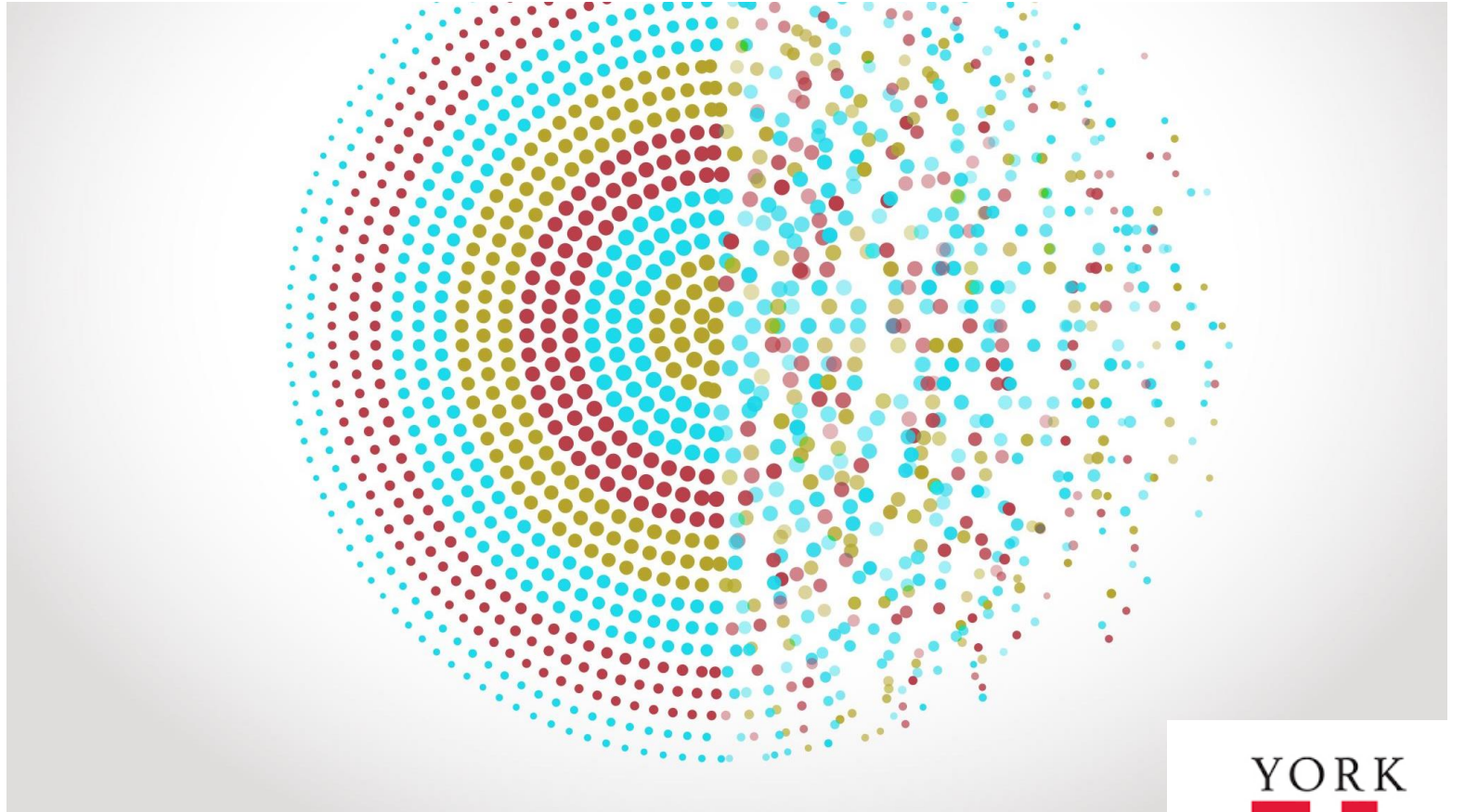


# Interpreting a Horizon Europe Funding Call

York University

Monday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025



# The Purpose of Today's Session

- Outline the overall priorities, structure, and opportunities within Horizon Europe.
- Explain the 'family of facts' through which Horizon Europe funding calls are presented, including their respective Pillars, Clusters, and Work Programmes.
- Clarify some of the essential terminology used in Horizon Europe.
- Provide insights into the key factors that research teams need to understand to navigate and meet the expectations of a Horizon Europe funding call.

# Recap: What is Horizon Europe?

The **EU's flagship research and innovation programme** for 2021-2027. The world's largest research funding programme – a total budget of **€95.5 Bn (~NZD 170Bn)**

Led by the **European Commission**

## Structured in 3 Core 'Pillars'

- **Pillar 1:** Excellent Science (basic and frontier research – 'bottom-up' funding)
- **Pillar 2:** Global Challenges (focused on thematic societal challenges – 'top-down' funding)
  - Cluster 1: Health
  - Cluster 2: Culture, Creativity & Inclusive Society
  - Cluster 3: Civil Security
  - Cluster 4: Digital Industry & Space
  - Cluster 5: Climate, Energy & Mobility
  - Cluster 6: Biotechnology, Agriculture, Food & Environment
- **Pillar 3:** Innovative Europe (support for innovation-driven growth – funding for 'scale up & commercialisation')



Open to Non-EU '**Associated**' Countries – which includes **Canada, New Zealand, South Korea, Turkey, Norway & more.**

# SPECIFIC PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTING HORIZON EUROPE & EIT\*

*Exclusive focus on civil applications*



## Pillar I EXCELLENT SCIENCE

European Research Council

Marie Skłodowska-Curie

Research Infrastructures



## Pillar II GLOBAL CHALLENGES & EUROPEAN INDUSTRIAL COMPETITIVENESS

Clusters

- Health
- Culture, Creativity & Inclusive Society
- Civil Security for Society
- Digital, Industry & Space
- Climate, Energy & Mobility
- Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture & Environment

Joint Research Centre



## Pillar III INNOVATIVE EUROPE

European Innovation  
Council

European Innovation  
Ecosystems

European Institute of  
Innovation & Technology\*

## WIDENING PARTICIPATION AND STRENGTHENING THE EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA

Widening participation & spreading excellence

Reforming & Enhancing the European R&I system

# Consortium Basics in Horizon Europe – Pillar 2

## Eligibility Criteria:

- At least 3 participating countries
- At least one EU Member State

## Consortium Composition:

- Typically, large-scale projects with numerous members
- Most projects **will exceed the minimum** partner requirement
- The 'right' number of partners depends on:
  - Call requirements
  - Expected outputs/impacts
  - Project work plan
  - Available budget

## Partner Roles:

- Clearly Defined Roles
- Coordinator, Work Package Lead, Collaborator
- Complementary Expertise

## Interdisciplinary/Intersectoral Approach:

- Often required by Horizon Europe calls
- It will (likely) require connecting with new partners
- The proposal must demonstrate the consortium's capability to achieve impacts (commercial, societal, technological, etc.) as well as its scientific goals

## Project Duration:

- Typically lasts 3-5 years

# Some of the Essential Terminology – Pillar 2

**Work Programmes:** These are detailed documents outlining the specific research areas that will be funded under Horizon Europe. Each Cluster hosts its own Work Programme. They include information on the scope of the topics, expected impacts and outcomes, available budget, and any conditions related to the call.

**Clusters:** Pillar 2 is organised into thematic clusters that address major global challenges. Each cluster focuses on a specific area, such as health, culture, security, digital technologies, climate, and food.

**Destinations:** Within each cluster, specific destinations outline the expected impacts and outcomes of the research and innovation activities. These destinations help to guide the focus of the funding calls and ensure alignment with Horizon Europe's overall priorities. Consider these as ***areas of impact***.

**Topics:** Each topic includes details on the scope, expected impacts, and budget. Consider these as ***funding calls***.

**Missions:** Missions are highly ambitious, goal-oriented initiatives that bring together various stakeholders to achieve specific objectives, such as fighting cancer, adapting to climate change, and ensuring healthy oceans. Consider these as ***priority themes that sit across multiple clusters***. Missions also host their own **Work Programme**.

# Essential Terminology in Practice

Work Programme



*Horizon Europe - Work Programme 2023-2024  
Climate, Energy and Mobility*

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# Navigating a Funding Call Text

**HORIZON-CL6-2024-CircBio-02-2-two-stage: Increasing the circularity in plastics value chains**

Specific conditions	
<i>Expected EU contribution per project</i>	The Commission estimates that an EU contribution of around EUR 5.00 million would allow these outcomes to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of a proposal requesting different amounts.
<i>Indicative budget</i>	The total indicative budget for the topic is EUR 10.00 million.
<i>Type of Action</i>	Innovation Actions
<i>Admissibility conditions</i>	The conditions are described in General Annex A. The following exceptions apply:  Applicants submitting a proposal under the blind evaluation pilot (see General Annex F) must not disclose their organisation names, acronyms, logos, nor names of personnel in Part B of their first stage application (see General Annex E).
<i>Technology Readiness Level</i>	Activities are expected to achieve TRL 6-8 by the end of the project – see General Annex B.
<i>Procedure</i>	The procedure is described in General Annex F. The following exceptions apply:  This topic is part of the blind evaluation pilot under which first stage proposals will be evaluated blindly.

How many projects is the funder seeking to support? How much funding is available?

What type of activities are going to be 'in scope'?

Note any call specific conditions

Where should my project start/finish in terms of research maturity?  
Note. Technology Readiness Levels (TRL) and Societal Readiness Levels (SRL)



# Essential Terminology II

**Expected Outcomes** - These are the **specific results that a project needs to achieve**. They are clearly defined in the work programmes and are used to measure the success and impact of the funded projects. Your project results must align with these expectations.

**Scope** - Refers to the **boundaries and focus of a particular topic** or call within the work programmes. The scope outlines what is expected to be addressed by the project, including the specific challenges, research areas, and activities that should be undertaken. It helps applicants understand the requirements and expectations for their proposals.

**Cross-Cutting Priorities** - These overarching themes and objectives are integrated across various parts of Horizon Europe to ensure coherence and maximise impact. Examples of cross-cutting priorities include **gender equality, social sciences and humanities, open science, and international cooperation**. These priorities help to address broader societal challenges and ensure that research and innovation activities are inclusive and impactful

# Navigating a Call Text – What to look out for!

## Verbs

**Scope Section:** Look for verbs such as "set-up," "develop," and "validate" to understand the expected project actions.

**Quantitative Goals:** Verbs like "reduce" or "increase" suggest quantitative goals, indicating the need for baseline and target values.

**Modal Verbs:** Pay attention to modal verbs ("shall," "should," "could") and phrases ("is recommended," "is encouraged") to clarify the level of obligation or flexibility in the expectations.

## Degree of Alignment

**Extent of Adherence:** Words like "all," "most," and "some" guide the extent of adherence expected between your project and the call's objectives.

**Mandatory vs. Optional Elements:** Phrases like "all the following expected outcomes" help you understand which elements are mandatory versus optional.

## Examples, Inclusions, and Exclusions

- Expected Activities:** Phrases like "may include, but are not limited to" show examples of expected activities.
- Scope Limitations:** Words like "should not address..." or "are excluded from the topic" define what is outside the scope of the call.

# Navigating a Call Text – What to look out for!

## **Target groups:**

The "Expected outcome" section identifies target audiences, helping you tailor project outputs and define your dissemination and exploitation strategies.

## **Legislative or scientific context:**

Footnotes referencing external documents (policy or scientific) help you understand the broader context of your project and how it aligns with policy objectives.

## **Collaborations and synergies:**

Phrases like "The involvement of... is encouraged" or "synergies should be sought with..." suggest the types of partners and collaborations needed for the project.

# Example Call Text – Online Portal Demo

European Commission | EU Funding & Tenders Portal Sign in EN

Home Funding Procurement Projects & results News & events Work as an expert Guidance & documents Search...

Home > Funding > Calls for proposals > Arts and cultural awareness and expression in education and training

## Arts and cultural awareness and expression in education and training

HORIZON-CL2-2024-TRANSFORMATIONS-01-08

Topic Call for proposal

### Internal navigation

- General information
- Topic description
- Topic updates
- Destination
- Conditions and documents
- Budget overview
- Start submission
- Topic Q&As
- Get support
- Call information
- Call updates
- Funded project list

#### General information

**Programme**  
Horizon Europe (HORIZON)

**Call**  
A sustainable future for Europe (HORIZON-CL2-2024-TRANSFORMATIONS-01)

<b>Type of action</b> HORIZON-RIA HORIZON Research and Innovation Actions	<b>Type of MGA</b> HORIZON Action Grant Budget-Based [HORIZON-AG]	<span>Closed</span>
<b>Deadline model</b> single-stage	<b>Opening date</b> 04 October 2023	<b>Deadline date</b> 07 February 2024 17:00:00 Brussels time

#### Topic description

ExpectedOutcome:  
Projects should contribute to all of the following expected outcomes:

- Develop and apply methods to support the use of arts in education and interventions to foster cultural awareness and expression and to assess their impacts on the development of competences and inclusion of all children and young people.
- Inform policies, programmes and actions using arts in education and contributing to foster cultural awareness and expression, identify existing gaps and effective actions to reach most children and young people and develop recommendations.

Scope:  
Arts in education and developing cultural awareness and expression - one of the key competences for lifelong learning<sup>[1]</sup> have value in themselves. They are also used to develop creativity, innovation, critical and design thinking, communication, collaboration and intercultural skills and, more broadly, for inclusive education and training systems, democracy and civic engagement, but stronger evidence is needed to better understand and assess these impacts. Research evidence is also missing on whether, and how, education and training systems have capacity to support learners in developing cultural awareness and expression.

Proposals should support policymakers and professional development providers in identifying effective actions and gaps in their systems, and better understanding how their investments could be improved. Proposals should include a lifelong learning perspective (early childhood education and care, school, vocational education and training and higher education, non-formal learning), and assess national, regional and local support for partnerships, for example between education institutions and arts and cultural heritage organisations.

Proposals are expected to contribute to the New European Bauhaus (NEB) initiative<sup>[2]</sup> by interacting with the NEB Community, NEB Lab and other relevant actions of the NEB initiative through sharing information, best practice, and, where relevant, results. Clustering and cooperation with other selected projects under this call and other relevant projects are strongly encouraged. International cooperation is encouraged, especially with EU Neighbourhood and accession countries.







<sup>[1]</sup> European Commission, Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture, *Key competences for lifelong learning*, Publications Office, 2019, <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2766/291008>

<sup>[2]</sup> [https://europa.eu/new-european-bauhaus/index\\_en](https://europa.eu/new-european-bauhaus/index_en)

[^ Show less](#)

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/horizon-cl2-2024-transformations-01-08>

# Example Call Text Analysis

-  Needs and challenges that need addressing
-  Objectives to be achieved
-  Activities to conduct / methodologies to use
-  Outputs
-  Cross-cutting priorities
-  Target groups and stakeholders

## Questions to Consider

What specific needs or challenges should the proposal address?

What are the main objectives of the topic?

What activities will the project need to undertake?

What outputs are expected from the project?

What types of partners should be included in the project?

What other types of stakeholders should the project interact with during its implementation?

Does the call refer to any specific cross-cutting priorities?

# Example Call Text

**Expected Outcome:** Projects should contribute to all of the following expected outcomes:

Develop and apply methods to support the use of arts in education and interventions to foster cultural awareness and expression and to assess their impacts on the development of competences and inclusion of all children and young people. Inform policies, programmes and actions using arts in education and contributing to foster cultural awareness and expression, identify existing gaps and effective actions to reach most children and young people and develop recommendations.

**Scope:** Arts in education and developing cultural awareness and expression - one of the key competences for lifelong learning<sup>[1]</sup> have value in themselves. They are also used to develop creativity, innovation, critical and design thinking, communication, collaboration and intercultural skills and, more broadly, for inclusive education and training systems, democracy and civic engagement, but stronger evidence is needed to better understand and assess these impacts. Research evidence is also missing on whether, and how, education and training systems have capacity to support learners in developing cultural awareness and expression.

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# Example Call Text Analysis

- Needs and challenges that need addressing
- Objectives to be achieved
- Activities to conduct / methodologies to use
- Outputs
- Cross-cutting priorities
- Target groups and stakeholders

## Expected Outcome:

Projects should contribute to all of the following expected outcomes:

Develop and apply **methods** to support the use of arts in education and interventions to foster cultural awareness and expression and to assess their impacts on the development of competences and inclusion of **all children and young people**.

**Inform policies, programmes and actions** using arts in education and contributing to foster cultural awareness and expression, **identify existing gaps and effective actions** to reach most **children and young people** and develop **recommendations**.

## Scope:

Arts in education and developing cultural awareness and expression - one of the key competences for lifelong learning<sup>[1]</sup> have value in themselves. They are also used to develop creativity, innovation, critical and design thinking, communication, collaboration and intercultural skills and, more broadly, for **inclusive education and training systems, democracy and civic engagement**, but **stronger evidence** is needed to better understand and assess these impacts. **Research evidence** is also missing on **whether, and how, education and training systems have capacity to support learners in developing cultural awareness and expression**.

# Example Call Text Analysis

- Needs and challenges that need addressing
- Objectives to be achieved
- Activities to conduct / methodologies to use
- Outputs
- Cross-cutting priorities
- Target groups and stakeholders

Proposals should support policymakers and professional development providers in identifying effective actions and gaps in their systems, and better understanding how their investments could be improved. Proposals should include a lifelong learning perspective (early childhood education and care, school, vocational education and training and higher education, non-formal learning), and assess national, regional and local support for partnerships, for example between education institutions and arts and cultural heritage organisations.

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[2] [https://europa.eu/new-european-bauhaus/index\\_en](https://europa.eu/new-european-bauhaus/index_en)



# Example Call Text Analysis

## Calls can refer backwards to previous work:

programmes, e.g. Erasmus+, European Solidarity Corps, CERV, or Global Europe. Proposals must explain how they will establish connections, find synergies, and build on the work of a number of projects funded under previous Horizon Europe Calls:

HORIZON-CL2-2022-DEMOCRACY-01-04: Education for democracy; HORIZON-CL2-2024-DEMOCRACY-01-08: Culture, the arts, and cultural spaces for democratic participation and political expression, online and offline; HORIZON-CL2-2022-DEMOCRACY-02-01: Network for innovative solutions for the future of democracy; HORIZON-CL2-2022-DEMOCRACY-01-03: The impact of inequalities on democracy; HORIZON-CL2-2022-DEMOCRACY-01-08: Representative democracy in flux; and HORIZON-CL2-2022-DEMOCRACY-01-02: The future of democracy and civic participation.

Use as a signpost towards potential collaborators. Who was involved? Who was leading? Connect with these partners to explore/gain further context on the target funding call.

Note Topic IDs to perform a detailed search on CORDIS.

# The Community Research and Development Information Service (CORDIS)

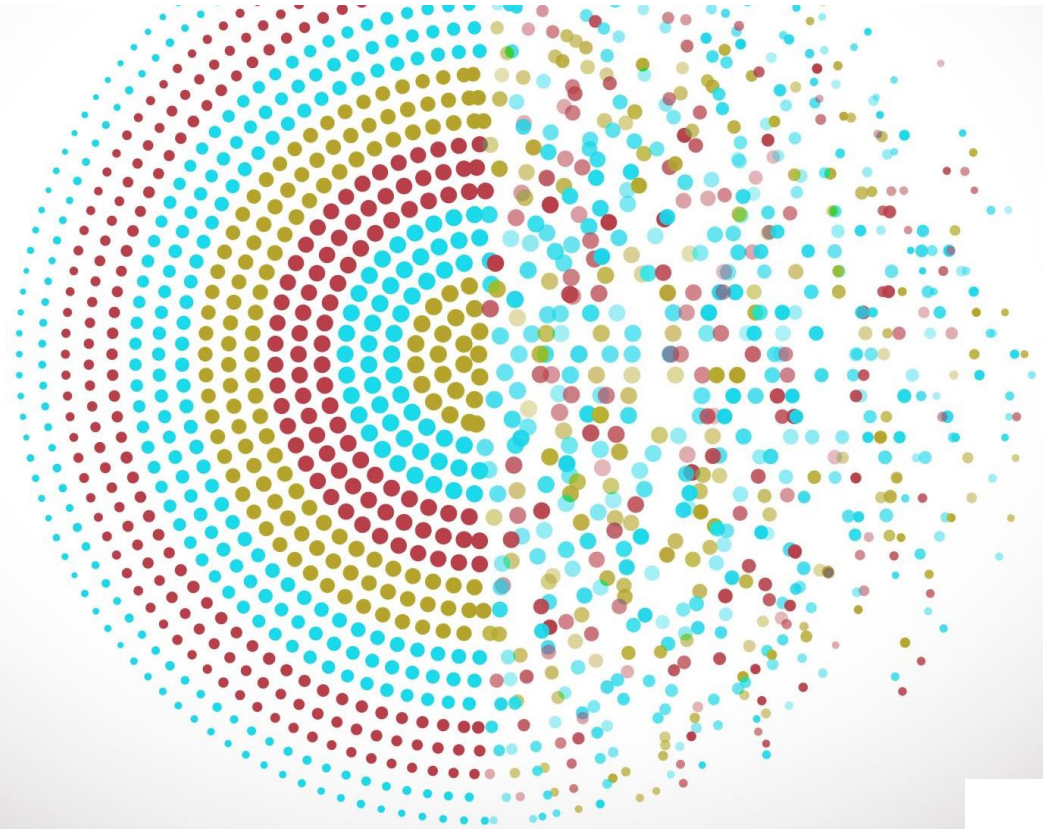
- Database of previously funded EU Projects & Programmes
- Identify active research teams
- Review successful projects
- Identify a project aligned with your research theme
  - Filter by Country, Topic, Funding Instrument
- Locate potential collaborators – who are successful in your research area?



<https://cordis.europa.eu>

**Thank You**

**Q&A?**



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