

The EU's key funding programme for research and innovation with three overarching goals:

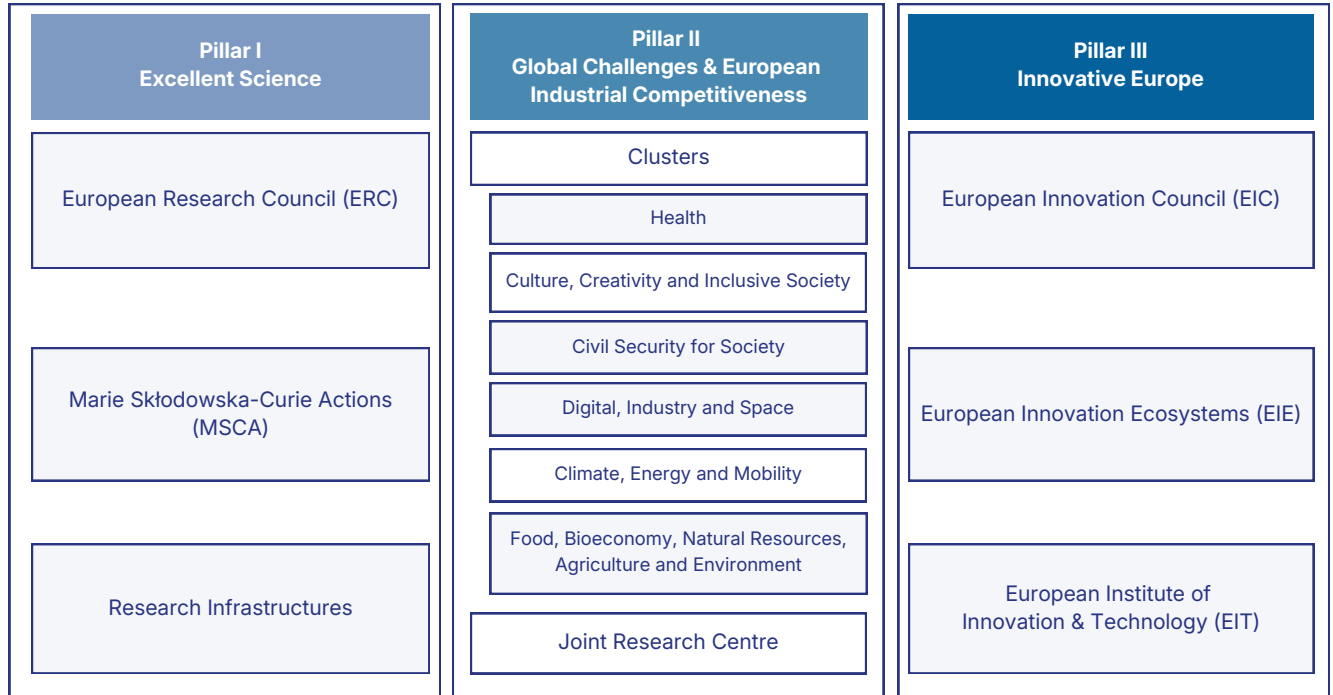
Scope

Strengthen the EU's scientific and technological bases and the European Research Area (ERA)

Boost Europe's innovation capacity, competitiveness and jobs

Deliver on **citizen's priorities** and sustain our socio-economic model and values.

Programme Structure

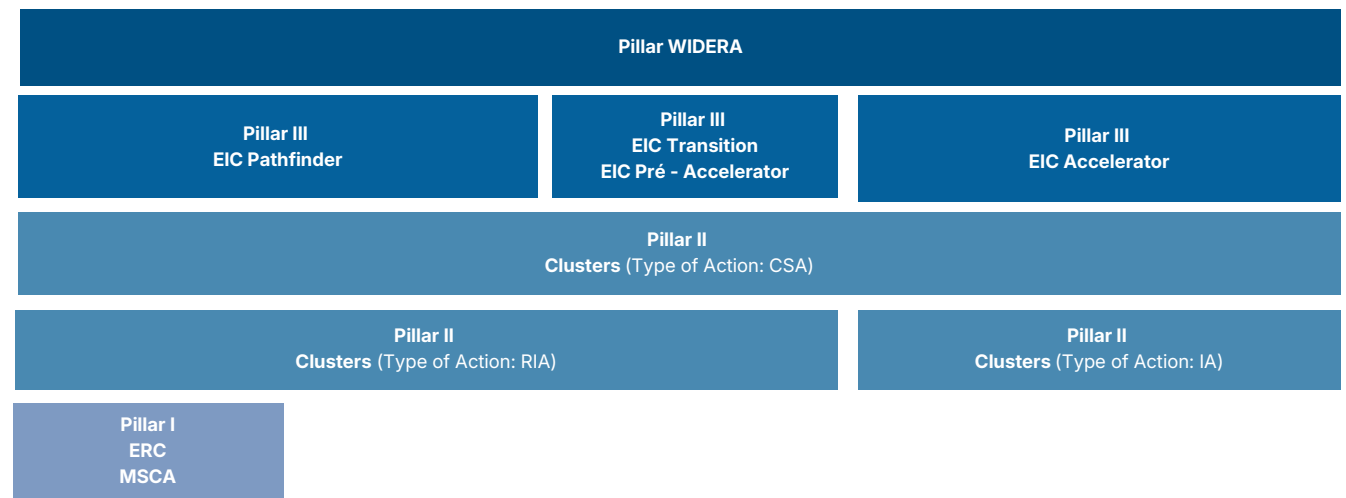


Widening Participation and Strengthening the European Research Area (WIDERA)

Widening Participation & Spreading Excellence

Reforming & Enhancing the European R&I system

Programme in the Technology Readiness Level (TRL) scale



RESEARCH

DEVELOPMENT

DEPLOYMENT

TRL 1

TRL 2

TRL 3

TRL 4

TRL 5

TRL 6

TRL 7

TRL 8

TRL 9

Basic principles observed

Technology concept formulated

Experimental proof of concept

Technology validated in lab

Technology validated in relevant environment

Technology demonstrated in relevant environment

System prototype demonstration in operational environment

System complete and qualified

Actual system proven in operational environment

Horizon Europe Programme

Widening participation and strengthening the European Research Area (WIDERA)



To support Widening countries to increase their research and innovation systems.

Organised into two components:

- Widening participation and spreading excellence
- Strengthening the European Research Area by reforming and enhancing the European research and innovation system

Widening Countries
 Certain EU countries: Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia.
 All Associated Countries with equivalent R&I performance, as well as the Outermost Regions.

Contribute to **building research and innovation capacity for countries lagging behind**, bridging the R&I gap to move towards a truly integrated and cohesive R&I ecosystem in the European Union.

Widening Participation & Spreading Excellence

Actions	Policy Objective	Type of Action	Beneficiaries
Included in WP 2026-2027 Teaming for Excellence	Creates new (or significantly improves existing) Centers of Excellence in Widening countries through strategic partnerships with leading institutions abroad.	CSA	An Widening entity (coordinator) with at least 2 legal entities from 2 different EU countries or Associated Countries (e.g., SMEs, large companies, universities, R&D organisations, and/or other non-entrepreneurial entities)
Included in WP 2026-2027 Twinning	Enhances networking activities to strengthen the research management capacity of Widening R&D institutions and infrastructures.	CSA	An Widening entity (coordinator) with at least 2 leading R&D institutions from 2 different EU countries or Associated Countries.
European Excellence Initiative (EEI)	Empowers universities to be actors of change in research and innovation, engaging them in deeper and geographically inclusive alliances of higher education institutions .	CSA	An Widening entity (coordinator) with at least 2 legal entities from 2 different EU countries or Associated Countries (e.g., SMEs, large companies, universities, R&D organisations, and/or other non-entrepreneurial entities)
Pathways to Synergies	Provides support for setting up the interfaces between two different funding systems , promoting cross-border collaboration and preparing for participation in Horizon Europe calls.	CSA	An Widening entity (coordinator) with at least 2 legal entities from 2 different EU countries or Associated Countries (e.g., SMEs, large companies, universities, R&D organisations, and/or other non-entrepreneurial entities)
Dissemination and Exploitation Support Facility	Improves the effectiveness of dissemination and exploitation of widening actions , unlocking new sources of funding, improving knowledge diffusion and technology uptake.	CSA	An Widening entity (coordinator) with at least 2 legal entities from 2 different EU countries or Associated Countries (e.g., SMEs, large companies, universities, R&D organisations, and/or other non-entrepreneurial entities)
Included in WP 2026-2027 Hop-on Facility	Allows research institutions from Widening countries to join already ongoing project under Horizon Europe Pillar 2 or EIC Pathfinder scheme .	RIA	1 legal entity established in a Widening country and 1 legal entity (coordinator) of an "eligible already funded action"
Included in WP 2026-2027 Excellence Hubs	Strengthens regional innovation excellence by creating robust linkages between academia, businesses, governments and civil society.	CSA (exception: funding rate is 70 % of the eligible costs)	Consortium representative of a widening country R&I ecosystem.
Included in WP 2026-2027 ERA-CHAIRS	Increases research capacity and excellence in a scientific domain of choice by attracting renowned scientists and their teams to universities or R&D institutions in Widening countries .	CSA	Mono-beneficiary, who is a Widening R&D organisation/infrastructure that submit a proposal with a prospective ERA Chair holder.
ERA Talents	Aims to boost interoperability of careers and employability of research and innovation talents across sectors, focusing on cross-sectoral talent circulation and academia-business collaboration.	CSA	An Widening entity (coordinator) with at least 2 legal entities from 2 different EU countries or Associated Countries (e.g., SMEs, large companies, universities, R&D organisations, and/or other non-entrepreneurial entities)

Consult the funding conditions of each Type of Action on page 5

Horizon Europe Programme

Widening participation and strengthening the European Research Area (WIDERA)

Widening Participation & Spreading Excellence

Actions	Policy Objective	Type of Action	Beneficiaries
Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST)	Enables researchers and innovators to set-up their own research networks in a wide range of scientific topics.	Grants not subject to calls for proposals	An Widening entity (coordinator) with at least 2 legal entities from 2 different EU countries or Associated Countries (e.g., SMEs, large companies, universities, R&D organisations, and/or other non-entrepreneurial entities)
<small>Included in WP 2026-2027</small> Research Management Facility	Provides tailored support for institutions in Widening countries that want to establish or upgrade their research management capacities.	CSA	An Widening entity (coordinator) with at least 2 legal entities from 2 different EU countries or Associated Countries (e.g., SMEs, large companies, universities, R&D organisations, and/or other non-entrepreneurial entities)
<small>Included in WP 2026-2027</small> ERA Fellowships	Provides support for excellent researchers undertaking cross-border mobility.	TMA Postdoctoral Fellowships - European Fellowships	Host organisations located in Widening countries, which must submit their proposal to the MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships.
<small>Included in WP 2026-2027</small> EIC Pre-Accelerator	Supports technology, business and investment readiness activities for companies established in widening countries (TRL3 or 4 - TRL6)	Lump sum Grants (70% of co-funding for project eligible costs) between €300K to €500K + tailor-made Business Acceleration Services.	Mono-beneficiary (SMEs and small mid-caps from Horizon widening countries) with technology validated in the lab.
<small>Included in WP 2026-2027</small> ERA Research Managers	Attract experienced research managers to universities, research organisations or research infrastructures in Widening countries for enhancing research management, institutional culture and performance.	CSA	Mono-beneficiary (one proposal per legal entity established in Widening countries can be submitted)

Consult the funding conditions of each Type of Action on page 5

Reforming and enhancing the European research and innovation system

All topics in the 2026 and 2027 ERA calls are organised around four pillars, designed to enable the funded projects to strengthen R&I capacities across four complementary dimensions while addressing selected ERA Actions and Structural Policies.

ERA Pillar	Policy Objective	Type of Action	Beneficiaries
Pillar I Institutional changes for ERA	Capacity building and support to foster adoption of ERA policies/practices within institutions by providing tools, resources, training, services, and policy advice.	CSA	An Widening entity (coordinator) with at least 2 legal entities from 2 different EU countries or Associated Countries (e.g., SMEs, large companies, universities, R&D organisations, and/or other non-entrepreneurial entities)
Pillar II Ecosystems for ERA	Building and reinforcing networks and partnerships to foster broad uptake of ERA policies/practices by exchanging knowledge and practice, networking and cooperative actions.	CSA	
Pillar III Citizens and science in ERA	Connecting R&I with citizens and other stakeholders by implementing and promoting participatory approaches, such as citizen engagement and citizen science.	CSA	
Pillar IV New knowledge for ERA	Creating new knowledge that supports design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and practices by conducting analyses, developing and testing new methods and practices.	RIA	

Consult the funding conditions of each Type of Action on page 5

Consult [here](#) the WIDERA Work Programme 2026-2027

Horizon Europe Programme

Pillar I - Excellent Science



To reinforce and extend the excellence of the **EU's science base**

European Research Council (ERC)

Funding for **investigator-driven frontier research across all scientific fields** in the form of **grants**

Starting Grant (StG)	Up to €1.5M Up to 5 years	Mono-beneficiary: researchers with 2-7 years of experience after PhD (Early Stage Career).
Consolidator Grant (CoG)	Up to €2M Up to 5 years	Mono-beneficiary: researchers with 7-12 years of experience after PhD (Career Consolidation).
Advanced Grant (AdG)	Up to €2.5M Up to 5 years	Mono-beneficiary: researchers with significant track record of recognized achievements in the last 10 years.
Synergy Grant (SyG)	Up to €10M Up to 6 years	Consortium: composed of 2-4 PIs whose joint knowledge couldn't be achieved by a single PI.
Proof of Concept Grant (PoC)	€150K for ERC Grant Holders only	Mono-beneficiary: PIs to explore the marketable innovation potential of their research.

Funding values from the 2026 ERC WP

Funding Conditions & Beneficiaries

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA)

Funding for **mobility and training** with an internationalization orientation

Doctoral Networks (DN)	Mono-beneficiary: universities, research centers, and socio-economic actors to promote training of doctoral candidates.
Postdoctoral Fellowships (IF)	Mono-beneficiary: experienced researchers who want advanced training and career development.
Research and Innovation Staff Exchange (RISE)	Mono-beneficiary: research, technical, administrative and managerial staff supporting R&I activities for international and inter-sectoral short-term mobility.
Co-funding of programmes (COFUND)	Mono-beneficiary: organisations that need additional funds for new or existing doctoral and post-doctoral programmes.
CITIZENS (formerly Researchers' Night)	Mono-beneficiary or Consortium: Annual Europe-wide public event to citizen science and science learning.

Research Infrastructures

Funding for **facilities, resources and services** to promote top-level research across all fields

The Work Programme of Research Infrastructures addresses global environmental, social and economic challenges, which requires a contribution of research and technology infrastructures.

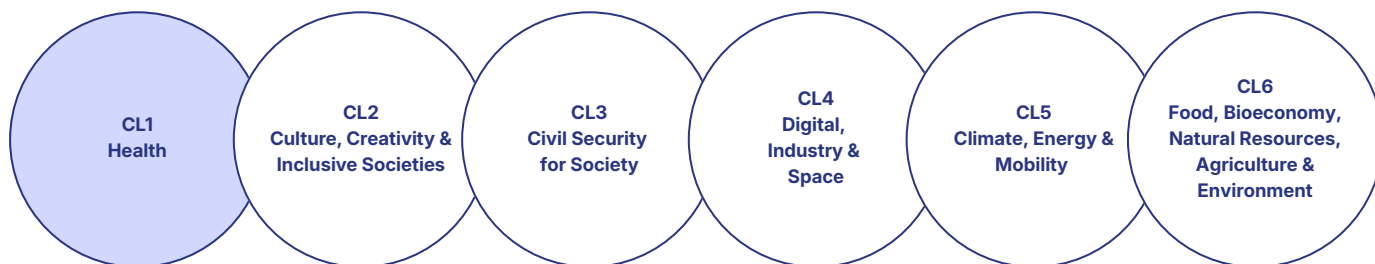


Type of Actions: RIA, IA, CSA
Beneficiaries: According to the topic, but generally all type of stakeholders
Co-funding rates: According to the type of actions

Horizon Europe Programme

Pillar II - Global Challenges & European Industrial Competitiveness

To boost **key technologies and solutions** through 6 clusters:



Cluster Health is organized into:

Work Programme + Cancer Mission + Health European Partnerships

Work Programme is divided into destinations, which include calls for proposals with one or more topics.

Work Programme	Action Type	Research and Innovation Actions (RIA)	Innovation Actions (IA)	Coordination and Support Actions (CSA)	Procurement Procedures	Co-funding of programmes (COFUND)	
	Type of Action Description	Activities that develop new knowledge and/or explore a new or improved technology, product, process, service or solution.	Activities that produce plans or designs for new or improved products, processes or services (e.g., prototyping, testing, demonstrating, piloting, large-scale product validation and market replication).	Activities that improve cooperation to strengthen the ERA (e.g., dissemination, awareness-raising, policy dialogues).	Pre-Commercial Procurement (PCP): used by procurers when there are no near-to-the-market solutions that meet all requirements. Public Procurement of Innovative solutions (PPI): used by procurers when challenges of public interest can be addressed by innovative solutions that are nearly or already in small quantities on the market.	Activities that provide multi-annual co-funding for European partnerships bringing together public and private partners.	
	Funding Rates	Up to 100% of the project costs for all beneficiaries	Non-profit entities: up to 100% of the project costs Other entities: up to 70% of the project costs	Up to 100% of the project costs for all beneficiaries	Up to 100% of the project costs for all beneficiaries	Companies: 30-70% of the project costs Public Entities: 100% of the project costs	
	Beneficiaries	Consortium of legal entities from at least 3 EU or Horizon Associated countries (e.g., SMEs, large companies, universities, R&D organisations, and/or other non-entrepreneurial entities)					Consortium of legal entities from at least 3 EU or Horizon Associated countries nominated by National Agencies.

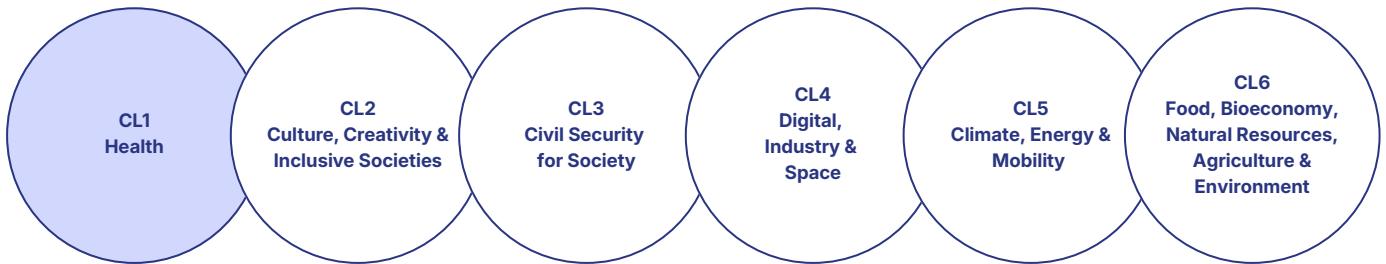
Consult [here](#) the Cluster Health Work Programme 2026-2027

Horizon Europe Programme

Pillar II - Global Challenges & European Industrial Competitiveness



To boost **key technologies and solutions** through 6 clusters:



Cluster Health is organized into:



There is a specific Work Programme organized by missions, and divided into destinations, which include calls for proposals.

Cancer Mission

Scope	A Mission is a portfolio of actions across disciplines intended to achieve a bold and inspirational and measurable goal within a set timeframe , with impact for society and policy making as well as relevance for a significant part of the European population and wide range of European citizens.				
Type of action	Research and Innovation Actions (RIA)	Innovation Actions (IA)	Coordination and Support Actions (CSA)	Procurement Procedures	Co-funding of programmes (COFUND)
Funding Rates	Up to 100% of the project costs for all beneficiaries	Non-profit entities: up to 100% of the project costs Other entities: up to 70% of the project costs	Up to 100% of the project costs for all beneficiaries	Pre-Commercial Procurement (PCP): 100% Public procurement of innovative solutions (PPI): 50%	Companies: 30-70% of the project costs Public Entities: 100% of the project costs
Beneficiaries	Consortium of legal entities from at least 3 EU or Horizon Associated countries (e.g., SMEs, large companies, universities, R&D organisations, and/or other non-entrepreneurial entities)				Consortium of legal entities from at least 3 EU or Horizon Associated countries nominated by National Agencies.

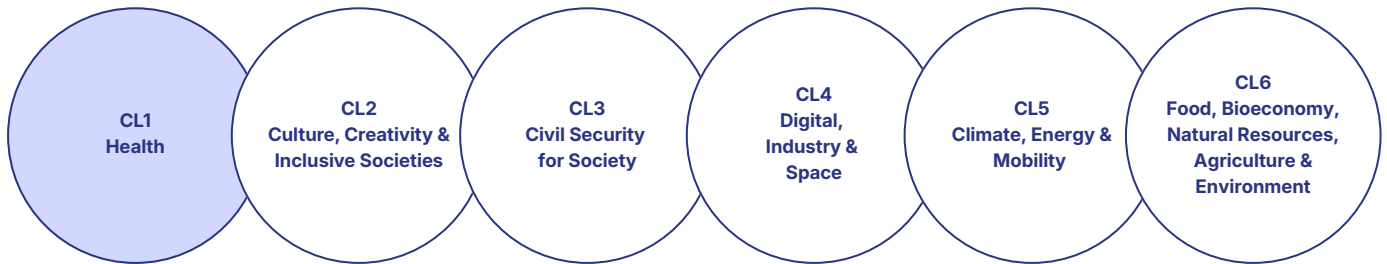
Consult [here](#) the Missions Work Programme 2026-2027

Horizon Europe Programme

Pillar II - Global Challenges & European Industrial Competitiveness



To boost **key technologies and solutions** through 6 clusters:



Cluster Health is organized into:



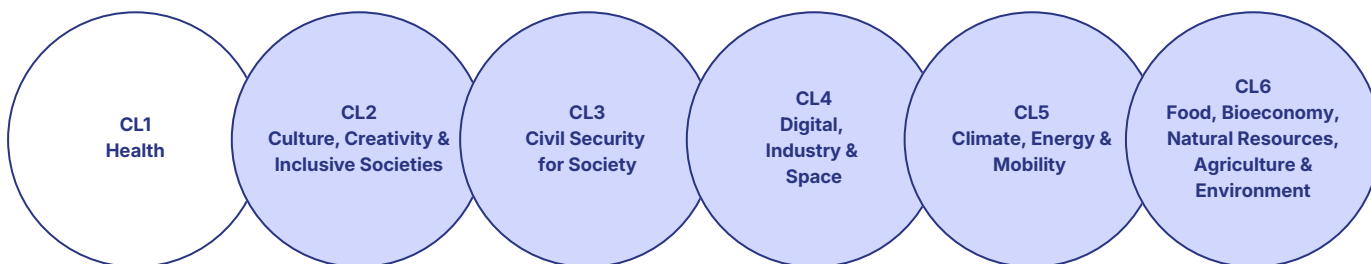
European Partnerships **bring the EC and private and/or public partners together** to address some of Europe's most pressing challenges through concerted research and innovation initiatives.

	Health Partnership	Partnership Type	Open Calls	Funding Beneficiaries
Health European Partnerships	1 Innovative Health Initiative (IHI)	Institutionalised Partnership <i>(Partnership between EU, EU Member States and/or industry)</i>	Annual Open Calls through an own Work Programme	Generally, consortium of legal entities from at least 3 EU or Horizon Associated countries (e.g., SMEs, large companies, universities, R&D organisations, and/or other non-entrepreneurial entities) Consult the call document for specific conditions
	2 European Partnership for Global Health (EDCTP 3)			
	3 European Partnership on Transforming Health and Care Systems (THCS)			
	4 European Partnership for Personalised Medicine (EP PerMed)	Co-funded Partnership <i>(Partnership involving EU Member States with research funders and other public authorities at the core of the Consortium)</i>	Annual Open Calls	
	5 European Research and Innovation Area for Health (ERA4HEALTH)			
	6 European Partnership on Rare Diseases (ERDERA)			
	7 European Partnership for One Health/AMR Antimicrobial Resistance (OH - AMR)			
	8 European Partnership on Pandemic Preparedness (BE READY)			
	9 BrainHealth			
	10 Partnership for the Assessment of Risks from Chemical (PARC)			

Horizon Europe Programme

Pillar II - Global Challenges & European Industrial Competitiveness

To boost **key technologies and solutions** through 6 clusters:



Further Cluster Health, the **other clusters could include relevant calls for Health sector entities.**

Cluster 2

This cluster aims to strengthen European democratic values, including rule of law and fundamental rights, safeguarding our cultural heritage, and promoting socio-economic transformations that contribute to inclusion and growth.

Relationship with Health

- Social, cultural, and behavioural determinants of health
- Health equity and inclusion (e.g., gender equality and support for vulnerable groups)
- Demographic change and ageing
- Mental health and well-being initiatives in education, work, and daily life (e.g., through culture and arts)
- Co-creation of public health policies

Cluster 3

This cluster responds to the challenges arising from persistent security threats, including cybercrime, as well as natural and man-made disasters.

Relationship with Health

- Management of crisis response
- Pandemic preparedness
- Emergency medical services
- Hospital resilience and continuity of care
- Surveillance, early warning, risk assessment tools, and CBRN (chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear) threats.
- Dual-use health technologies (civil protection)

Cluster 4

This cluster aims to build a competitive, digital, low-carbon and circular industry, ensure sustainable supply of raw materials, develop advanced materials and provide the basis for advances and innovation in global challenges to society.

Relationship with Health

- AI-driven diagnostics and decision support
- Health systems architecture, interoperability, and cybersecurity
- Health data spaces
- Medical robotics and smart devices
- Semiconductor and sensor technologies for health
- Space-enabled health services (telemedicine, wearables)

Cluster 5

This cluster aims to fight climate change by better understanding its causes, evolution, risks, impacts and opportunities, and by making the energy and transport sectors more climate and environment-friendly, more efficient and competitive, smarter, safer and more resilient.

Relationship with Health

- Climate change and public health impact assessments
- Heatwaves, air quality, and respiratory health
- Sustainable and energy-efficient hospitals
- Green healthcare supply chains
- Mobility solutions for patient access and emergency care

Cluster 6

This cluster aims at reducing environmental degradation, halting and reversing the decline of biodiversity on land, inland waters and sea and better managing natural resources through transformative changes of the economy and society in both urban and rural areas.

Relationship with Health

- Targets the One Health approach, linking human, animal, and environmental health.
- Antimicrobial resistance
- Zoonotic diseases and surveillance
- Nutrition, food safety, and public health
- Environmental exposure and disease prevention
- Biobased health products and solutions

Horizon Europe Programme

Pillar III - Innovative Europe



To address **innovation performance**, **innovation transfer** and **innovation scale-up**

Support throughout the innovation lifecycle from early stage research to scale up.

For	EIC Instrument		Project Type	Funding Conditions	Beneficiaries
Research activities from laboratory to prototype TRL1 - TRL4	EIC Pathfinder	EIC Pathfinder Challenges	Projects that match any of predefined thematic areas	Grants of up to €4M (100% funding rate) + tailor-made Business Acceleration Services + extra booster grants	General Rule: Single applicant (research teams from SMEs, universities, research organisations, etc) with a deep tech project In some cases: Participation in Consortium for certain Challenges
		EIC Pathfinder Open	Projects in any field of science, technology or application	Grants of up to €4M (100% funding rate) + tailor-made Business Acceleration Services + extra booster grants	Consortium of at least 3 partners from different Member States or Horizon Associated Countries with deep tech projects
Technology, business and investment readiness activities in widening countries TRL3 or 4 - TRL6	Pre-Accelerator call included in the 2026 Horizon Europe Widening work programme (WIDERA)			Lump sum Grants (70% of co-funding for project eligible costs) between €300K to €500K + tailor-made Business Acceleration Services.	Single applicant (SMEs and small mid-caps from Horizon widening countries) with technology validated in the lab.
Market readiness activities TRL4 - TRL6	EIC Transition	EIC Transition Open	Projects in any field of science, technology or application	Grants of up to €2.5M (100% funding rate) + tailor-made Business Acceleration Services + extra booster grants	Single applicant (SMEs, spin-offs, start-ups, research organisations, universities) or Consortium (2-5 eligible entities)
Integration of user and demand perspectives TRL4 - TRL7	2026 PILOT SCHEME! EIC Advanced Innovation Challenges	Stage 1 Call	Solution validation and benchmarking	Lump sum Grants of €300K (100% funding rate) + tailor-made Business Acceleration Services	Single applicant (startups, SMEs, universities, R&D institutions)
		Stage 2 Restricted Call	Development and user testing	Lump sum Grants of €2.5M (100% funding rate) + tailor-made Business Acceleration Services	Single applicant (startups, SMEs, universities, R&D institutions) or Small Consortium (2-3 entities) (larger companies are just eligible to apply in Consortium)
Scaling up business activities TRL6 - TRL8	EIC Accelerator	EIC Pathfinder Challenges	Projects that match any of predefined thematic areas	Lump sum Grants up to €2.5M + tailor-made Business Acceleration Services.	Single applicant (startups, SMEs, and individuals intending to launch a SME and small mid-caps can apply for equity only).
		EIC Pathfinder Open	Projects in any field of science, technology or application	Investment Component between €0.5M to €10M	
Helping companies become global leaders	EIC Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform (STEP) Scale-up			Investment Component between €10M to €30M + tailor-made Business Acceleration Services.	Single applicant (startups and SMEs in the fields of digital, deep tech, clean tech or biotech from a Member State or an Horizon Associated Country) which is seeking major funding rounds.

Funding values from the 2026 EIC Work Programme

Consult [here](#) the EIC Work Programme 2026

Horizon Europe Programme

Pillar III - Innovative Europe



To address **innovation performance**, **innovation transfer** and **innovation scale-up**

European Innovation Ecosystems (EIE)

Create **more connected, inclusive, and efficient innovation ecosystems** and support the **scaling of companies**.

Annual or biannual Work Programme



Type of Actions: IA, CSA, and CO FUND (RIA are less common)

Beneficiaries: Single application or Consortium (generally, all type of stakeholders are eligible)

Co-funding rates: According to the type of actions and topic specifications

Consult [here](#) the EIE Work Programme 2026

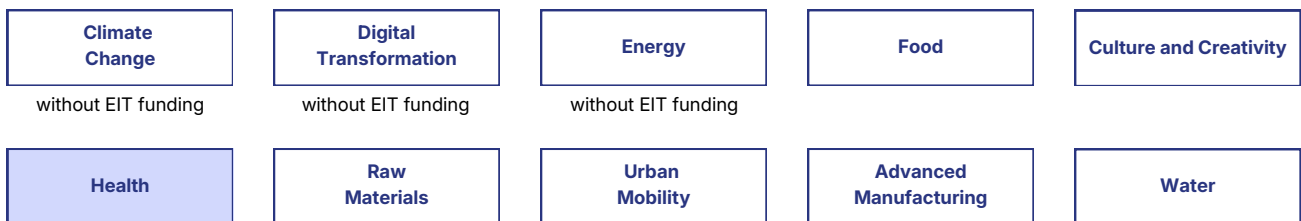
European Institute of Innovation & Technology (EIT)

Deliver **cutting-edge solutions**, **entrepreneurial talent**, and the **supporting environment for innovation** to thrive, offering:

- Master's degrees, doctorate, and other training and entrepreneurial education courses;
- Innovation driven projects;
- Business creation support, and acceleration and incubation programs.

For students, researchers, innovators, entrepreneurs, start-ups and SMEs.

EIT maintains a dynamic pan-European partnerships called EIT Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs), each one delivers solutions to a pressing global challenge or area:



Explore current open calls in all EIT KICs [here](#)

Portuguese Contacts

National Contact Points from **Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT)**.

- Pilar I - ERC, Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions
- Widening Participation and Strengthening the European Research Area

National Contact Points from **Agency for Clinical Research and Biomedical Innovation (AICIB)**.

- Pilar II - CL1 Cluster Health

National Contact Points from **National Agency of Innovation (ANI)**.

- Pilar II - CL3 Civil Security for Society
- Pilar II - CL4 Digital, Industry & Space
- Pilar III - EIC, EIE, EIT