

BOOSTING PARTICIPATION IN HORIZON EUROPE



UK and EU science chiefs urge researchers and businesses work together with European colleagues through Horizon, and apply for grants to boost jobs, growth and scientific breakthroughs

The European Commissioner for Research and Innovation Illiana Ivanova, and the UK Science and Technology Secretary Michelle Donelan, recently made a united call for UK innovators and researchers to seize the opportunity of Horizon Europe funding – as well as the avenues it opens for collaboration with some of the brightest minds from across Europe and beyond.

Horizon Europe is the world's largest collaborative programme of research collaboration, which the UK is a part of after the Prime Minister secured a bespoke deal in September last year.

Horizon Europe is built around three main pillars – excellent science (Pillar 1), global challenges and industrial competitiveness (Pillar 2), and innovative Europe (Pillar 3). Horizon's Pillar 2 has the largest budget, and supports research that is aimed at tackling some of the biggest problems facing society. The average Horizon grant from Pillar 2 is worth £450,000 to a UK business.

Further information, including practical support on how to apply is available on Innovate UK's website also host regular events that help guide businesses and researchers through the opportunities on offer and the application process. Click below for further details.

<https://www.ukri.org/apply-for-funding/horizon-europe/>

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May 2024

NICP BULLETIN

horizoneuropeni.com



Updates on Horizon Europe from the Northern Ireland Contact Point Network

A WORLD CHANGING IDEA NEEDS A WORLD CLASS TEAM

HORIZON EUROPE

One breakthrough. Hundreds of contributors



At the start of 2024, the UK associated to Horizon Europe. That means that Horizon Europe applicants from Northern Ireland can take their bids to the next level by utilising the UK's thriving R&D infrastructure.

The right combination can do incredible things. The UK Department for Science, Innovation & Technology (DSIT) is encouraging the brightest thinkers with the biggest ideas from across Europe to partner with UK scientists, researchers and businesses through the world-leading Horizon Europe programme.

To start your collaborative journey please visit the [UK Horizon Europe Hub](#)

Getting Involved in Horizon Europe

Horizon Europe Pillars

Horizon Europe is built around three main pillars – Excellent Science (Pillar 1), Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness (Pillar 2), and Innovative Europe (Pillar 3). Cutting across all these three pillars is a widening initiative that builds capacity in developing countries. Click on the links below to explore the Programme in more detail.



Excellent Science

Driving scientific excellence and supporting the EU's position as a world leader in science.

[READ MORE](#) 



Global Challenges

Driving scientific excellence and supporting the EU's position as a world leader in science.

[READ MORE](#) 



Innovative Europe

Driving scientific excellence and supporting the EU's position as a world leader in science.

[READ MORE](#) 



Widening Participation

Driving scientific excellence and supporting the EU's position as a world leader in science.

[READ MORE](#) 

Getting Involved in Horizon Europe

Partner Search

Finding the right partners for your Horizon Europe collaboration is very important. The Horizon Europe partner search tools and events, below, can be helpful in identifying organisations that have expressed an interest in collaborating on a funding opportunity. You can add yourself to the relevant partner search tool to let others know that you are open to collaboration, or join us at one of the upcoming events.



Horizon Europe Brokerage Event on the **2024 Cluster 1 Health**

[READ MORE](#) →



Security Research NCP Network

[READ MORE](#) →



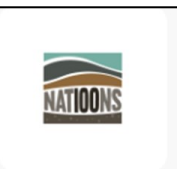
Net4Society Cluster 2 Networking Platform

[READ MORE](#) →



Clean Energy Transition Partnership

[READ MORE](#) →



Soil Health Living Labs Matchmaking Platform

[READ MORE](#) →

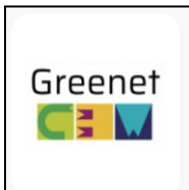


NCP4Industry 2024 Brokerage Event

[READ MORE](#) →

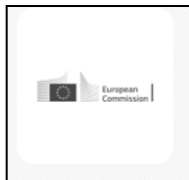
Getting Involved in Horizon Europe

Partner Search



GREENET Partner Search Tool

[READ MORE](#) →



European Commission — Partners and Networking

[READ MORE](#) →

Work as an Expert Evaluator in Horizon Europe

The European Commission has launched a [call for new expert evaluators](#) who will help review proposals submitted to Horizon Europe and other EU programmes.

The call for expression of interest for the Funding & Tenders Portal Expert Database for the period 2021-2027 seeks individuals who will be able to assist the EU services in their personal capacity as experts with the implementation of EU funding and tenders managed through the Funding & Tenders Portal, in particular:

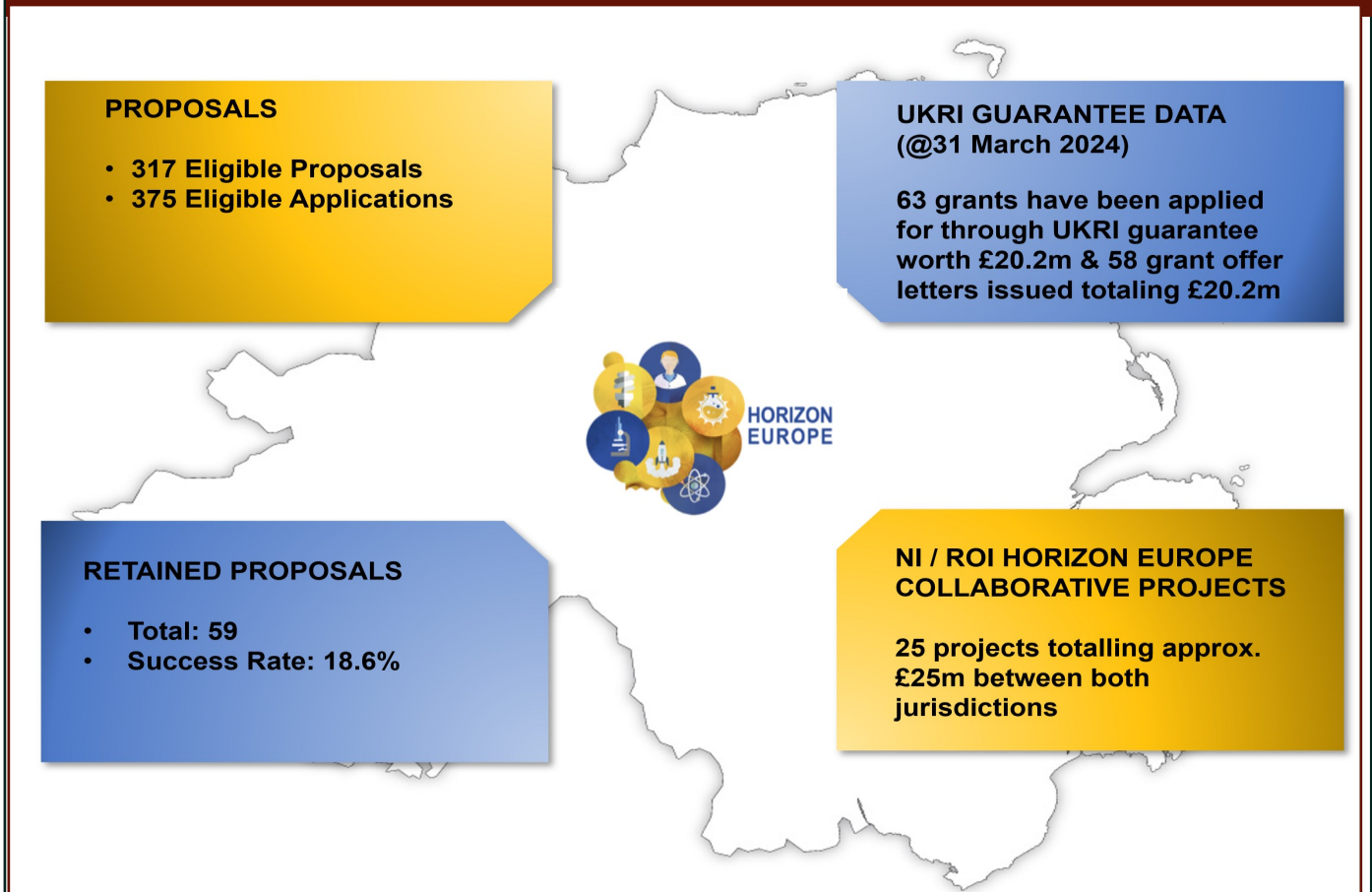
- Assessing applications for funding;
- Monitoring of projects and contracts;
- Providing opinions and advice on specific issues.



Tasks may include evaluation, monitoring and advice of all types (such as evaluation of applications, observing evaluation procedures, project reviews, coaching activities, ethics reviews including checks and audits, etc.).

Individuals interested in becoming experts evaluator in Horizon Europe should register in the dedicated 'Work as an expert' area of the F&T Portal. The Portal Expert Database is the central database for all expert work in this domain. Registration is a mandatory prerequisite for being contracted by the Commission to work as an evaluator on any EU funding programme.

Northern Ireland Horizon Europe Results to Date*



*March 2024

Support from Invest NI

Are you a business interested in collaborating with research partners outside of Northern Ireland? Invest NI can help you to identify the research and innovation funding opportunities from Horizon Europe and other national and international funding competitions aligned with your project scope.

Invest NI offer advice on the application process to all businesses. Eligible businesses may also apply for financial assistance to develop an application to Horizon Europe. Invest NI can help co-fund the costs of scoping and preparing an application to Horizon Europe.

Project planning grants up to £50k include costs such as internal labour, travel and 3rd party costs. Match-funding is required. Invest NI eligibility criteria can be viewed [here](#).

Please contact lisa.braniff@investni.com for more information.



NICPs attend HIRANI HealthTech Spring Conference at Titanic in Belfast



The NICP Network were delighted to support the recent HealthTech Spring Conference in Belfast and Patricia McCrory (Health) and Patrick Cullen (Digital Health) were there to offer support and advice to both researchers and industry partners keen to engage with the Horizon Europe programme.

Hosted by the Health Innovation and Research Alliance NI (HIRANI), Health Tech Spring took place in Belfast on 29th and 30th April 2024 and was addressed on the second day by Conor Murphy, Minister for the Economy.

With local and global partners, the conference focused on two strands; digital ecosystems to integrate diagnostics and therapeutics; and community people-centred design to accelerate innovation and adoption of health technology.

The conference also included a “Life Sciences, Life Support” event for businesses who provide support services to the life science industry. With Innovation zones and pitching events, global keynotes and local thought leaders the conference proved to be a huge success with delegates from all across Ireland, the UK and further afield engaging and networking in the iconic surroundings of the Titanic Centre.

UK Event on Soil Mission Living Labs

Research output from Northern Ireland was featured at a UK national engagement event intended to support applications to the four Living Labs topics under the 2024 EU Soil Mission call.

The meeting was jointly organised by the Cluster 6 National Contact Points (NCPs) and the NI Contact Point (NICP) in collaboration with the NAT100NS European project and took place at Rothamsted Research near Luton. The meeting attracted nearly one hundred with sixty people attending in person.

NAT100NS, funded under the HORIZON-MISS-2021-SOIL-02 call, acts as an ambassador for the Soil Mission, raising awareness among national and regional stakeholders, providing access to materials for capacity building, and stimulating discussions and networking for the development of Living Labs to meet regional soil needs.



The morning session was a live webinar, with Helen Sweeny (NCP) giving an overview of the Soil Mission and its goal to set up 100 Soil Health Living Labs across Europe. Helen also updated the meeting with details of this year's call topics.

Elaine Groom (NICP—pictured below), who trained as a NAT100NS Mentor last year, explained how soil health Living Labs should be structured and Concha Civantos representing NAT100NS' Spanish

partner FUNDECYT-PCTEX, provided some general experiences from last year's calls and outlined supporting information available from NAT100NS.

Just before lunch there were pitches from eleven attendees seeking partners, including Emma McKenna from Queen's University Belfast, and Selva Dhandapani from AFBI. After a good networking session over lunch the audience heard from a variety of key actors in the soil area. This included John Gilliland who in a prerecorded interview, described the success of the farm-based ARC Zero project in Northern Ireland, and Professor Pippa Chapman (University of Leeds) who presented key findings from working with AFBI on changing the behaviour of farmers.



A recording of the event will be available at <https://nati00ns.eu/2024-nee-united-kingdom>

The Soil Mission Info Day took place on 25 April 2024 providing details for the 2024 call. A recording of the event can be viewed [here](#). Details of the nine Soil Mission topics that are currently open for application can be found here on the [EU Funding & Tenders Portal \(europa.eu\)](http://europa.eu).

UKRO Visit UU and QUB to help Boost Participation

Ulster University and Queen’s University were delighted to welcome Jon Brookes, European Advisor, UK Research Office (Brussels), to their campuses in May as part both universities strategies to boost engagement levels from their researchers in the Horizon Europe programme.

Jon gave detailed updates on the remaining calls left in 2025 along with pointers on the remaining two years of Horizon Europe which will conclude in 2027. He also took time to meet with the research offices at both universities and members of the NICP Network in Northern Ireland.

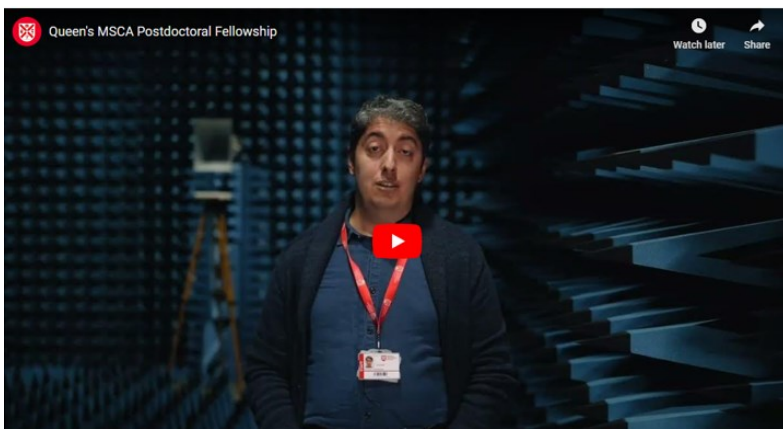


Pictured L-R: John Mooney, (Global Grants Manager UU), Jon Brookes (UKRO), Nuala McCrudden (Department for the Economy), Patrick Cullen (NICP Digital Health) and Laura Fitzmaurice (NICP Energy).



Queen's University new video campaign highlights Horizon Europe successes

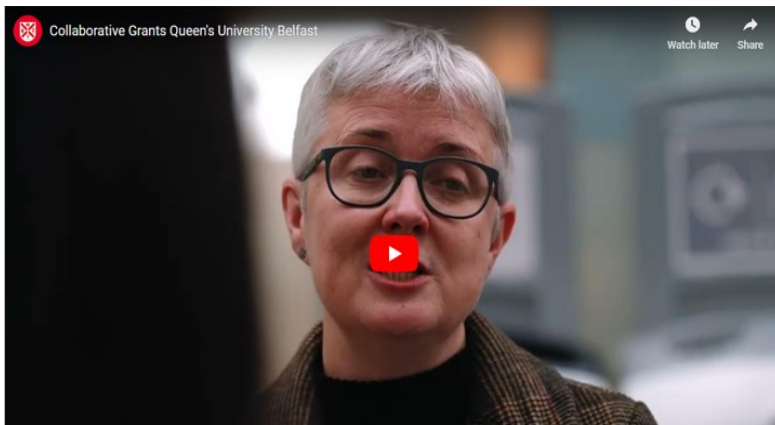
Queen's University Belfast have produced a series of new videos as part of their Horizon Europe activities. All three videos can be viewed by clicking on the images below which will take you to the Queen's University YouTube channel.



The **Marie Curie Skłodowska Curie Actions (MSCA) Postdoctoral Fellowships** scheme closes on 11 September. It offers all UK non-academic and academic organisations the opportunity to collaborate with a skilled postdoctoral fellow on a fully-funded research project. Contact your NICP to discuss.



The **Marie Curie Skłodowska Curie Actions (MSCA) Doctoral Networks** call closes on 27 November. Collaborate with academic and non-academic organisations to train the next generation of researchers. Contact your NICP to discuss.



Opportunities for collaborative funding in 2024




The European Commission has published an [amended version of the main 2023-24 Horizon Europe Work Programme](#) which includes new funding opportunities under Pillar 2 (Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness).

The [2024 Mission calls](#) are now open. Horizon Europe Missions support research funding in the five areas of cancer, climate adaptation, oceans and rivers, soil and climate-neutral cities. Contact your NICP to navigate opportunities.

Find Your Northern Ireland Contact Point

	<h3>Ryan Gabel</h3> <p>r.gabel@qub.ac.uk</p> <p>Ryan is responsible for supporting local stakeholders in the area of ICT with a focus including cybersecurity, digital technologies, advanced computing, artificial intelligence and next generation internet.</p>	<h4>ICT</h4> <p>CIVIL SECURITY FOR SOCIETY: CLUSTER 3</p> <p>DIGITAL, INDUSTRY AND SPACE: CLUSTER 4</p>
	<h3>Mary Harte</h3> <p>m.harte@qub.ac.uk</p> <p>Mary's role is focused on supporting engagement from regional stakeholders including the aerospace supply chain, mechanical/civil engineering, materials and manufacturing sectors. Key strategic priorities for these areas are increased circularity, climate</p>	<h4>ENGINEERING</h4> <p>DIGITAL, INDUSTRY AND SPACE: CLUSTER 4</p> <p>CLIMATE, ENERGY & MOBILITY: CLUSTER 5</p>
	<h3>Elaine Groom</h3> <p>Elaine.Groom@afbini.gov.uk</p> <p>Elaine is the NICP for Cluster 6. Her role is to strengthen the participation of local industry, SMEs, researchers and others in agriculture, food and related research and innovation for Horizon Europe Programmes.</p>	<h4>AGRICULTURE</h4> <p>AGRI-FOOD: CLUSTER 6</p>
	<h3>Patricia McCrory</h3> <p>p.mccrory@qub.ac.uk</p> <p>Key priorities for the Health Cluster are: staying healthy in a changing society; living and working in health-promoting environments; tackling diseases ; access to high quality healthcare; new tools, digital solutions for a healthy society; and maintaining a</p>	<h4>HEALTH</h4> <p>HEALTH: CLUSTER 1</p>

Find Your Northern Ireland Contact Point

	<p>Nina Shiel</p> <p>n.shiel@qub.ac.uk</p> <p>Nina provides strategic guidance, proposal support and awareness raising on inter- and transdisciplinary research, particularly in terms of involving AHSS fields in collaborative research as equal and meaningful partners. She is experienced in European research culture and an expert in gender in research as well as at research ethics & integrity.</p>	<p>ARTS, HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES</p> <p>CULTURE, CREATIVITY AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETY: CLUSTER 2</p>
	<p>Laura Fitzmaurice</p> <p>l.fitzmaurice@ulster.ac.uk</p> <p>Laura's role is to strengthen the participation of industries, research centres, universities and SMEs in energy-oriented Research Development and Innovation for Horizon Europe Programmes.</p>	<p>ENERGY</p> <p>ENERGY: CLUSTER 5</p>
	<p>Patrick Cullen</p> <p>p.cullen1@ulster.ac.uk</p> <p>Patrick has a responsibility to engage with EU digital healthcare related research and development programmes. He provides advice and support on accessing Horizon Europe funding for research, development, demonstration, innovation and market</p>	<p>DIGITAL HEALTH</p> <p>HEALTH: CLUSTER 1</p> <p>DIGITAL, INDUSTRY AND SPACE: CLUSTER 4</p>

Getting Involved in Horizon Europe

UK National Contact Points

The UK National Contact Points (NCPs) have expertise in each area of the Framework Programme. They help provide personalised guidance and support for Horizon Europe. Get in touch for help and advice in choosing funding opportunities, writing or preparing your proposal, finding project partners, or any other area of Horizon Europe.

[READ MORE](#)



Horizon Europe Pump Priming Programme for SMEs

The Horizon Europe Pump Priming Programme is an Innovate UK initiative. It supports individual UK small to medium sized companies wanting to explore and access Horizon Europe collaborative research and innovation opportunities.

It is a step towards participating in projects across a wide range of sectors under Pillar 2 of the Horizon Europe priorities and Pillar 3 EIC Pathfinder and Transition opportunities.



[READ MORE](#)



Useful Support and Advice Links

InterTradeIreland Travel Vouchers

<https://intertradeireland.com/innovation/horizon-europe/travel-vouchers>

Innovate UK funding for travel support for UK businesses to attend European events:

<https://iuk.ktn-uk.org/news/travel-support-now-available/>

The Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking

<https://iuk.ktn-uk.org/events/horizon-europe-event-circular-bio-based-europe-joint-undertaking/>

Getting Involved in Horizon Europe

Forthcoming Events

[InterTradeIreland North/South Online Event on Horizon Europe](#) (Cluster 4 AI Calls). Online Event.

[European Navigation Conference](#), 22-24 May 2024, Noordwijk, **The Netherlands** (Application deadline: 6 May 2024, Notification date: 8 May 2024)

[Green Week 2024: Towards a water resilient Europe](#), 29-30 May 2024, **Brussels, Belgium** (Application deadline: 8 May 2024, Notification date: 13 May 2024)

[INDTech2024 Conference on Industrial Technologies](#), 3-5 June 2024, **Namur, Belgium** (Application deadline: 13 May 2024, Notification date: 17 May 2024)

[European Conference on Networks and Communications \(EuCNC\) & 6G Summit](#), 3-6 June 2024, **Antwerp, Belgium** (Application deadline: 13 May 2024, Notification date: 16 May 2024)

[Posidonia 2024](#), 3-7 June 2024 in **Athens Greece** (Application deadline: 15 April, Notification day: 22 April)

[Sustainability Research and Innovation \(SRI\) Congress](#), 10-14 June 2024, **Helsinki & Espoo, Finland** (Application deadline: 20 May 2024, Notification date: 22 May 2024)

[ACHEMA 2024](#), 10-14 June 2024, **Frankfurt/Main, Germany** (Application deadline: 28 May 2024, Notification date: 31 May 2024)

[European Sustainable Energy Week](#), 11-13 June 2024, **Brussels, Belgium** (Application deadline: 21 May 2024, Notification date: 24 May 2024)

[European Digital Twin Ocean Forum](#), 12-13 June 2024, **Brussels, Belgium** (Application deadline: 28 May 2024, Notification date: 31 May 2024)

[Tech4SmartCities](#), 18 June 2024, **Brussels, Belgium** (Application deadline: 3 June 2024, Notification date: 6 June 2024)

Getting Involved in Horizon Europe

Forthcoming Events

[European Biomass Conference & Exhibition \(EUBCE\)](#), 24-27 June, Marseille, France (Application deadline: 3 June 2024, Notification date: 7 June 2024)

[Connecting Green Hydrogen Europe](#), 25-27 June 2024, Madrid, Spain (Application deadline: 3 June 2024, Notification date: 7 June 2024)

[European Space Agency – Industry Space Days 2024](#), 18-19 September 2024, Noordwijk, The Netherlands (Application deadline: 27 August 2024, Notification date: 30 August 2024)

[10th European Conference on Sustainable Cities and Towns](#), 1-3 October 2024, Aalborg, Denmark (Application deadline: 2 September 2024, Notification date: 5 September 2024)

[17th European Public Health Conference 2024](#), 12-15 November 2024, Lisbon, Portugal (Application deadline: 22 October 2024, Notification date: 25 October 2024)

Other News Snippets

- **The UK has joined the EU's Chips Joint Undertaking** giving the semiconductor sector access to a €1.3bn Horizon Europe fund for research up to 2027. Innovate UK has committed £5M in UK co-funding for 2024 non-initiative programmes, and £30M for '25-27 calls.
- **The European Commission and European Research Area countries and stakeholders have published guidelines on the responsible use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) in research.** These guidelines focus on the use of generative AI in the research process from the perspective of researchers, research organisations and research funding organisations. One of the goals of these guidelines is that the scientific community uses this technology in a responsible manner. As a living document, these guidelines will be regularly updated based on feedback provided by stakeholders across the scientific community.