

## KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Compared to Horizon 2020, Estonia's participation in new European Partnerships will be more strategic and better aligned with national priorities. Participation is associated with the focus areas defined in the new Research and Development, Innovation and Entrepreneurship (RDIE) Strategy for 2021–2035. In addition, national level co-funding mechanisms were re-designed to allow a wider range of actors to join EU partnerships.

**51** H2020  
public  
partnerships (\*)

Or  
**51.55%**  
of total  
(99 partnerships)

**55** H2020  
public  
partnerships (\*)  
participations

Or  
**2.55%**  
of total

**0** H2020  
public  
partnerships (\*)  
coordinations

Or  
**0%**  
of total

Source: ERA-LEARN database (cut-off date June 2021), H2020 period (2014–2020) excluding EIT-KICs, EuroHPC and ECSEL

(\*) Horizon 2020 public-public partnerships include ERA-NET Cofund, EJPs, Art 185 initiatives and JPIs. Partnership participations: number of partnerships a specific country takes part as participant – for certain countries more than one national organisation may take part. Thus the participations may be more than the number of partnerships a country is part of. Total partnership participations: number of partners from a specific country participating with any role (i.e. coordinator, participant, observer, other) in partnerships. Partnership coordinations: number of partnerships a specific country coordinates.

**€7.1 million**

in actual national contributions in public partnerships  
during H2020 (2014–2020)

Or **0.21%** of total

**€1 533**

per researcher FTE (average between 2014–2019 based  
on EUROSTAT data)

Source: ERA-LEARN database (cut-off date June 2021), H2020 period (2014–2020)

Actual national contributions is the funding given by each country to cover the participation of national science and technology groups in the funded projects of the joint transnational calls launched by public partnerships. Actual contributions for each researcher are the total of actual contributions by a country divided by the number of researchers in the country estimated in full-time equivalents (FTE) averaged between 2014–2019 based on EUROSTAT data.

## KEY INTENTIONS FOR THE FUTURE

In Horizon Europe, Estonia will continue participating in partnerships, with a primary focus on priority areas (Research and Development, Innovation and Entrepreneurship Strategy 2021–2035):

- digital solutions across all areas of life
- health technologies and services
- valorisation of local resources
- smart and suitable energy solutions
- thriving Estonian society, language and cultural space.
- For the new funding period (2021–2035), Estonia's participation in partnerships is more strategic – the participation is primarily focused on initiatives related to the new RDIE strategy 2021–35 focus areas.

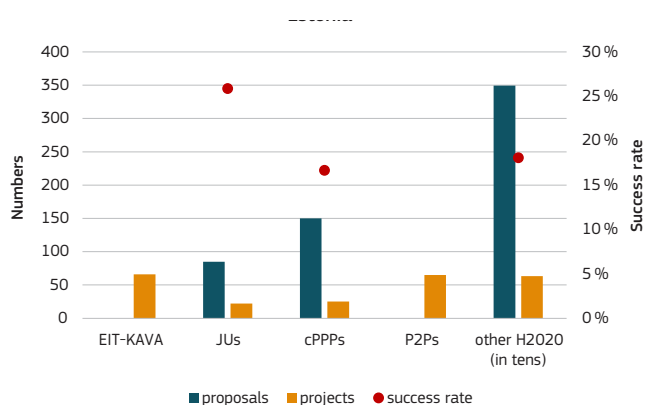


**TABLE 1: Distribution of funding under the different H2020 instruments (P2Ps, JUs, cPPPs and other H2020 projects, i.e. CSAs, RIAs, IAs, etc.) across thematic priorities**

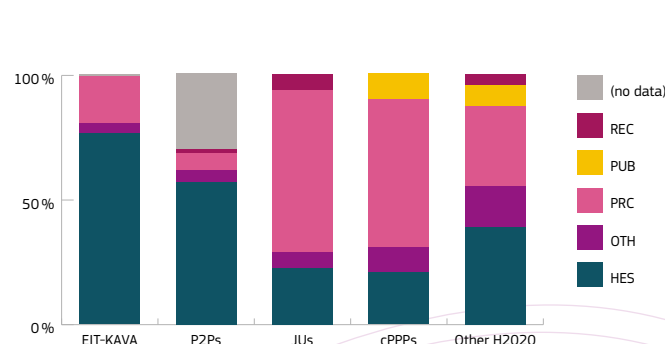
THEMATIC PRIORITIES	P2Ps PROJECTS	JUs PROJECTS	cPPPs PROJECTS	OTHER H2020 PROJECTS
Nanotechnologies, Advanced Materials, Advanced Manufacturing and Processing, Biotechnology	23.15 %	1.61 %	0.00 %	9.38 %
Climate action, environment, resource efficiency and raw materials	18.47 %	0.00 %	0.00 %	5.84 %
Europe in a changing world - inclusive, innovative and reflective Societies	3.15 %		28.49 %	20.15 %
Food security, sustainable agriculture and forestry, marine and maritime and inland water research	26.59 %	76.93 %		6.32 %
Future and Emerging Technologies	0.00 %		0.00 %	3.28 %
Health, demographic change and wellbeing	28.65 %	10.54 %		15.10 %
Information and Communication Technologies		4.59 %	67.83 %	16.41 %
Secure, clean and efficient energy	0.00 %	2.44 %	3.68 %	18.58 %
Smart, green and integrated transport	0.00 %	3.88 %		4.95 %
	100,00 %	100,00 %	100,00 %	100,00 %

Source: ERA-LEARN database (cut-off date June 2021) based on actual national contributions for P2Ps; eCORDA based on net EU contribution; values are calculated as the share of investments of the specific instrument in the specific theme in the total investments under the specific instrument.

**FIGURE 1: Eligible proposals, projects and success rates**



**FIGURE 2: Types of project beneficiaries (%)**



Source: ERA-LEARN database for P2Ps (cut-off date June 2021); eCORDA for EIT-KAVA, JUs, cPPPs, other H2020 projects (RIAs, CSAs, etc.)

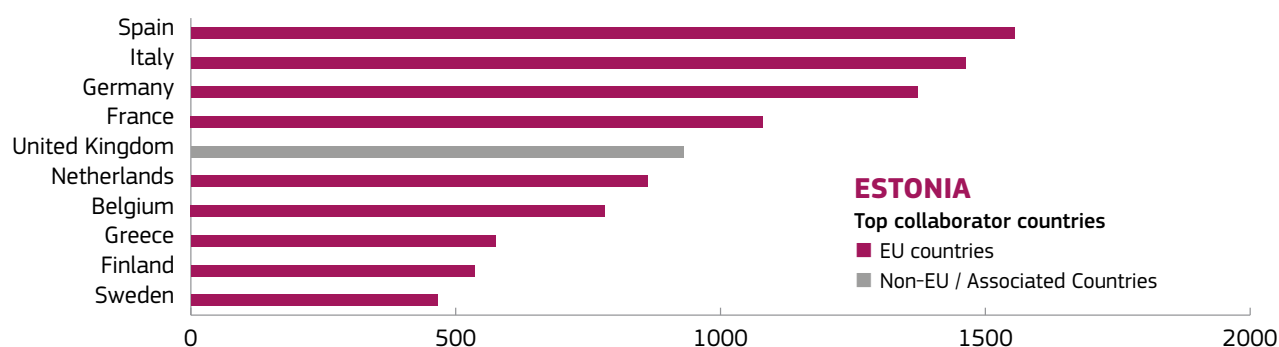
No proposal data for P2Ps, EIT-KICs (Figure 1). EIT-KAVA: KIC Added Value Activities; HES: higher education; OTH: other; PRC: private for-profit companies; PUB: public bodies; REC: research organisations (Figure 2)



### COMPLEMENTARY AND CUMULATIVE FUNDING

- Participating in partnerships has been an example of synergy between different EU programmes: Estonia has supported participation in European Research Area activities (including partnerships) with ERDF: about 1/3 of ERA-NET participations in Horizon 2020 were funded from structural funds. This also remains a very important funding source in Horizon Europe.
- In Estonia, sectoral ministries are responsible for their sectorial partnerships. Therefore the national ministries actively seek co-funding from national level funding sources, and also from other EU funding sources.
- During Horizon 2020, the ministries' capacity to determine the R&D needs of society has improved considerably due to the active involvement in partnerships' strategic planning on the national level. In Horizon Europe, six ministries have committed to supporting participation in partnerships with EUR 27 million and ensuring the complementarity of national policy goals with global societal challenges.

**FIGURE 3: Top collaborators of Estonian researchers under Horizon 2020 projects (including JUs, cPPPs, P2Ps and other H2020 projects)**



Source: eCorda; Showing top-ten collaborator-countries



## SUCCESS STORIES

- ✦ **Impact on programme design/management:** Participation in Horizon 2020 partnerships has resulted in new national-level structures for funding. For example, in the case of European Partnerships, the Estonian Environmental Investment Centre is planning a dedicated funding tool to co-fund partnerships (in the environmental field).
- ✦ **Impact on national coordination mechanism:** The Research and Development **Council\* revised** the national coordination mechanism for new European Partnerships to better fit with the overall (budget) planning at the national and EU level (including the change in data collection timing).

### Impact on alignment

- ✦ The abovementioned revision changed national co-funding criteria to also allow additional new partners to participate in a partnership's related projects (e.g. SMEs and regional authorities). The aim is to align national co-funding rules with overall Horizon Europe principles (to more engage different types of participants in the programme).

\* The Research and Development Council advises the Republic's government in matters relating to the research and development strategy, thereby directing the systematic development of the national research, development and innovation system.