

Introduction to Horizon Europe

www.horizoneuropeni.com

What is Horizon Europe?

Horizon Europe is the European Union's flagship programme for funding research and innovation, running from 2021 until 2027. Its overall ambition is to shape the future of Europe.

From 1st January 2024, the UK is an Associated Country to Horizon Europe, meaning that UK businesses and researchers can participate fully and drawdown funds from the programme.

Horizon Europe needs innovative businesses

Industry is vital to the success of Horizon Europe research projects. Integrating industrial partners into a Horizon Europe consortium brings many advantages to the project. Industry partners help with innovation, ensuring technology and ideas are exploited. They are key to bringing innovations rapidly to market. SMEs are particularly valued for their entrepreneurship.

Academic organisations are always keen to develop relationships and collaborate with SMEs and all sizes of business in European projects.

How Northern Ireland businesses can get involved in Horizon Europe

- Contact our [Northern Ireland Contact Points \(NICPs\)](#). They are local experts who are aligned with Clusters (see next page) and can discuss your needs, guide you to find the most appropriate Horizon Europe funding opportunity and suggest how to build your network in Europe.
- Not sure where to start? Our industry NICP based at Invest NI can help you to explore options best aligned with your business growth objectives.
- Keep an eye on our website horizoneuropeni.com and sign up to our newsletter there.

Business Benefits of Horizon Europe participation

- Open access to strategic knowledge and new expertise through collaboration.
- Gain insights into emerging technology and future thinking.
- Build relationships with customers or develop supply chain capability.
- Open new markets by contributing to the development of solutions to global challenges.
- Develop staff skills and access new talent and facilities.
- Access funding for research and innovation activities at a scale or scope unavailable locally (70-100% support rate).
- Budget is transferred through pre-financing and regular payment intervals; details dictated by project duration.
- Access funding to cover partial costs of specialised equipment to deliver a research and innovation project.
- Support other internationalisation and strategic development objectives through building international visibility and credibility.



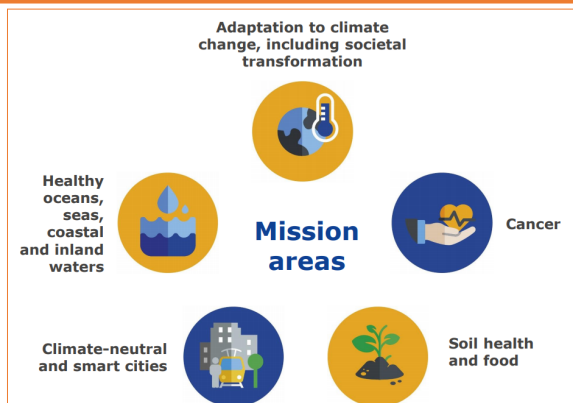
Funding opportunities for businesses include European Innovation Council (EIC); Collaborative research through Clusters and Missions; Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions (MSCA). More information is provided overleaf.

Get involved in collaborative research through partnering in Cluster and Mission projects: *businesses can drawdown a budget to cover the costs of participation in a Europe-wide collaborative research and innovation project and contribute to the next-step innovations needed in the field.*

The EC has identified 6 [Clusters](#) and 5 [Mission areas](#). Calls for funding are launched through bi-annual work programmes. NICPs can guide you to relevant information and discuss opportunities. Join a multi-partner team of researchers from across Europe, focusing on a specific topic to solve a grand challenge. Extend your network and work with leading experts within and beyond your field of work to develop innovations for the benefit of all.

Clusters

1. [Health](#)
2. [Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society](#)
3. [Civil Security for Society](#)
4. [Digital, Industry and Space](#)
5. [Climate, Energy and Mobility](#)
6. [Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment](#)



Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions (MSCA) enhance careers and the research and innovation potential of staff and organisations through mobility across Europe and between academia and industry in any scientific or technical area. Schemes include [Staff Exchanges](#), [Postdoctoral Fellowships](#) and [Doctoral Networks](#). Discuss the different options with the NICP team.

- [MSCA Doctoral Networks](#): *Industry can recruit a doctoral researcher for 36 months or provide a short secondment. The submission deadline is annually in November.*
 - ◇ Can be a beneficial first engagement with European funding for ambitious companies.
 - ◇ Companies can offer young graduates secondments or short-term visits to their facilities.
 - ◇ Companies with a strong R&D department might recruit a graduate to complete a 36 month research project on-site. Your company helps define the research project and draws down EU funding to support the researcher's salary and training costs. The graduate must register for a PhD with a university partner.
- [MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships](#): *industry can recruit a postdoc for a 1-2 year fellowship or provide a secondment. The submission deadline is annually in September.*
 - ◇ This scheme supports the research and career development needs of a talented postdoctoral researcher, 8 years post-PhD and normally from outside UK.
 - ◇ Ideal for companies with a strong R&D department, either providing a secondment to access specialist facilities, tools, and systems, or recruiting the post-doc to their premises for a 1-2 year research contract.

European Innovation Council (EIC): *companies can apply for EIC funding on their own or in collaboration with other organisations (academic and non-academic) across Europe.*

EIC is Europe's flagship innovation programme. It supports breakthrough technologies and game changing innovations. Funding covers the innovation lifecycle from early stage research to proof of concept and technology transfer to develop, scale up and grow such technologies.

[EIC Pathfinder](#) (TRL1-4), [EIC Transition](#) (TRL 3-6) and [EIC Accelerator](#) (TRL 5-8) awards are directed towards highly innovative and cutting edge ideas aligned with annual call information.

Note, that UK organisations cannot access the EIC venture investment fund. This aspect of EIC is open only to the EU member states.