



March 2021



Horizon Europe must attract the best researchers and the most innovative companies to maximize its impact and achieve its ambitious scientific, societal and economic objectives. This calls for easy access, fair and transparent selection processes, smooth grant management and the valorisation of R&I results.

Mariya Gabriel Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth

PARTICIPATION IN HORIZON EUROPE

COMPETITIVE, FAIR, TRANSPARENT AND EASY TO ACCESS

Horizon Europe removes unnecessary red tape, so that taking part in EU research and innovation will become easier than ever before.

Keeping it simple

Horizon Europe will offer:

- A stable **legal framework** with simplified rules and procedures
- **Digital administration** in a single platform where all information is available:
 - The [Funding and Tenders Portal](#), a one-stop shop for finding opportunities and managing all interactions.
- A fair, transparent and objective **evaluation of proposals**:
 - Three evaluation criteria: Excellence, Impact and Quality of Implementation.
 - Careful choice of expert evaluators. Expertise first, but also geographical, gender and industry, academia diversity.
 - Adapted to new features such as EU missions and the European Innovation Council.



● Tools & initiatives that facilitate **data reporting, dissemination and exploitation** for value creation:

- [Horizon Dashboard](#): one-stop-shop for data and statistics on EU R&I – an intuitive and interactive knowledge platform that allows to explore and visualise data on various research topics, to prepare statistics on funding implementation and research results, whether it is for reporting, analysis, monitoring or decision-making purposes;
- [Horizon Results Platform](#): online platform and matchmaking tool that provides the beneficiaries with an opportunity to advertise their results and innovations by making them accessible and easy to find by investors, politicians, and other stakeholders. A dedicated team behind the platform actively promotes the results and facilitates the needs of the platform users;
- [Horizon Results Booster](#): free consulting services – portfolio strategy; business plan development; go-to-market support – helping beneficiaries to maximise their dissemination and exploitation potential;
- [Horizon Impact Award](#): an annual prize to recognize and celebrate outstanding projects that have used their research results to provide value for society.



● **Outreach, guidance and support to participants** with a complete set of tools & services at beneficiaries' disposal:

- [Research Enquiry Service](#)
- Info sessions and trainings
- Annotated Model Grant Agreement
- Online manual
- National Contact Points network
- Outreach events across Europe and beyond.

Less red tape

Horizon Europe's implementation is organised around:

- A corporate Model Grant Agreement, used across all EU funding programmes, with further simplification of the rules, facilitating synergies at project level and further reducing error rates.
- Rules for participation aligned with the EU Financial Regulation. For all aspects not requiring specific rules, related to the nature of R&I, the rules of the general EU Financial Regulation apply – providing simpler opportunities for synergies between programmes.
- Simplified forms of funding (flat rates, unit costs, lump sums, prizes), based on the experience in Horizon 2020, including ongoing pilots on lump sum project funding.
- Simpler rules for personnel costs. The complex and error-prone rules of Horizon 2020 will be further mitigated by a simpler rule, based on daily rates.
- An integrated dissemination and exploitation ecosystem that provides more support and guidance to participants, with the aim to enhance the value creation of the research and innovation investment.



Novelties in evaluation process



Adjusted evaluation criteria

- Easier to understand, clearer definitions and consistent use of the terminology. In particular, the impact criterion has been revised following a clearer logic linking the project results to the expected outcomes over the medium term, and to the wider long term impacts, as specified in the Work Programme. Applicants must describe a plausible pathway to impact over time, including beyond the lifetime of a project.



A pilot for anonymous evaluation

- Experts will evaluate an outline of the proposed work without knowing who is behind it. This pilot addresses concerns about a possible unconscious partiality that evaluation experts may have in favour of proposals from well-known organisations in countries with better performing R&I systems.



A 'Right to React' (rebuttal) evaluation

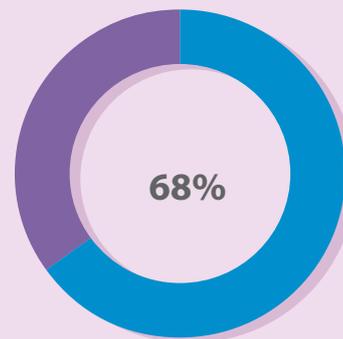
- Applicants will be actively involved in the evaluation process by reacting to experts' individual comments. The experts will take applicants' reaction into account before finalising their final assessment. This new feature addresses concerns on the quality of the feedback to applicants and has the potential to increase the transparency of the evaluation system.
- A pilot will run at the early phase of Horizon Europe to fine tune the implementation modalities.

Maximising impact

Tens of thousands of applicants from individual scientists and SMEs to big companies and international organisations have received funding for their projects under the past EU R&I programmes.

EVOLUTION IN PARTICIPATION BETWEEN FP7 AND HORIZON 2020:

More than **68%** of participants in **Horizon 2020** are "newcomers".



Others Newcomers

* Source: Horizon Dashboard - September 2020

How to participate

Access the Funding and Tenders Portal:



More information:

[Funding and Tenders portal](#)
[Horizon Dashboard](#)
[Horizon Results Platform](#)
[Horizon Results Booster](#)
[Horizon Impact Award](#)

#HorizonEU

#HorizonStatsEU

#ResearchImpactEU

#HorizonImpactAward



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