

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Throughout Horizon 2020, Malta participated in various partnerships, most notably in the blue economy sector, a strong pillar of the Maltese economy. Other notable areas include agriculture, food, water management and quantum technologies. Malta's participation in the upcoming Horizon Europe Partnerships will also be strategic based on identifying Malta's research and innovation gaps, via consultation with relevant Ministries and stakeholders, whilst also seeking alignment with Malta's most advanced draft of the Smart Specialisation Strategy 2021-2027. Going forward, Malta shall continue strengthening its participation in Horizon Europe partnerships by substantially increasing available funding from the national budget.

7
H2020 public
partnerships (*)

Or
7.07%
of total
(99 partnerships)

7 H2020
public
partnerships (*)
participations

Or
0.32%
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.

€1.5 million

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

Or **0.07%** of total

€1 448

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 the public partnerships. Actual contributions for each researcher are the total actual contributions by a country divided by the number of researchers in the country estimated in full-time equivalents (FTE) average between 2014-2019 based on EUROSTAT data.

KEY INTENTIONS FOR THE FUTURE

In Horizon Europe, Malta shall continue its participation in partnerships with a primary focus on the following priority areas:

- sustainable blue economy
- health systems and technologies
- clean energy transitions
- digital technologies
- high-performance computing
- water management
- agriculture and food systems.



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	0.00 %	0.00 %	0.00 %	3.11 %
Climate action, environment, resource efficiency and raw materials	0.00 %	0.00 %	0.00 %	16.15 %
Europe in a changing world - inclusive, innovative and reflective Societies	0.00 %		23.40 %	27.68 %
Food security, sustainable agriculture and forestry, marine and maritime and inland water research	94.40 %	0.00 %		15.57 %
Future and Emerging Technologies	0.00 %		0.00 %	2.45 %
Health, demographic change and wellbeing	0.00 %	0.00 %		2.60 %
Information and Communication Technologies		0.00 %	76.60 %	12.28 %
Secure, clean and efficient energy	5.60 %	12.37 %	0.00 %	7.77 %
Smart, green and integrated transport	0.00 %	87.63 %		12.40 %
	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

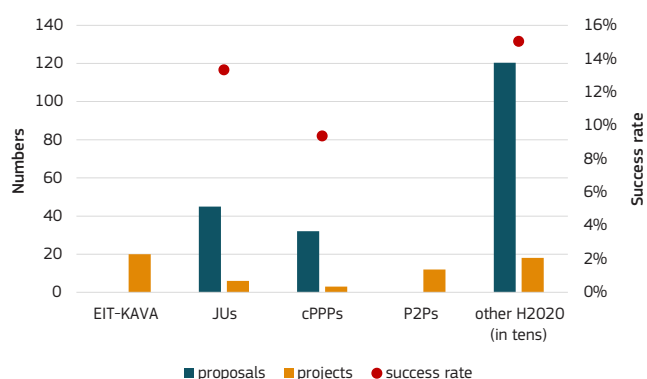
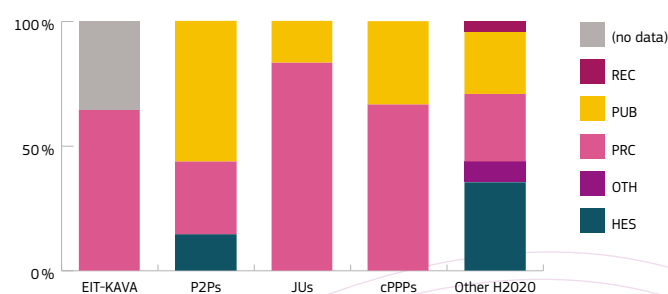


FIGURE 2: Types of project beneficiaries (%)



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)



ADDITIONAL INVESTMENTS TRIGGERED

Participation in additional joint calls seems to be a successful mechanism for increasing R&I project funding while supporting priority thematic areas. They have also contributed to the internationalisation of activities and policies, including at the bilateral level outside of the EU. Additional activities such as participation in the development of thematic SRIAs have been an excellent opportunity for including the Maltese R&I priorities in the EU’s research agenda.

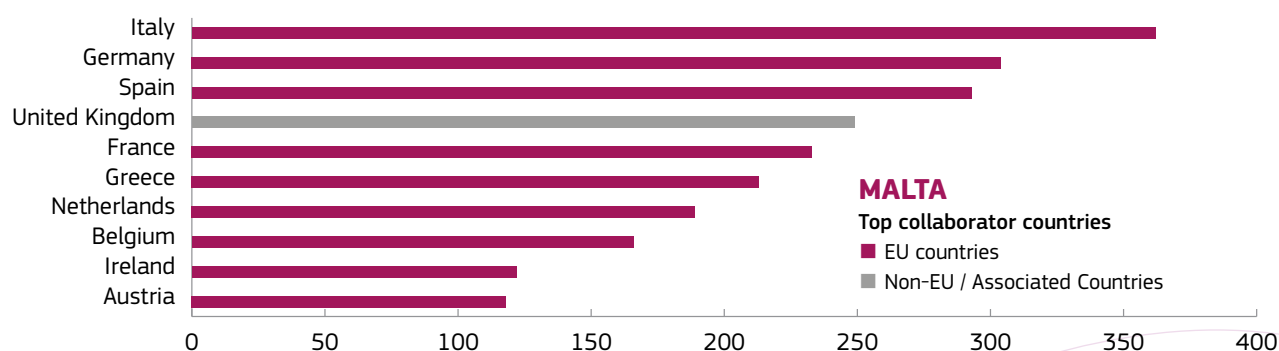
Additional activities also included a bilateral funding programme that was developed through Malta’s active participation in the PRIMA programme, as well as a proposal writing assistance scheme to facilitate the participation of less experienced researchers in PRIMA projects.

COMPLEMENTARY AND CUMULATIVE FUNDING

The EU contribution in both ERA-NET and the Article 185 initiative PRIMA has leveraged national funding that in turn enabled participation in additional partnership activities. These include additional calls following the initial co-funded call in the case of ERA-NET, and additional bilateral activities in the case of PRIMA.

For Horizon Europe, Malta will be looking into using alternative sources of funding, such as ERDF funding, to top up its national contribution to the partnerships. So far, Malta has committed to participate in seven new partnerships under Horizon Europe, with the participation of five different governmental entities. It will also continue its participation in the PRIMA programme. The following partnerships have been already identified: Clean Energy Transition, Sustainable Blue Economy, Transforming Health and Care Systems, Innovative SMEs, Euro HPC, Water4All, and Key Digital Technologies.

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



Source: eCorda; Showing top-10 collaborator-countries



SUCCESS STORIES

- ✦ **Impact on programme management:** during Horizon 2020 and the partnerships carried out under this framework programme, Malta has obtained significant experience in programme management, particularly with respect to implementation, monitoring and related processes. This experience can be used throughout the strategic implementation of the new Horizon Europe partnerships.
- ✦ **Impact on national coordination mechanism:** In 2019, the Malta Council for Science and Technology set up a dedicated Internationalisation unit to deepen international collaboration among local and foreign researchers and stakeholders. This has enabled more dedicated resources for Malta's participation in the upcoming Horizon Europe partnerships. Also, owing to the interest that was shown by local stakeholders in partnerships, Malta will increase its allocated national budget to boost the impact of the research outcomes being generated through the selected partnerships.