



## ENRF Briefing Note on Horizon Europe - Follow-up

The European Commission adopted the first [Strategic Plan for Horizon Europe](#) allocating € 95,5 billion in **research and innovation priorities** to create a more sustainable future. The strategic plan defines how the investments will be allocated in each sector in the next four years. The plan provides that the EU research and innovation actions concur to implement [EU priorities](#), which include a **greener Europe, better economy** and a Europe able to welcome and manage the **digital transformation**.

In this context, Horizon Europe pays great attention to the **resilience of the health system** with the purpose of creating a more competitive and sustainable health industry, guaranteeing the possibility of achieving learning in innovative and digital health technologies. All this will favour not only the provision of a **high-quality health services**, but also the **creation of new jobs**.



**Margrethe Vestager**, Executive Vice-President for a Europe fit for the Digital Age, said: *“This Plan provides a frame for top quality, excellence-based research and innovation to be delivered with the Horizon Europe Work Programme. With this strategic orientation we ensure that research and innovation investments can contribute to a recovery process based on the twin green and digital transition, resilience and open strategic autonomy.”*



**Mariya Gabriel**, Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth, stated: *“The strategic plan's orientations will ensure that our common EU policy priorities benefit from new knowledge, ideas and innovation. This new approach is another way to make sure that the research and innovation funded by the EU will address the challenges faced by Europeans.”*

The [Strategic Plan 2021-2024](#) provides **4 different strategic orientations** to allocate research and innovation investments in the different sectors for the next **four years**:

- Promote a **strategic autonomy** to implement the development of a **digital and technological** society.
- Restore Europe’s ecosystem and **biodiversity** and manage resources in a **sustainable** way.
- Make Europe the first economy **climate-neutral, sustainable and digital**.
- Create a more resilient, inclusive and democratic society.

As already explained in a previous [Briefing Note](#), Horizon Europe foresees an investment in **6 clusters**. These clusters include the **Health cluster** which aims to guarantee and increase Europe's greater autonomy in the provision of health care by contributing to the implementation of **safer, more effective and accessible digital tools and technologies** for everyone to give a better promotion of health and disease prevention and closer patients’ monitoring to improve **the health and well-being** of citizens. This cluster aims to improve the understanding of health and diseases developing innovative **methodological and technological solutions** to manage health and diseases and to define digital transformation approaches which guarantee **person-centred and equal access** to the health care services.

The list below provides topic titles that are marked with an application deadline of **21 September** in the [latest draft of the work programme](#) updated in March 2021:

Topic title	Project type	Budget (M Euro)
Towards a molecular and neurobiological understanding of mental health and mental illness for the benefit of citizens and patients	RIA	10
Supporting digital empowerment and health literacy – Healthy citizens 2.0	CSA	3
A roadmap for personalised prevention	CSA	3
Mobilising the network of National Contact Points in the Health Cluster	CSA	3
Exposure to electromagnetic fields (EMF) and health	RIA	8
Indoor air quality and health	RIA	8
Health impacts of climate change, costs and benefits of action and inaction	RIA	10
Towards improved supportive, palliative, survivorship and end-of-life care of cancer patients	RIA	6
Building a European innovation platform for the repurposing of medicinal products	RIA	25
Innovative approaches to enhance poverty-related diseases research in sub-Saharan Africa	RIA	8
Clinical validation of artificial intelligence solutions for treatment and care	RIA	6
A roadmap towards the creation of the European One Health antimicrobial resistance partnership (OH AMR)	CSA	0,5
Building a European Research and Innovation Partnership for Pandemic Preparedness	CSA	2
Personalised medicine and infectious diseases: understanding the individual host response to viruses (e.g., SARS-CoV-2)	RIA	7
Enhancing quality of care and patient safety	RIA	5
Data-driven decision-support tools for better health and care delivery and policy-making	RIA	10
Health and care innovation procurement network	CSA	5
Smart medical devices and their surgical implantation for use in resource-constrained settings	IA	6
Next generation advanced therapies to treat highly prevalent and high burden diseases with unmet needs	RIA	6
Innovative tools for use and re-use of health data (in particular electronic health records and/or patient registries)	RIA	8
Green pharmaceuticals	RIA	8
Development procurement and responsible management of new antimicrobials	CSA	2
Promoting a trusted mHealth label in Europe: uptake of Technical specifications for “Quality and Reliability of Health and Wellness Apps”	CSA	2

International cooperation is fundamental to achieve all these orientations and to face all future global challenges. The strategic plan identifies the [European co-funded and co-programmed partnerships](#) and the [EU missions](#) supported through Horizon Europe. The partnerships will concern areas as energy, transport, biodiversity, **health**, food and circularity, and will complete the ten [Institutionalised European Partnerships](#) proposed by the Commission in February.



The **EU missions** will cover **global challenges** which we have to face every day by implementing ambitious goals as fighting cancer, adapting to climate change, protecting our oceans, making cities greener and ensuring soil health and food. The main purpose of the EU missions is to tackle and face complex issues and difficulties by using **research projects** and **policy measures**.

The plan is also concentrated on horizontal issues as **gender**, which will be a fundamental requirement in research and innovation.

The [Factsheet: Horizon Europe Strategic Plan](#) and the [National Contact Point](#) provide guidance, information and assistance on the participation in Horizon 2020 for each countries.

The priorities provided by Horizon Europe’s strategic plan will be implemented by the Horizon Europe work programme through a calls’ system. The first [calls for proposals](#) will be opened in the spring 2021 and will be presented at [European Research and Innovation Days](#) on 23-24 June.

On 24 March, the [Webinar: How to prepare a successful proposal in Horizon Europe](#) in which it will cover arguments as the [standard proposal template](#), basic principles, evaluation criteria and it will be present a draft of the [General Model Grant Agreement](#), a funding agreement concluded between the European Commission/funding agency and the project participants to specify the rights and obligations of the contracting parties.

In conclusion, this follow-up shows the concreteness and feasibility of Horizon Europe as a fundamental instrument to implement and improve research and innovation in every sector and, above all, in health one. A big budget allocated represents a big opportunity for nursing research to improve and to demonstrate the essentiality of their work and their contribution to research. Nursing Research Community needs to strengthen its efforts to move into Horizon Europe!

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