

HORIZON IMPACT AWARD

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Horizon Europe

Call for a prize — Rules of Contest

Horizon Impact Award

HORIZON-WIDERA-2022-ImpactPrize

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CALL FOR APPLICATIONS – RULES OF CONTEST

TABLE OF CONTENTS

0. Introduction	4
1. Background.....	4
2. Objectives — Themes and priorities — Activities— Expected results.....	5
Objectives.....	5
Expected results	5
3. Available budget.....	5
4. Timetable and deadlines	5
5. Admissibility.....	5
6. Eligibility	6
Eligible participants (eligible countries).....	6
Ethics and values	7
Security	8
7. Exclusion.....	8
8. Evaluation and award procedure.....	9
9. Award criteria.....	9
10. Other conditions	10
Payment arrangements	10
IPR — Rights of use	12
Checks, audits and investigations.....	12
Withdrawal of the prize — Recovery of undue amounts.....	12
11. How to submit an application.....	12
12. Help	13
13. Important.....	15

0. Introduction

This is a call (contest)¹ for the EU Horizon Impact Award prize under Horizon Europe Framework Programme. This prize is the European Commission's initiative to recognise and celebrate outstanding projects that have used their results to provide value for society.

The regulatory framework for this EU Funding Programme is set out in:

- Regulation 2018/1046 ([EU Financial Regulation](#))
- the basic act (Horizon Europe Regulation²)

The call is launched in accordance with the 2021-2022 Work Programme³ and will be managed by European Commission, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation (DG RTD).

We invite you to read the **call documentation** on the Funding & Tenders Portal Topic page carefully, and in particular these Rules of Contest and the [EU Funding & Tenders Portal Online Manual](#).

These documents provide clarifications and answers to questions you may have when preparing your application:

- the [Call Document](#) (Rules of Contest) outlines the:
 - background, objectives, scope, activities that can be funded and the expected results (sections 1 and 2)
 - available budget and timetable (sections 3 and 4)
 - admissibility, eligibility and criteria for exclusion (sections 5, 6 and 7)
 - evaluation and award procedure (section 8)
 - award criteria (section 9)
 - other conditions (section 10)
 - how to submit an application (section 11)
- the [Online Manual](#) outlines the procedures to register and submit applications online via the EU Funding & Tenders Portal ('Portal').

You are also encouraged to visit the [Prize website](#) to consult the list of prizes funded previously.

1. Background

The uptake of Research and Innovation (R&I) results created under the Framework Programme is important for the programme's success and is instrumental in contributing towards transformative impacts on the economy, society and policymaking. Impacts are

¹ For ease of reference and consistency on the Funding & Tenders Portal, the terms 'call', 'project' and 'participant' are used as equivalent to 'contest', 'application' or 'contestants/applicants'.

² REGULATION (EU) 2021/695 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 28 April 2021 establishing Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, laying down its rules for participation and dissemination, and repealing Regulations (EU) No 1290/2013 and (EU) No 1291/2013.

³ European Commission Decision C(2021) 9128 of 15 December 2021 concerning the adoption of the Work Programme for 2021-2022 and the financing decision for the implementation of the Horizon Europe.

seen as an effect on, change or benefit to the economy, society, culture, public policy or services, health, the environment or quality of life.

2. Objectives – Themes and priorities – Activities— Expected results

Objectives

The Commission will award on an annual basis a recognition prize to reward beneficiaries that have successfully used their research results to create value for society. The beneficiaries must be able to show proof of effective exploitation and uptake of their research results. This action aims to illustrate the wider socio-economic benefits of the EU investment in R&I and to encourage project beneficiaries to best manage and use their research results.

The award enables individuals or teams to showcase their best practices and achievements. This will encourage other beneficiaries to use and manage their results in the best way possible. It aims to create role models and inspire beneficiaries of research and innovation funding to maximise the impact of their research.

Expected results

With this award, the Commission aims to champion the uptake and use of EU funded project results, thus further boosting economic, societal, and/or policy impacts. It is expected that the award, through showcasing best practices, will create role models and inspire R&I beneficiaries to use their research results to create value for the society at large.

3. Available budget

The prizes are monetary and each of the six winners will receive EUR 25.000.

4. Timetable and deadlines

Timetable and deadlines	
Call opening:	6 January 2022
<u>Deadline for submission:</u>	8 March – 17:00 CET (Brussels)
Evaluation:	Q2 2022
Information on evaluation results/ award:	Q2-Q3-Q4 2022 TBC

5. Admissibility

Applications must be submitted before the **call deadline** (see timetable section 4).

Applications must be submitted electronically via the Funding & Tenders Portal Electronic Submission System (accessible via the Topic page in the Search Funding & Tenders section). Paper submissions are NOT possible.

Applications (including annexes and supporting documents) must be submitted using the forms provided *inside* the Submission System ⚠ NOT the documents available on the Topic page — they are only for information).

Applications must be **complete** and contain all the requested information and all required annexes and supporting documents:

- Participants will have to submit an annex consisting of a letter(s) of support from at least one user or user community, showing the importance of the research work and how it was used to create concrete benefits for the specific user community⁴. The letter(s) of support should not come from the spin-offs that projects created themselves, partners or consortia members. The letter of support must be uploaded as a separate annex and does not count towards the page-limit for your prize application. This is a compulsory requirement and will count towards the admissibility criterion during the evaluation.
- NON-COMPULSORY: If the participants have previously created an audio-visual material (i.e. video) that reflects on how they used the research results to create societal benefits, they may include an online link to this already existing video⁵ (max 90 seconds). The video will not be evaluated as part of the application but it may be used by the Commission for its communication and publicizing activities in accordance with article 8.2.2. of Rules of Contest. Participants can include this link under the section 'Other Information' in the Template Part B. This is NOT a compulsory requirement.

Your application must be **readable, accessible, printable**.

Applications are limited to **12 pages** (Part B). Evaluators will not consider any additional pages.

You may be asked at a later stage for further documents (*for legal entity validation, bank account validation, ethics review, declaration of honour, etc*).

-  For more information about the submission process (including IT aspects), consult the [Online Manual](#).

6. Eligibility

Eligible participants (eligible countries)

In order to be eligible, the applicants must be:

- legal entities (i.e. natural or legal persons, public or private bodies, including international organisations⁶) or groups of legal entities that participated as beneficiaries in FP7 or Horizon 2020.⁷

⁴ User community can be a group of people in their capacity either as individuals or as professionals that directly and/or indirectly benefited from the research results produced by your research project. Examples may include but are not limited to hospitals and patients that have benefited from the product and/or methodology created, governmental organisations that took on board pertinent policy recommendations, individuals, local communities and other relevant parties that were positively affected by the use of results produced by your research project.

⁵ If you submit an already existing audio-visual material, please ensure that you are the owner or have the necessary legal rights to use the submitted audio-visual material for commercial purposes.

⁶ For the legal definition, see Article 156 EU Financial Regulation [2018/1046](#).

⁷ Natural persons such as ERC principal investigators or MSCA fellows and legal entities principally created by past beneficiaries for the exploitation of the project results, are also eligible. In both cases, the applicant must provide a clear link to the project that is associated with the proposal through a detailed evidence included in the Part B of the application.

- the projects must have ended by close of the contest, i.e. by the deadline for submission.⁸
- be established in one of the eligible countries, i.e.:
 - EU Member State (including overseas countries and territories (OCTs))
 - eligible non-EU countries:
 - The associated countries to Horizon Europe

Specific cases

Entities without legal personality — Entities which do not have legal personality under their national law may exceptionally participate, provided that their representatives have the capacity to undertake legal obligations on their behalf, and offer guarantees for the protection of the EU financial interests equivalent to that offered by legal persons⁹.

EU bodies — EU bodies (with the exception of the European Commission Joint Research Centre) can NOT apply.

EU restrictive measures — Special rules apply for certain entities (*e.g. entities subject to [EU restrictive measures](#) under Article 29 of the Treaty on the European Union (TEU) and Article 215 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU)*¹⁰ and entities covered by Commission Guidelines No [2013/C 205/05](#)¹¹). Such entities are not eligible to participate in any capacity.

 For more information, see [Rules for Legal Entity Validation, LEAR Appointment and Financial Capacity Assessment](#).

Ethics and values

Activities must comply with the highest ethical standards and the applicable EU, international and national law on ethical principles.

Moreover, they must respect basic EU values (such as respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and human rights, including the rights of minorities).

The activities must comply with:

- ethical principles [(including the highest standards of research integrity)] and
- applicable international, EU and national law

and may not:

- aim at human cloning for reproductive purposes
- intend to modify the genetic heritage of human beings which could make such changes heritable (with the exception of research relating to cancer treatment of the gonads, which may be financed), or

⁸ Refers to the end date of the project as in the Grant Agreement.

⁹ See Article 197(2)(c) EU Financial Regulation [2018/1046](#).

¹⁰ Please note that the EU Official Journal contains the official list and, in case of conflict, its content prevails over that of the [EU Sanctions Map](#).

¹¹ Commission guidelines No 2013/C 205/05 on the eligibility of Israeli entities and their activities in the territories occupied by Israel since June 1967 for grants, prizes and financial instruments funded by the EU from 2014 onwards (OJEU C 205 of 19.07.2013, pp. 9-11).

- intend to create human embryos solely for the purpose of research or for the purpose of stem cell procurement, including by means of somatic cell nuclear transfer.

Moreover activities must have an exclusive focus on civil applications and no prize can be awarded for activities carried out outside the EU, if they are prohibited in all Member States.

Applications involving ethics issues will have to undergo an ethics review to authorise funding and may be made subject to specific ethics requirements.

Security

Applications involving EU classified information must comply with Decision [2015/444](#). Applications that are too security-sensitive cannot be awarded a prize.

7. Exclusion

Applicants which are subject to an **EU exclusion decision** or in one of the following **exclusion situations** that bar them from receiving EU funding can NOT participate¹²:

- bankruptcy, winding up, affairs administered by the courts, arrangement with creditors, suspended business activities or other similar procedures (including procedures for persons with unlimited liability for the applicant's debts)
- in breach of social security or tax obligations (including if done by persons with unlimited liability for the applicant's debts)
- guilty of grave professional misconduct¹³ (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the prize)
- committed fraud, corruption, links to a criminal organisation, money laundering, terrorism-related crimes (including terrorism financing), child labour or human trafficking (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the prize)
- shown significant deficiencies in complying with main obligations under an EU procurement contract, grant agreement, prize, expert contract, or similar (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the prize)
- guilty of irregularities within the meaning of Article 1(2) of Regulation No [2988/95](#) (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the prize)
- created under a different jurisdiction with the intent to circumvent fiscal, social or other legal obligations in the country of origin or created another entity with this purpose (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the prize).

¹² See Articles 136 and 141 EU Financial Regulation [2018/1046](#).

¹³ Professional misconduct includes: violation of ethical standards of the profession, wrongful conduct with impact on professional credibility, false declarations/misrepresentation of information, participation in a cartel or other agreement distorting competition, violation of IPR, attempting to influence decision-making processes or obtain confidential information from public authorities to gain advantage.

Applicants will also be refused if it turns out that¹⁴:

- during the award procedure they misrepresented information required as a condition for participating or failed to supply that information
- they were previously involved in the preparation of the call and this entails a distortion of competition that cannot be remedied otherwise (conflict of interest).

8. Evaluation and award procedure

Applications will be subject to a formal evaluation by an independent expert **jury**.

If there are more than 30 eligible applications, there will be a **pre-selection** to select the best 30 applications to pass to jury review. Otherwise, all applications will pass directly to jury review.

The pre-selection panel and jury usually have a different composition, but jury members may participate in the pre-selection panel.

The pre-selection panel/jury will evaluate each application against the award criteria.

For applications with the same score, the pre-selection panel/jury will determine a **priority order** according to the following approach: The score for the criterion No 1 will be given a weight of 1.5 and the score for criterion No 2 will be given a weight of 2. If two or more applications still tie for any rank or category, the prize will be equally divided and awarded to all applications with the same score.

The ten best ranked applicants will be invited as finalists for hearings in Brussels (or remotely) during the third quarter of 2022.

On the basis of the evaluation by the jury (and after the mandatory checks: *ethics review, security scrutiny, legal entity validation, non-exclusion, double funding and plagiarism, etc*), the awarding authority will decide on the award of the prize.

All applications will be informed about the evaluation result (**evaluation result letter**). Successful applications will be awarded the prize; the not successful ones will be rejected.

If you believe that the evaluation procedure was flawed, you can submit a **complaint** (following the deadlines and procedures set out in the evaluation result letter). Please note that notifications are deemed to have been accessed (and received) 10 days after sending and that deadlines will be counted from then (*see also [Funding & Tenders Portal Terms and Conditions](#)*).

9. Award criteria

If admissible and eligible, the applications will be evaluated and ranked against the following **award criteria**:

Award criterion 1: Pathway from results to societal benefits:

Applicants will need to detail how the R&I results were directly or indirectly exploited after the lifetime of the project. They will need to describe the activities that were done to ensure that the R&I results lead to societal benefits. They will need to describe the scale and the sustainability of their actions.

Award criterion 2: Achieved impact:

¹⁴ See Article 141(1) EU Financial Regulation [2018/1046](#).

Applicants will need to demonstrate the already existing impact and created societal benefits. They will need to detail concrete examples of how their research results have benefitted the society and who are the user communities that have profited from it. The achieved impact must be already materialized. The letter of support will serve as a testimony of the described impact.¹⁵

Award criteria	Minimum pass score	Maximum score
1. Pathway from results to societal benefits	5	8
2. Achieved impact	5	8
Overall (pass) scores	10	16

Maximum points: 16 points.

Individual thresholds: 5/8 points.

Overall threshold: 10 points.

Applications must pass both the individual thresholds AND the overall threshold. The prize will be awarded to the application with the best scores. Other applications will be rejected.

10. Other conditions

Payment arrangements

The prize money will be paid in one installment to the prize winner(s)¹⁶ after the award ceremony, provided all the requested documents have been submitted. In case of a group of winners, the payment will be made to the lead applicant.

Communication — Dissemination — Visibility of funding

Prize winners must promote the prize and its results, by providing targeted information to multiple audiences (including the media and the public) in a strategic and effective manner.

Communication activities related to the prize (*including media interviews, press statements, presentations, etc., in electronic form, via traditional or social media, etc.*), must acknowledge EU support and display the European flag (emblem) and funding statement (translated into local languages, where appropriate):

¹⁵ Please note that the letter(s) of support will not be scored but will serve as a testimony for the award criterion 2 - Achieved impact. The amount of letters and/or the quality of the referee will not contribute to a higher score in corresponding award criterion 2 - Achieved impact.

¹⁶ Linked to the PIC applying to the Horizon Impact Award.



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The emblem must remain distinct and separate and cannot be modified by adding other visual marks, brands or text.

Apart from the emblem, no other visual identity or logo may be used to highlight the EU support.

When displayed in association with other logos (*e.g. of winners or sponsors*), the emblem must be displayed at least as prominently and visibly as the other logos.

For the purposes of these obligations, the winners may use the emblem without first obtaining approval from the awarding authority. This does not, however, give them the right to exclusive use. Moreover, they may not appropriate the emblem or any similar trademark or logo, either by registration or by any other means.

Any communication or dissemination activity related to the prize must use factually accurate information.

Moreover, it must indicate the following disclaimer (translated into local languages where appropriate):

“Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or European Commission, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation. Neither the European Union nor the awarding authority can be held responsible for them.”

IPR – Rights of use

The awarding authority does not obtain ownership of the results produced in the context of the prize.

The awarding authority has the right to use non-sensitive information relating to the prize and materials and documents received from the winners (*such as pictures or audio-visual material, in paper or electronic form*) for information, communication, dissemination and publicity purposes.

Photos and videos taken by the awarding authority either in preparation of the award ceremony or during the award ceremony are the sole property of the awarding authority.

Checks, audits and investigations

The awarding authority, the European Commission, the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF), the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) and the European Court of Auditors (ECA) may carry out checks, audits and investigations in relation to the prize.¹⁷

Withdrawal of the prize – Recovery of undue amounts

The awarding authority may withdraw the prize after its award and recover all payments made, if it finds out that:

- false information, fraud or corruption was used to obtain it
- the prize winners were not eligible or should have been excluded or
- the prize winners are in serious breach of their obligations under these Rules of Contest.

11. How to submit an application

All applications must be submitted directly online via the Funding & Tenders Portal Electronic Submission System. Paper applications are NOT accepted.

You can access the Portal [here](#), or by clicking 'Apply now' on the [official prize webpage](#).

Submission is a 2-step process:

a) create a user account and register your organisation

Applicants must apply by using the Participant Identification Code (PIC) of the legal entity which was one of the beneficiaries listed in the Grant Agreement of the FP7/H2020 project. These applicants do not need to register again and create new PICs. In the case of the ERC principal investigators or MSCA fellows, they can apply as individuals in their own name by creating a PIC corresponding to a natural person or use the PIC of the legal entity which was one of the beneficiaries listed in the Grant Agreement. In the case of a legal entity principally created for exploitation of the project results, the applicants can apply by using (or creating) a PIC of the new legal entity.

¹⁷ For the powers of OLAF, EPPO and ECA, see Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 883/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 September 2013 concerning investigations conducted by the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1073/1999 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Council Regulation (Euratom) No 1074/1999 (OJ L 248, 18/09/2013, p. 1), Council Regulation (Euratom, EC) No 2185/1996 of 11 November 1996 concerning on-the-spot checks and inspections carried out by the Commission in order to protect the European Communities' financial interests against fraud and other irregularities (OJ L 292, 15/11/1996, p. 2), Council Regulation (EU) 2017/1939 of 12 October 2017 implementing enhanced cooperation on the establishment of the European Public Prosecutor's Office ('the EPPO') and Article 287 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU) and Article 257 of EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046.

b) **submit the application**

Access the Electronic Submission System via the Topic page in the [Search Funding & Tenders](#) section.

Submit your application in 3 parts, as follows:

- Part A includes administrative information about the applicant organisations . Fill it in directly online
- Part B (description of the action) covers the technical content of the application. Download the mandatory word template from the Submission System, fill it in and upload it as a PDF file
- Annexes (if any; *see section 5*). Upload them as PDF files¹⁸.

The application must keep to the **page limits** (*see section 5*); excess pages will be disregarded.

Joint applications must be submitted by the (lead) participant via the Funding and Tenders Portal using the Participant Identification Code (PIC). The same administrative data must be used across all parts of the application.

Documents must be uploaded to the **right category** in the Submission System otherwise the application might be considered incomplete and thus inadmissible.

The application must be submitted **before the call deadline** (*see section 4*). After this deadline, the system is closed and applications can no longer be submitted.

Once the application is submitted, you will receive a **confirmation e-mail** (with date and time of your application). If you do not receive this confirmation e-mail, it means your application has NOT been submitted. If you believe this is due to a fault in the Submission System, you should immediately file a complaint via the [IT Helpdesk webform](#), explaining the circumstances and attaching a copy of the application (and, if possible, screenshots to show what happened).

Details on processes and procedures are described in the [Online Manual](#). The Online Manual also contains the links to FAQs and detailed instructions regarding the Portal Electronic Exchange System.

12. Help

Additional information can be found:

- [Online Manual](#)
- [Prize website](#)
- [Prize FAQs](#)
- Funding and Tenders [Portal FAQ](#) (for general questions).

Please also consult the Topic page regularly, since we will use it to publish call updates.

Contact

¹⁸ If you wish to upload more than one letter of support, you may upload them under one single PDF.

Call: Horizon-Widera-2022-ImpactPrize— Horizon Impact Award 2022

EU Prizes: Call document Horizon Impact Award (Rules of Contest): V1.0 – 06.01.2022

For individual questions on the Portal Submission System, please contact the [IT Helpdesk](#).

Non-IT related questions should be sent to the following email address: EC-Horizon-Impact-Award@ec.europa.eu

Please indicate clearly the reference of the call and topic to which your question relates (*see cover page*).

13. Important



IMPORTANT

- **Don't wait until the end** — Complete your application sufficiently in advance of the deadline to avoid any last minute **technical problems**. Problems due to last minute submissions (*e.g. congestion, etc.*) will be entirely at your risk. Call deadlines can NOT be extended.
- **Consult** the Portal Topic page regularly. We will use it to publish updates and additional information on the call (call updates).
- **Funding & Tenders Portal Electronic Exchange System** — By submitting the application, all applicants **accept** to use the electronic exchange system in accordance with the [Portal Terms & Conditions](#).
- **Registration** — Before submitting the application, all applicants must be registered in the [Participant Register](#). The participant identification code (PIC) (one per applicant) is mandatory for the Application Form.
- **Joint applications** — Joint applications by a group of applicants are admitted. In this case, you must appoint a lead applicant (coordinator) to submit the application and represent you towards the awarding authority. All applicants will be jointly responsible and must all fulfil and respect the conditions set out in these Rules of Contest.
- **No double funding** — There is a strict prohibition of double funding from the EU budget. Applications that have already received an EU prize cannot receive a second prize for the same activities.
- **Resubmission** — Applications may be changed and re-submitted until the deadline for submission. For first past the post prizes with cut-off dates, applications can be changed and re-submitted until the cut-off date; the re-submission may however let you use your position as first in place.
- **Rejection** — By submitting the application, all applicants accept the call conditions set out in these Rules of Contest (and the documents they refer to). Applications that do not comply with all the call conditions will be **rejected**. This applies also to applicants: All applicants need to fulfil the criteria; if any one of them doesn't, they must be replaced or the entire application will be rejected.
- **Cancellation** — The awarding authority may cancel the contest or decide not to award the prize — without any obligation to compensate participants (*e.g. no applications, jury cannot determine winner, winner is not eligible or must be excluded, objectives have already been achieved, etc*). In this case, you will be informed via a call update.
- **Language** — You can submit your application in any official EU language. However, for reasons of efficiency, we strongly advise you to use English. If you need the call documentation in another official EU language, please submit a request within 10 days after call publication (for the contact information, *see section 12*).

- **Transparency** — In accordance with Article 38 of the [EU Financial Regulation](#), information about EU prizes awarded and the winners (name, address and amount awarded) is published each year on the [Europa website](#).

The publication can exceptionally be waived (on reasoned and duly substantiated request), if there is a risk that the disclosure could jeopardise your rights and freedoms under the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights or harm your commercial interests.

- **Data protection** — Any processing of personal data in the context of this prize will be done in accordance with Regulation [2018/1725](#). It will be processed solely for the purpose of evaluating your application (and subsequent management of your prize and, if needed, programme monitoring, evaluation and communication). Details are explained in the [Funding & Tenders Portal Privacy Statement](#).

By submitting the application, all applicants accept that the awarding authority will publish information on the finalists and winners.