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 Naujokaitièe

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.
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.
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.
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.
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.
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.
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.

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.
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.
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 Naujokaitė

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

ESA funding deal marks the launch of new EU space programme

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

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

### Horizon Europe calls

- **Open calls in Pillar 1**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grant</th>
<th>European Researchers’ Night 2022-2023</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Programme</td>
<td>Horizon Europe (HORIZON)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ID</td>
<td>HORIZON-MSCA-2022-CITIZENS-01-01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Types of action</td>
<td>HORIZON Coordination and Support Actions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deadline model</td>
<td>single-stage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opening date</td>
<td>22 June 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deadline date</td>
<td>07 October 2021 17:00:00 Brussels time</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Trans-national cooperation among Marie Skłodowska-Curie National Contact Points (NCP) 2021**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grant</th>
<th>Trans-national cooperation among Marie Skłodowska-Curie National Contact Points (NCP) 2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Programme</td>
<td>Horizon Europe (HORIZON)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ID</td>
<td>HORIZON-MSCA-2021-NCP-01-01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Types of action</td>
<td>HORIZON Coordination and Support Actions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deadline model</td>
<td>single-stage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opening date</td>
<td>23 June 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deadline date</td>
<td>31 August 2021 17:00:00 Brussels time</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships 2021**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grant</th>
<th>MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships 2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Programme</td>
<td>Horizon Europe (HORIZON)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ID</td>
<td>HORIZON-MSCA-2021-PF-01-01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Types of action</td>
<td>Horizon TMA MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships - European Fellowships, Horizon TMA MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships - Global Fellowships</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deadline model</td>
<td>single-stage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opening date</td>
<td>22 June 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deadline date</td>
<td>12 October 2021 17:00:00 Brussels time</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Open calls in Pillar 2**

  [Cluster 3: 33 open calls open here]
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.