

Da horizon europe

The following activities are generally eligible for grants under Horizon Europe:

Research and innovation actions (RIA) — Activities that aim primarily to establish new knowledge or to explore the feasibility of a new or improved technology, product, process, service or solution. This may include basic and applied research, technology development and integration, testing, demonstration and validation of a small-scale prototype in a laboratory or simulated environment.

Innovation actions (IA) — Activities that aim directly to produce plans and arrangements or designs for new, altered or improved products, processes or services. These activities may include prototyping, testing, demonstrating, piloting, large-scale product validation and market replication. **Coordination and support actions (CSA)** — Activities that contribute to the objectives of Horizon Europe. This excludes research and innovation (R&I) activities, except those carried out under the ‘Widening participation and spreading excellence’ component of the programme (part of ‘Widening participation and strengthening the European Research Area’). Also eligible are bottom-up coordination actions which promote cooperation between legal entities from Member States and Associated Countries to strengthen the European Research Area, and which receive no EU co-funding for research activities.

Programme co-fund actions (CoFund) — A programme of activities established or implemented by legal entities managing or funding R&I programmes, other than EU funding bodies. Such a programme of activities may support: networking and coordination; research; innovation; pilot actions; innovation and market deployment; training and mobility; awareness raising and communication; and dissemination and exploitation. It may also provide any relevant financial support, such as grants, prizes and procurement, as well as Horizon Europe blended finance¹⁸ or a combination thereof. The actions may be implemented by the beneficiaries directly or by providing financial support to third parties.

Innovation and market deployment actions (IMDA) — Activities that embed an innovation action and other activities necessary to deploy an innovation on the market. This includes the scaling-up of companies and Horizon Europe blended finance.

Training and mobility actions (TMA) — Activities that aim to improve the skills, knowledge and career prospects of researchers, based on mobility between countries and, if relevant, between sectors or disciplines.

Pre-commercial procurement actions (PCP) — Activities that aim to help a transnational buyers’ group to strengthen the public procurement of research, development, validation and, possibly, the first deployment of new solutions that can significantly improve quality and efficiency in areas of public interest, while opening market opportunities for industry and researchers active in Europe. Eligible activities include the preparation, management and follow-up, under the coordination of a lead procurer, of one joint PCP and additional activities to embed the PCP into a wider set of demand-side activities.

Public procurement of innovative solutions actions (PPI) — Activities that aim to strengthen the ability of a transnational buyers’ group to deploy innovative solutions early by overcoming the fragmentation of demand for such solutions and sharing the risks and costs of acting as early adopters, while opening market opportunities for industry. Eligible activities include preparing and implementing, under the coordination of a lead procurer, one joint or several coordinated PPI by the buyers’ group and additional activities to embed the PPI into a wider set of demand-side activities.

Technology Readiness Levels

Where the specific call conditions require a Technology Readiness Level (TRL), the following definitions apply, unless otherwise specified:

TRL 1 — Basic principles observed

TRL 2 — Technology concept formulated

TRL 3 — Experimental proof of concept

TRL 4 — Technology validated in a lab

TRL 5 — Technology validated in a relevant environment (industrially relevant environment in the case of key enabling technologies)

TRL 6 — Technology demonstrated in a relevant environment (industrially relevant environment in the case of key enabling technologies)

TRL 7 — System prototype demonstration in an operational environment

TRL 8 — System complete and qualified

TRL 9 — Actual system proven in an operational environment (competitive manufacturing in the case of key enabling technologies, or in space)

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Collaborative projects

Collaborative projects (carried out by consortia composed of at least 3 organizations from 3 different countries including an end user organization and a business partner) will remain the main funding tool for this call. This type of projects has a duration of 12 to 30 months with a maximum funding of €2.500.000.

Small Collaborative projects

Small collaborative projects have a duration of 6 to 9 months, the same central eligibility criteria as the Collaborative projects, a maximum co-funding budget of €300.000 and leaner application and reporting procedures. Discover more what the two types of projects will fund by reading the Call text.

DA DIGITAL EUROPE

The descriptions below of the types of actions to be implemented through grants under the Digital Europe Programme is indicative and should help the (potential) applicants to understand the expectation in each type of action. The call for proposal will define the objectives and scope of the action in more detail.

Simple Grants

Description: The Simple Grants are a flexible type of action used by a large variety of topics and can cover most activities. The consortium will mostly use personnel costs to implement action tasks, activities with third parties (subcontracting, financial support, purchase) are possible but should be limited.

Funding rate: 50% of total eligible costs for all beneficiaries.

SME support actions

Description: Type of action primarily consisting of activities directly aiming at supporting SMEs involved in

building up and the deployment of the digital capacities. This type of action can also be used if an SME needs

to be in the consortium and make investments to access the digital capacities.

Funding rate: 50% of total eligible costs except for SMEs where a rate of 75% applies.

Coordination and support actions (CSA):

Description: Small type of action with the primary goal to promote cooperation and/or provide support to EU policies. Activities can include coordination between different actors for accompanying measures such as

standardisation, dissemination, awareness-raising and communication, networking, coordination or support services, policy dialogues and mutual learning exercises and studies, including design studies for new infrastructure. CSA may also include complementary activities of strategic planning, networking and coordination between programmes in different countries.

Funding rate: 100% of eligible costs.

Grants for procurement

Description: Type of action for which the main goal of the action and thus most of the costs consist of buying goods or services and/or subcontracting tasks. Contrary to the grants for procurement of advanced capacities (PAC grants) for procurement (see below) there are no specific procurement rules (i.e. usual rules for purchase apply), nor is there a limit to 'contracting authorities/entities'. Personnel costs should be limited in this type of action; they are used to manage the grant, coordinate between the beneficiaries and prepare the procurement.

Funding rate: 50% of total eligible costs for all beneficiaries.

Grants for procurement of advanced capacities (PAC)

Description: Specific type of action for procurement in grant agreements by "contracting authority/entity" as defined in the EU public procurement Directives (Directives 2014/24/EU, 2014/25/EU173 and 2009/81/EC) aiming at buying in innovative digital goods and services (i.e. novel technologies on the way to commercialisation but not yet broadly available).

Funding rate: 50% of total eligible costs.

Grant for financial support

Description: Actions with a particular focus on cascading grants. The majority of the grant will be distributed via financial support to third parties with special provisions in the grant agreement, maximum amounts to third parties, multiple pre-financing and reporting obligations.

Annex 5 of the model grant agreements foresees specific rules for this type of action regarding conflict of interest, the principles of transparency, non-discrimination and sound financial management as well as the selection procedure and criteria.

In order to assure the co-financing obligation in the programme, the support to third parties should only cover 50% of third party costs.

Funding rate: 100% of eligible costs for the consortium, co-financing of 50% of total eligible costs by the supported third party.

Framework Partnership Agreement (FPA) and Specific grant agreement (SGA):

FPA:

Description: An FPA establishes a long-term cooperation mechanism between the granting authority and the

beneficiaries of grants. The FPA specifies the common objectives (action plan), the procedure for awarding specific grants and the rights and obligations of each party under the specific agreements. The specific grants

are awarded via identified beneficiary actions (with or without competition).

Funding rate: no funding for FPA.

SGAs:

Description: The SGAs are linked to an FPA and implement the action plan or part of the action plan. They are awarded via an invitation to submit a proposal (identified beneficiary action). The coordinator of the FPA

has to be the coordinator of each SGA signed under the FPA and will always take to role of interlocutor with the granting authority. All the other partners of the FPA can participate in any SGA. There is no limit to the amount of SGAs signed under one FPA.

Funding rate: 50% of total eligible costs.

Lump sum grant

Description: Lump Sum Grants reimburse a general lump sum for the entire project and the consortium as a whole. The lump sum is fixed ex-ante (at the latest at grant signature). The granting authority defines a methodology for calculating the amount of the lump sum. There is an overall amount, i.e. the lump sum will cover the beneficiaries' direct and indirect eligible costs. The beneficiaries do not need to report actual costs, they just need to claim the lump sum once the work is done. If the action is not properly implemented only

part of the lump sum will be paid.

Funding rate: 50% of total eligible costs.

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Large-Scale Demonstrator

<https://ec.europa.eu/docsroom/documents/5443/attachments/1/translations/en/renditions/native>

Large-Scale Demonstrator ... is NOT

∃ demonstration project to prove feasibility of scientific or technical theory, i.e. not just based on research

∃ small-scale prototype or pilot project addressing issue in isolation by special interest group

∃ always large in numbers or size but large in the approach, i.e. avoids fragmentation of resources and risk of duplication

Large-Scale Demonstrator ... is

} near-market project addressing real issues by testing different solutions in real-life conditions

} large-scale project with political ownership bringing together all relevant stakeholders for joint strategy

} smart use of resources to implement strategy, including reallocation of existing & mobilisation of new funds

#large-scale demonstrator: real life test of novel solutions to actual 'problem' driven by strong partnership and strategic use of resources

Innovation and small-scale actions

https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/innovfund/wp-call/2021/call-fiche_innovfund-2021-ssc_en.pdf

Innovation in relation to the state of the art

Types of innovative actions

The Innovation Fund aims to support technologies, business models and processes that are not yet commercially available, but represent breakthrough solutions or are sufficiently mature to be ready for demonstration at pre-commercial scale.

Thus a project may consist of a first-of-a-kind commercialisation or commercial size demonstration of technologies, processes or business models previously proven at pilot or smaller scale demonstration plants.

A second or more of a kind commercialisation can also be considered innovative under certain conditions. In particular, where the relevant costs remain a significant share of total costs that prohibit commercialisation without further public support.

Smaller demonstrations or pilot plants are also eligible for support, especially if this is the right scale at which technology needs to be proven before moving to a larger scale demonstration.

State-of-the-art: commercial and technological

The state-of-the-art for a proposed production process, product or service or business model comprises both the characteristics of the commercially available process, product or service that is most similar to the proposed one (commercial state-of-the-art) and the already proved characteristics of the proposed technological solution at the highest technological readiness level (technological state-of-the-art). Hence, a proposed project activity or product may be considered as innovative compared to the state-of-the-art if:

- it differs from that normally offered by existing vendors/technology suppliers with respect to key characteristics, such as quality of service, carbon footprint, resource use, etc;
- it is not currently offered in the EU or national markets by multiple vendors or it is not offered as a standard product or service from a single vendor;
- its expected outcomes go well beyond existing solutions;
- it is further advanced from previously conducted demonstrations for instance in terms of technology readiness level (TRL) or more generally system readiness level (SRL16), covering also integration of various technologies;
- optimally, but not necessarily, it also outperforms competing innovations.

The following list presents examples for activities or products that may be considered innovative compared to commercial state-of-the-art:

- a new product/service that requires more than incremental technical adjustments in production facilities/supply chain or a new production set up/plants
- a product service, process or business model substitution i.e. a new product, service, process or business model that eliminates the need for existing products, processes or business model.
- a new technology that can substitute an existing technology, or that allows the novel integrated use of existing technology
- more than incremental adjustments in production facilities/supply chain that enable intrinsically cleaner production, for instance making it possible to substitute (totally or to a large extent) fossil fuel energy with renewable energy
- an existing technical solution or use applied in one sector is applied and more incrementally adapted for a new sector or a different use
- system integration, i.e. an integration of existing technologies with lower system integration readiness today.