (EIC)** – They have launched already the [Pilots](#) (Pathfinder & Accelerator), but the format will change as the European Commission realised that the pilots' schemes are not the best one. The Accelerator now includes the opportunity for the European Commission to give a "reimbursable advanced payment". This gives the flexibility to the European Commission to make advanced payment if the project is successful and if not then the payment could be transferred back into a grant scheme, which means we do not have to pay back but put into a grant scheme. Pathfinder is for the consortium and for single applicant.
- **European Innovation Ecosystems (EIE)** – to be implemented through co-funded programmes (funds from the European Union and the national/regional funding agencies for special innovation).
- **European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)** – Financing Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs) – in 2021 they are planning to launch a call to create industries to generate these KICs. Most of the money will be given to more established SMEs.

↳ **Pillar 4 - Widening Participation and Strengthening the European Research Area (Horizontal Pillar)**

This pillar will support the European Member States in developing their national research and innovation capacities. A big part of the money will go to the widening countries (that have joined the EU after 2004 + Greece & Portugal). They will be benefiting from twinning actions. As regards the Reforming & Enhancing the European R&I system, there will be calls on ethics, gender issues, science education, **capacity building of researchers**, open schooling, etc.

» **Horizon Europe Budget**

85 billion Euros (€23.297bn will go to Excellence Science, €11.886bn will go to Innovative Europe, €3.181bn will go for Widening Participation & ERA, and €47.179bn will go to Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness) – with final numbers to be confirmed very soon. The financial support from the Next Generation EU (NGEU) should be frontloaded by the end of 2024. And the main priorities will go to: Health/Resilience/Digital Transformation/Climate. An additional €2.65 billion is proposed for research within the new European Defense Fund, and €200 million are reallocated from Pillar III (EIC) to Pillar I (Marie Curie Actions).

» **Short Overview of what is new in Horizon Europe?**

Strengthening the European Research Area	•Budget increases new options are included
Joint Research Centre in the structure	•JRCs receive a main role in background studies
Clusters under Pillar II	•Not silos, but with a lot of cross-cluster connections
Missions	•While not part of the structure, missions have a key role in HEU. Mission related projects may be financed from any work programmes of the pillars.
Climate change	•The programme is expected to contribute with 35% of its budget spent to climate objectives
Support to innovation	•ERC, EIC, EIT and InvestEU will be complementary to each other in this
New groups for European Partnerships	•Less partnerships grouped in three types

Stays

- Research and Innovation Actions
- Innovation Actions
- Coordination and Support Actions
- ERC Frontier research
- Training and mobility actions
- Programme co-fund actions
- Inducement prizes
- Recognition prizes
- Public procurements
- ERA Chairs
- Twinning
- Teaming
- Policy Support Facility

Will be modified or cancelled

- Pre-commercial procurements (PCP) and Public procurement of innovative solutions (PPI) – becomes Coordinated Innovation Procurement;
- SME Instrument – integrated into EIC Accelerator
- FET Open, FET Proactive will be incorporated into the EIC Pathfinder scheme;
- FET Flagships will be incorporated into Missions and Partnerships;
- Partnership schemes –reduced number and all grouped into three types;
- Fast Track to Innovation - Fast Track to Research and Innovation Procedure (FTRI)

NEW schemes

- Missions
- EIC Pathfinder
- EIC Accelerator

» **New approach to partnership**

For the first time, an overall approach for partnerships has been developed and labelled “European Partnerships”. 29 are listed now. As regards the specific instruments, research & innovation, innovation actions, and coordination support actions are the traditional collaborative project scheme. Nothing new here. What is changing is all the European Commission procurement and PPP schemes that will be integrated into one specific scheme called ‘innovation procurement’. For more information: www.era-learn.eu



Nursing researchers have here a window of opportunities to play a key role in multidisciplinary proposals, linking up with SMEs and working towards innovation in nursing care. Therefore, it is important that nurse researchers follow up on the Horizon Europe developments, the upcoming calls and start building strategic consortia to be ready for when the calls for proposals will be launched (most probably by April 2021). It is key nursing researchers start now contacting their national contact points (see previous ENRF BN) to see where they could widen the window of opportunities.

ENRF Briefing Note – 10 December 2020

European Nursing Research Foundation (ENRF)
Registration Number : 0533.978.961
Clos du Parnasse 11B, 1050 Brussels, Belgium
Tel: +32 2 511 34 84 - Fax: +32 2 512 35 50
Email: enrf@enrf.eu – Web: www.enrf.eu