Pillars of Horizon Europe

Horizon Europe supports research and innovation through Work Programmes, which set out funding opportunities for research and innovation activities. **€95 billion for years 2021-2027**


HORIZON EUROPE

EURATOM

SPECIFIC PROGRAMME: EUROPEAN DEFENCE FUND

Exclusive focus on defence research & development

- Research actions
- Development actions

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

EURATOM
- Fusion
- Fission
- Joint Research Center

* The European Institute of Innovation & Technology (EIT) is not part of the Specific Programme

opean nmission

Info Days of the Work Programmes 2026 – 2027

Check out the link to materials and recordings https://shorturl.at/Btpra

Horizon Europe cycle – impact-driven programme

IMPACT DESIGN

Intervention logic

Clusters, destinations, missions

IMPLEMENTATION

Strategic Plan

Work Programme

Proposal template
Project reporting

IMPACT TRACKING & EVALUATION

Monitoring Key Impact Pathways

Management & Implementation Data

Interim and ex-post evaluation
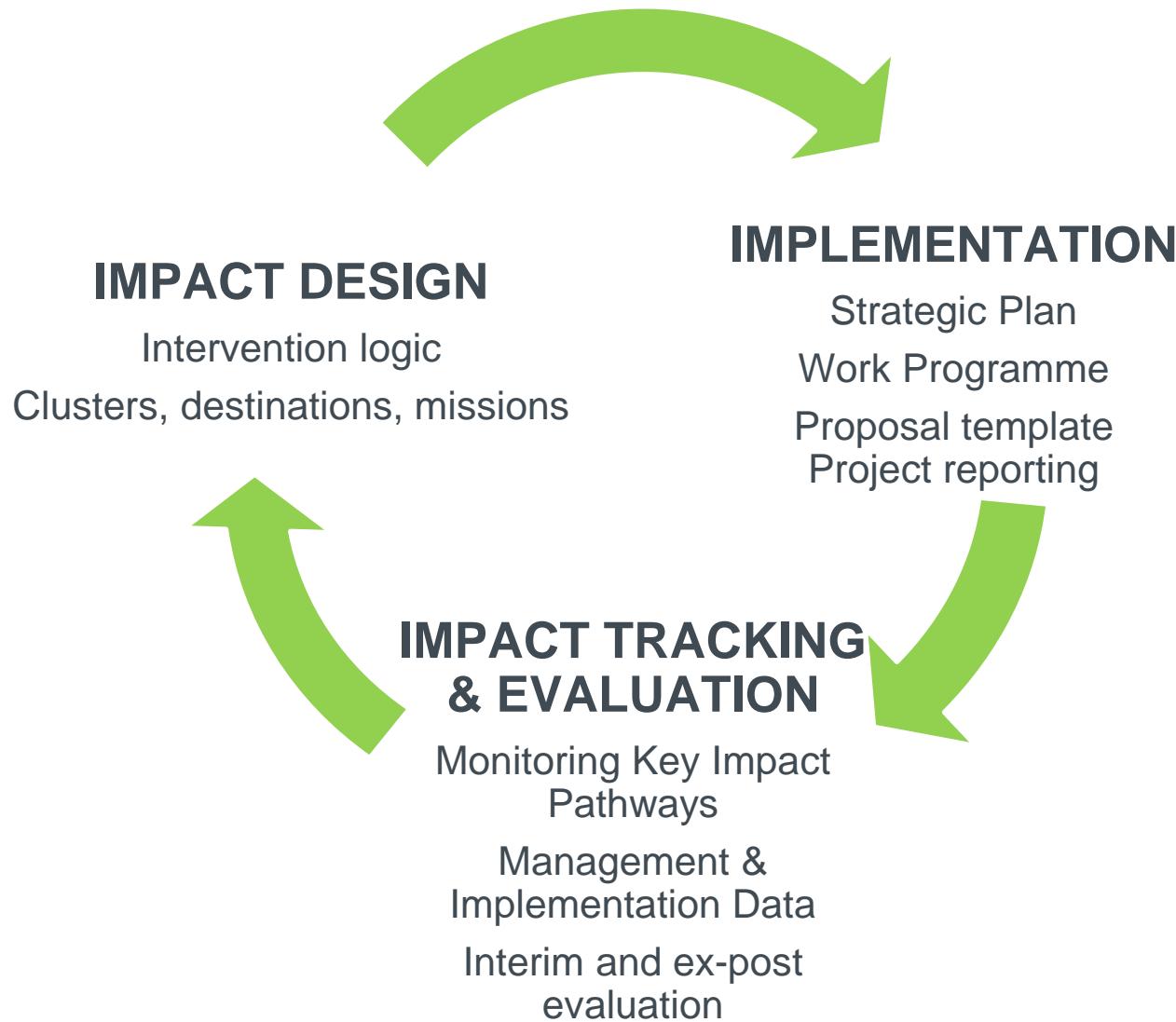
HORIZON EUROPE KEY MESSAGES FROM EMDESK:

- Researchers should become innovators
- Research results should be transformed into **useful innovations**
- Science needs to make available the results openly = data as well
- **Open innovation** is the key = collaboration
- **Citizens** should be involved into science
- Focus on global **societal challenges**
- More impact
- Open to the world
- Simplification
- Synergies

European Commission

Policy context and strategies

Horizon Europe Strategic Plan 2025-2027 Analysis

Key Strategic Orientations in the Horizon Europe Strategic Plan 2025–2027

Key Strategic Orientation 1

The green transition

Accelerate the transition to a sustainable and circular economy, and climate resilient society

Key Strategic Orientation 2

The digital transition

Boost Europe's capabilities to lead the development of **key digital technologies** to **empower** its society and economy

Key Strategic Orientation 3

A more resilient, competitive, inclusive and democratic Europe

Build a resilient, competitive, inclusive and democratic Europe that provides prosperity, **equal opportunities** and high-quality public **services**

European Commission

From policy priorities to work programmes
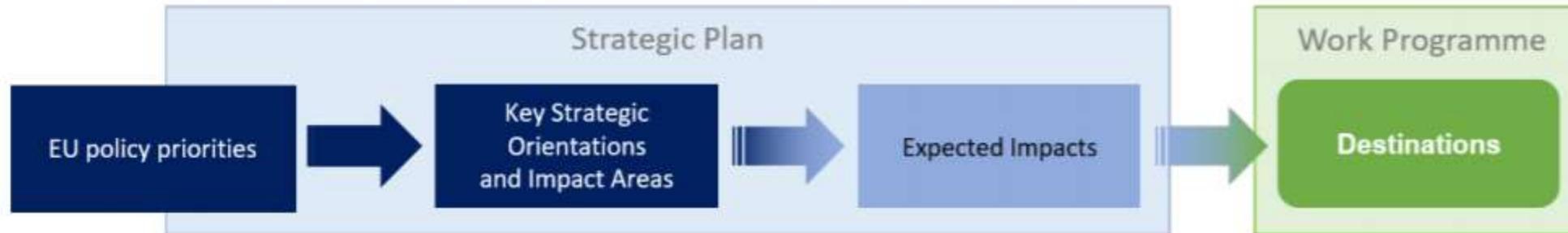
- Each 'Destination; in the Cluster-specific work programme parts mirrors one specific expected impact of the strategic plan, while also contributing to other expected impacts

- All 32 expected impacts of the strategic plan are covered by the work programme

PILLAR 1. EXCELLENT SCIENCE

- **European Research Council (ERC):**
  Frontier research by the best researchers and their teams

- **Marie Sklodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA):**
  Equipping researches with new knowledge and skills through mobility and training

- **Research Infrastructures (RI):**
  Integrated and inter-connected world-class research infrastructures

TIMELINE OF PILLAR 1 APPLICATIONS 2023 - 2024

WORK PROGRAMME		2025						2026												2027											
		7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
PILLAR I EXCELLENT SCIENCE																															
ERC	Starting Grant				14.10																										
	Consolidator Grant							13.01																							
	Advanced Grant														27.08																
	Synergy Grant					05.11																									
MSCA	ERC Plus Grant															02.09															
	Doctoral Networks																	24.11												23.11	
	Postdoctoral Fellowships															09.09												08.09			
	Staff Exchanges										16.04												15.04								
	COFUND										08.04												06.04								
	Choose Europe for Science																						06.04								
	MSCA and Citizens				22.10																				08.06						

European Commission

PILLAR 2 – CLUSTERS.
GLOBAL CHALLENGES AND INDUSTRIAL COMPETITIVENESS

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

TIMELINE OF PILLAR 2 APPLICATIONS 2023 - 2024
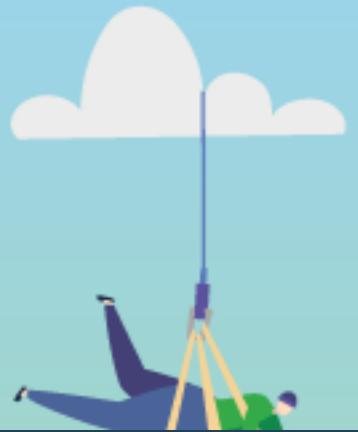
PILLAR II GLOBAL CHALLENGES & EUROPEAN INDUSTRIAL COMPETITIVENESS																								
	2026												2027											
WORK PROGRAMME	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Health (CL1) - Single Stage				16.04																				
Health (CL1) - Two Stage																13.04(1)					22.09(2)			
Culture (CL2) - Single Stage									23.09															
Culture (CL2) - Two Stage																	04.05(1)				30.09(2)			
Civil Security (CL3)											05.11												04.11	
Digital, Ind & Space (CL4) - Single Stage				15.04					03.09						18.03									
Digital, Ind & Space (CL4) - Two Stage			17.03(1)							13.10(2)				02.02(1)							02.09(2)			
Climate, Energy & Mobility (CL5)				14.04(1)						08.10(2)						14.04(1)						07.10(2)		01.12
Food, Bio & Env (CL6) - Two Stage				15.04(1)					30.09(2)							08.04(1)					16.09(2)			
Food, Bio & Env (CL6) - Single Stage																					22.09			

Clusters In 'Global Challenges And Industrial Competitiveness'

CLUSTERS

AREAS OF INTERVENTION

HEALTH
- Health throughout the life course
- Non-communicable and rare diseases
- Tools, technologies and digital solutions for health and care
- Environmental and social health determinants
- Infectious diseases
- Health care systems

CULTURE, CREATIVITY AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETY
- Democracy
- Social and economic transformations
- Cultural, cultural heritage and creativity
- Disaster-resilient societies
- Cybersecurity

CIVIL SECURITY FOR SOCIETY
- Disaster-resilient societies
- Protection and Security
- Cyber security

DIGITAL, INDUSTRY AND SPACE
- Manufacturing technologies
- Advanced materials
- Next generation internet
- Circular industries
- Space, including Earth Observation
- Key digital technologies
- Artificial intelligence and robotics
- Advanced computing and Big Data
- Low carbon and clean industry
- Emerging enabling technologies

CLIMATE, ENERGY AND MOBILITY
- Climate science and solutions
- Energy systems and grids
- Communities and cities
- Industrial competitiveness in transport
- Smart mobility
- Energy supply
- Buildings and industrial facilities in energy transition
- Clean, safe and accessible transport and mobility
- Energy storage

FOOD, BIO, NATURAL RESOURCES, AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
- Environmental observation
- Agriculture, forestry and rural areas
- Food systems
- Circular systems
- Biodiversity and natural capital
- Sea, oceans and inland waters
- Bio-based innovation systems in the EU Bioeconomy

European Commission

Types of projects in Horizon

	Research and innovation action (RIA)	Innovation action (IA)	Coordination and support action (CSA)	Co-fund actions
Funding rate	**100%**	**70% (except non-profit organisations:100%)**	**100%**	30-70%
Min participants	3	3	1	3
Main activity type	**Research and Development**	**Innovation**	**Coordination and support activities**	**Co-funded actions**
Activities	• **Basic and applied research** • Technology development and integration • Testing and validation on a small-scale prototype • Limited demonstration or pilot activities	• **Limited research and development activities** • Prototyping • Testing • Demonstrating • Piloting • Large-scale product validation • Market replication	• Standardisation • Dissemination • Awareness-raising and communication • Networking • Coordination or support services • Policy dialogues and mutual learning exercises • Studies and strategic planning • Networking and coordination	

PILLAR 3. INNOVATIVE EUROPE

- **European Innovation Council (EIC):**
  Support to innovations with breakthrough and market creating potential
  - EIC Pathfinder
  - EIC Transition
  - EIC Accelerator

- **European innovation ecosystems:**
  Connecting with regional and national innovation actors (Work Programme with topics)

HORIZONTAL: WIDENING PARTICIPATION AND STRENGTHENING THE EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA

Widening Participation and Spreading Excellence

European Institute of Technology

TIMELINE OF THE WIDERA APPLICATIONS 2026 – 2027

WORK PROGRAMME	2026												2027							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	9	12
Twinning	08.01							09.04													
Hop-ON Facility	13.01												24.09							
ERA Fellowships	09.04															08.09				
Teaming Synergies	23.04																	24.09		
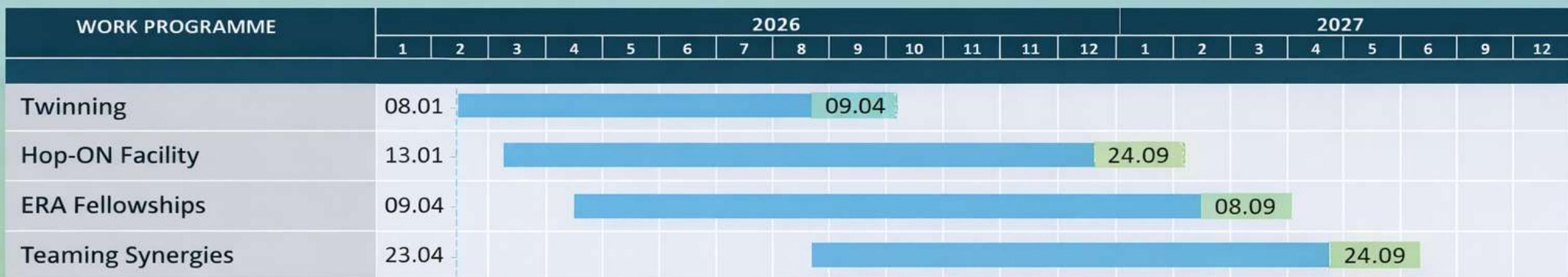
WIDERA CALLS 2026

Call	Deadline	Budget	Consortium	# of projects	Summary
Twinning	09 Apr	1-1,5	3	50	Build excellence through structured collaboration between a Widening applicant and leading partners
Hop-on-Facility	24 Sep	0,3-0,5	N.A.	80	Join existing project
ERA Fellowships	09 Sep	0,16	1	50	Postdoctoral fellowships hosted in Widening countries to strengthen careers and widen excellence
Teaming Synergies	24 Sep	7	2	1	
Research Management Facility	24 Sep	7		1	Create a facility providing support services + training to Widening research institutions to establish/upgrade research management capacities and produce implementation plans

WIDERA CALLS 2027

Call	Deadline	Budget	Consortium	# of projects	Summary
ERA Chairs	14 Sep	1,5-2,5	1	80	Proposal must include commitment letters (ERA Chair holder + head of host) and specifies minimum time commitment of chairholder
ERA Research Managers	14 Sep	1,5-2,5	1	30	Professionalise research management at institutional level (grant acquisition, governance, knowledge transfer, HR policies, etc.) with measurable institutional impact
Excellence Hubs	04 Mar	1,5-4,5	4	30	Place-based, cross-border innovation ecosystems aligned with RIS3; stronger science–business–society linkages; investment plans; pilot projects; skills and new business opportunities (SMEs, spin-offs, start-ups).
ERA Calls (Multiple Topics)	11 Mar	ERA-01 (CSA, €2m): Open access policies via retention of IP rights ERA-02 (CSA, €29m): Talent ecosystems for attractive early research careers (€2–4m per project; ~12 projects) ERA-03 (CSA, €6m): Science comes to town 2029 ERA-04 (CSA, €2m): Public engagement in R&I and scientific literacy (~€1m; ~2 projects) ERA-05 (RIA, €3m): Upgrading EU independent knowledge on China's STI system			

\ HOW TO FIND PUBLISHED WORK PROGRAMMES

\ HOP-ON FACILITY CALL

Apply here HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ACCESS-06

Cut-Off date: 28 Sept 2023

Indicative budget per project: 0.2 – 0.5 mln. EUR

WHAT IS HOP ON FACILITY?

• Provides the possibility for legal entities from low R&I performing countries (widening countries) to join already funded collaborative projects under Horizon Europe Pillar 2 and the EIC Pathfinder calls.

WHAT PRACTICAL STEPS TO TAKE?

• Check the list of funded projects under Horizon Europe pillar 2 and the EIC Pathfinder, which are open to the Hop-On Facility

• Consider which projects you may have relevant competencies for.

• You shall be capable of bringing **added value** to the project, performing an **additional task**

• Prepare your expression of interest letter which consistently describes your competencies and proposition and contact the coordinator of the selected project via the "Contact" button on this page

WHY SHOULD YOU TRY IT?

• Joining an already funded project is much easier for a newcomer

• Participation will give you first real experience in Horizon project participation, increase your visibility among colleagues, and help to establish new international links in your research field

\ HOP ON FACILITY CALL

EXPECTED IMPACTS

- Provide **new competencies and skills**

KEY FEATURES

- Proposal must be **submitted by the coordinator of the consortium** funded under Pillar 2 of HE
- The Coordinator applying for the Hop-on Call must be **with no partner from the Widening country already on board**
- **All consortium partners need to agree** on the accession of the new partner
- The proposal should include a detailed description of the profile **of the new partner,** its role in the existing project and the **R&I relevance and complementarity** needs to be demonstrated

PRACTICAL TIPS FOR HOP ON PARTNERS

- Become **proactive** in finding a host consortium
- Liaise with **NCP** who can help you find a matching host consortia
- Do not submit an **alone standing proposal**
- Convince the coordinator and consortium about **the added value** that **you can bring** to the project
- Make use of the „living" list of **Hop-On** eligible projects

HOW TO SELECT A CALL

1

IDENTIFICATION OF CALLS WITH FAVORABLE CONDITIONS

2

COMPETITION AND EXISTING PREVIOUS RELEVANT EXPERIENCE IN THE TOPIC

3

INNOVATIVE APPROACH / IDEA THAT FITS THE CALL (TAKING INTO ACCOUNT PREVIOUS FUNDED PROJECTS)

4

ENOUGH TIME & RESOURCES TO DEVELOP HIGH QUALITY PROJECT PROPOSAL

CIVITTA

IDENTIFICATION OF CALLS WITH FAVORABLE CONDITIONS

1

BUDGET

- Call budget / proposal budget = number of projects to be funded
- Higher budget usually reflects in the (larger size) of the consortium

FOCUS ON CALLS WITH MULTIPLE PROJECTS TO BE FUNDED AND SMALLER BUDGETS

2

TYPE

- **Coordination and support Action** – „soft" activities, smaller budgets
- **Research and Innovation Action** – lower TRL, focus on R&D, limited demonstration or pilot activities
- **Innovation Action** - higher TRL, focus on demonstration or pilot activities, limited R&D

FOCUS ON CALLS WITH RESEARCH AND INNOVATION COMPONENTS

3

CONDITIONS MENTIONED IN THE CALL

- Regional focus (i.e. „less-developed", most affected by climate change etc)
- Types of stakeholders (i.e. end-users, pilot sites etc)

IDENTIFY THE CALLS MEETING THE ENVIRONMENT AND CONDITIONS THAT YOU OPERATE IN (ADDITIONAL TO RESEARCH FOCUS)

CIVITTA

COMPETITION AND EXISTING EXPERIENCE IN THE TOPIC

PROPOSALS

AVERAGE SUCCESS RATE

- Number of proposals submitted to similar topics in previous years
- Work programme statistics

PROJECTS

PREVIOUS SUCCESSFUL PROJECTS

- No overlap with projects funded previously
- Build on previous projects

PARTNERS

PARTNERS OF THE PREVIOUS SUCCESSFUL PROJECTS

- Proof of expertise
- Contact/Invite to your consortium in case mentioned in the Call text

- **„Call Updates"** section Under call page
- Search in Funding and Tenders Portal to identify the calls
- Horizon Dashboard

- Browse projects funded under the call in Cordis

- Browse partners of projects funded under the call in Cordis
- Search in Funding and Tenders portal Partner Search section

Questions and discussion

Thank you!

#HorizonEU

http://ec.europa.eu/horizon-europe

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