

Political update

Horizon Europe (HE)

On June 15th, the European Commission (EC) adopted the first Horizon Europe (HE) 2021-2022 Work Programme. As such, the next two years will unfold €14.7 Bn, with the first calls open as of June 22nd. The official versions of all the Work Programmes can be accessed [here](#).

Furthermore, the EC gives green light to provisionally apply for grants to those countries with which association negotiations are being processed or where association is imminent, including UK and other 17 countries, but leaving CH aside. HE association agreements should be ratified by the end of 2021 expecting to include more Associated Countries.

However, the discussions over the participation of the third parties to the Horizon Europe quantum and space calls are still on-going and as a result 21 quantum and space research calls have been further postponed, to October 28th. The official Work Programme, including allowed third parties is expected to be released after the summer.

New ERC President

Professor Maria Leptin (Germany) has been appointed as the new ERC President. Previously, she has been Director of the European Molecular Biology Organization (EMBO). Additionally, she is a colleague from the EPS, and active member of the Initiative for Science in Europe (ISE), where she has closely worked with the EPS Brussels office in some of its initiatives.

Slovenian presidency

Starting in June 2021, under the slogan "Together. Resilient. Europe.", Slovenia will hold the Presidency of the Council of the EU. Slovenia's six-month programme is focused on the following priorities: the European partnerships, the European Research Area (ERA), gender equality, international cooperation, and the associations of 3rd countries to HE.

European Partnerships

The EC launched 11 new co-programmed European Partnerships together with industry, to boost investments in Research & Innovation and to overcome major climate and sustainability

challenges, towards making Europe the first climate-neutral economy and delivering on the [European Green Deal](#). The thematic of the European partnerships are:

1. European Open Science Cloud
2. Artificial Intelligence, Data and Robotics
3. Photonics (light-based technologies)
4. Clean Steel – Low Carbon Steelmaking
5. Made in Europe
6. Processes4Planet
7. People-centric Sustainable Built Environment
8. Zero-emission Road Transport (2Zero)
9. Connected, Cooperative and Automated Mobility
10. Towards a competitive European industrial battery value chain
11. Zero Emission Waterborne Transport

Horizon Europe position paper

The EPS Brussels office is happy to announce the publication of the Horizon Europe position paper developed in collaboration with the Initiative for Science in Europe (ISE), in a dedicated task force chaired by Dr. Enrique Sánchez, the EPS Brussels office coordinator, plus another 18 members from different European learned societies.

The position paper will be distributed in a separate email including some additional information in the upcoming days.

Policy news

Sun up: First Horizon Europe work programmes finally see the light of day

16 Jun 2021 | News

Following serial postponements, the Commission releases documents setting out the timelines and scope of €14.7B worth of grants it will award over the next two years

By Goda Naujokaitytė



The first [work programmes](#) of EU's new seven-year €95.5 billion research and innovation programme are finally out after months of delays and disputes over the budget and third country participation in quantum and space projects.

[Found out more](#)

Hopes dim for a quick end to row keeping Swiss out of Horizon Europe

06 Jul 2021 | News

Political wrinkles will need to be ironed out before Switzerland can join in Horizon Europe, diplomats say. It's now up to EU leaders - who are not due to meet until 21 October

By Florin Zubaşcu



Switzerland is mounting a campaign to convince Brussels its participation in Horizon Europe should not be confounded by broader political tensions, but member states say it may time take to patch things up after Switzerland unilaterally withdrew from talks about its overall relationship with the EU.

[Find out more](#)

EU bars Switzerland from Horizon Europe as it tells UK to start applying for grants

23 Jun 2021 | News

Research cooperation between the EU and Switzerland is on hold, while list of third countries invited to join new funding calls includes the UK and 17 others

By Florin Zubaşcu



The European Commission has excluded Switzerland from a provisional list of third countries eligible for Horizon Europe funding, leaving Swiss universities to wonder what will come of applications submitted this spring - and what the prospects are for research collaboration in the future.

[Find out more](#)

White smoke? EU deal over quantum, space research lets Horizon Europe proceed

04 Jun 2021 | News

After months of fighting, member states agree UK, Israeli or other non-EU researchers can join Horizon's most sensitive projects – on condition they provide 'necessary assurances' that their participation won't harm the EU's strategic interests

By Florin Zubaşcu



Researchers from Israel, Switzerland, Britain and other non-EU countries may be allowed to join the EU's quantum and space research projects, under a deal between representatives of member states and the European Commission reached

[Find out more](#)

Commission aims to conclude Horizon Europe association talks by end of the year

24 Jun 2021 |

Swiss are out, but 18 others on the provisional list can start applying for grants now

By Florin Zubaşcu and Goda Naujokaitytė



Horizon Europe association agreements giving third countries access to the research programme should be ratified by the end 2021, Signe Ratso, European Commission chief negotiator for international association, said at the Research & Innovation days conference.

[Find out more](#)

National reforms in EU-13 countries yield diverging results in EU innovation scoreboard

22 Jun 2021 | News

Several countries in the south and east of Europe have improved their R&D performance, slightly narrowing the gap with richer member states. But excellence in research and innovation remains concentrated in northern and western strongholds

By Florin Zubaşcu



Policy reforms in newer member states have shown differing returns in terms of R&D performance, according to the EU's 2021 European and regional innovation scoreboards.

[Find out more](#)

Slovenian presidency drafts pact for advancing gender parity in research

08 Jul 2021 |

Research minister Simona Kustec to ask EU member states to sign joint declaration on gender action in research in September

By Goda Naujokaitytė



The Slovenian presidency, which started its six-month stint in the EU Council this month, is drafting the Ljubljana pact on gender parity in research and hopes EU member states will sign it in Brussels in September.

[Find out more](#)



The Council of the European Union is composed of the governments of 27 EU member states. Every six months a different member state holds the presidency of the Council, in accordance with the principle of rotation. On 1 July 2021, Slovenia will take over the presidency of this important European legislative institution for the second time.

[Find out more](#)

Science ministers commit to improving research careers in Europe

28 May 2021 | News

'Talent tracker' will monitor mobility and working conditions, as part of moves to make scientific careers more attractive

By Goda Naujokaitytė



EU research ministers on Friday committed to enhance the attractiveness of research careers and improve brain circulation in Europe, and are calling on member states and the European Commission to take a common approach.

[Find out more](#)

Launch of first 11 Horizon Europe industrial partnerships

14 Jun 2021 | News

Partnerships with industry worth €22 billion will boost research in AI, clean steel, sustainable manufacturing, zero-emissions transport and other industries

By Goda Naujokaitytė



Eleven public private research partnerships got off the ground today, with a promised investment of €22 billion over the next seven years for the first bunch of Horizon Europe's 49 proposed partnerships.

[Find out more](#)

EU research chief calls for global coordination of research infrastructures

03 Jun 2021 | News

The sophistication, size and costs of research infrastructures are hard for any one country to manage. Whatever Europe's desire for tech sovereignty, international cooperation is needed to finance and operate them

By Florin Zubaşcu



As the EU's internal tussle on where to draw the line between openness and technology sovereignty continues, global science leaders are this week meeting online, in a bid to open the way for large research infrastructures to get fully engaged in responding to climate change and sustainable economic development.

[Find out more](#)

MEPs pressure member states to boost public R&D spending

08 Jul 2021 |

Average public investment in research and innovation in the EU is 0.81% of GDP. The European Parliament remains unimpressed by national efforts

By Florin Zubaşcu



Efforts by EU countries to improve their research systems are showing uneven progress and the speed of reforms is slowing down, MEPs warned during a plenary debate.

[Find out more](#)



European Research Council

Professor Jean-Pierre Bourguignon, President ad interim of the European Research Council (ERC) (from 27 July 2020 until the next elected ERC President Maria Leptin takes up duties), has relayed a **Statement by the ERC Scientific Council regarding the Conference on the Future of Europe.**

The future of Europe will be largely shaped by how it performs in research and innovation. The scientific community is highly concerned to see that research and innovation were not identified as priority topics for discussion by the organisers of the Conference.

[Find the statement by the ERC Scientific Council here](#)

MEPs to call for more financing for female entrepreneurs

10 Jun 2021 | News

Only 2% of EU start-up funding goes to all-female led companies, and COVID-19 has worsened inequality. It's time for the Commission and member states to do more, Parliament says

By Goda Naujokaitytė



The European Parliament is set to call for more funding for female entrepreneurs in the EU as MEPs gear up for a vote on a new [report](#) on gender equality in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

[Find out more](#)

US and EU look for ways to boost American participation in Horizon Europe R&D

17 Jun 2021 | News

Officials discuss possible 'workarounds' to get more US researchers involved in EU R&D projects: 'The tone seems a lot more positive'

By Richard L. Hudson and Nicholas Wallace



WASHINGTON - US and EU officials are exploring ways to boost the participation of American researchers in Europe's biggest R&D programme.

[Find out more](#)

ESA funding deal marks the launch of new EU space programme

22 Jun 2021 | News

EU will allocate nearly €9B up to 2027 for the European Space Agency to design new-generation systems and programmes

By Florin Zubaşcu



The European Space Agency (ESA) and the EU have signed a partnership deal to mark the official launch of the new EU space programme.

[Find out more](#)

Horizon Europe calls

- Open calls in Pillar 1

Grant	European Researchers' Night 2022-2023		
Open for submission			
Programme	Horizon Europe (HORIZON)	Deadline model	single-stage
ID	HORIZON-MSCA-2022-CITIZENS-01-01	Opening date	22 June 2021
Types of action	HORIZON Coordination and Support Actions	Deadline date	07 October 2021 17:00:00 Brussels time
Grant	Trans-national cooperation among Marie Skłodowska-Curie National Contact Points (NCP) 2021		
Open for submission			
Programme	Horizon Europe (HORIZON)	Deadline model	single-stage
ID	HORIZON-MSCA-2021-NCP-01-01	Opening date	22 June 2021
Types of action	HORIZON Coordination and Support Actions	Deadline date	31 August 2021 17:00:00 Brussels time
Grant	MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships 2021		
Forthcoming			
Programme	Horizon Europe (HORIZON)	Deadline model	single-stage
ID	HORIZON-MSCA-2021-PF-01-01	Opening date	22 June 2021
Types of action	HORIZON TMA MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships - European Fellowships, HORIZON TMA MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships - Global Fellowships	Deadline date	12 October 2021 17:00:00 Brussels time

[Find out more](#)

- Open calls in Pillar 2

[Cluster 3: 33 open calls open here](#)

Cluster 4: 103 calls open here

- Open calls in Pillar 3

Grant	Enhancing synergies between the EIC and Startup Europe		
Open for submission			
Programme	Horizon Europe (HORIZON)	Deadline model	single-stage
ID	HORIZON-EIC-2021-STARTUPEU-01-01	Opening date	01 June 2021
Types of action	HORIZON Coordination and Support Actions	Deadline date	22 September 2021 17:00:00 Brussels time

Grant	Awareness Inside		
Open for submission			
Programme	Horizon Europe (HORIZON)	Deadline model	single-stage
ID	HORIZON-EIC-2021-PATHFINDERCHALLENGES-01-01	Opening date	15 June 2021
Types of action	HORIZON EIC Grants	Deadline date	27 October 2021 17:00:00 Brussels time

[Find out more](#)

- Missions

Grant	Coordination of complementary actions for missions		
Open for submission			
Programme	Horizon Europe (HORIZON)	Deadline model	single-stage
ID	HORIZON-MISS-2021-COOR-01-01	Opening date	22 June 2021
Types of action	HORIZON Coordination and Support Actions	Deadline date	14 September 2021 17:00:00 Brussels time

[Find out more](#)

- European Partnerships.

The Commission launched 11 new co-programmed European Partnerships together with industry, to boost investments in research and innovation and to overcome major climate and sustainability challenges, towards making Europe the first climate neutral economy and delivering on the European Green Deal. The funding topics of the co-programmed partnerships are published in the Horizon Europe thematic work programs.

- European Partnership for the European Open Science Cloud. It aims to deploy and consolidate by 2030 an open, trusted virtual environment to enable the estimated 2

million European researchers to store, share and reuse research data across borders and disciplines.

- European Partnership for Artificial Intelligence, Data and Robotics. To deliver the greatest benefit to Europe from Artificial Intelligence (AI), data and robotics, this Partnership will drive innovation, acceptance and uptake of these technologies, for the benefit of citizens and businesses.
- European Partnership for Photonics (light-based technologies). It aims to speed up photonic innovations, securing Europe's technological sovereignty, raising the competitiveness of Europe's economy and promoting long-term job creation and prosperity.
- European Partnership for Clean Steel – Low Carbon Steelmaking. It supports EU leadership in transforming the steel industry into a carbon-neutral one, serving as a catalyser for other strategic sectors.
- European Partnership Made in Europe. It will be the driving force for European leadership in sustainable manufacturing in Europe, by applying the principles of the circular economy (zero-waste and others), digital transformation and climate neutral manufacturing.
- European Partnership Processes4Planet. Its vision is that European process industries are globally leading on the 2050 climate neutrality goal with a strong focus on low-carbon technologies, circularities, such as circularity hubs and competitiveness.
- European Partnership for People-centric Sustainable Built Environment (Built4People). Its vision is high-quality, low-carbon, energy and resource-efficient built environments, like buildings, infrastructure, and more, which drive the transition towards sustainability.
- European Partnership towards Zero-emission Road Transport (2Zero). It aims to accelerate the development of zero-emission transport with a systems approach, supporting a climate neutral and clean road transport system.
- European Partnership for Connected, Cooperative and Automated Mobility. Its goal is to accelerate the implementation of innovative, connected, cooperative and automated mobility technologies and services.
- European Partnership for Batteries: Towards a competitive European industrial battery value chain. It aims to support the development of a world-class European research and innovation ecosystem on batteries, and to foster European industrial leadership in

the design and production of batteries for the next generation of both stationary and mobile applications.

- European Partnership for Zero Emission Waterborne Transport. It aims for the EU to lead and accelerate the transformation of maritime and inland waterborne transport to eliminate all harmful environmental emissions, including greenhouse gas, air and water pollutants, through innovative technologies and operation.

[Find out more](#)