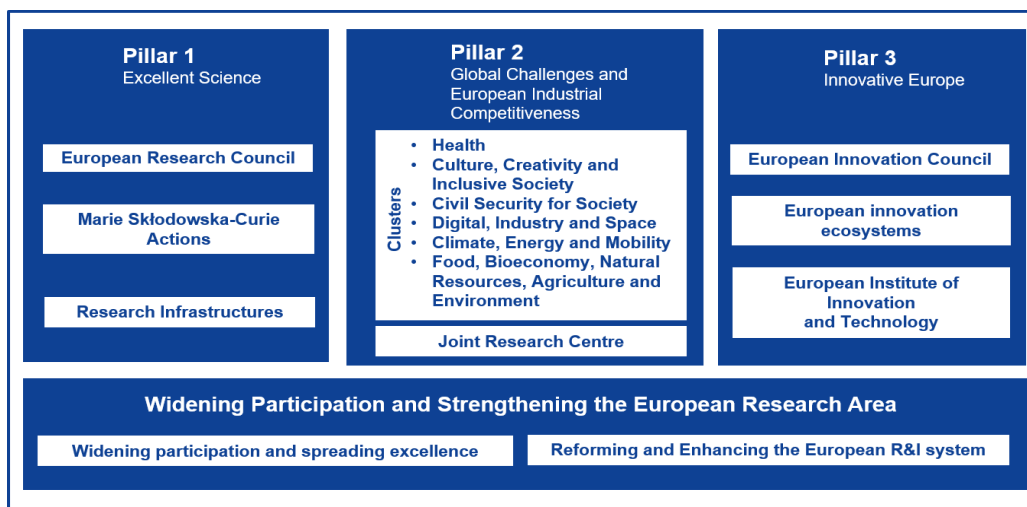




## ENRF Briefing Note on “The Horizon Europe for Health”

The European Commission established that [Horizon Europe](#) will provide **€ 948 million** for the health research across **6 topics**, according to the [Draft Work Program 2021-2022](#) published in January. The final version will be published in April by the Commission with the rest of the Horizon Europe work programmes. The first calls on these 6 topics will open on **22 April** and will cover disease prevention, environment and health, fight against major diseases, innovation of health systems, the development of digital health tools and the promotion of a competitive European health industry.



In greater detail, the 6 topics as described in the January work program:

### 1. Staying Healthy

This pillar focuses on promoting greater investigation into the causes that lead to diseases and better prevention of them. **For 2021**, more in-depth studies are expected on diseases related to **obesity, aging, mental health, prevention** and **digital health literacy**. In addition, the European Commission plans to support and implement the use of AI to predict and prevent the risk of chronic diseases. The budget made available for this year is **€ 69 million**, of which € 60 million to investigate the molecular and neurobiological basis of mental health and disease, € 9 million will go to finance 3 projects in support of digital empowerment and health literacy. **For 2022**, a budget of **220 million** is planned for this pillar. € 170 million will be allocated for proposals on improving mental health and the development of AI tools to predict and prevent the risk of chronic diseases and obesity. Another € 50 million, due on 21 April 2022, will fund projects that develop personalized schemes on chronic inflammation in the transition from health to disease.

### 2. Environment & Health

This pillar was born out of the need of the European Commission to clarify a better understanding of the environmental impacts on people's health, investigating the effects of pollution, chemicals, climate and other factors. **For 2021**, the European Commission has set up a budget of **€ 130 million** for projects that will investigate: the effects produced by electromagnetic fields on health; on the relationship between health and air quality; and on the impact of climate change on health. Another **€ 200 million** planned to facilitate public-private partnerships on the measurement of risks deriving from chemical products. **For 2022**, a **€ 20 million** call is foreseen, expiring on 21 April 2022, to finance 5 projects, developing new methods for assessing the costs of environmental stress factors related to health.

### 3. Tackling Disease

For this pillar, the European Commission plans to allocate **€ 262,5 million, in 2021**, to finance the improvement of care for cancer patients, the enhancement of research on poverty-related diseases in Africa, the implementation of related care tools to AI and understanding the patient's response to the virus that attacks it. **For 2022**, the disbursement of **€ 227 million** is planned, divided into two calls: the first of € 160 million will support the preclinical development of next generation immunotherapies, the development of new vaccines and new therapies for rare diseases; the second of € 37 million will concern projects aimed at better preparedness to face future pandemics and at reducing the risks of non-communicable diseases in young people. It is expected that an additional € 30 million will be made available for the creation of public-private partnerships in the field of health research.

### 4. Innovative Healthcare

The objective of the calls allocated to this pillar is to modernize health systems by improving their quality and developing new effective and efficient tools and methods for the benefit of all. **For 2021**, the planned budget is **€ 70 million**. It will be used to finance projects dedicated to improving the quality of care and safety of the people and the creation of a supply network. Another **€ 70 million** will be allocated for **2022**. An additional **€ 100 million** will be made available to facilitate the creation of public-private partnerships for the transformation of health and care systems.

### 5. Digital Tools

**In 2021**, the European Commission plans to launch a tender of **€ 115 million** for projects that will develop digital medical devices; therapies to treat highly prevalent diseases with unmet needs; and tools for the use and reuse of health data. The goal is to accelerate the development and digitalisation process of health systems. **For 2022**, a budget of **€ 155 million** is foreseen: € 95 million for projects that will focus on optimizing drugs using biomarkers and discovering new methods for efficient use of data; € 60 million for 19 projects. Analysis on the implementation of new strategies for patient stratification.

### 6. Competitive Health industry

**For 2021**, the European Commission plans to allocate **€ 44 million** to make the healthcare industry innovate by making it more resilient and competitive. The allocated budget will go to projects that tackle the problem of pollution caused by drugs. **For 2022**, the planned budget is **€ 69 million** and the aim is to support projects aimed at improving the cybersecurity of digital health tools.

Below, 3 draft documents which can be consulted:

- Horizon Europe [Work Programme](#) (Draft version - January 2021)
- The [Horizon Europe Strategic Plan](#) (2021-2024) (Version - November 2020)
- Horizon Europe Programme [Proposal Template](#) (This is just an example)

It is clear and evident that Horizon Europe stands as a tool of fundamental importance for the advancement of research and the achievement of better results in the health sector. Therefore, in order to achieve these goals, the European Union has made available a large budget. In this context, the nursing researchers will play a leading role in the creation of a more innovative, digital and resilient health system able of facing all the new challenges that will arise. Once again, nurses will have to take the field to implement this new transformation.

ENRF Briefing Note - 26 February 2020

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