



#HorizonEU

# HORIZON EUROPE

THE EU  
RESEARCH & INNOVATION  
PROGRAMME

2021 – 2027

INTRODUCTION TO EUROPEAN  
PARTNERSHIPS UNDER HORIZON  
EUROPE

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# A new approach to European Partnerships in Horizon Europe



- A more strategic, coherent and impact-driven approach
- European Partnerships to be established only in cases where they will achieve objectives of Horizon Europe more effectively than other activities of the Framework programme.
- 49 European Partnerships identified in the Horizon Europe Strategic Plan 2021-2024.
- Work on-going on the Strategic Plan for 2025-2027.



# A new approach to European Partnerships

New generation of objective-driven and more ambitious partnerships in support of agreed EU policy objectives

## Key Features

- **Strategic orientation**
- **Simple architecture and toolbox**
- **Common set of criteria for the life-cycle (Horizon Europe Regulation Article 10 and Annex III)**

Three types of partnerships:

- **Co-programmed** – based on memoranda of understanding
- **Co-funded** – based on a joint programme agreed and implemented by partners
- **Institutionalised** – based on Article 185/187 TFEU and the EIT Regulation

# European Partnerships in the Strategic Plan 2021-2024

## PILLAR II - Global challenges & European industrial competitiveness

## PILLAR III - Innovative Europe

Cluster 1: Health	Cluster 4: Digital, industry and space	Cluster 5: Climate, energy and mobility	Cluster 6: Food, bioeconomy, natural resources, agriculture and environment	EIT: The European Institute of Innovation and Technology	European innovation ecosystems
Innovative Health Initiative	Key Digital Technologies	Clean Hydrogen	Circular Bio-based Europe	EIT InnoEnergy	Innovative SMEs
Global Health EDCTP3	Smart Networks and Services	Clean Aviation	Biodiversa+	Climate-KIC	
Transformation of Health Care Systems	High Performance Computing	Single European Sky ATM Research 3	Blue Economy	EIT Digital	
Risk Assessment of Chemicals	European Metrology (Art. 185)	Europe's Rail	Water4All	EIT Food	
ERA for Health	AI-Data-Robotics	Connected, Cooperative and Automated Mobility	Animal Health and Welfare	EIT Health	
Rare Diseases	Photonics	Batteries	Accelerating Farming Systems Transitions	EIT Raw materials	
One-Health Antimicrobial Resistance	Made in Europe	Zero-emission Waterborne Transport	Agriculture of data	EIT Manufacturing	
Personalised Medicine	Clean Steel – Low-Carbon Steelmaking	Zero-emission Road Transport	Safe and Sustainable Food Systems	EIT Urban Mobility	
Pandemic Preparedness	Processes4Planet	Built4People		Cultural and Creative Sectors and Industries	
	Globally Competitive Space Systems	Clean Energy Transition		<b>CROSS-PILLARS II and III</b>	
		Driving Urban Transitions		European Open Science Cloud	

■ Institutionalised partnerships (Art 185/7, EIT KICs)

■ Co-programmed

■ Co-funded

# Co-programmed European Partnerships

- **Legal form:** Memorandum of Understanding (signed between representatives of the partners and the Commission)
- To date 11 MoU were signed.

## Implementation:

- Union budget is implemented through Horizon Europe Work Programme.
- Partners implement their commitments and contributions under their responsibility.
- Association provides back-office with important functionalities.

# Partners' contributions

- Partners can contribute to co-programmed partnerships two ways:
  - 1) In-kind contributions to the Actions funded by the Union (consisting of eligible costs in accordance with the Horizon Europe rules minus the Union contribution)
  - 2) In-kind contributions generated by additional activities (activities not funded by the Union but contributing to achieving the partnership's objectives)

# Reporting

- Every year: additional activities report
- Every two years: Full report of the individual partnership – follows the elements listed in MoU, to be kept as light as possible
  - Synchronized with the input to the Biennial Monitoring Report (2023, 2025, 2027)

# Co-funded European Partnerships

- **Legal form:** Grant Agreement (programme co-fund action) signed between a consortium of beneficiaries and the Commission;
- **Implementation:** Member States design a common programme to be implemented under their responsibility. It pools national funding/resources with co-funding from the Union.
- Funding rate 30% [in justified cases up to 50%];
- Calls and evaluations are organised centrally, beneficiaries in selected projects are funded at national level (on the basis of rules agreed by partners).

# Institutionalised European Partnerships

- Implemented only if other forms of Partnerships would not achieve the objectives, and if justified by a long-term perspective and high degree of integration.
- **Legal basis:** Article 185 and Article 187 of the TFEU – requires a Decision of European Parliament and Council (Art 185) / Council Regulation (Art 187, EIT)
- **Implementation by dedicated** structures created for that purpose (designated by Member States for Art. 185 or Union body, such as Joint Undertaking)
- Rules for Participation of Horizon Europe apply by default.
- Specific provisions in relevant legislation set higher requirements, e.g.
  - Article 185 initiatives: mandatory participation of at least 40% of MS;
  - Openness principle; financial commitments from partners other than the Union are required (Art. 187)

# Budget Commitments to European Partnerships

## PARTNERSHIPS

**49**  
European  
Partnerships under  
the 1<sup>st</sup> Strategic Plan

**€31.4bn**  
estimated total  
commitment from  
partners other than  
the Union

**37.7 %**  
of Horizon Europe  
Pillar II budget

**25 %**  
of total Horizon  
Europe budget

**€23.8bn**  
estimated  
commitment from  
Horizon Europe

# Monitoring and reporting of European Partnerships



- It is fully integrated in the Horizon Europe monitoring and evaluation system, in accordance with Article 50, Annex III and Annex V of the Horizon Europe Regulation.
- Outcomes feed into the biennial monitoring of all European partnerships and Horizon Europe evaluations.
- [First biennial monitoring report on the Performance of European Partnerships](#) was published in April 2022.

# Annex III Horizon Europe Regulation – Monitoring criteria

- A monitoring system in line with the requirements set out in Article 45 to track progress towards specific policy objectives, deliverables and key performance indicators allowing for an assessment over time of achievements, impacts and potential needs for corrective measures;
- Periodic dedicated reporting on quantitative and qualitative leverage effects, including on committed and actually provided financial and in-kind contributions, visibility and positioning in the international context, impact on research and innovation related risks of private sector investments;
- Detailed information on the evaluation process and results from all calls for proposals within partnerships, to be made available timely and accessible in a common e-database.

# Support for policy makers – Programme level collaboration between national R&I programmes

- Topic in the WIDERA part of the Horizon Europe WP 2021 & 2022
- Horizon Europe: new approach to incentivising programme level collaboration by identifying upfront 49 candidate European partnerships in the Strategic Plan, as well as 5 missions.
- At the same time: programme level collaboration among Member States and their research and innovation programmes has become a cornerstone of the ERA.
- Topic complementary to this new approach: possibility for Member States, Associated Countries and civil society organisations to maintain existing and establish new collaborations on priorities of their choice.

# Expected outcomes

- Identification of common research and innovation priorities agreed among the participating national and regional R&I programmes, taking into account international developments, where relevant;
- Implementation of multiannual joint calls, resulting in the funding of transnational collaborative R&I projects;
- Implementation of other joint activities supporting the market, regulatory or societal uptake of results;
- Contribution to participating states meeting Global Challenges, including relevant contribution to the SDGs.

# Where to find further information?

- European partnerships website:

[European Partnerships in Horizon Europe \(europa.eu\)](http://europa.eu)

- [ERA-LEARN](http://www.era-learn.eu) [www.era-learn.eu](http://www.era-learn.eu)

Support platform for the R&I partnership community, database of partnership initiatives, their calls and funded projects and provides studies and analyses on thematic clustering, internationalization, alignment and not only.

- Contact: [RTD-EUROPEAN-PARTNERSHIPS@ec.europa.eu](mailto:RTD-EUROPEAN-PARTNERSHIPS@ec.europa.eu)