



Brussels, 29.11.2024  
C(2024) 8410 final

## COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 29.11.2024

**on the financing for 2025-2026 of the actions and horizontal support expenditure in the framework of the Specific Programme implementing Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2021-2027) and the Research and Training Programme of the European Atomic Energy Community for the period 2021-2025 complementing Horizon Europe and the adoption of the work programme for 2025-2026**

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Atomic Energy Community,

Having regard to Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 September 2024 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union<sup>1</sup> ('the Financial Regulation'), and in particular Article 110(1) thereof,

Having regard to 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<sup>2</sup> and in particular Article 12(6) thereof,

Having regard to Council Decision (EU) 2021/764 of 10 May 2021, establishing the Specific Programme implementing Horizon Europe - The Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, and repealing Decision 2013/743/EU and in particular Article 4(3) thereof,

Having regard to Council Regulation (Euratom) 2021/765 of 10 May 2021 establishing the Research and Training Programme of the European Atomic Energy Community for the period 2021-2025 complementing Horizon Europe – The Framework Programme for Research and Innovation and repealing Regulation (Euratom) 2018/1563<sup>3</sup>, and in particular Article 4(3),

Whereas:

- (1) In order to ensure the implementation of the programme, it is necessary to adopt a multiannual financing decision, which is to constitute the multiannual work programme, for 2025-2026 in accordance with Article 110(2) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 ('the Financial Regulation').

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<sup>1</sup> Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 September 2024 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union (recast) (OJ L, 2024/2509, 26.09.2024, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/2509/oj>).

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 170, 12.5.2021, p. 1

<sup>3</sup> OJ L 167I, 12.5.2021, p. 81

- (2) The envisaged assistance is to comply with the conditions and procedures set out by the restrictive measures<sup>4</sup> adopted pursuant to Article 215 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.
- (3) It is necessary to allow for the payment of interest due for late payment on the basis of Article 116(5) of the Financial Regulation.
- (4) In order to allow for flexibility in the implementation of the work programme, it is appropriate to determine the changes, which should not be considered substantial for the purposes of Article 110(5) of the Financial Regulation.
- (5) Pursuant to Article 62(1), first subparagraph, point (c), of the Financial Regulation, indirect management is to be used for the actions specified in the work programme.
- (6) The Commission is to ensure a level of protection of the financial interests of the Union with regard to persons and entities entrusted with the implementation of Union funds by indirect management as provided for in Article 157(3) of the Financial Regulation. To that end, and before a contribution agreement can be signed, such persons and entities are to be subject to an assessment of their systems and procedures in accordance with Article 157(4) of the Financial Regulation<sup>5</sup> and, if necessary, to appropriate supervisory measures in accordance with Article 157(5) of the Financial Regulation.
- (7) It is necessary to authorise the award of grants without a call for proposals and to provide for the conditions for awarding those grants in accordance with Article 198 of the Financial Regulation.
- (8) The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the work programme in 2025 includes part of EFTA contribution which is fixed for 2025 at 2.75% of the appropriations. The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the work programme in 2026 includes part of EFTA contribution which is estimated for 2026 at 2.75% of the appropriations,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

*Article 1*  
*The financing decision*

The multiannual financing decision constituting the multiannual work programme for the implementation of the actions and horizontal support expenditure under the Specific Programme implementing Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation and under the Euratom Research and Training Programme, for 2025-2026, as set out in the Annex of this decision, is hereby adopted.

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<sup>4</sup> See [www.sanctionsmap.eu](http://www.sanctionsmap.eu) – Note that the sanctions map is an IT tool for identifying the sanctions regimes. The source of the sanctions stems from legal acts published in the Official Journal (OJ). In the case of discrepancy, the OJ prevails.

<sup>5</sup> Except for the cases of Article 157(7) of the Financial Regulation, where the Commission may decide, not to require an ex-ante assessment

## *Article 2*

### *Union contribution*

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the actions and horizontal support expenditure under the Specific Programme implementing Horizon Europe - the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation is set at EUR 242 210 000 and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the following line of the general budget of the Union for the years 2025 and 2026:

budget line 01.020500: EUR 242 210 000.

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the actions and horizontal support expenditure under the Euratom Research and Training Programme, is set at EUR 101 054 and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the following line of the general budget of the Union for the year 2025:

budget line 01.030200: EUR 101 054.

The appropriations provided for in the first paragraph may also cover interest due for late payment.

The implementation of this Decision is subject to the availability of the appropriations:

- (a) as provided for in the draft general budget of the Union for 2025, following the adoption of that budget by the budgetary authority or as provided for in the system of provisional twelfths;
- (b) as provided for in the draft general budget of the Union for 2026 following the adoption of that budget by the budget authority or as provided for in the system of provisional twelfths.

## *Article 3*

### *Flexibility clause*

Cumulated changes to the allocations to specific actions not exceeding 20% of the maximum Union contribution set in the first paragraph of Article 2 of this Decision shall not be considered to be substantial for the purposes of Article 110(5) of the Financial Regulation, where those changes do not significantly affect the nature of the actions and the objective of the work programme.

The authorising officer responsible may apply the changes referred to in the first paragraph. Those changes shall be applied in accordance with the principles of sound financial management and proportionality.

## *Article 4*

### *Methods of implementation and entrusted entities or persons*

The implementation of the actions carried out by way of indirect management, as set out in the Annex to this decision, may be entrusted to the entities or persons referred to or selected in accordance with the criteria laid down in that Annex.

*Article 5*

*Grants awarded without a call for proposals*

Grants may be awarded without a call for proposals in accordance with the conditions set out in the Annex to the bodies referred to in the Annex.

Done at Brussels, 29.11.2024

*For the Commission*  
*Iliana IVANOVA*  
*Member of the Commission*



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ANNEX

ANNEX

*to the*

**COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION**

**on the financing for 2025-2026 of the actions and horizontal support expenditure in the framework of the Specific Programme implementing Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2021-2027) and the Research and Training Programme of the European Atomic Energy Community for the period 2021-2025 complementing Horizon Europe and the adoption of the work programme for 2025-2026**

**‘Annex**

**Horizon Europe**

**Euratom**

**2025-2026**

*Actions and horizontal support expenditure in the framework of the Specific Programme implementing Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2021-2027) and the Research and Training Programme of the European Atomic Energy Community for the period 2021-2025 complementing Horizon Europe*

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## **Introduction**

### 1. Scope

According to Article 12(6) of REGULATION (EU) 2021/695 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing Horizon Europe Framework Programme for Research and Innovation<sup>1</sup> ('Horizon Europe Framework Programme'), a financial envelope for the implementation of the Framework Programme for the period 2021 – 2027 may also cover expenses necessary for managing and implementing actions through the Horizon Europe Specific Programme.

This multiannual financing decision is also covering, in line with Article 4(3) of Council Regulation (Euratom) 2021/765, similar expenses for the Research and Training Programme of the European Atomic Energy Community for the period 2021-2025 complementing Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation ('Euratom Research and Training Programme').

The multiannual financing decision supports the actions related to the preparation, monitoring, control, audit, and evaluation and other activities and expenditures necessary for managing, implementing and evaluating the achievement of the objectives of the Horizon Europe Framework Programme and the Euratom Research and Training Programme.

It may also cover expenses relating to studies, information and communication actions, in so far as they are related to the objectives of the Programmes, as well as expenses linked to information technology networks focusing on information processing and exchange, including corporate information technology tools and other technical and administrative assistance needed in connection with the management of the Programmes.

### 2. Flexibility Clause

The budgets set out in this financing decision are indicative. The final figures may change by up to 20% compared to the maximum Union contribution set out in this decision.

It should be noted that this flexibility cannot be used for changes that significantly affect the nature of the actions proposed or altering the objective of the financing decision.

The estimated budget for horizontal support expenditure for Horizon Europe is composed of a contribution from all the components and clusters of the Horizon Europe Framework Programme (by default in a pro rata manner according to the budget weight, except for component/cluster not benefitting from the expenditure). The different Horizon Europe parts will contribute accordingly.

The Euratom Research and Training Programme budget breakdown for 2021-2025 between Fusion and Fission has been adopted by Council Regulation (Euratom) 2021/765.

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 170, 12.5.2021, p. 1-68.

## **Other actions not subject to calls for proposals**

### **Indirect management**

#### **1. Implementation of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) - European Commission collaboration (BRIDGE 3)**

The European Commission and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) will keep exploiting synergies between their respective strands of work to broaden the evidence base and the understanding of innovative start-ups ecosystems, to underpin European Union (EU) policies in this area. The project will provide a continuous monitoring of the evolution of the EU innovative start-ups landscape, support further analytical work on the determinants of the performance of innovative start-ups, from firm creation to scale-up or successful exit, and empirically evaluate the impact of policy measures and instruments aiming at supporting innovative ecosystems across countries. It will analyse the drivers and barriers to the provision of private capital for research and innovation and the scale up of innovative companies across Member States and Associated countries, including identifying scope for European action.

Funding rate: 100%

#### Legal entities:

ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT, Rue André-Pascal 2, PARIS CEDEX 16, 75775, France

Form of Funding: Indirectly managed actions

Type of Action: Indirectly managed action

Indicative timetable: Q4 2026

Indicative budget: EUR 0.60 million from the 2026 budget

#### **2. Implementation of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) - European Commission collaboration on monitoring and analysis of Research and Innovation funding and its impact (MABIS 3)**

The European Commission and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) will exploit synergies between their respective strands of work on monitoring and analysing Research and Innovation (R&I) funding, policies and their impact. The project will support further analytical work on public support for innovation, including for private Research and Development (R&D) investments, and provide more solid understanding of their impact and effectiveness, to further underpin European Union policies. It will provide improved and expanded cross-country evidence on R&D tax credits and other forms of public support to business R&D.

Funding rate: 100%

Legal entities:

ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT, Rue  
André-Pascal 2, PARIS CEDEX 16, 75775, France

Form of Funding: Indirectly managed actions

Type of Action: Indirectly managed action

Indicative timetable: Q4 2026

Indicative budget: EUR 1.00 million from the 2026 budget

### **3. Implementation and analysis of the joint European Commission - Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) international survey on Science, Technology and Innovation policies (STIP) REITER**

Since 2015, the European Commission and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) conduct a joint international survey on Science, Technology and Innovation policies (STIP) that has reduced substantially the reporting burden on European Union Member States. Over the last years, the STIP survey and Compass have become the international reference for collecting and displaying STIP. This action will continue to support the roll-out of the joint STIP survey, make refinements to the infrastructure underpinning the survey and boost the analysis of the information gathered through the survey. In this context, it will underpin further and ongoing policy developments related to the Commission's priorities

Funding rate: 100%

Legal entities:

ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT, Rue  
André-Pascal 2, PARIS CEDEX 16, 75775, France

Form of Funding: Indirectly managed actions

Type of Action: Indirectly managed action

Indicative budget: EUR 1.00 million from the 2025 budget

### **4. Analysing the Research and Innovation productivity-inequality nexus with Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)**

Scope: Collection of harmonised micro-aggregated data on productivity, employment and business dynamics to support cross-country analyses. Based on the data collected the project will shed light on granular productivity and employment dynamics and, accounting for heterogeneity across firms and sectors, how this further links to business dynamism. The

project will deepen the understanding of the link between productivity, competition and other socio-economic outcomes such as employment and/or wages. It will also reinforce the understanding of investment and its drivers, and more broadly the role of policies, in particular the European Framework Programme for research and innovation, to foster productivity and economic growth.

Expected outcome: Reduction of cost and enhancement of the quality and comparability of the data on firm, productivity and business dynamics, identifying in particular firms benefitting from the European Framework Programme for research and innovation. This contributes to the valorisation of micro-data available nationally, while providing the foundations of cross-country studies of productivity at a granular level, accounting for relevant dimensions of heterogeneity. Better understanding of firm and industry dynamics for explaining aggregate productivity growth in European countries, and other non-European countries. Better understanding of the role of competition, market conditions and policy frameworks on firm dynamics and productivity patterns, leading to better measurement of their impact and an identification of the channels through which research and innovation policies could contribute to socio-economic improvements through productivity growth and industry dynamics. Better understanding of the drivers of investments as well as their heterogeneity across firms/sectors, leading to a broader and better understanding of levers to foster productivity and economic growth, in particular the European Framework Programme for research and innovation. Reinforcement of the scientific community focused on the role of research and innovation in the European Union (EU) economy and increased interactions between this community and policy makers in charge of Research and Innovation policy in Europe.

Expected impact: Better understanding about the firm dynamics in European countries could lead to different levels of policy intervention (EU, national, regional), and reinforced alignment between the analysis of data and policy use, for example in the context of assessing policy options and assessing the impact of the European Framework Programme for research and innovation. Novel evidence on productivity, competition and employment/wages, and the drivers of investment will give policy makers options for synergies in addressing policy issues. Reduction of cost and reinforcement of the scientific community around these topics could encourage countries to further improve access and coordinate data infrastructure to allow for more cross-country analysis approaches.

Funding rate: 100%

Legal entities:

ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT, Rue  
André-Pascal 2, PARIS CEDEX 16, 75775, France

Form of Funding: Indirectly managed actions

Type of Action: Indirectly managed action

Indicative timetable: Q4 2025

Indicative budget: EUR 1.00 million from the 2025 budget

## **5. Green technology adoption in high energy-intensive sectors**

This action aims to increase the understanding of the importance of the adoption and usage of green technologies in determining energy efficiency of firms in high energy-intensive sectors. The action will implement and analyse Technology Adoption Surveys targeted to high energy-intensive sectors in the European Union (EU). The project will build on the “Firm-level Adoption of Technology (FAT) Survey” of the World Bank and will, expand the sector-level green modules in high energy-intensive sectors, as well as the geographical scope across the EU. This work will help learn about the importance of technology adoption and managerial practices for energy efficiency and carbon emissions, benchmark within sectors high levels of “green” technology adoption, and assess firms’ perceptions of local market conditions in adopting these technologies.

Specifically, the action will:

- (a) develop sector-specific questionnaires in the FAT survey for the specific technologies used in a set of high energy-intensive sectors,
- (b) translate the survey to local languages across the EU where applicable,
- (c) sample a representative set of firms within EU from the agreed sectors,
- (d) conduct interviews with suppliers if scope 3 emissions are superior to 33%,
- (e) implement the survey with local partners (national statistical offices or private companies) through both phone and online data collection.

The action will be implemented by DG REGIO through a co-delegation.

Funding rate: 100%

Legal entities:

World Bank, Headquarters 1818 H Street, NW Washington, DC 20433, USA

Form of Funding: Indirectly managed actions

Type of Action: Indirectly managed action

Indicative timetable: 2025

Indicative budget: EUR 0.60 million from the 2025 budget

## **Grants to identified beneficiaries**

### **1. Strengthening the OAPEN initiative in support of European Union Open Access policy**

Horizon Europe requires open access to all peer-reviewed scientific publications related to the results of the actions it funds. This requirement includes monographs and other long-form publications, which are particularly important in the Humanities and Social Sciences, as well as book chapters.

The OAPEN Library holds a collection of more than 29 000 Open Access books and approximately 4 600 chapters from almost 440 publishers worldwide, with some 13 million downloads so far. It specialises in the aggregation and hosting of scientific monographs and book chapters. OAPEN works directly with publishers and funders in order to provide a unique combination of services to support open access to long-form publications: a repository for the deposit of books and chapters by researchers seeking to comply with funders' Open Access mandates; the active dissemination of its collection by providing feeds in multiple formats to libraries and their intermediaries; quality assurance on its collection; and Open Access guidance for authors.

The OAPEN deposit service is unique – there exists no comparable service dedicated specifically to the deposit of Open Access monographs. It is adapted to the specific demands for academic books, making use of existing metadata standards, classification schemes and distribution channels for academic books. The combination of quality assurance – based on peer review – and a thorough understanding of the needs of authors, publishers, libraries and research funders has resulted in a widely used and broad collection of monographs. The success of the OAPEN library is based largely on the extensive network of contacts and long-standing cooperation with academic publishers, supported by the professional experience in the publishing world of the key staff involved.

The grant aims to support the maintenance and further improvement of the existing services and infrastructure, and to help OAPEN to further strengthen its engagement with publishers and researchers in support of the EU Open Access policy.

Specifically, the grant will fund the collection management service for Horizon Europe-funded monographs, in support of the EU Open Access Policy, including the deposit service, dissemination, digital preservation, discover and reporting services for Horizon Europe monographs (including those funded by the European Research Council).

The general conditions, including admissibility conditions, eligibility conditions, award criteria, evaluation and award procedure, legal and financial set-up for grants, financial and operational capacity and exclusion, and procedure are set out in Annexes A to G of the General Annexes to the Horizon Europe Work Programme 2023-2025<sup>2</sup>.

The following exception applies:

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<sup>2</sup> European Commission Decision C(2024) 2371 of 17 April 2024, available [here](#).

The evaluation committee assessing this proposal will be fully composed of representatives of Union institutions or bodies.

Legal entities:

Stichting OAPEN (OAPEN Foundation), Prins Willem-Alexanderhof 5, 2595 BE The Hague, The Netherlands

Form of Funding: Grants not subject to calls for proposals

Type of Action: Grant to identified beneficiary according to Financial Regulation Article 195(e) - Coordination and support action

Indicative timetable: 2025

Indicative budget: EUR 0.10 million from the 2025 budget

## **2. Evolution and operations of EU Open Research Repository – enhanced depositing service for digital research objects for Horizon Europe beneficiaries**

Expected Outcome: Project results are expected to contribute to all of the following outcomes:

- Provision of curation services for digital research objects supporting high quality collections.
- Establishment of best practices in the implementation of services that enable the Artificial Intelligence (AI)-ready FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable) data principles in scientific repositories.
- Integration of AI capacities supporting and facilitating the use of the repository (i.e.: facilitating and incentivising increase of level of FAIRness of deposited digital objects, automating curation, facilitating deposition...).
- Improved discoverability of research results through recommendation capacities.
- Further integration into the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC).

Expected Impact: Proposals should set out a credible pathway to contributing to all of the following impacts:

- Enhanced Open Science policy implementation, notably on FAIR, AI ready and open data.
- Fostering a harmonised approach among initiatives of European funders and institutions on research outputs.
- Fostering the expansion of the EOSC federated environment of trusted and FAIR-enabling repositories.
- Strengthened collaboration and uptake of best practices among the EOSC community.

Scope:

The European Union has increasingly supported the implementation of the Open Science policy in successive Research and Innovation Framework Programmes (FP), starting from the Open Access pilot in FP7, adding Open Data provisions in Horizon 2020, and laying down in Horizon Europe a set of provisions for open science practices such as open access to scientific publications, open access to research data and responsible management of research data, notably through the mainstreaming of data management plans and in line with the FAIR principles.

This evolution has been accompanied by several EU-funded actions to support beneficiaries to better manage their research outputs and to facilitate the implementation of the programme provisions. This has notably included support to the creation and evolution of Zenodo, a general-purpose open repository operated by CERN, allowing researchers to deposit research papers, data sets, research software, reports, and any other research related digital outputs. This repository has become a reference for programme beneficiaries when community or institutional repositories are not available or do not respond to the requested provisions.

The EU Open Research Repository within Zenodo has been established to serve and facilitate the Horizon Europe beneficiaries with enhanced depositing services for digital research objects that are FAIR-enabling and compliant with Horizon Europe requirements. It is also means to show the way and lead by example.

Within this framework the Commission intends to continue to capitalise on past investments in Zenodo, and the unique CERN experience to tailor specific services for Horizon Europe beneficiaries. They can already benefit from number of advanced capacities related to new features for FAIR evaluation and curation. However, the intention is to go step further and enhance the EU Open Research Repository with:

- Operationalising and running the framework for curation through dedicated tools and resources helping facilitating communities in order to provide highest quality collections of digital objects;
- Evolution of FAIR enablers also with the integration of AI capacities;
- Improved and automated discoverability of digital research objects and through it facilitating within- and cross-domain cooperation;
- Improved user interface with capacities to facilitate automated encoding data related to digital objects;
- Deeper integration into EOSC in compliance with the common rules, policies and interoperability framework of the EOSC federation.

All software developed under this action should be open source, licensed under a CC0 public domain dedication or under an open source licence as recommended by the Free Software Foundation<sup>3</sup> and the Open Source Initiative<sup>4</sup>.

This grant will be awarded without a call for proposals according to Article 195(e) of the Financial Regulation and Article 24(3)(b) of the Horizon Europe Regulation to the legal entity identified below, as it operates the Zenodo repository.

The general conditions, including admissibility conditions, eligibility conditions, award criteria, evaluation and award procedure, legal and financial set-up for grants, financial and operational capacity and exclusion, and procedure are set out in Annexes A to G of the General Annexes to the Horizon Europe Work Programme 2023-2025.<sup>5</sup>

The following exceptions apply:

The beneficiary will be subject to the following additional access rights: Each beneficiary must grant royalty-free access to its results to the EOSC Association for monitoring and developing policies and strategies for the European Open Science Cloud. Each beneficiary must also provide directly to the EOSC Association the information the beneficiary deems necessary for monitoring and developing policies and strategies for the European Open Science Cloud.

The evaluation committee assessing this proposal will be fully composed of representatives of Union institutions or bodies.

Legal entities:

CERN – Organisation Européenne pour la Recherche Nucléaire, Esplanade des Particules 1, 1211 Geneva 23 - Switzerland

Form of Funding: Grants not subject to calls for proposals

Type of Action: Grant to identified beneficiary according to Financial Regulation Article 195(e) - Coordination and support action

Indicative timetable: Q2 2025

Indicative budget: EUR 0.80 million from the 2025 budget

### **3. Strengthening Moldova's Horizon Europe Ecosystem: Expanding the Reach and Capabilities of the Horizon Europe Office**

#### **Expected Outcomes**

NCP System sustainable and professional: Leverage the already established Horizon Europe Office and the National Contact Point (NCP) system's sustainability and robustness. This will

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.gnu.org/licenses/license-list#SoftwareLicenses>

<sup>4</sup> <https://opensource.org/licenses>

<sup>5</sup> European Commission Decision C(2024) 2371 of 17 April 2024, available [here](#).

be achieved through assuring the proper number of members covering the envisaged R&I areas and activities and by offering training and capacity building, ensuring professional and localized services across Moldova, and facilitating the coordination among thematic NCPs. This will also be assured by the organization of complementary training, information and experience sharing events between the ecosystem and community members, and development of dedicated support materials (tutorials, guides, information materials etc.), as well as assuring the mobility of the HEO and NCPs and participation in related brokerage, networking, and other thematic events. At the same time, to support the community development, idea generation and projects implementation events will be organized (hackathon, training camps, meet-ups), for the ecosystem members actively involved in development and submission of proposals under the funding opportunities of Horizon Europe Programme.

To assure international collaborations and knowledge exchange, Moldova's ecosystem members will actively participate in related national and international events. Also, via the dedicated webpage, will be offered relevant information and support materials, to ease and facilitate the use of funding opportunities as of the Funding and Tenders Portal. At the same time the organization of B2Bs and networking events will support and facilitate the identification of potential partners.

To assure the achievement of the proposed activities, Active Monitoring and Promotion activities will be held: Monitor and analyze the implementation of R&I cooperation projects, disseminate success stories, and identify and address operational challenges. This information will inform discussions in the annual EU-Moldova Joint Committees under the Association Agreement with Horizon Europe and Euratom.

### **Expected Impact**

- Increased acknowledgement and information of Horizon Europe Opportunities for the national and regional R&I ecosystem, as well as the cooperation potential between the local and international stakeholders.
- HEO and NCP services in Moldova enhanced as of the requirements of the similar structures in EU Member States and bearing the best practices and know-how from more experienced representatives.
- Increased participation of Moldova stakeholders and community members within R&I activities, as well as with better quality of Horizon Europe proposals from Moldova, with a notable rise in funded projects.
- Increased robustness of the R&I ecosystem due to the development of the team, technical assistance, mentoring sessions, developed digital tools and materials needed to support and assure the achievement of FP objectives and measures in Moldova.

- Improved integration of Moldova into the European Research Area and facilitation of R&I with scale up potential, as well as of the cooperation and integration in the European ecosystem.

## **Scope**

With the Horizon Europe Office (HEO) in Moldova already established, the upcoming program will now focus on enhancing its capabilities and expanding its support across the Moldovan research and innovation (R&I) ecosystem.

Therefore, the proposal aims to:

- Enhance research and innovation capabilities and application in Moldova.
- Increase international collaboration and knowledge exchange.
- Develop a robust and sustainable research support system.

To achieve the scope and aims of the project, more emphasis will be made on the creation and development of the capacities of the office and of the network of National Contact Points (NCP) in Moldova, that will act as the key gate in promoting the HE programme objectives and measures, thereby facilitating a more comprehensive and localized service for the Moldovan R&I community. At the same time, specific activities will be implemented to support the R&I ecosystem and community development, including by know-how exchange, national and international collaborations, as well as technical assistance needed to assure the success of the HE.

The general conditions, including admissibility conditions, eligibility conditions, award criteria, evaluation and award procedure, legal and financial set-up for grants, financial and operational capacity and exclusion, and procedure are set out in Annexes A to G of the General Annexes to the Horizon Europe Work Programme 2023-2025.<sup>6</sup>

The following exception applies:

The evaluation committee will be composed fully by representatives of EU institutions.

Funding Rate: 100%

### Legal entities:

National Agency for Research and Development (NARD) of Moldova, Stefan cel Mare si Sfant Boulevard 180, Chişinău, Moldova

Form of Funding: Grants not subject to calls for proposals

Type of Action: Grant to identified beneficiary according to Financial Regulation Article 195(e) - Coordination and support action

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<sup>6</sup> European Commission Decision C(2024) 2371 of 17 April 2024, available [here](#).

Indicative timetable: Q4 2025

Indicative budget: EUR 0.94 million from the 2025 budget

#### **4. Horizon Europe Office in Ukraine as the key National Contact Point (NCP) 2.0**

##### **Expected Outcomes:**

- Office 2.0 continues to support and contribute to the improvement of the NCP Network services in Ukraine, which are able to support applicants of the Framework Programme for research and innovation and provide them with the necessary knowledge and assistance.
- Office 2.0 further provides individual support to the NCPs and acts as their coordinator, improves the services of NCPs also by directly targeting the clients and meeting their needs.
- Office 2.0 monitors and analyses the implementation of R&I projects and provides statistical information and recommendations to the MESU as well as advice to other national authorities on the integration to the ERA and the policy on the science integration.
- Office 2.0 continues to actively engage with participants interested in the Framework Programme for research and innovation and assists consortia in partner searches or stakeholders to find partners for the creation of consortia.
- Office 2.0 integrations support into association with the next European Union Framework Programme.
- Office 2.0 raises awareness about the Framework Programme in general (open calls, specific implementation issues, etc.) and about the success of Ukrainian participation specifically through the communication platforms of the Office.

##### **Expected Impact:**

- Strengthened Integration into ERA: Closer integration into the European Research Area through enhanced collaboration, alignment of policies, and active engagement in Horizon Europe initiatives.
- Heightened Horizon Europe Awareness: Increased awareness among the Ukrainian research and innovation community about Horizon Europe opportunities through targeted communication and outreach efforts.
- Enhanced understanding of the Application Processes: Enhanced understanding and systematic approach among Ukrainian participants will enhance application creation and submission, as well as efficient partner search.

- Rise in Ukrainian Applications: Anticipated increase in the number of Ukrainian applications to Horizon Europe calls, surpassing or maintaining levels comparable to pre-war periods, showcasing sustained engagement.
- Increased Funding Share for Ukrainian Researchers: Enhanced proposal quality, implementation of best practices, and expanded experience will lead to a higher share of Ukrainian researchers receiving funding for their projects.

**Scope:**

One outcome arising from the implementation of the Grant Agreement under Project 101132682, entered by the European Union, represented by the European Commission, and the National Research Foundation of Ukraine (hereinafter referred to as the NRFU), was the establishment of an independent structural unit within the NRFU framework – namely, the Horizon Europe Office in Ukraine (hereinafter referred to as the Office).

The practice of conceptualisation the Office as a sturdy bridge spanning the divide between Ukrainian stakeholders and the vast expanse of opportunities within the Framework Programme (hereinafter referred to as the Programme) has become a first in Ukraine. The Office’s initiatives have heightened Ukrainian stakeholders’ understanding of the Programme, its application process, and empowered all stakeholders to participate in the Programme..

The Office has spurred collaboration within the Ukrainian research community by organising promotion events and informational activities, demonstrating to Ukrainian researchers and innovators from different domains the opportunities provided within the Programme, thus enhancing the interdisciplinary and intersectoral approach in research endeavours. Additionally, the Office’s dedication to providing comprehensive advisory services has cultivated excellence in the Ukrainian research sphere, promoting best practices in project proposal development and management. This has affected the quality of research proposals from Ukraine, strengthening the country’s standing as a reputable and valuable partner in the European research community.

Regrettably, amidst years of war, Ukrainian researchers and innovators persist under severe jeopardy, contending with relentless bombardments and unyielding anxiety for the welfare of their nation. Despite these adversities, Ukraine, buoyed by indispensable backing from the European Commission, steadfastly endeavours to reconstruct its decimated research infrastructure, stem the tide of intellectual exodus, and, against formidable odds, foster enduring ties with the European and global research fraternity. All these actions can justifiably serve as an encyclopaedic definition of such a word as “resilience”.

Throughout the implementation of the beforementioned Grant Agreement, the Office assumed a central role as a catalytic mechanism for advancing sustainability initiatives within the Ukrainian research community. By serving as a facilitator, it empowered stakeholders to proactively participate in sustainable development endeavours and bolster competitiveness across Europe.

In the context of Ukraine's prospective accession to the European Union, the perpetuation of the Office's 2.0 version will emerge as a linchpin for the further realisation of EU research and innovation agendas. Such strategic positioning not only will reinforce the harmonisation of efforts within the European Research Area but also will fortify Ukraine's integration into this dynamic framework.

As Office 2.0 will have upgraded support services National Contact Points (NCPs), this will provide more tailored and more applicant-oriented assistance both to Ukrainian researchers and innovators thus ensuring effective coordination between all parties involved at all next programme initiatives levels. The Office 2.0 will also monitor the implementation of R&I projects, offering within its competence analytical and statistical insights, as well as empirical material to national authorities for ongoing improvement R&I domain. In addition, Office 2.0 will facilitate the smooth transition of the goals and objectives formulated by the current Programme to future EU framework programmes and raise awareness through strategic communication activities. Equally important is the fact that taking into account the previously formed expert background in launching, coordinating and supporting various specialised initiatives, such as the ERC Mentoring Initiative, Office 2.0 plans to develop this area of activity and introduce similar methods of work into other structural components of forthcoming EU research and innovation programmes.

A grant provided to the designated beneficiary, the NRFU, emerges as a fitting implementation approach for this action owing to several compelling reasons.

Specifically, the NRFU demonstrates a robust institutional memory, evident in the framework established during the prior grant project that govern the operations of a specialised structural unit within the Foundation. This continuity extends to databases containing information on international and national stakeholders, algorithms developed for analysing potential risks in EU research and innovation programmes and established collaborative practices with similar offices across Europe. Additionally, the NRFU boasts a team of qualified professionals who have undergone extensive training and possess relevant experience in organising communication activities and offering expert advice on the general, financial, and legal aspects of the Programme.

After the successful completion of the previous grant project, the NRFU has acquired a comprehensive array of material and technical resources. These resources have been meticulously selected to not only minimise financial expenditures, especially pertaining to the procurement of office equipment and furniture, but also to optimise the allocation of time resources. As a result, the NRFU is exceptionally well-prepared to embark on the implementation of the proposed project proposal without delay. The strategic utilisation of these resources underscores the NRFU's commitment to efficiency and effectiveness in advancing its mission and objectives.

This grant will be awarded without a call for proposals according to Article 195(e) of the Financial Regulation and Article 24(3)(b) of the Horizon Europe Framework Programme and Rules for Participation.

The general conditions, including admissibility conditions, eligibility conditions, award criteria, evaluation and award procedure, legal and financial set-up for grants, financial and operational capacity and exclusion, and procedure are set out in Annexes A to G of the General Annexes to the Horizon Europe Work Programme 2023-2025.<sup>7</sup>

The following exception applies:

The evaluation committee will be composed fully by representatives of EU institutions.

Funding rate: 100%

Legal entities:

The National Research Foundation of Ukraine (NRFU), Ukraine, Kyiv, 01001, Borysa Hrinchenka Street, 1

Form of Funding: Grants not subject to calls for proposals

Type of Action: Grant to identified beneficiary according to Financial Regulation Article 195(e) - Coordination and support action

Indicative timetable: Q3 2026

Indicative budget: EUR 1.50 million from the 2026 budget

### **5. Support for the Activities of the European Group on Ethics (EGE) by European Academia and Ethics Bodies (SAEGE)**

The European Group on Ethics in Science and New Technologies (EGE) is an independent, multi-disciplinary body appointed by the President of the European Commission that advises on all aspects of Commission policies and legislation where ethical, societal and fundamental rights dimensions intersect with the development of science and new technologies.

Expected outcome of the SAEGE project: Project results are expected to contribute to all of the following expected outcomes:

- Provide at the request of the Commission targeted scientific evidence in a timely and transparent manner to inform the production of advice by the European Group on Ethics in Science and New Technologies (hereafter: the EGE). The evidence should be of the highest scientific quality, developed by complete and independent evidence analysis and synthesis, and respect timelines and policy needs.
- Strengthen the links between European science and ethics organisations, including a diverse range of experts. In carrying out this process, the Beneficiary will ensure wide geographical and gender diversity, coverage of all relevant academic fields, and interdisciplinarity. An open and inclusive approach will be used, involving experts who are early- and mid-career and

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<sup>7</sup> European Commission Decision C(2024) 2371 of 17 April 2024, available [here](#).

senior of various, relevant backgrounds. These approaches aim to increase the range of the available scientific evidence to be considered and the excellence of the expertise provided.

- Develop novel and improve existing forms of scientific input to address short-term needs in a timely, reliable, policy-relevant and efficient manner, e.g., fast evidence-gathering tools and literature reviews, short-term evidence reports, and expert consultations on high-priority, short-term policy initiatives.
- Further develop the Beneficiary's internal database to access an up-to-date pool of top-quality experts in various academic fields, in combination with other networking approaches that can be called upon at short notice.
- In coordination with the European Commission's Unit in charge, engage with citizens, stakeholders, scientific communities and policy-makers to disseminate and promote the work of the EGE, and to monitor, assess and report on the impact and uptake thereof.
- In coordination with the European Commission's Unit in charge, increase awareness of the significance of ethics advice and ensure outreach to larger audiences, including in the Member States, through targeted communication actions, novel information products, media outreach, and policy monitoring processes, while ensuring consistent internal and external communication.
- Reinforce, by means of the above-mentioned increased awareness and communication activities, the ethics advice network comprising the EGE, the Beneficiary, and the other actors—such as national and international ethics advisory bodies—that make up the EGE *Et Alia* Advisory Network (hereafter: the EGEAN).
- Include an 'early alert' mechanism to signal topics and challenges that may become relevant for the Commission and the EGEAN, identified through techniques such as horizon scanning and consultation, including through the academic networks.
- Formulate in their outputs—mainly the Evidence Review Reports—evidence-based options and conclusions, but not policy recommendations, in response to the requests.
- Develop procedures and quality controls for the use of Artificial Intelligence within the EGEAN.

Expected impact of the project:

- An enhanced capacity for sound evidence-informed policy-making by providing reliable, state-of-the-art, policy-relevant and publicly accessible scientific evidence to the EGE, the EGEAN, and the European Commission's Unit in charge, in a timely, efficient and transparent manner;
- A demonstrably more open and inclusive dialogue about major societal challenges via a transparently managed, interdisciplinary approach and a wide engagement of the scientific community and ethics advice community;

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- An increased societal awareness of the role of policy advice to decision-making, by developing capabilities to accurately communicate ethics and science advice, including the degree of uncertainty of specific scientific knowledge and the nature of value conflicts;
- An improved transparency of the EU policy-making process, including through the possibility of active engagement with the wider public and wide involvement of the scientific community and ethics advice community.

Scope: Better Regulation is a priority for the European Commission, and so is the use of scientific evidence and ethics advice to inform policy-making. Such advice is necessary, and it must be excellent, independent, timely, relevant to European Union (EU) policy-making and as interdisciplinary as required to address all dimensions of the policy issue at stake.

The project duration is up to 4 years.

This grant will be awarded without a call for proposals according to Article 195(e) of the Financial Regulation and Article 24(3)(b) of the Horizon Europe Regulation.

The activities needed by the Commission can only be accomplished by the Beneficiary identified below.

The general conditions, including admissibility conditions, eligibility conditions, award criteria, evaluation and award procedure, legal and financial set-up for grants, financial and operational capacity and exclusion, and procedure are set out in Annexes A to G of the General Annexes to the Horizon Europe Work Programme 2023-2025.<sup>8</sup>

Funding rate: 100%.

Legal entities:

The EUREC OFFICE gUG (gemeinnützige Unternehmergesellschaft) – representing the European Network of Research Ethics Committees (EUREC), WERDSTR. 31, BONN 53225, Germany

Form of Funding: Grants not subject to calls for proposals

Type of Action: Grant to identified beneficiary according to Financial Regulation Article 195(e) - Coordination and support action

Indicative timetable: 2025

Indicative budget: EUR 5.00 million from the 2025 budget

## **6. Support the development and uptake of Ethics and Integrity Promotion Plans and Standard Operating Procedures**

Expected Outcomes:

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<sup>8</sup> European Commission Decision C(2024) 2371 of 17 April 2024, available [here](#).

The realisation of a comprehensive approach to the effective implementation and operational simplification of research integrity and research ethics, in Horizon Europe and across the European Union, encompassing:

- The establishment of a robust framework of coordination, in close cooperation with the Commission services and the relevant stakeholders (including ENERI, ENRIO, ALLEA, EARMA, ENAI and the Embassy of Good Science), to strengthen the relevant links and ensure active and structured participation of the relevant stakeholders, associated networks, and institutions. In carrying out this process, wide geographical and gender diversity, coverage of all relevant academic fields, and interdisciplinarity need to be ensured. An open and inclusive approach will be used, involving early- and mid-career as well as senior experts of various, relevant backgrounds.
- In collaboration with the Commission services and the relevant stakeholders, associated networks, and institutions, to identify the concrete needs of research institutions for guidances and corresponding standard operating procedures, taking into account rapid scientific and technological developments (including related to the development and use of artificial intelligence)
- The development of standard operating procedures and corresponding education and training programmes, taking into account and building upon the guidance and materials developed by the relevant EU funded projects (such as SOPs4RI, RoSIE, TechEthos, PREPARED, iRECs, etc.)
- At the request and in collaboration with the Commission services, provide comprehensive reports detailing the outcomes, challenges, and recommendations for future actions, taking into account research integrity and ethics aspects of intersecting policy priorities (including in relation to the green and digital transitions, the development of trustworthy AI, the reform of research assessment, science for policy processes, research security, the protection of the freedom of research and international scientific collaboration).
- As appropriate, signal topics and challenges that may become relevant for the Commission, identified through techniques such as horizon scanning and consultation of the relevant stakeholders, institutions, and networks.
- In collaboration with the relevant stakeholders and scientific communities, lead the dissemination and promotion of the developed guidance and corresponding standard operating procedures, to support Horizon Europe applicants and beneficiaries and to foster increased collaboration and promotion of research integrity and ethics in Europe. For these purposes, the relevant existing digital platforms (such as the “Embassy of Good Science”) must be use and improved, in addition to other tools supporting effective communication, collaboration, and dissemination of materials.
- Implementing rigorous monitoring and evaluation protocols to assess the progress and impact of the relevant activities.

Expected Impact:

- To promote the reproducibility and quality of science and sustain societal trust in science, the Commission seeks to support the effective implementation and operational simplification of research integrity and research ethics, policies, practices, and procedures in research institutions across the EU, with primary focus on Horizon Europe applicants and beneficiaries, to better align research integrity and ethics promotion with the strategic goals of the Framework Programme, relevant research policy actions, and the broader EU policy landscape, including for enhancing the facilitative role of ethics and research integrity for the green and digital transitions and the development of trustworthy AI.
- To solidify the EU's commitment to the highest standards of ethics and integrity, by supporting and further developing concrete measures for capacity building, including operational procedures, promotion plans, and training and education, supporting the research community, institutions, funders and ethics/integrity bodies to address existing as well as new challenges arising out of scientific and technological developments and policy priorities.
- To increase the uptake of the European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity and the availability and dissemination of training materials and appropriate procedures at institutional, regional and member state level.
- To support the capacity of the EUREC Office to develop and revise research integrity and ethics guidance and standard operating procedures, and enhance its capabilities to support, coordinate and monitor the effective implementation of the relevant standard operating procedures in research institutions.

Activities:

The grant supports activities including, but not limited to:

- Organizing workshops, conferences, and meetings to facilitate knowledge exchange, policy discussion, and strategic planning.
- Leading the collaborative and joint creation (or where necessary revising) of relevant operational guidance, toolboxes, and corresponding standard operating procedures to improve the promotion of research integrity and ethics within research institutions.
- Conducting studies, surveys, and research to inform the development of the relevant materials, monitor the implementation, and identify challenges.
- The organisation of relevant training programmes, including through existing digital platforms (such as the embassy of good science and the EU Academy)

- Making use and improving relevant existing digital platforms (such as the “Embassy of Good Science”) and develop tools for effective communication, collaboration, and dissemination of materials.

Scope:

Ethics and research integrity are a prerequisite for excellence and societal trust in science and for the science-policy interface, and therefore a key component of the successful delivering of human-centred green and digital innovations that incorporate European values, in full adherence with ethical principles, fundamental rights, and the European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity, as required by the Horizon Europe Regulation.

The successful realisation of the activities described requires comprehensive expertise as well as the capacity to reach and engage all relevant stakeholders stakeholder, associated networks, and institutions. The EUREC Office is in a unique position, bringing together extensive expertise in research ethics and research integrity, steering both EUREC (the European Network of Research Ethics Committees) and ENERI (the European Network for Research Ethics and Integrity), with an active network that spans the research ethics and integrity community in Europe, and embeds the other relevant networks such as ENRIO (the European Network of Research Integrity Offices) as well as the Embassy of Good Science, thereby maximising the potential impact of the actions. Furthermore, as representative of research ethics committees across Europe, it is in a distinctive position to identify challenges related to ethics and integrity of research and develop pathways for concrete implementation of solutions.

In this regard, this grant will be awarded without a call for proposals according to Article 195(e) of the Financial Regulation and Article 24(3)(b) of the Horizon Europe Regulation.

The general conditions, including admissibility conditions, eligibility conditions, award criteria, evaluation and award procedure, legal and financial set-up for grants, financial and operational capacity and exclusion, and procedure are set out in Annexes A to G of the General Annexes to the Horizon Europe Work Programme 2023-2025.<sup>9</sup>

The following exceptions apply:

The evaluation committee assessing this proposal will be fully composed of representatives of Union institutions or bodies.

Proposals must include budgeted cooperation with the e-platform Embassy of Good Science, and the European Networks ENERI (European Network of Research Ethics Committees and Research Integrity Offices), ENRIO (the European Network of Research Integrity Offices) and EARMA (European Association of Research Managers and Administrators).

Legal entities:

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<sup>9</sup> European Commission Decision C(2024) 2371 of 17 April 2024, available [here](#).

The EUREC OFFICE gUG (gemeinnützige Unternehmergeellschaft) – representing the European Network of Research Ethics Committees (EUREC), WERDSTR. 31, BONN 53225, Germany

Form of Funding: Grants not subject to calls for proposals

Type of Action: Grant to identified beneficiary according to Financial Regulation Article 195(e) - Coordination and support action

Indicative timetable: 2025

Indicative budget: EUR 3.00 million from the 2025 budget

## **7. Secretarial and operational supports to European Science Advisors Forum (ESAF)**

### **Objective:**

The European Commission is seeking to support the European Science Advisors Forum (ESAF) through a dedicated Grant to Identified Beneficiary (GIB). The beneficiary, ESAF, is a Commission-supported, informal cooperation network of Member States' appointed representatives that derives its capacity to receive a grant, to implement actions, and to act from the legal personality of the organisation that hosts the ESAF President. The primary aim is to enhance ESAF's capacity to coordinate, monitor, evaluate, and report. The background and rationale of this grant are the Council Conclusions of December 2023 on Strengthening the role and impact of research and innovation in the policymaking process in the Union.

This grant will empower ESAF and its President (1) to lead the effective development and implementation of activities the ESAF 2024 Statutes, (2) ensure the alignment of activities with the strategic goals and the broader EU policy landscape and (3) support the Commission to implement the aforementioned 2023 Council Conclusions.

### **Scope:**

The beneficiary will undertake a Grant to Identified Beneficiary (GIB) - focusing on:

- Establishing robust coordination frameworks to synergise the efforts of ESAF Members, Associated Members, and the permanent representatives.
- Implementing rigorous monitoring and evaluation protocols to assess the progress and impact of ESAF activities against defined KPIs and strategic objectives.
- Developing comprehensive reports detailing the outcomes, challenges, and recommendations for future actions, ensuring transparency and accountability.
- Leading the implementation of the 2024 Statutes, fostering innovation, and promoting science informed policy-making across the EU.

### **Activities:**

The grant supports activities including, but not limited to:

- Organizing workshops, conferences, and meetings to facilitate knowledge exchange, policy discussion, and strategic planning.
- Developing digital platforms and tools for effective communication, collaboration, and dissemination of ESAF initiatives.
- Conducting studies, surveys, and research to inform policy-making and contribute to the EU's science and innovation agenda.

The general conditions, including admissibility conditions, eligibility conditions, award criteria, evaluation and award procedure, legal and financial set-up for grants, financial and operational capacity and exclusion, and procedure are set out in Annexes A to G of the General Annexes to the Horizon Europe Work Programme 2023-2025.<sup>10</sup>

Funding rate: 100%

Legal entities:

ESAF acting through the legal entity hosting its Presidency - Consiglio Nazionale di Ricerca (CNR), Piazzale Aldo Moro, 7 - 00185 Roma (RM)

Form of Funding: Grants not subject to calls for proposals

Type of Action: Grant to identified beneficiary according to Financial Regulation Article 195(e) - Coordination and support action

Indicative timetable: 2025

Indicative budget: EUR 0.24 million from the 2025 budget

## **Service Level Agreement**

### **1. Provision of micro and macro analysis on the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (JRC)**

The objective is the provision of both macro-economic models (for evaluation and impact assessment) and analysis of micro data relating to the Framework Programme (FP) for Research and Innovation, for both the interim evaluation of Horizon Europe and the impact assessment of the FP for Research and Innovation. In particular, this will entail the provision by JRC of:

1. Micro economic analysis and notably counterfactual analysis, for example a thorough analysis of long-term impacts of the 7th FP and Horizon 2020, across all its components.
2. Cost Benefit Ratio and quantification of impacts of the FP and contribution to European competitiveness.

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<sup>10</sup> European Commission Decision C(2024) 2371 of 17 April 2024, available [here](#).

3. Macroeconomic modelling on the real (for Horizon Europe interim) and expected impact (for next FP) of the FP on employment and Gross Domestic Product (GDP), including with the new Fully Interregional Dynamic Econometric Long-term Input-Output (FIDELIO) model, recently elaborated by JRC.

Type of Action: Provision of technical/scientific services by the Joint Research Centre

Indicative timetable: 2025

Indicative budget: EUR 0.50 million from the 2025 budget

## **2. Development of indicators and econometric analysis on R&I performance (JRC) - Innova Measure VII**

This action will provide the methods and evidence to better understand the state of research and innovation performance of the European Union. It will improve the tools available for monitoring and measuring key elements of the European research and innovation system. It will provide research and innovation policy experts and practitioners with evidence and tools to better understand and analyse the role and impact of public and private funding of research and innovation (R&I) in the implementation of the SDGs as well as in the green and digital transitions, and the reinforcement of European capacities in key technologies and scientific areas. It will shed light on the comparative strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats for European research and innovation performance. It will also shed light on the drivers and barriers for the provision of private capital for research and innovation and the scale up of innovative companies across Member States and Associated countries, including identifying scope for European action.

It will address R&I policy challenges in a comprehensive way, through scientific analysis that combines micro and macro perspectives. It will strengthen the evidence base on the digital and environmental transformations with focus on the role of investments in critical technologies, scientific areas and skills.

It will encompass the development and regular production of composite indicators and dashboards such as the Innovation Output Indicator and the 3Ps Dashboards, measuring the research and innovation (R&I) performance of EU Member States and selected benchmark countries, including methodological revisions to address technical issues and adapt to the new policy priorities. Econometric and economic analysis to address innovation policy challenges and to explore the determinants and impacts of green and digital innovations using among others, company level data, IP data and linking information from various sources.

Type of Action: Provision of technical/scientific services by the Joint Research Centre

Indicative timetable: Q4 2025

Indicative budget: EUR 0.60 million from the 2025 budget

### **3. Analysis, benchmarking and monitoring of technology complexity in the European Union**

This action will enhance the understanding and monitoring of technologies within the EU landscape using economic complexity, which is a data-driven approach where machine learning techniques are used to predict the evolution of the sectoral and technological composition of a country or a region. Building on JRC expertise and research infrastructure for economic complexity, it will leverage advanced analytical methods to benchmark and monitor developments in technological capacities and create a comprehensive knowledge base that informs strategic decisions in EU R&I policy, including in relation to the EU Framework Programme. It will develop a set of indicators for technology assessment and a monitoring mechanism to track technological progress and its implications.

Type of Action: Provision of technical/scientific services by the Joint Research Centre

Indicative timetable: Q1 2025

Indicative budget: EUR 0.40 million from the 2025 budget

#### **Public procurement**

##### **1. Corporate communication**

As provided in the 'corporate/institutional communication clauses' included in the legal bases of the Horizon Europe Framework Programme and the Euratom Programme, the financial resources allocated to the Programmes shall also contribute to the corporate communication of the political priorities of the EU<sup>11</sup>, as far as they are related to the objectives of the Programmes. Demonstrating the impact of long-term investments into research and innovation is particularly important.

IT development of Commission systems and related procurement choices will be subject to pre-approval by the European Commission Information Technology and Cybersecurity Board.

Form of Funding: Procurement

Type of Action: Public procurement

Indicative timetable: 2025, 2026

Indicative budget: EUR 5.88 million from the 2025 budget and EUR 6.22 million from the 2026 budget

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<sup>11</sup> Commission Decision C(2023)6467 of 29.09.2023 Corporate communication action in 2024-2027 under the Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027 'Bringing the EU into the hearts and minds of Europeans'. The 2025 amount indicated as a contribution to corporate communication (EUR 5,88 million) includes Horizon Europe contribution EUR 5 840 000 - to be covered from the Horizon Europe budget line 01 02 05 'Horizontal operational activities' and EUR 41 054 for indirect research Euratom contribution to be covered from the Euratom budget line 01 03 02 'Fission'.

## **2. Common Communication for Horizon Europe**

As provided in the Annexes to the Specific Programme implementing Horizon Europe, the Commission will implement information and communication activities relating to Horizon Europe to promote the fact EU funding had tangible positive impact on people's lives. They will also seek to raise public awareness on the importance of research and innovation and the broader impact and relevance of EU funded research and innovation, by means of e.g. publications, media relations, events, knowledge repositories, databases, multichannel platforms, websites or a targeted use of social media. Horizon Europe will also provide support to the beneficiaries to communicate their work and its impact on society at large.

### **2.1. DG R&I flagship event: European Research and Innovation Days**

The European Research & Innovation Days is an annual flagship policy event of the Commission bringing together research and innovation stakeholders to debate and shape the future of research and innovation landscape. At the same time, the event aims to mobilise EU citizens and increase awareness of how important research and innovation are in addressing the challenges that face society.

All related activities around the European Research & Innovation Days will raise awareness of European research and innovation policy by mobilising and engaging different stakeholders for Horizon Europe that will better reflect views and needs of citizens. It will allow the creation of a more defined and corporate image of the research and innovation message at European and worldwide level.

Taking stock of the previous editions, the European Research & Innovation Days would evolve and adapt in terms of policy and format. Indeed, R&I with its focus on innovative policies and programmes will support various initiatives, which will complement and better serve the Commission's political priorities.

Form of Funding: Procurement

Type of Action: Public procurement

Indicative timetable: 2025, 2026

Indicative budget: EUR 1.00 million from the 2025 budget and EUR 3.00 million from the 2026 budget

### **2.2. DG R&I communication activities including events, media relations, media analysis and media buying & promotional material related to those activities and audience mapping**

The objective is to support the new programme priorities around events. The work will include organising events or participating to events, the format of events will be either virtual or physical. Activities around events will demonstrate the active support of the EU in communicating R&I policies, using different means available in the media landscape, raising

awareness on main concerns of citizens and priorities of the EU, mirroring the R&I priorities, disseminating communication material to large public, assessing the impact of those actions and supporting organisers, stakeholders and citizens in engaging & adhering to the European actions. A follow up of DG R&I target audience segmentation study will include analyses of additional Member States and the possibility to gain detailed insights on target audiences' attitudes and behaviour with regards to specific DG R&I policy priorities through focus groups.

Form of Funding: Procurement

Type of Action: Public procurement

Indicative timetable: 2025, 2026

Indicative budget: EUR 1.50 million from the 2025 budget and EUR 4.09 million from the 2026 budget

### **2.3. Publications (language quality, print, dissemination, storage, translations) & Horizon magazine**

Publication activities will continue illustrating and facilitating the dissemination of R&I policies developments.

Any publication 'authored or made public either by or upon the order of an EU institution or its official representative as part of their service and with a primary purpose of being disseminated to a public external to the EU institutions' falls under the scope of the EU Legal Deposit scheme and must be attributed an (international) identification number by, and deposited with, the Publications Office.

#### Internal services:

The Publications Office of the EU remains the main provider for publications, allocation of international standard numbers and/or catalogue numbers, language quality services, normal print services and digital printing, and storage of electronic and paper publications. It will also continue disseminating publications on request.

The DG Translations services continue supporting DG R&I requests for translations of non-legislative documents such as brochures, leaflets, infographics, websites, country fiches, etc.

#### External services:

Some publications, mainly brochures, leaflets and reports will be outsourced as appropriate for more specific services such as editorial tasks, graphic design and production. In order to convey DG R&I messages, infographics will be produced on different supports and contexts: e-publications, printed publications, stand-alone infographics, infographics for social media, events and conference, press releases, etc.

Horizon Magazine is the R&I flagship online magazine, which features priorities and achievements of EU-funded research, its impact on citizens' lives and its contribution to the EU goals. The insight is evolving from a text magazine concept to multimedia. This includes articles, interviews, videos and tailor-made videos for social media to attract higher audience to people with a general interest in popular science stories, people with an interest in specific topics, stakeholders and policy audiences interested in engaging and journalistic content. Services needed relate to editorial production, web maintenance, social media and stakeholders' activities. Services also consist of measuring the impact of the magazine through key performance indicators. The main indicators are the level of readership, video views, social media engagement, but also the number of re-publications/translations on external platforms in EU Member States.

Form of Funding: Procurement

Type of Action: Public procurement

Indicative timetable: 2025, 2026

Indicative budget: EUR 2.50 million from the 2025 budget and EUR 2.50 million from the 2026 budget

## **2.4. Audio-visual production**

Audio-visual material is an attractive and successful means to explain the aim, budget and goals of Horizon Europe, using and buying social media to promote our policies and multiply our targeted messaging. Other forms of videos and formats such as podcasts will help promote our programmes. Videos shall be available in all EU languages to reach out all stakeholders and citizens and will be part of a toolkit for multipliers amongst other communication material.

Form of Funding: Procurement

Type of Action: Public procurement

Indicative timetable: 2025, 2026

Indicative budget: EUR 0.25 million from the 2025 budget and EUR 0.50 million from the 2026 budget

## **3. Information Technology**

### **3.1. Contribution to Corporate IT, Central Validation Service and eGrants/SEDIA**

As indicated in the 2024 budget circular Ares(2023)8743970 a single mechanism to collect jointly the contributions for Corporate Information Technology, for eGrants/SEDIA IT tools, and for Central Validation Service has been set up in 2023. To ensure an efficient and streamlined collection process, the single contribution for the three processes will be set out in a Communication to the Commission, which will foresee the contribution from each

programme, and the DGs collecting the contributions for their implementation. **The amounts indicated below take into account this process. In addition, the amounts indicated for 2025 and 2026 include the Horizon Europe contribution related to direct research.**

Form of Funding: Procurement

Type of Action: Public procurement

Indicative timetable: 2025, 2026

Indicative budget: EUR 13.00 million from the 2025 budget and EUR 13.50 million from the 2026 budget

### **3.2. Web /visual activities and maintenance, Intranet and social media activities**

Activities concern maintaining DG R&I's web presence on Europa<sup>12</sup>, digital developments and the revamp or launch of new websites such as Horizon Europe, website & platforms for specific physical and virtual events, revamp & development of Horizon Magazine website, maintaining and updating the dedicated website for staff, adapting other communication material such as publications, infographics, and videos to social media and other means of communication. Those activities need the support and services of external professional resources and are essential communication channels.

Form of Funding: Procurement

Type of Action: Public procurement

Indicative timetable: 2025, 2026

Indicative budget: EUR 1.93 million from the 2025 budget and EUR 1.93 million from the 2026 budget

### **3.3. SINAPSE e-communities**

The action will cover the evolutive maintenance of SINAPSE® (**Scientific INformation for Policy Support in Europe**), enhancement of its functionalities, ergonomic and infrastructure.

This includes the continuous adaptation of the security aspects, the improvement of positive synergies with complementary EC/EU tools and language assistance.

SINAPSE® is an EU Interinstitutional Web communication platform promoting a better use and exchange of expertise in EU policy making and governance. SINAPSE® is accessible via EUROPA (<https://europa.eu/sinapse> ) and hosted by the EC data centre on a dedicated infrastructure.

Form of Funding: Procurement

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<sup>12</sup> Those activities will be carried out in full compliance with the web governance of the Commission as per the Europa Web Guide. The procurement procedures associated to those activities will be aligned with the compliance requirements.

Type of Action: Public procurement

Indicative timetable: 2025, 2026

Indicative budget: EUR 0.35 million from the 2025 budget and EUR 0.35 million from the 2026 budget

### **3.4. IT security services**

In the context of Commission corporate cybersecurity policies implementation Management, DG for Digital Services (DIGIT) as service provider, offers on demand services towards three areas:

- Local Informatics Security Officer Centralisation
- Risk, Policy and Compliance Management
- Security Assurance and Testing

This action will be implemented by DG DIGIT via co-delegation.

Form of Funding: Procurement

Type of Action: Public procurement

Indicative timetable: 2025, 2026

Indicative budget: EUR 0.21 million from the 2025 budget and EUR 0.03 million from the 2026 budget

## **4. Implementation of Financial Audit Strategy**

The Common Audit Service (CAS) is in charge of the audits conducted on behalf of the Directorates-General of the Research family. It may also join the audits performed by the Court of Auditors.

The objective of the CAS is to ensure that the compliance audits required by the concluded grant agreements are performed to the highest professional standards and to support the management of R&I activities. It is also to provide high quality services in the area of ex-post audit to the Directorates-General of the Research family, the Executive Agencies and Joint Undertakings implementing Horizon 2020, Horizon Europe and Euratom. The action covers also system and process audits (SPA).

The audit cycle is as follows: audit selection, planning, application of rules, relations with beneficiaries and management information on the audit process. The IT tools used for the audit process management are 'COMPASS' and 'AUDEX'.

#### **4.1. Implementation of Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe financial audit strategy: outsourced and in-house audits**

The budget planning is based on the audit strategy covering the cost of outsourced financial audits as well as all expenses related to carrying out in-house audits, including the translation of documents, interpretation, the use of expert services and the cost of using services provided by professional audit organisations.

Form of Funding: Procurement

Type of Action: Public procurement

Indicative timetable: 2025, 2026

Indicative budget: EUR 5.86 million from the 2025 budget and EUR 4.23 million from the 2026 budget

#### **4.2. Implementation of Euratom financial audit strategy**

The Council Regulation on the Research and Training Programme of the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom) adopted in 2013 covers the programming period 2014-2018 and complements the Horizon 2020 Framework Programme for Research and Innovation. The Euratom Research and Training Programme has been extended with two years (2019-2020) in order to align with Horizon 2020. The duration of the Euratom ex-post Audit Strategy (2016-2025) is also aligned accordingly.

Form of Funding: Procurement

Type of Action: Public procurement

Indicative timetable: 2025

Indicative budget: EUR 0.06 million from the 2025 budget

### **5. Impact assessment of the Joint Undertakings**

This action concerns a study dedicated to the analysis of potential European Partnership Initiatives in the future European Research and Innovation Framework Programme. The study may provide recommendations to support the strategic programming process and input for impact assessments of possible new or renewed Partnership Initiatives.

The study may, amongst other, assess the EU Added Value and coherence of potential European Partnership Initiatives with the objectives of the EU Research and Innovation Framework Programme. It will contribute to the development and monitoring of possible future Partnership Initiatives.

The [Interinstitutional Studies Database](#) has been consulted and showed that no existing studies cover the scope in terms of subject, time and methods proposed for this action.

Form of Funding: Procurement

Type of Action: Public procurement

Indicative timetable: Q3 2025

Indicative budget: EUR 0.40 million from the 2025 budget

## **6. Study on the long-term impact of Horizon Europe**

This action concerns a study dedicated to the analysis of the long-term impact of the Framework Programme since its launch. The study will produce qualitative case studies and monitoring data required by the Annex V in the Horizon Europe regulation, on the long-term impact of the programme, which cannot be automatised and collected via the Horizon Europe dashboard. Reporting on the long-term impact is a legal obligation under the Horizon Europe legal basis.

The [Interinstitutional Studies Database](#) has been consulted and showed that no existing studies cover the scope in terms of subject, time and methods proposed for this action.

Form of Funding: Procurement

Type of Action: Public procurement

Indicative timetable: Q2 2025

Indicative budget: EUR 0.30 million from the 2025 budget

## **7. Study on the valorisation of Social Sciences and Humanities results from Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe**

The action is aimed to provide a study identifying good practices regarding the uptake of Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH) results from projects funded by EU framework programmes. It will give feedback for programming and reinforce the dissemination and exploitation activities related to non-technological research results. It will accelerate the uptake of their SSH results and support development of guidelines for beneficiaries therefore increase the value of SSH research. To support the valorisation of SSH results, the study will analyse relevant Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe projects through reported data, deliverables and a survey to the beneficiaries. It will identify how these results are taken up at the scale of the framework programmes, what are the strengths and weaknesses in the current valorisation strategy for these types of results and what are the good practices and recommendations to beneficiaries delivering SSH results.

Expected outcomes include: Increased and accelerated uptake of SSH types of results from EU framework programmes. Increased value of SSH results and feedback for programming.

Form of Funding: Procurement

Type of Action: Public procurement

Indicative timetable: 2025

Indicative budget: EUR 0.10 million from the 2025 budget

## **8. Integration of the gender dimension in the R&I contents of Horizon Europe projects**

Strengthening the gender dimension across the Horizon Europe Programme is an operational objective (Article 2 of the Specific Programme). The integration of the gender dimension (i.e. sex, gender based analysis) in Research and Innovation (R&I) content has been set as a requirement by default for all projects funded under RIA, IA and Cofund instruments, unless the call topic specifies otherwise, and is evaluated under the ‘excellence’ criterion. The MSCA Programme also requires applicants to consider the gender dimension and other diversity aspects if relevant for the research project, as part of the soundness of the research methodology proposed. Additionally, a number of projects funded under the ERC, and to a lesser extent under the EIC, also integrate sex/gender analysis in their contents.

This study will investigate the level of integration of the gender dimension in R&I content (sex, gender as well as intersectional analysis where relevant) in projects funded under Horizon Europe, across the different programme parts and R&I fields, through AI-enhanced text mining methods. It will build on existing in-house tools under development (e.g. CORTEX) and available commercial tools to develop a dedicated tool and methodology allowing the Commission to carry out systematically such analysis, thus facilitating Horizon Europe monitoring.

The study will also support the development of enhanced guidance material for prospective applicants, by developing a compendium of evidence-based methodologies and inspiring case studies on the integration of the gender dimension in R&I content in different fields – including e.g. the digital and green transitions – building as well on, and complementing, previous material developed by the Commission, e.g. Gendered Innovations.

It will also allow to draw lessons for the design of the Commission’s proposal for the next Framework Programme.

Form of Funding: Procurement

Type of Action: Public procurement

Indicative timetable: 2025

Indicative budget: EUR 0.20 million from the 2025 budget

## **9. Biennial Monitoring Report on the performance of European Partnerships**

This action will ensure the continuation and further development of the Biennial Monitoring Report (BMR) on the Performance of European Partnerships. The BMR provides European, national, and regional policymakers in Member States and Associated Countries, and the interested public, with a solid evidence base to help monitor and assess the performance of

European Partnerships, including both common and individual key performance indicators, country profiles, as well as partnership-specific profiles.

The services procured under this action will cover the production of the upcoming two editions of the BMR, building on the methodology<sup>13</sup> developed for the first two editions<sup>14</sup>. This action will entail the underlying data collection, processing, and analysis, as well as the formulation and formatting of the reports. The services will also cover methodological advancements of the analytical frameworks and the overall methodology. Finally, the services will include communication and dissemination activities, which will increase the uptake and visibility of the reports.

Form of Funding: Procurement

Type of Action: Public procurement

Indicative timetable: Q2 2025

Indicative budget: EUR 0.50 million from the 2025 budget

## **10. Provision of Quantitative evidence and analysis to the EU Research and Innovation policy**

The action will provide indicators to supplement official statistics in monitoring research and innovation activities and their outputs across all Member States, Associated Countries and other selected countries. The action is the follow up of an ongoing study (Quantitative evidence to EU R&I policy, RTD/2022/OP/0005) and it will ensure the continuation of indicators currently used for analysis and monitoring of R&I systems. The main aim of this action is to collect, update and analyse bibliometric, patent and other Intellectual Property (IP) data, as well as to refine or develop taxonomies able to capture the new policy priorities and classifications of the European Commission.

Expected results: New evidence on the technological and scientific production and excellence of the EU MSs and the overall positioning of the EU worldwide. Strengthened evidence base on knowledge transfer, public-private co-operation, multidisciplinary of research. Quantitative and qualitative analysis of bibliometric and IP data in support to methodological, technical and analytical reports allowing for the reproducibility of the results, synergies with other data and better understanding of various aspects of the research output and their role in the innovation performance of the EU. The evidence and research acquired in the project will feed into the comparative assessment of the research and innovation performance of the EU Member States and selected third countries through the European Innovation Scoreboard, the

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<sup>13</sup> European Commission, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, Carrozza, M., Romanainen, J., Amanatidou, E. et al., *A robust and harmonised framework for reporting and monitoring European Partnerships in Horizon Europe – First interim report*, Publications Office, 2021, <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2777/017792>;

<sup>14</sup> European Commission, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, *Performance of European Partnerships – Biennial Monitoring Report (BMR) 2022 on partnerships in Horizon Europe*, Publications Office of the European Union, 2022, <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2777/144363>

Regional Innovation Scoreboard, the Eco-Innovation Index and the flagship publication Science Research and Innovation performance of the EU report.

Form of Funding: Procurement

Type of Action: Public procurement

Indicative timetable: Q2 2025

Indicative budget: EUR 0.85 million from the 2025 budget

## **11. Development of the European Innovation Scoreboard (EIS), the Regional Innovation Scoreboard (RIS) and the Eco-innovation Index**

**Scope:** This action will ensure the continuation and further development of the European Innovation Scoreboard (EIS), which has been produced annually for over two decades, and the biennial Regional Innovation Scoreboard (RIS). The scoreboards provide a solid, European Union-wide analytical tool to measure, monitor, and benchmark the innovation performance of the European Union (EU), individual Member States and their regions, as well as Associated Countries and other key international economic partners. The scoreboards identify the relative strengths and weaknesses of the research and innovation systems and help the Member States assess areas where they need to concentrate their efforts to boost their innovation performance. In addition, the action will ensure the continuation, update and further development of the Eco-innovation index, which measures the environmental innovation performance of the EU Member States, which is crucial for achieving the European Green Deal objective of transitioning to a carbon-neutral and sustainable economy. Finally, the action will explore further methodological advancements and R&I-related topics not yet addressed to strengthen the analytical capacity of the scoreboards and increase their robustness, usability and outreach. The project outcomes are expected to provide a solid evidence base for tailored innovation policies and future scientific research.

**Expected outcomes:** The services under this action cover the production of the EIS2026 and EIS2027, of the RIS 2027, and the Eco-innovation index 2026, as well as their underlying data and related documents, such as the methodology reports and the country profiles. The services will also cover methodological advancements and exploratory research studies to address new challenges and priorities related to the innovation systems not covered by the scoreboards. Finally, the services will cover communication and dissemination activities, which will increase the uptake and visibility of the tools, including the maintenance, update and further development of the interactive tool, which allows customised visual comparisons of the innovation performance between countries and regions.

Form of Funding: Procurement

Type of Action: Public procurement

Indicative timetable: Q4 2025

Indicative budget: EUR 0.80 million from the 2025 budget

## **12. Dissemination and Exploitation Activities**

Maximising the impacts of the research and innovation that EU funds requires better dissemination and exploitation of the results. Improving knowledge flows and spillovers is fundamental to ensure that researchers build on the latest available knowledge and thus build 'on the shoulders of giants'. Moreover, the valorisation of research results and the creation of value for our economy and society, often depend on the skills and abilities of the beneficiaries to present and connect to those stakeholders that can help them take the results into the next level. Many times, the beneficiaries lack sufficient information, skills or connections to the right stakeholders and these gaps can jeopardise their ability to maximise the potential value of their results.

Against this backdrop, the Commission aims to create an ecosystem supporting beneficiaries towards the maximum valorisation of their results. This includes scientific results but also innovations that can translate into and contribute to new businesses, products and services that create economic or social value, more efficient production or distribution processes; results that can inform policy decisions; or results that can contribute to building and evolving standards.

This is a crosscutting activity for all parts of Horizon Europe.

Support to the dissemination of results will include an array of services to better target the content to different audiences as well as outreach activities through a variety of channels, e.g. websites, magazines or targeted dissemination events, including those organised by National Contact Points. They will support the structuring, curation and actual dissemination of information about the projects, their progress and their results with advanced search functionalities adapted to different types of users, presented individually but also clustered for specific purposes, in multiple languages, including projects supported under previous Framework Programmes.

Support to the exploitation of results will include a set of services to support beneficiaries needs at every step of the exploitation journey – from capacity building to match-making with investors and interested third parties, and business acceleration services.

Expected outcome: The general outcome of the activities implemented is a set of coherent and integrated actions supporting beneficiaries to better showcase their progress and valorise their results, building on existing good practices such as the EIC business acceleration services and the Horizon Results Platform / Marketplace.

More specifically, the expected outcomes are:

- (1) Guidelines and educational/inspirational material to support our beneficiaries to achieve higher impact, including outreach events.
- (2) Supporting services to help beneficiaries disseminate their results in a targeted way, exploit them or find third parties to exploit them, and increase, where appropriate, their

market readiness (e.g. boosters, tailored support, coaching, training, acceleration services, etc.).

(3) Services to help the beneficiaries connect to the right stakeholders, including presentation and networking events (e.g. marketplace activities, link with investors platforms, local, national, European policymakers, etc.)

(4) Services to the Commission's services to help structuring, curating, clustering, analysing and displaying information on projects' progress and results to feed into the Horizon and Results Platform and integrate them, when and if needed, with other material to reach out to targeted audiences.

(5) The Horizon Result Platform / Marketplace and its associated services, offering as a market place all beneficiaries the opportunity to showcase their progress and results, needs, etc., with advanced search functionalities for different types of users, including for venture capitalists, business angels or investors networks, and linked to the project's pages of the Funding and Opportunities portal.

(6) Services to ensure coherence and complementarity between the Horizon Result Platform / Marketplace and Commission thematic investment platforms such as BlueInvest.

The Publications Office of the EU (OP) and DG for Digital Services (DIGIT) will implement some of the actions via co-delegations through the Community Research and Development Information Service (CORDIS)<sup>15</sup> and related services, using a large part of the indicative budget.

Form of Funding: Procurement

Type of Action: Public procurement

Indicative timetable: 2025, 2026

Indicative budget: EUR 9.00 million from the 2025 budget and EUR 9.30 million from the 2026 budget

### **13. Horizon Data Management and Data Integration for Horizon Europe Monitoring**

We need to be able to properly gather, control and ensure availability and usability of the Horizon Europe (and previous R&I Programmes) Data. This mostly refers to (1) Horizon Europe Data Quality Framework and its implementation; (2) Integrating external data to complement Horizon Europe data and contribute to its simplification and monitoring (Key Impact Pathways); (3) Develop and make tools to give access, search and visualise Horizon Europe related data, including structured data on projects' progress and results.

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<sup>15</sup> [CORDIS | European Commission \(europa.eu\)](https://cordis.europa.eu)

Some of the actions will be implemented by DG for Digital Services (DIGIT), and by the Publications Office of the EU (OP) via co-delegations using a significant part of the indicative budget for web presence, data transparency and linked open data.

Form of Funding: Procurement

Type of Action: Public procurement

Indicative timetable: 2025, 2026

Indicative budget: EUR 6.10 million from the 2025 budget and EUR 6.30 million from the 2026 budget

#### **14. Monitoring Flash updates and preparatory work for future flashes**

In the last years, several “Monitoring Flashes” presenting key data on the European Framework Programme for Research and Innovation were produced by Commission services. These reports need to be updated with the most recent methodologies and data from internal and external sources. The methodology used to produce the flash reports needs to be updated with state-of-the-art methods and IT tools, among which artificial intelligence. Additionally, new monitoring flashes will be produced through the service contract, testing and showcasing the proposed methodology.

Form of Funding: Procurement

Type of Action: Public procurement

Indicative timetable: Q3 2025

Indicative budget: EUR 0.15 million from the 2025 budget

#### **15. Service Facility in Support of the Strategic Development of International Cooperation in Research and Innovation**

International cooperation in R&I is a cross-cutting activity relevant for the whole Horizon Europe programme. The Strategic Development of International Cooperation in Research and Innovation (R&I) aims to provide services that support the policy development, priority setting, follow-up and implementation of the Global Approach strategy for international cooperation in research and innovation.

This action supports the political priorities ‘making Europe stronger in the world’ and facilitates strategic international cooperation in research and innovation. It also supports the monitoring of Associated Countries’ alignment with the European Research Area (ERA) principles, and it would facilitate strengthening the coordination and alignment of the Member States international R&I strategies with the European Union (EU).

The contracts envisaged for the implementation of this action are: the on-going framework contract for services “Service Facility in support of the Global Approach in Research and

Innovation” (in force until September 2026), the public procurement for a follow-up framework contract to be launched in Q3-Q4 2025 and the contract to be signed for a duration of 4 years, with an estimated budget ceiling for its entire duration of 25 million euro; as well as any other relevant existing framework contract (i.e. for events and related communication activities).

The indicative budget (below) will allow for the signature of several new specific contracts under the framework contracts for the service facility as well as other relevant framework contracts (i.e. for events and related communication activities) within the respective years.

Form of Funding: Procurement

Type of Action: Public procurement

Indicative timetable: 2025

Indicative budget: EUR 4.00 million from the 2025 budget

## **16. Research and Innovation foresight analysis**

The action will cover studies and possible events in the area of foresight. The objective is to continue embedding foresight in EU R&I policy-making, to ensure that our current R&I policies and the next Framework programme are future-proof. In this process, foresight is part of an early and informal phase of reflection and collection of forward- looking intelligence. Later, it should give way to strategy making and priority-setting, including for the Framework Programme.

2026 actions will build on the groundwork done in 2024-2025. Topics to be addressed will be determined and adjusted at a later stage as the next R&I framework programme process unfolds. Implementation will be facilitated through a newly established framework contract. Specific areas of work will be identified after a consultation within the Horizon Europe foresight network coordinated by the Unit for the Common Research and Innovation Strategy and Foresight Service and possibly in collaboration with the Strategic foresight network of the European Commission.

Form of Funding: Procurement

Type of Action: Public procurement

Indicative timetable: 2026

Indicative budget: EUR 0.40 million from the 2026 budget

## **17. Foresight activities**

Foresight activities will support the future orientations of EU policy, to anticipate trends and developments and analyse their implications in coordination, engagement and cooperation with the national agencies, experts, stakeholders and citizens. Future orientations of EU R&I

policy will be supported through horizon scanning, strategic intelligence, sense-making, and scenario building bringing together and building upon existing forward looking activities in the EU with regard to R&I priority setting. Further analyses of foresight knowledge and anticipatory intelligence will be carried out to strengthen the use of R&I evidence in EU and national policies across the board.

Expected results: Forward looking strategic choices and robust setting of objectives, impact pathways and expected impacts in EU R&I policy in general and for Horizon Europe in particular. Library of trends, scenarios, wildcards, future visions, and stories. Better, futureproven policy; stronger and wider public engagement with EU policies, stronger foresight capacity as well as improved foresight competences and policy orientation across the EU.

Form of Funding: Procurement

Type of Action: Public procurement

Indicative timetable: 2025, 2026

Indicative budget: EUR 0.50 million from the 2025 budget and EUR 0.50 million from the 2026 budget

### **18. Implementation of the “Innovation One Stop Shop” action under the New European Innovation Agenda**

Under the New European Innovation Agenda adopted by the Commission in 2022, “The Commission will establish an AI-based open platform, to support the circulation of ideas and access to research results, highlight the demand and supply of innovative solutions, and connect stakeholders to facilitate collaboration. It will provide all stakeholders with information on innovation challenges and opportunities (technology and market trends, intellectual property, demand, etc.) and facilitate the identification of functionalities, services and funding opportunities, public or private, to support the translation of ideas into activities and projects.

Following a thorough mapping of similar existing platforms and the identification of user needs as well as simplification and streamlining options, the innovation platform will build on and integrate the EIC/Horizon Marketplace (which is being developed to link EIC results and users, and extend to other similar EU-funded beneficiaries in relation with selected stakeholders and supporting them to develop new initiatives out of their ideas), as well as possibly other similar platforms. The innovation platform will expand the EIC/Horizon Marketplace with additional services available to a broader group of innovation stakeholder in Europe, including non-EIC beneficiaries.

This action is to procure the IT tools and support services needed for the establishment and operation of the innovation platform (including possible integration with similar existing platforms), as well as communication and marketing services aimed at ensuring widescale uptake of the innovation platform by stakeholders. The action should be supported by a

mapping of existing innovation support services and the identification of simplification and streamlining options.

Form of Funding: Procurement

Type of Action: Public procurement

Indicative timetable: 2025

Indicative budget: EUR 4.00 million from the 2025 budget

## **Other budget implementation instruments**

### **1. External expertise**

The use of high quality independent expertise in the evaluation process underpins the engagement of the programme across all stakeholders, communities and interests, and is a prerequisite for maintaining the excellence and relevance of the funded activities.

This action will support the use of appointed external independent experts for the evaluation of project proposals (including the implementation of the ethics appraisal scheme) and prize applications throughout the entire range of Horizon Europe work programmes for the calls and prize contests.

The European Research Executive Agency (REA) will implement the action via co-delegation.

Form of Funding: Other budget implementation instruments

Type of Action: Expert contract action

Indicative timetable: 2025, 2026

Indicative budget: EUR 55.00 million from the 2025 budget and EUR 55.00 million from the 2026 budget

### **2. Use of individual experts in support for research and innovation policy**

Experts will provide intelligence on key issues for R&I policy development, including on how R&I policy can support the recovery and enable and drive the economic, ecological, and societal transitions towards sustainable development. Among others, and drawing on future policy discussions, they will support economic analysis in the field of R&I, including on the Framework Programme, and contribute to the Science, Research and Innovation Performance of the EU Report, as well as to its overall quality assurance.

A special allowance of EUR 450<sup>16</sup> in the form of a daily unit cost for each full working day spent will be paid to the individual experts appointed in their personal capacity who act independently and in the public interest.

Form of Funding: Other budget implementation instruments

Type of Action: Expert contract action

Indicative timetable: 2025, 2026

Indicative budget: EUR 0.25 million from the 2025 budget and EUR 0.15 million from the 2026 budget

### **3. External expertise for ethics reviews and checks**

This action will support the use of appointed independent experts for ethics reviews and checks (monitoring) of serious and complex cases and for the training of experts to be involved in these exercises. A special allowance of EUR 450/day<sup>17</sup> will be paid to the expert appointed in his/her personal capacity who acts independently and in the public interest.

Form of Funding: Other budget implementation instruments

Type of Action: Expert contract action

Indicative timetable: 2025, 2026

Indicative budget: EUR 0.34 million from the 2025 budget and EUR 0.34 million from the 2026 budget

### **4. Use of individual experts in Science for Policy**

This action will support the provision of independent experts working individually (and therefore not in the context of an expert group) for advising and assisting the Commission services with the implementation of the Science for Policy Agenda. Individual experts can be called to perform e.g. (including but not limited to) the following tasks:

- to further develop the concept of ‘Science for Policy’
- to promote the role of scientific and evidence-based knowledge and its cross-cutting integration in public policies
- to foster the establishment of a science for policy ecosystem in Europe
- to support and connect the scientific and policymaking communities in Europe
- to promote the collaboration of networks of relevant actors within the Union and /or promote societal engagement

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<sup>16</sup> [Ares\(2021\)6858536 of 8 Nov 2021 - experts-externes-en\\_2021\\_june Clean\\_Ares.pdf \(europa.eu\)](#)

<sup>17</sup> [Ares\(2021\)6858536 of 8 Nov 2021 - experts-externes-en\\_2021\\_june Clean\\_Ares.pdf \(europa.eu\)](#)

Individual experts will be called on ad-hoc basis and will be selected based on their knowledge and experience of the work to be performed. Their tasks might include attending bilateral meetings with Commission services, preparatory work, remote drafting and further development of findings. They will be appointed in a personal capacity, will work independently and in the public interest, and will be paid a special allowance of EUR 450<sup>18</sup> in the form of a daily unit cost for each full working day spent.

Form of Funding: Other budget implementation instruments

Type of Action: Expert contract action

Indicative timetable: 2025

Indicative budget: EUR 0.05 million from the 2025 budget

## **5. Scientific writers for the Scientific Advice Mechanism Team**

The European Commission's Group of Chief Scientific Advisors (GCSA) was established in 2015. They form part of the Scientific Advice Mechanism (SAM) of the Commission. The GCSA develops Scientific Opinions with policy recommendations on questions of complex and multidisciplinary nature. For its work, the Group is informed by Evidence Reviews carried out by the SAPEA consortium (Scientific Advice for Policy by European Academies), a Horizon 2020-grant, representing over 100 academies, young academies and learned societies in 40 European countries.

In order to be able to better respond to requests for advice, the Science Policy, Advice and Ethics Unit will rely on scientific writers to support the writing of scientific opinions and statements. The scientific writers will contribute to the drafting and editing of documents (scientific opinions, statements), including writing the introduction and scientific chapters, compiling information on the policy background, conducting literature reviews, managing references and writing citizen summaries.

A special allowance of EUR 450<sup>19</sup> in the form of a daily unit cost for each full working day spent will be paid to the writers who act independently and in the public interest. This amount is considered to be proportionate to the specific tasks to be assigned to the writers.

Form of Funding: Other budget implementation instruments

Type of Action: Expert contract action

Indicative timetable: 2025, 2026

Indicative budget: EUR 0.04 million from the 2025 budget and EUR 0.04 million from the 2026 budget

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<sup>18</sup> [Ares\(2021\)6858536 of 8 Nov 2021 - experts-externes-en\\_2021\\_june Clean\\_Ares.pdf \(europa.eu\)](#)

<sup>19</sup> [Ares\(2021\)6858536 of 8 Nov 2021 - experts-externes-en\\_2021\\_june Clean\\_Ares.pdf \(europa.eu\)](#)

## **6. Scientific writers to support the European Group on Ethics in Science and New Technologies**

The European Group on Ethics in Science and New Technologies (EGE) was established in 1991. The EGE develops high quality, independent advice on all aspects of EU legislation and policies, where ethical, societal and fundamental rights issues intersect with the development of science and new technologies. The EGE opinions identify emerging and future developments, examine their implications across a wide spectrum of policy areas and issue recommendations.

In order to be able to better respond to requests for advice, the EGE Secretariat in the European Commission will rely on scientific writers to support the writing of opinions and statements. The scientific writers will contribute to the drafting and editing of documents (opinions, statements), including writing the introduction and scientific chapters, compiling information on the policy background, conducting literature reviews, managing references and writing citizen summaries. Future topics may cover areas from environmental ethics to democracy and new technologies.

A special allowance of EUR 450<sup>20</sup> in the form of a daily unit cost for each full working day spent will be paid to the writers who act independently and in the public interest. This amount is considered to be proportionate to the specific tasks to be assigned to the writers.

Form of Funding: Other budget implementation instruments

Type of Action: Expert contract action

Indicative budget: EUR 0.04 million from the 2025 budget and EUR 0.04 million from the 2026 budget

## **7. The European Group on Ethics in Science and New Technologies ('EGE Group')**

The European Group on Ethics in Science and New Technologies (EGE) is an independent, multi-disciplinary body appointed by the President of the European Commission that advises on all aspects of Commission policies and legislation where ethical, societal and fundamental rights dimensions intersect with the development of science and new technologies.

The EGE was established in 1991 as the Group of Advisers on the Ethical Implications of Biotechnology ('GAEIB') and replaced in 1997 by the European Group on Ethics in Science and New Technologies ('EGE') extending the group's mandate to cover all areas of the application of science and technology. In 2021 the EGE's mandate was renewed for an indefinite period and the fifteen Members of the EGE under its new mandate were appointed by the President of the European Commission in January 2022.

The experts advise the Commission by issuing Opinions and Statements on issues related to the Commission priorities, the Missions and the key ongoing and future Initiatives of the

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<sup>20</sup> [Ares\(2021\)6858536 of 8 Nov 2021 - experts-externes-en\\_2021\\_june Clean\\_Ares.pdf \(europa.eu\)](#)

Commission, also building on the work of identification carried out with the Inter-Service Group on Ethics and EU Policies. The topics fall mainly within three overarching themes – *Green, Digital, and Democracy* – which coexist with more targeted domains, while most of them lie within – or between – these three themes.

In order to be able to better respond to requests for advice and optimize the outputs to be delivered, a more active contribution of the Members of the EGE is needed. Given that contrary to other Commission bodies of a similar standing, the Members of the EGE have not been remunerated for their work so far, the Science Policy, Advice and Ethics Unit is working on the amendment of the Comm Dec (EU) 2021/156 of 9 February 2021 renewing the mandate of the European Group on Ethics in Science and New Technologies in order to introduce a special allowance for the Members beyond the reimbursement of their expenses.

On the condition that the article 13, par. 1 of the Commission Decision (EU) 2021/156 of 9 February 2021 renewing the mandate of the EGE and, i.e. the non-remuneration clause, will be amended, a special allowance of EUR 450 in the form of a daily unit cost for each full working day spent will be paid to the experts appointed in their personal capacity who act independently and in the public interest. This amount is considered to be proportionate to the specific tasks to be assigned to the experts, including the number of meetings to be attended and possible preparatory work.

Form of Funding: Other budget implementation instruments

Type of Action: Expert contract action

Indicative timetable: 2025, 2026

Indicative budget: EUR 0.36 million from the 2025 budget and EUR 0.36 million from the 2026 budget

### **8. Use of individual experts for dissemination of science advice, outreach activities, support of the delivery of scientific advice and increase of public understanding of the function, role and method of scientific advice in policymaking**

The importance of science advice for policy-making is growing within the Commission, European Union institutions and in Member States, in particular in the context of the Better Regulation Agenda, but also in national and international contexts (e.g. the European Science Advisors Forum, the International Network of Governmental Science Advisors).

Therefore, it is key to rely on the support of external, independent individual experts with extensive and demonstrated experience in providing science advice to the Commission and who espouse practical experience in providing science advice with a reputation as independent scientists of the highest repute.

The contributions of these independent individual experts should revolve around multiplying the impact of outreach activities and supporting the delivery and communication of the scientific advice such as opinions of the Group of Chief Scientific Advisors.

These individual experts would be asked as well to support the digital transformation of the working modalities and endeavours to implement the Green Deal Agenda, by connecting the advice to society in general and stakeholder communities in particular.

A special allowance of EUR 450<sup>21</sup> in the form of a daily unit cost for each full working day spent assisting the Commission or a special allowance of EUR 225 for each half working day spent assisting the Commission will be paid to the experts appointed in their personal capacity. The latter will act independently and in the public interest.

Form of Funding: Other budget implementation instruments

Type of Action: Expert contract action

Indicative budget: EUR 0.02 million from the 2025 budget and EUR 0.02 million from the 2026 budget

### **9. Commission expert group on the design and selection of directional initiatives under the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation**

The expert group will support the Commission with strategic advice on the development of a methodology for the design and selection of directional initiatives and its application in the context of the preparations for the next Framework Programme for Research and Innovation.

The group will draw on lessons learned from Horizon Europe thus far, especially regarding the design and implementation of EU Missions and European Partnerships<sup>22</sup>. Moreover, the group's work will entail a forward-looking/future-oriented analysis to identify relevant R&I areas that require orchestrated large-scale efforts, taking into account emerging European R&I priorities, emerging national R&I priorities and programmes, and common challenges.

A special allowance of EUR 450<sup>23</sup> in the form of a daily unit cost for each full working day spent will be paid to the experts appointed in their personal capacity who act independently and in the public interest. This amount is considered to be proportionate to the specific tasks to be assigned to the experts, including the number of meetings to be attended and possible preparatory work.

Form of Funding: Other budget implementation instruments

Type of Action: Expert contract action

Indicative timetable: Q3 2025

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<sup>21</sup> [Ares\(2021\)6858536 of 8 Nov 2021 - experts-externes-en\\_2021\\_june Clean\\_Ares.pdf \(europa.eu\)](#)

<sup>22</sup> Including the work of the expert group supporting the strategic coordinating process: European Commission, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, Assessing European partnerships against European policy priorities – Developing and illustrating a methodology for assessing the relevance of European Partnerships as instruments to address current and future European policy priorities, Publications Office of the European Union, 2023, <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2777/62770>

<sup>23</sup> [COMMISSION DECISION establishing horizontal rules on the creation and operation of Commission expert groups, C\(2016\)3301](#)

Indicative budget: EUR 0.25 million from the 2025 budget

## **10. Commission expert group on the Economic and Societal Impact of Research and innovation (ESIR4)**

The Expert group on the Economic and Societal Impact of Research and innovation (ESIR4) will support the Commission with strategic advice for evidence-based, transformative research and innovation policy that drives the transitions in Europe. The experts will cover R&I subjects from various angles such as social and ecologic transitions, citizens' engagement, sustainable development measurement, higher education, digitalisation, circular economy and governance issues. The group will engage and co-create with relevant stakeholders to establish an 'ESIR Community'. The group will produce policy briefs, organise outreach activities, foster policy experimentation and propose solution-oriented policy initiatives based on a demand-driven approach.

A special allowance of EUR 450<sup>24</sup> per day will be paid to the experts appointed in their personal capacity who act independently and in the public interest. This amount is considered to be proportionate to the specific tasks to be assigned to the experts, including the number of meetings to be attended and possible preparatory work.

Form of Funding: Other budget implementation instruments

Type of Action: Expert contract action

Indicative timetable: Q4 2025

Indicative budget: EUR 0.35 million from the 2025 budget

## **11. Use of individual experts**

This action will support the provision of independent experts working individually (and therefore not in the context of an expert group) for advising and assisting the Commission services with the implementation, monitoring, evaluation and design of EU research and innovation policies and programmes. Individual experts can be called to perform e.g. (including but not limited to) the following tasks:

- Analysis, design, and evaluation of policies and actions,
- Analysis of the state-of-the-art, impact assessment of policies and actions,
- Analysis of the contribution of the funded research to the EU policy objectives
- Assistance to the elaboration of research and development strategies,
- Contribution to and elaboration of reports, policy papers, and guidance notes,

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<sup>24</sup> COMMISSION DECISION establishing horizontal rules on the creation and operation of Commission expert groups, C(2016)3301

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- Moderation, facilitation, reporting and follow-up for events, conferences, seminars and forums.

Individual experts will be called on ad-hoc basis and will be selected based on their knowledge and experience of the work to be performed. Their tasks might include attending bilateral meetings with Commission services, preparatory work, remote drafting and further development of findings. They will be appointed in a personal capacity, will work independently and in the public interest, and will be paid a special allowance of EUR 450<sup>25</sup> in the form of a daily unit cost for each full working day spent.

Form of Funding: Other budget implementation instruments

Type of Action: Expert contract action

Indicative timetable: 2025, 2026

Indicative budget: EUR 0.03 million from the 2025 budget and EUR 0.03 million from the 2026 budget

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<sup>25</sup> [Ares\(2021\)6858536 of 8 Nov 2021 - experts-externes-en\\_2021\\_june Clean\\_Ares.pdf \(europa.eu\)](#)

*Horizon Europe - 2025-2026*  
*Horizontal support expenditure for Horizon Europe and Euratom Programmes*

**Budget<sup>26</sup>**

	Budget line(s)	2025 Budget (EUR million)	2026 Budget (EUR million)
<b>Calls</b>			
<b>Other actions</b>			
Indirectly managed action		2.60	1.60
	<i>from</i> <i>01.020500</i>	<i>2.60</i>	<i>1.60</i>
Grant to identified beneficiary according to Financial Regulation Article 195(e)		10.08	1.50
	<i>from</i> <i>01.020500</i>	<i>10.08</i>	<i>1.50</i>
Provision of technical/scientific services by the Joint Research Centre		1.50	
	<i>from</i> <i>01.020500</i>	<i>1.50</i>	
Public procurement		59.45	52.85
	<i>from</i> <i>01.020500</i>	<i>59.34</i>	<i>52.85</i>
	<i>from</i> <i>01.030200</i>	<i>0.10</i>	
Expert contract action		56.74	55.99
	<i>from</i> <i>01.020500</i>	<i>56.74</i>	<i>55.99</i>
<b>Estimated total budget</b>		<b>130.37</b>	<b>111.94</b>

<sup>26</sup>

The budget figures given in this table are rounded to two decimal places.  
The budget amounts are subject to the availability of the appropriations provided for in the general budget of the Union for years 2025 and 2026.