

EU&U:

Career path and
funding opportunities
from a European perspective



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Index

01 EURAXESS & HRS4R:
The career path

02 Horizon & beyond:
Funding opportunities

03 Find your call:
F&T Portal and submission

Which is your “R”?



- **R1. First Stage Researcher**: Researchers doing research **under supervision** up to the point of a PhD or equivalent level of competence and experience.
- **R2. Recognised Researcher**: Researchers with a PhD or equivalent level of competence and experience who are **not yet fully independent** in their ability to develop their own research, attract funding, or lead a research group.
- **R3. Established Researcher**: Researchers with a PhD or equivalent level of competence and experience who have achieved a **level of independence** in their ability to develop their own research, attract funding, or lead a research group.
- **R4. Leading Researcher**: Researchers with a PhD or equivalent level of competence and experience who are **recognised as leading** their research field by their peers.

EURAXESS: the platform for Career Development

EURAXESS is an initiative of the European Commission present in more than 40 countries, that provides access to information on jobs, funding, housing, social security and other relevant matters.

- **EURAXESS Jobs:** a portal where you can find job offers, funding opportunities and fellowships...
- **EURAXESS Partnering:** a tool that connects researchers who already have funding with host organisations (or vice versa)
- **EURAXESS Services:** a network that help researchers and their families plan and organise their move abroad.

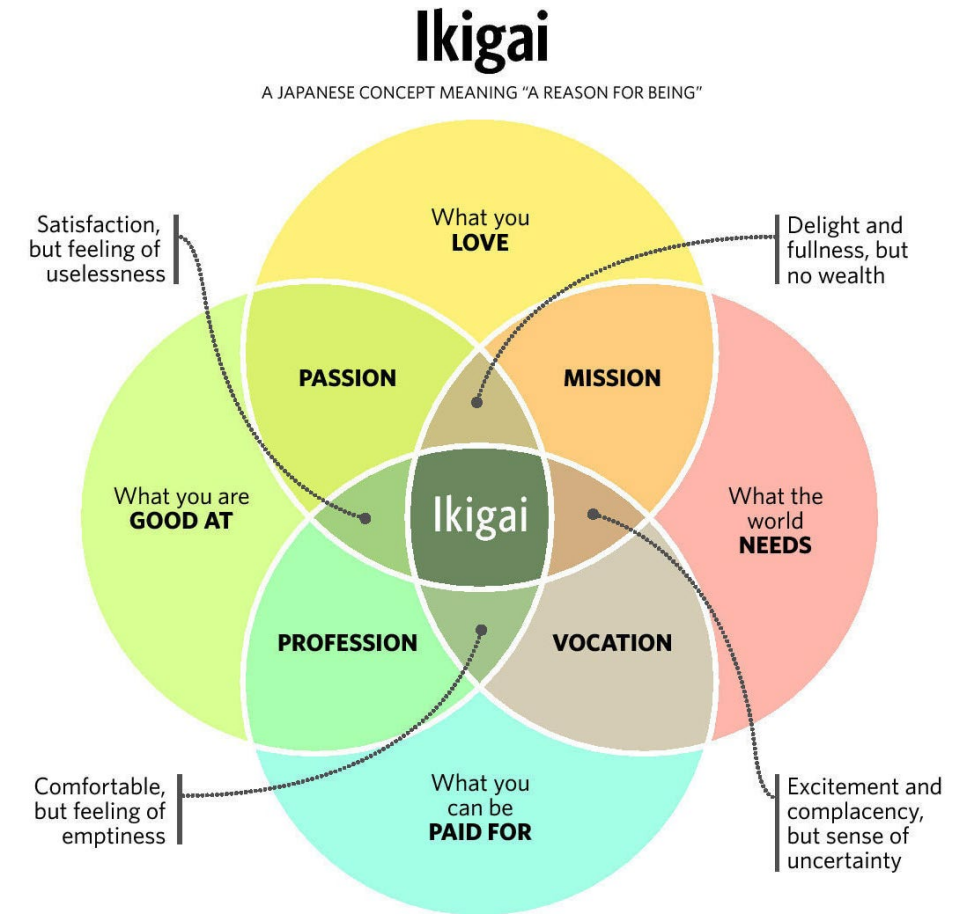


EURAXESS: the platform for Career Development

EURAXESS Researcher Professional Development is a special section built specifically to help you **think strategically** about your career rather than reacting to it.

Their main tool is **"No Limits":**

- Identify what's actually important to you in a career.
- Plan how to build on your existing skills and knowledge.
- Consider a wide range of career options, inside and outside academia.
- Put together a concrete plan to reach your professional development goals.



HRS4R: Human Resources Excellence Seal



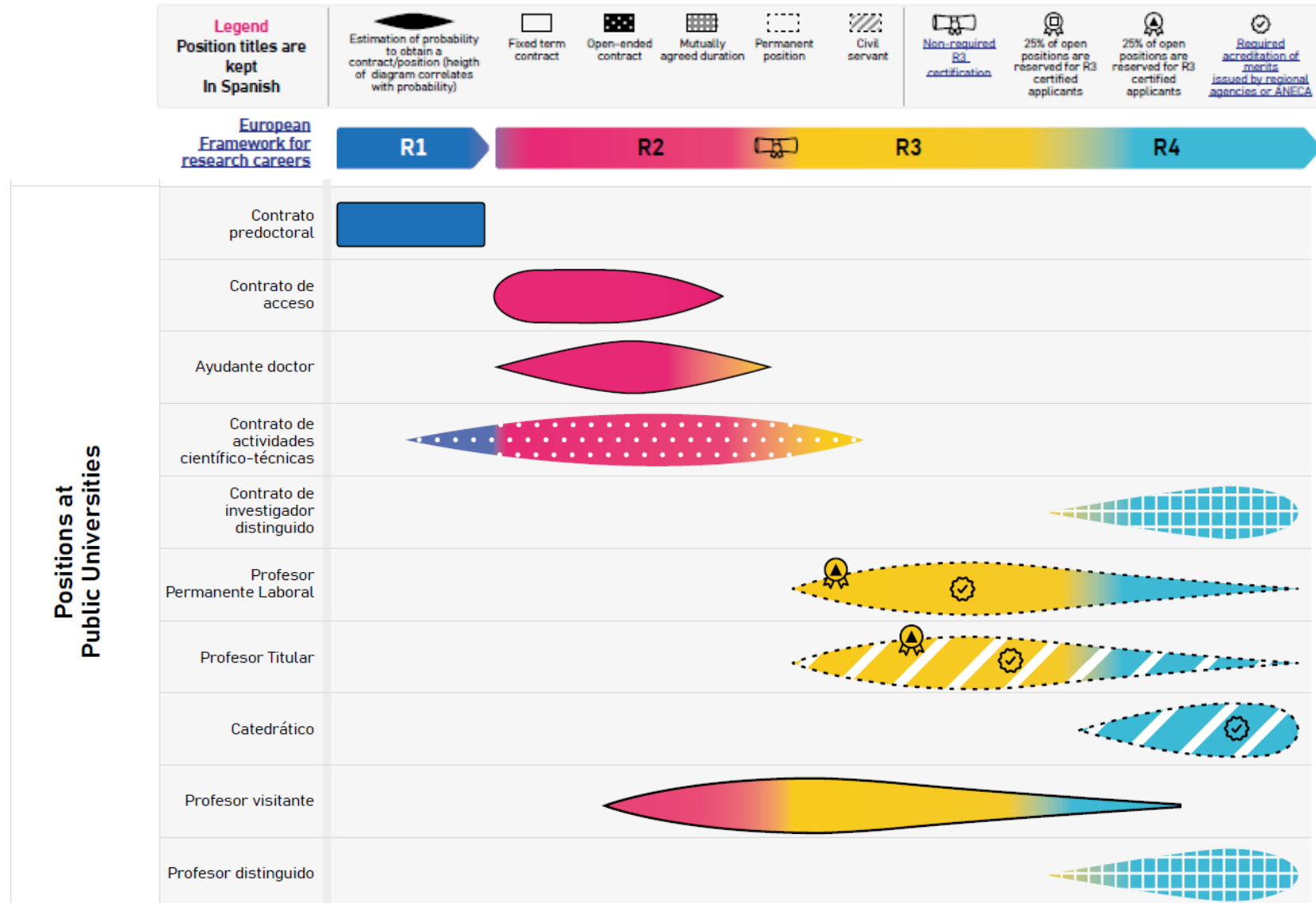
HR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH

The "**HR Strategy for Researchers**" is the tool institutions use to put into practice the principles of the European **Charter for Researchers** and the **Code of Conduct for their Recruitment**, helping organisations offer a more attractive working environment for researchers through an e-tool for managing applications to this strategy.

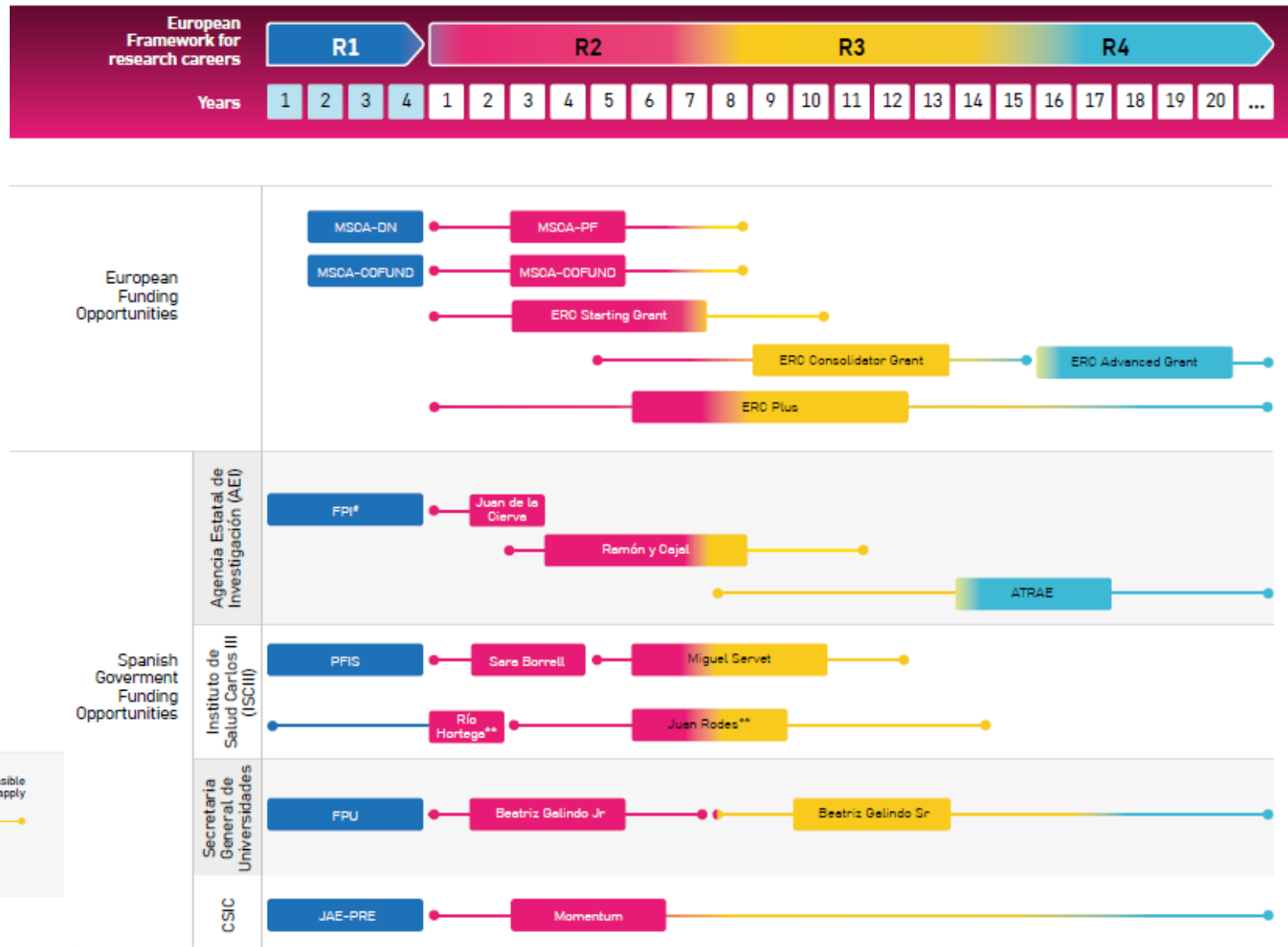
It guarantees:

- ✓ Open, transparent, merit-based recruitment (OTM-R).
- ✓ Institutional commitment to career development, not just to producing papers.
- ✓ A criterion that MSCA and ERC evaluation panels view positively when assessing your project's host institution.

Climbing the ladder: increasing your R



Climbing the ladder: increasing your R

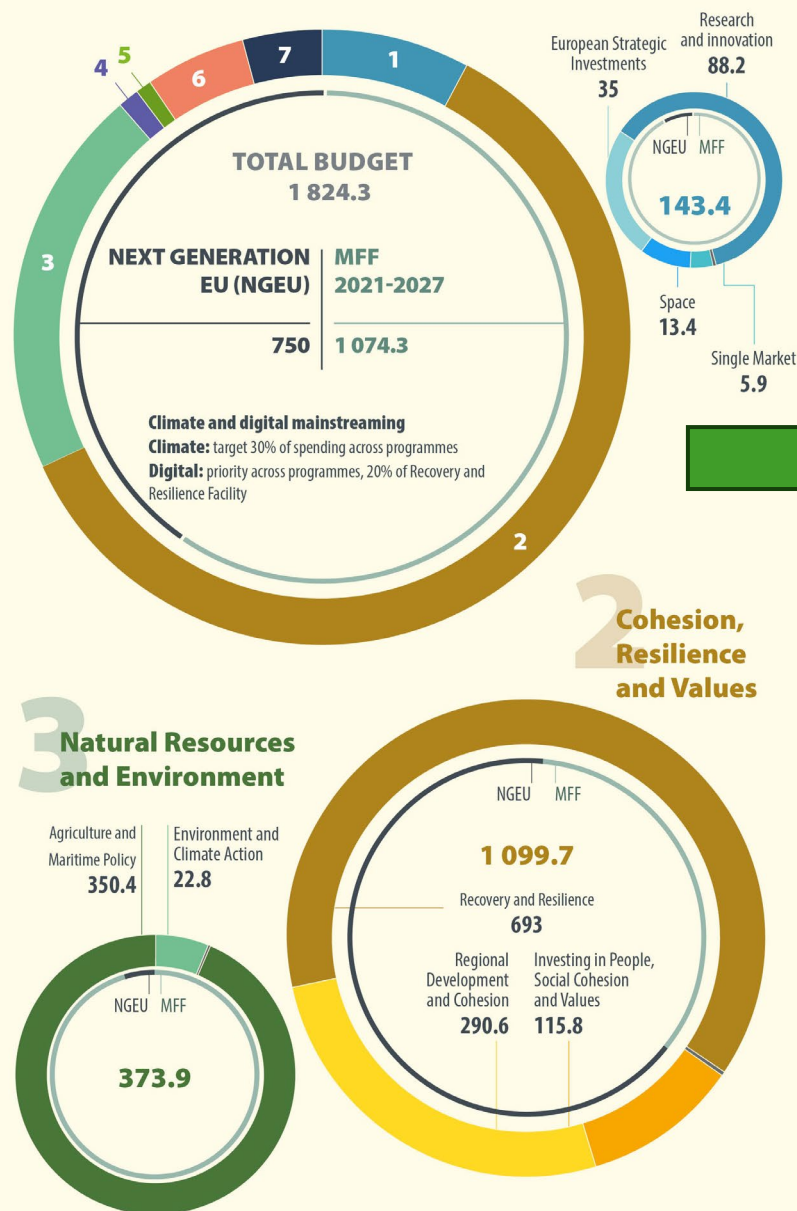


So... where my money at?



EU expenditure for 2021-2027

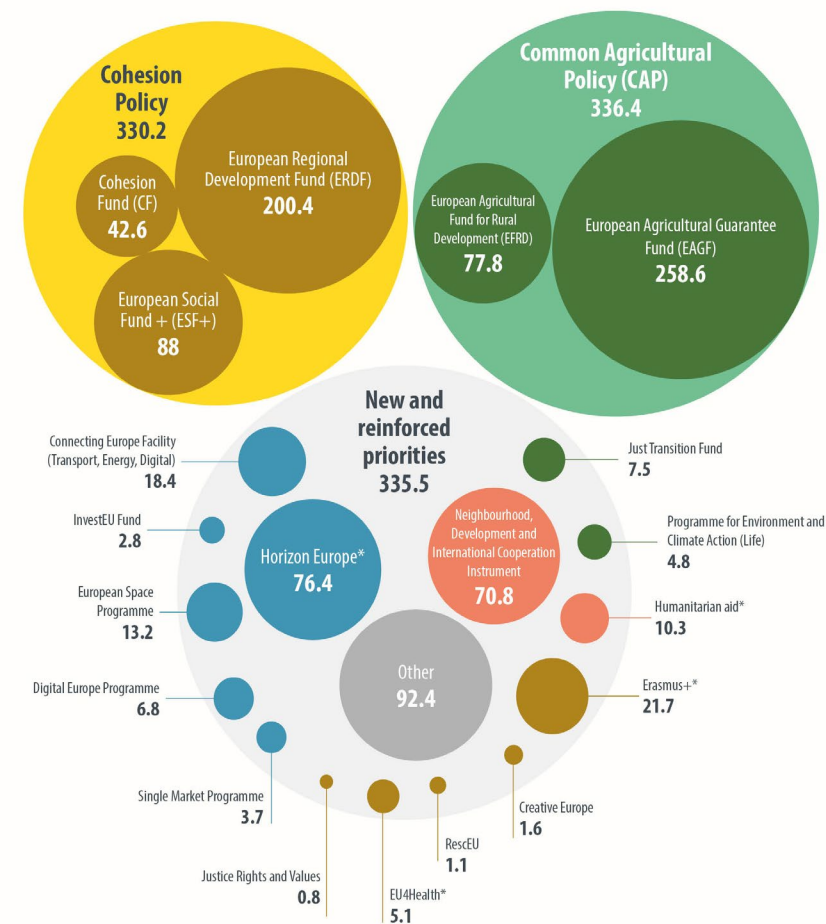
All amounts in € billion (2018 prices)



The Multiannual Financial Framework

Main programmes and funds under the multiannual financial framework

All amounts in € billion (2018 prices)



Framework Programme

The “FP” is the EU's main **instrument for financing scientific research and technological innovation**. It focuses on areas of urgency and need within the EU, where isolated actions by Member States are insufficient.

- Definition: It is a multiannual **set of funding programs** that establish priorities and support mechanisms for R&D&I.
- Objective: to strengthen EU's **scientific and technological base**, boost its **industrial competitiveness**, and promote **sustainable development**.
- Duration: Each Framework Programme lasts approximately **seven years**, coinciding with the MFF.
- Management: It is primarily managed by the European Commission, through the **Directorate-General for Research and Innovation** (DG RTD) and other **executive agencies**.

Framework Programme

1° Framework Programme

First attempt at EU coordination.
Focus on transnational scientific cooperation.
~3.3k M€

3° Framework Programme

Consolidation of the strategic approach, with thematic programs.
~6.6k M€

5° Framework Programme

Focus on social and economic problems in Europe.
~14.9k M€

7° Framework Programme

Substantial budget increase and creation of the European Research Council (ERC).
~50.5k M€

Horizon Europe

Focus on specific missions, partnerships, and the green and digital transition.
~95.5k M€

1984-1987

1987-1990

1990-1994

1994-1998

1998-2002

2002-2006

2007-2013

2014-2020

2021-2027

2027-2034

2° Framework Programme

Strengthening industrial and technological cooperation.
~5.4k M€

4° Framework Programme

Greater participation of SMEs and new technological areas.
~13.2k M€

6° Framework Programme

Creation of the European Research Area (ERA).
~17.5k M€

Horizon 2020

Integration of Research & Innovation.
Focus on competitiveness and social challenges.
~80k M€

Horizon Europe "2"

????
Still under debate...
~175k M€

Horizon Europe

It's the current Framework Programme (2021-2027).

It's focused in:

- ✓ **Climate change.**
- ✓ **Sustainable Development Goals.**
- ✓ Drive **economic growth**, promote **industrial competitiveness** and optimize **investment impacts**.
- ✓ Enhance **collaborations** and strength the impact of R&I on the development, support, and implementation of **EU policies**.
- ✓ Creation and **dissemination** of high-quality knowledge and technologies.
- ✓ Generate **jobs** and leverage the **skills** of the EU research community.

Why do we care: the call for proposal



The **Legal Text** establishes the principles, structure, objectives, thematic scope, budget by major areas, and general rules.



The **Strategic Plan** establishes the main challenges and objectives, and the areas and conditions for their specific application.

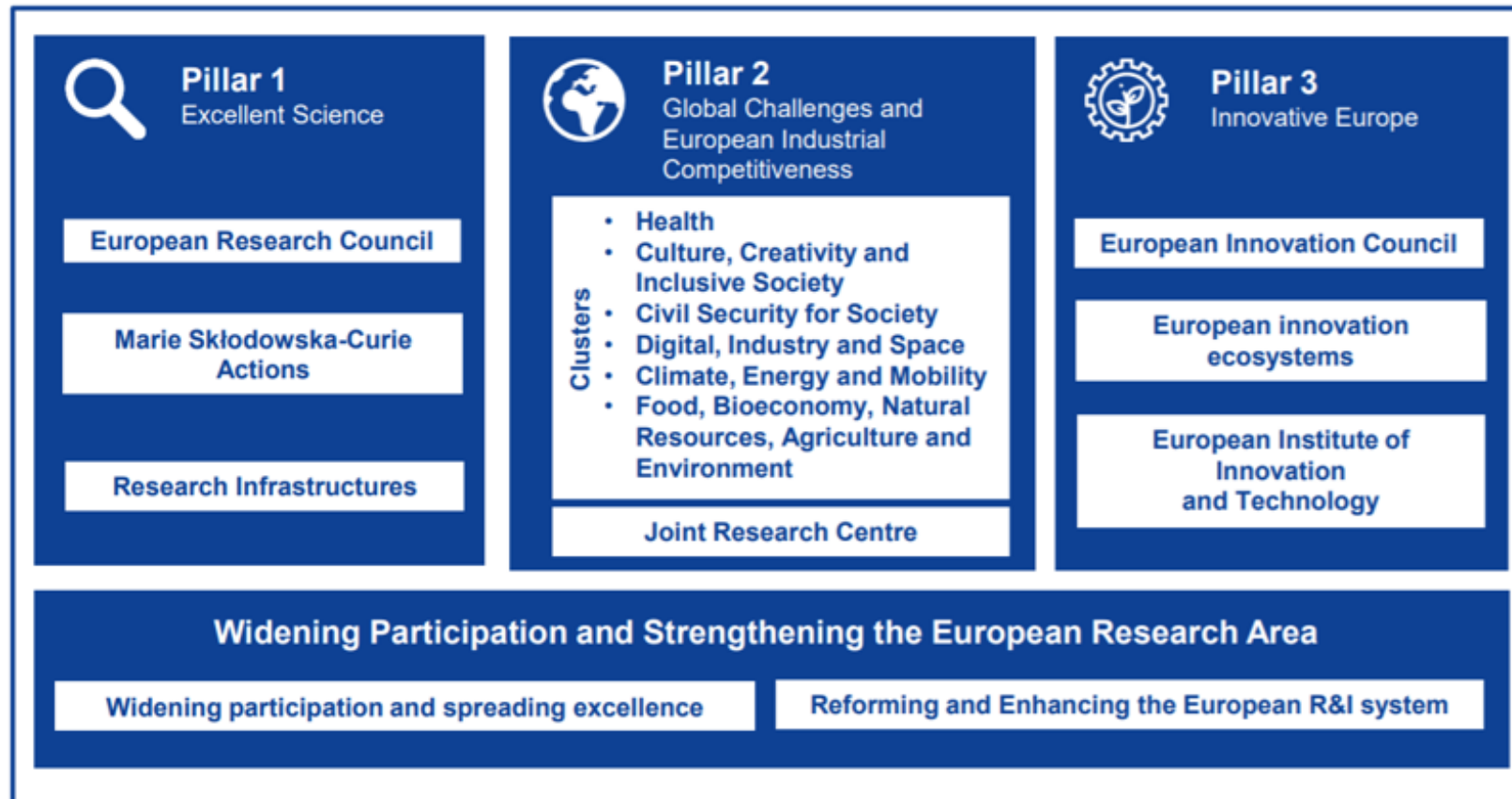


The **Work Programs** with the **Calls** for Proposals describe the specific topics to be funded, their budget allocation, timeline, scope...

HE Structure

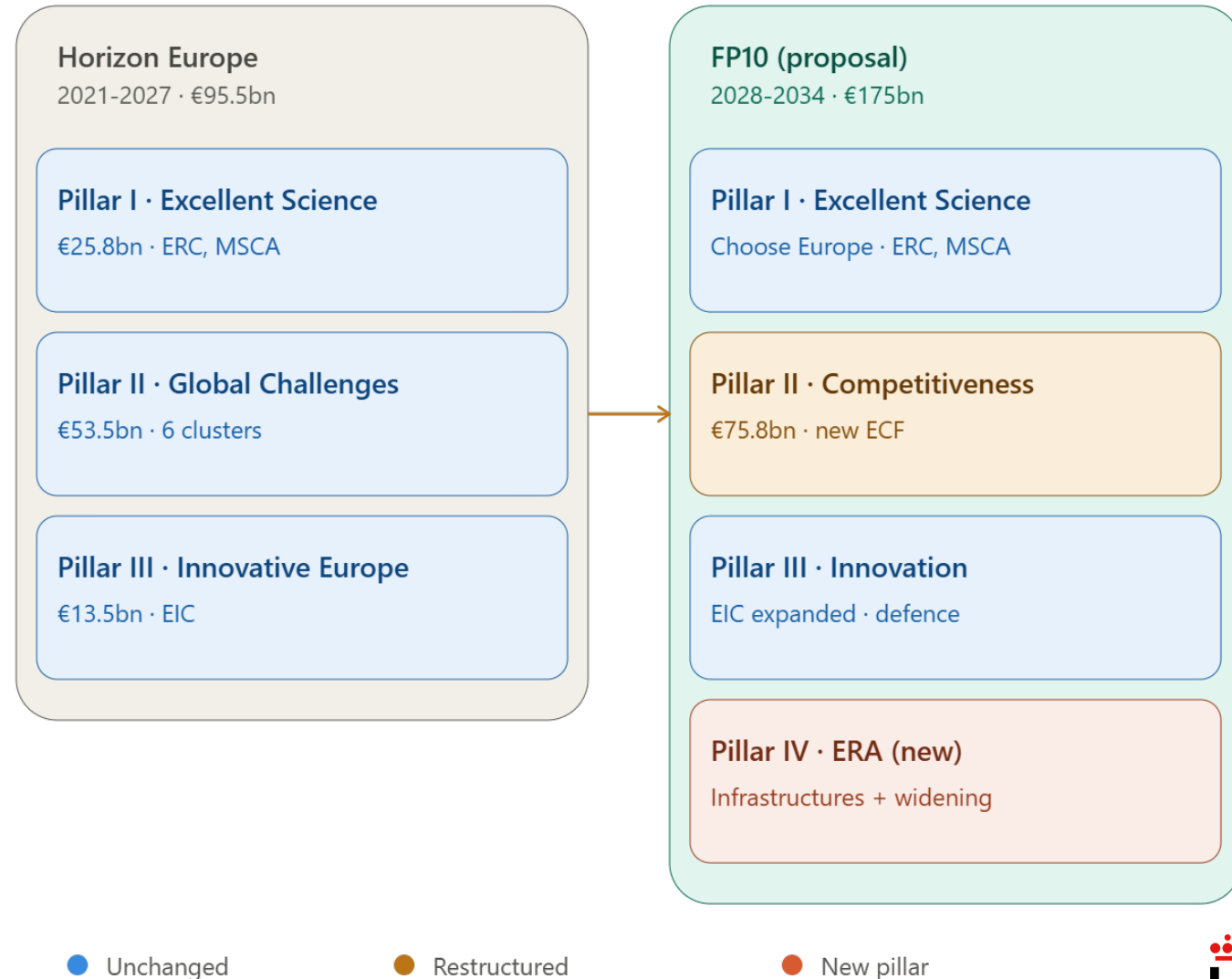
The **three pillars** of HE, together with the **horizontal component** "Widening participation and strengthening the ERA," are designed to **generate synergies**.

The **links** and **complementarity** between these four aspects add value to projects and increase the overall effectiveness of the Framework Programme in generating **impact**.



Proposed structure 2028-2034

- **Pillar I (Excellent Science):** remains largely unchanged structurally, under the motto "*Choose Europe*".
- **Pillar II:** undergoes the most significant transformation. Current thematic clusters are regrouped into Competitiveness (€68.2 billion) and Society (€7.6 billion) windows, managed in coordination with the new European Competitiveness Fund.
- **Pillar III (Innovation):** the European Innovation Council (EIC) is expanded, with a new focus on defense and dual-use startups.
- **Pillar IV (new):** the European Research Area consolidates infrastructures, and the "*Widening*" program is strengthened.
- The former "**Missions**" evolve into so-called "*Moonshot Projects*."



Pillar I: Excellent Science

Objective: to increase the EU's scientific **competitiveness**.

Three components:

- **European Research Council (ERC)**: funds *frontier research* projects (high risk/high benefit), designed and led by the researchers themselves.
- **Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA)**: to support the training and professional development of research staff around the world (PhD students, post-docs and collaborative projects).
- **Research Infrastructures (RI)**: initiatives that provide resources and services to research communities so that they can carry out their work and drive innovation. They ensure that Europe has world-class infrastructures accessible to all researchers. Example: LHC (Large Hadron Collider)



Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions



Designed to nurture excellent research and innovation while **equipping researchers** at all career stages with new **knowledge** and vital **skills** through **international mobility and cross-sector exposure**.



Types:

- **Doctoral Networks:** community-doctoral training; consortia projects lasting 3–4 years.
- **PostDoc Fellowships:** fostering postdoctoral mobility; these are individual fellowships funded for 1–3 years.
- **Staff Exchanges:** personnel exchanges between academia and industry.
- **COFUND:** co-financing for existing doctoral or postdoctoral programmes..
- **MSCA & Citizens:** divulgation (ie.Noche de los Investigadores)



Budget and cofinancing:

The total budget (2021–2027) is **€6.6 billion**. It covers **100% of eligible costs** (+25% for indirect costs).

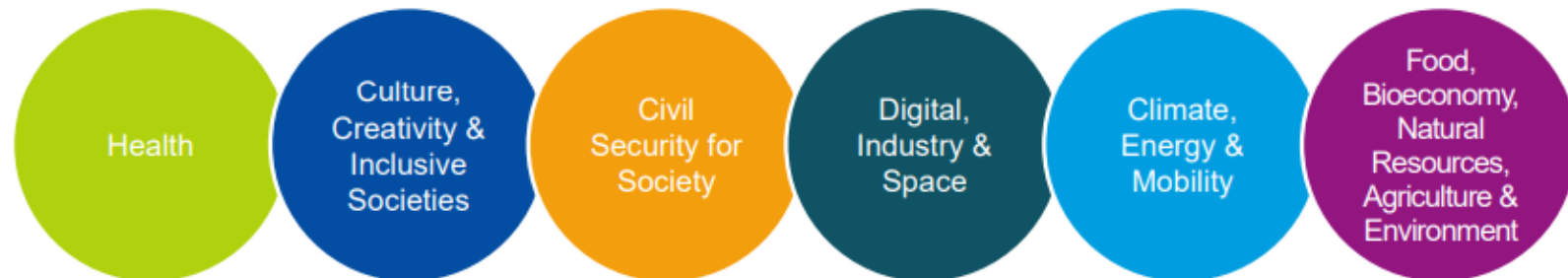
The unit-cost model simplifies reporting: a **fixed amount** is paid for each month of a hired researcher's employment.

Pillar II: Global Challenges & Industrial Competitiveness

Objective: to generate **knowledge**, boost the **impact** of R&I and support for **EU policies**, and foster the adoption of **innovative solutions** to address **global challenges**.

It encompasses **multidisciplinary R&I** activities spanning various Technology Readiness Levels (TRLs), ranging from **basic research to near-market solutions**. It also includes specialized activities in the fields of **Social Sciences and Humanities**.

Organized into six thematic clusters:



€53.5 billion

Cluster IV – Digital, Industry and Space

Fostering the development of cutting-edge technology and maximizing synergies around three key areas for Europe::

- **Digital:** Priority areas include AI and big data technologies, cloud technologies, robotics, micro/nano-electronics, quantum technologies, and more. This is complemented by investments in network and electronic technologies, supercomputing, and system integration carried out within the Institutional European Partnerships..
- **Industry:** seeks to achieve a digitized, circular, and climate-neutral economy. It promotes open strategic autonomy and encompasses various areas of intervention, such as manufacturing technologies, advanced materials, and circularity...
- **Space:** promotion of end-to-end systems (satellites, etc.), independent access to space, evolution of infrastructure for the EU Space Programme...

Cluster IV – Digital, Industry and Space

[INICIO](#)[FECHAS](#)[PROGRAMA](#)[DOCUMENTACIÓN](#)

Jornada Informativa sobre el Clúster 4 de Horizonte Europa

20-10-2026 10:30

URJC, CALLE TULIPÁN, MÓSTOLES, ESPAÑA

[INSCRIBIRSE](#)[CONTACTO](#)

El Vicerrectorado de Transferencia y Estructuras Científico-Tecnológicas, junto con la Oficina de Proyectos Europeos, organiza una jornada informativa dirigida al personal investigador de la URJC y a empresas interesadas en participar en convocatorias del Clúster 4 (CL4) de Horizonte Europa.

El evento contará con la participación de ponentes del Punto de Contacto Nacional (PCN) - Horizonte Europa, que presentarán las últimas novedades en la preparación de propuestas y los topics previstos para 2027. Tras su intervención, habrá un turno de preguntas abierto a todos los asistentes.

La jornada incluirá también un espacio de presentaciones en el que investigadores e investigadoras de la URJC y representantes de empresas podrán exponer sus intereses y líneas de trabajo de cara a la conformación de consorcios para futuras propuestas. La mañana concluirá con un coffee break para facilitar el networking entre los participantes, seguido de reuniones bilaterales con el PCN destinadas a coordinadores de propuestas.

Cluster V – Climate, Energy and Mobility

- **Climate:**

- Functioning and future evolution of climate systems.
- Improvement of predictive capacity.
- Integrated pathways to climate neutrality.
- Adaptation solutions and support policies for vulnerable ecosystems, urban areas, critical economic sectors, and infrastructure.

- **Energy:**

- Renewable energy.
- Energy systems, grids, and storage.
- CO₂ capture, storage, and utilization technologies.
- Energy efficiency in buildings and industry.

- **Mobility:**

- Industrial competitiveness in transport.
- Clean, safe, and accessible transport and mobility.
- Smart mobility.
- Energy storage.

Cluster V – Climate, Energy and Mobility



INICIO FECHAS PROGRAMA ASISTENTES DOCUMENTACIÓN

Jornada Informativa sobre el Clúster 5 de Horizonte Europa

27-10-2026 10:30

URJC, CALLE TULIPÁN, MÓSTOLES, ESPAÑA



INSCRIBIRSE



CONTACTO

El Vicerrectorado de Transferencia y Estructuras Científico-Tecnológicas, junto con la Oficina de Proyectos Europeos, organiza una jornada informativa dirigida al personal investigador de la URJC y a empresas interesadas en participar en convocatorias del Clúster 5 (CL5) de Horizonte Europa y la Misión de Ciudades Inteligentes.

El evento contará con la participación de tres ponentes del Punto de Contacto Nacional (PCN) - Horizonte Europa, que presentarán las últimas novedades en la preparación de propuestas y los topics previstos para 2027. Tras su intervención, habrá un turno de preguntas abierto a todos los asistentes.

La jornada incluirá también un espacio de presentaciones en el que investigadores e investigadoras de la URJC y representantes de empresas podrán exponer sus intereses y líneas de trabajo de cara a la conformación de consorcios para futuras propuestas. La mañana concluirá con un coffee break para facilitar el networking entre los participantes, seguido de reuniones bilaterales con el PCN destinadas a coordinadores de propuestas.

Las empresas interesadas en contactar con el personal investigador de la URJC pueden consultar el documento del apartado "Documentación" de este evento.

- **Lugar:** Campus de Móstoles, Salón de Grados - Departamental I
- **Inscripción obligatoria:** para asistir es necesario completar el formulario de inscripción - [Inscripción en la Jornada](#)

Cluster VI – Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment

It includes measures to foster **adaptation to climate change**, achieve **climate neutrality** in primary production systems, food systems, and bio-based value chains, and optimize **ecosystem services** while **reducing environmental degradation** and **pollution**.

Priority areas of action:

- Environmental monitoring, biodiversity, and natural resources.
- Agriculture, forestry, and rural areas.
- Food systems.
- Bioeconomy and bio-based value chains.
- Circular systems.
- Oceans, seas, and inland waters.



Cluster VI – Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment

INICIO FECHAS PROGRAMA ASISTENTES DOCUMENTACIÓN

Jornada Informativa sobre el Clúster 6 de Horizonte Europa

06-10-2026 10:30

URJC, CALLE TULIPÁN, MÓSTOLES, ESPAÑA

 INSCRIBIRSE

 CONTACTO

El Vicerrectorado de Transferencia y Estructuras Científico-Tecnológicas, junto con la Oficina de Proyectos, organiza una jornada informativa dirigida al personal investigador de la URJC y empresas interesadas en participar en convocatorias del Clúster 6 (CL6) de Horizonte Europa y la convocatoria horizontal HORIZON-NATURE.

El evento contará con la participación de Lydia González Fernández, Punto de Contacto Nacional (PCN) de CL6 - Horizonte Europa, quien presentará las últimas novedades en la preparación de propuestas y los topics previstos para 2027. Tras su intervención, habrá un turno de preguntas abierto a todos los asistentes.

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- **Lugar:** Campus de Móstoles, Salón de Grados - Departamental I
- **Inscripción obligatoria:** para asistir es necesario completar el formulario de inscripción - [Inscripción en la Jornada Informativa sobre el Clúster 6 de Horizonte Europa: Rellenar formulario](#)



Pillar III: Innovative Europe

Objective: to deliver tangible results to lead innovation, addressing challenges such as **increasing venture funding, access to research findings, accelerating business transformation, and overcoming fragmentation in the innovation ecosystem.**

Three components:

- **European Innovation Council (EIC):** Drives disruptive innovation and supports startups and pioneers in cutting-edge technologies to facilitate their growth and global expansion.
- **European Innovation Ecosystems:** Fosters collaboration among key players (companies, universities, research centers) to accelerate technology transfer and the creation of new products and services.
- **European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT):** Strengthens innovation capacity by integrating education, research, and business to drive innovative solutions in strategic sectors.



Widening participation & Strengthening ERA

Objective: reduce the gap and geographical disparities in R&D&I effort and performance through support mechanisms for the actors in innovation systems most in need.

It is aimed at equipping all EU national systems with the **capabilities, resources, and skills to successfully participate in high-level projects** and initiatives, as well as at transferring the results to society and the economy.

- **Widening Participation**: creation and twinning of research teams, and *ex post* expansion of consortia for projects approved under the program.
- **European Research Area**: actions to support and strengthen the scientific base, open science, policy formulation and implementation, research careers, citizen participation in science, socially responsible research, and gender equality in research careers.

Widening Participation and Strengthening the European Research Area

Widening participation and spreading excellence

Reforming and Enhancing the European R&I system

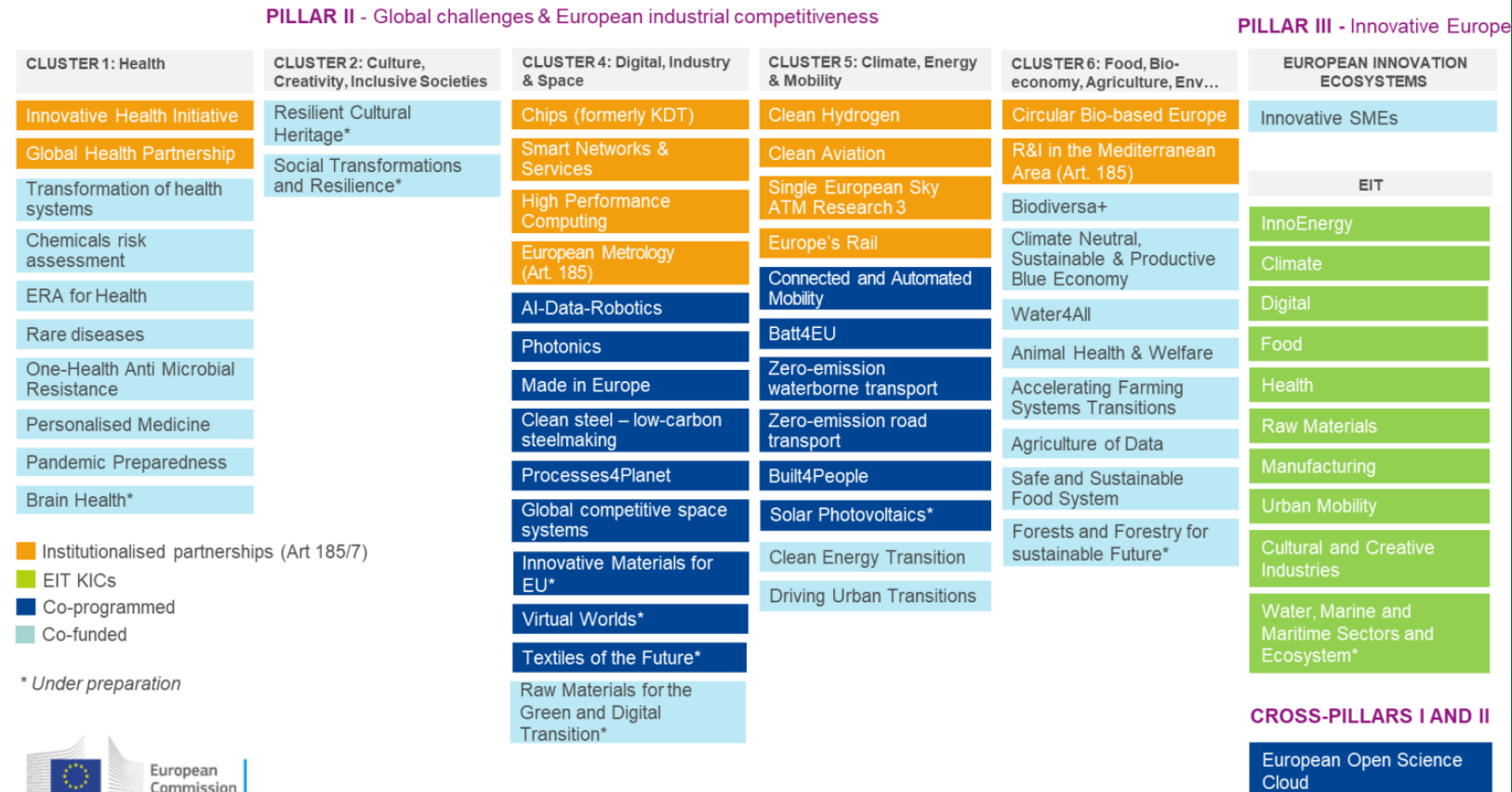
Partnerships are initiatives in which the **Commission partners with other entities** to support the development and implementation of a specific program.

Three types of implementation:

- **Co-funded:** involves public authorities.
- **Co-programmed:** partners are public AND/OR private.
- **Institutionalised:** based on long-term relationships and greater integration within the legal framework (*Join Undertaking* – JU).

The 2021–2027 Strategic Plan includes up to **60 European partnerships**.

As if this were not enough...



the Partnerships!

Life Programme



It is the only EU programme **focused exclusively** on the **environment** and **climate action**, with the aim of driving a transition towards a sustainable, circular, and climate-neutral economy.



Subprograms:

- Nature and biodiversity.
- Circular economy and quality of life.
- Climate change adaptation and mitigation.
- Energy transition.



Budget and types of action:

€5.4 billion for the 2021–2027 period. Co-financing ranges from **60%** to **95%**, depending on the project type:

- **Standard Action Projects (SAPs):** pilot, demonstration, best practice, governance, and capacity-building projects.
- **Strategic Integrated (SIP) & Strategic Nature Projects (SNAP):** regional, national, or transnational projects with a strategic focus.
- **Technical Assistance (TA):** preparation of SIPs/SNAPs, replication, and legislative priorities.

Erasmus+



A program designed to promote **education, training, youth, and sport**. It fosters the **international mobility** of students, teaching staff, and professionals, and drives inclusion, sustainability, and digital transformation in education.



Types:

- **Individual mobility:** stays abroad for students, teachers, apprentices, and youth workers.
- **Cooperation** between organizations and institutions.
- Support for **policies** and reforms.
- **Jean Monnet actions:** promoting knowledge about the EU in higher education.



Budget and cofinancing:

The total budget (2021–2027) is **€26.2 billion**. The level of funding depends on the type of action and entity::

- Mobility projects: beneficiaries include universities, educational institutions, youth organizations, etc., and they receive funding covering **100%** of eligible costs.
- Cooperation Actions: these involve consortia comprising various types of entities; funding is distributed via **fixed amounts**, covering between **80%** and **100%** of the total.

5 Steps to get EU funding:



Have a
(good) **idea**.



Search for the
(most suitable)
call.



Find a group of
people with
compatible goals.



Fix your
idea to the
requirements.



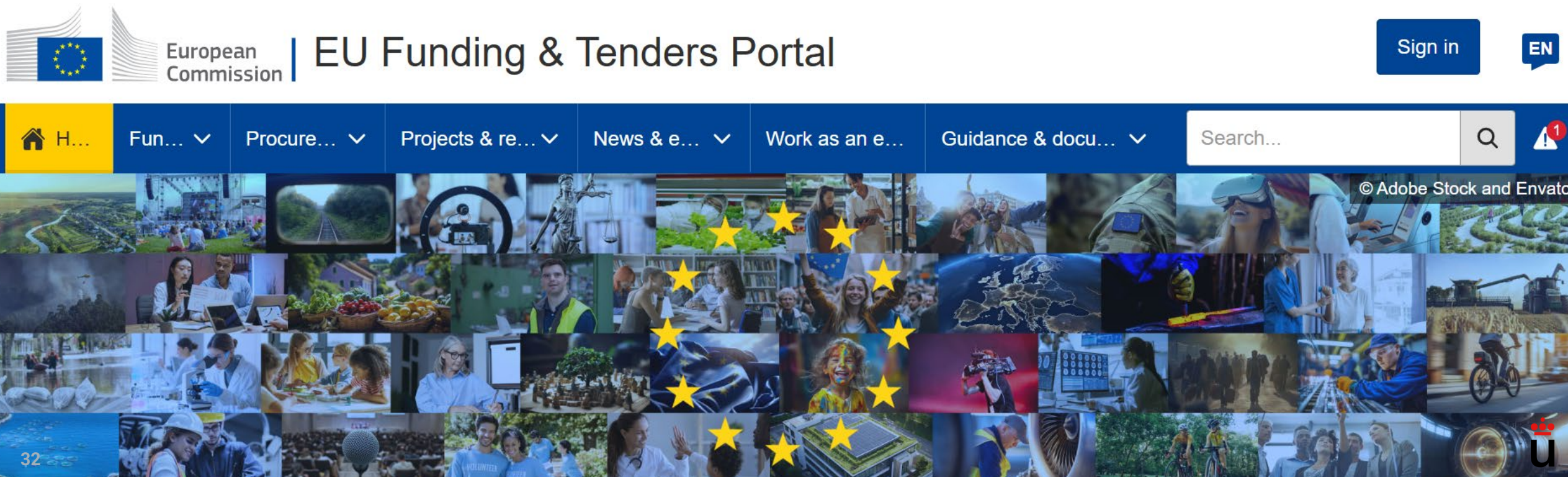
Fill in (and deliver!)
the **documents** as
described.

Extra tip!

Don't panic during the process: delegate and ask for help!

Where to find the calls?

EU Funding & Tenders Portal is the European Commission's official platform for searching calls and tenders, registering organizations (PICs), submitting and managing proposals/projects, and signing grant agreements all in one place.



Funding & Tenders Portal



Explore opportunities

Look for calls for proposals/tenders that match your objectives



Check the requirements

Review topic eligibility, action type, budget, criteria, and reference documents.



Create and Access to your account

Required to operate on the Portal and manage proposals and roles.



Register an organization

Check in the **Participant Register** to obtain the **PIC code** (9 digits) and be able to submit proposals.



Form the consortium and define roles

Identify beneficiaries, affiliates, associates, subcontractors and in-kind; control access and assign responsibilities.



Prepare and submit proposals

Complete forms (Part A), technical report (Part B) and annexes; submit electronically before the deadline.



Manage the project

The EC/Agencies evaluate according to criteria; they notify you whether the proposal is selected or not. If selected, you sign the Grant Agreement and manage the project on the Portal (reporting, amendments, payments).

F&T Portal

Scan to enter the
F&T Portal and
let's snoop around!



5 Steps to get EU funding:



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Search for the
(most suitable) **call.**



Find a group of **people**
with compatible goals.



Fix your idea to the
requirements.



Fill in (and deliver!)
the **documents**
exactly as described.

Application documents

Part A:

Administrative and Budget Data:

- Information for each **participant**: PIC, contact persons, roles, etc.
- Project **abstract** and keywords.
- Detailed **budget** by partner and work package.
- Required **declarations**.

Online form, completed directly in the F&T Portal.

Part B:

Technical report: the heart of the proposal.

1. Excellence: Explains the problem, objectives, and scientific/technical approach that makes your proposal credible & innovative → **What** and **how**.
2. Impact: Shows the Expected Outcomes and how your results will produce verifiable changes and contribute to broader impacts → **Why**.
3. Implementation: Justifies that the plan, the consortium, and the resources allow for the project to be executed with quality and risk control → **When** and **who**.

Application documents

Depending on the topic or action, you will find other sections such as:

- ✓ **Attachments:** tables or specific documentation (letters of support, standards, technical appendices, business plan, etc.)
- ✓ **Declarations** and final checks: ethics and safety, eligibility, absence of conflict of interest, use of funds, etc.
- ✓ Automatic **validations** and...

Application documents

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- ✓ **Attachments:** tables or specific documentation (letters of support, standards, technical appendices, business plan, etc.)
- ✓ **Declarations** and final checks: ethics and safety, eligibility, absence of conflict of interest, use of funds, etc.
- ✓ Automatic **validations** and...

“SUBMIT”



Evaluation process

Verification of criteria

Admissibility and eligibility check by REA/EC.
Notification to evaluators and assignation of experts.

Individual assessment

The experts evaluate the proposals individually.
Minimum of 3 experts per proposal.

Consensus evaluation

The experts and the *rapporteur* discuss together to agree on a common position, with comments and scores.

Panel review

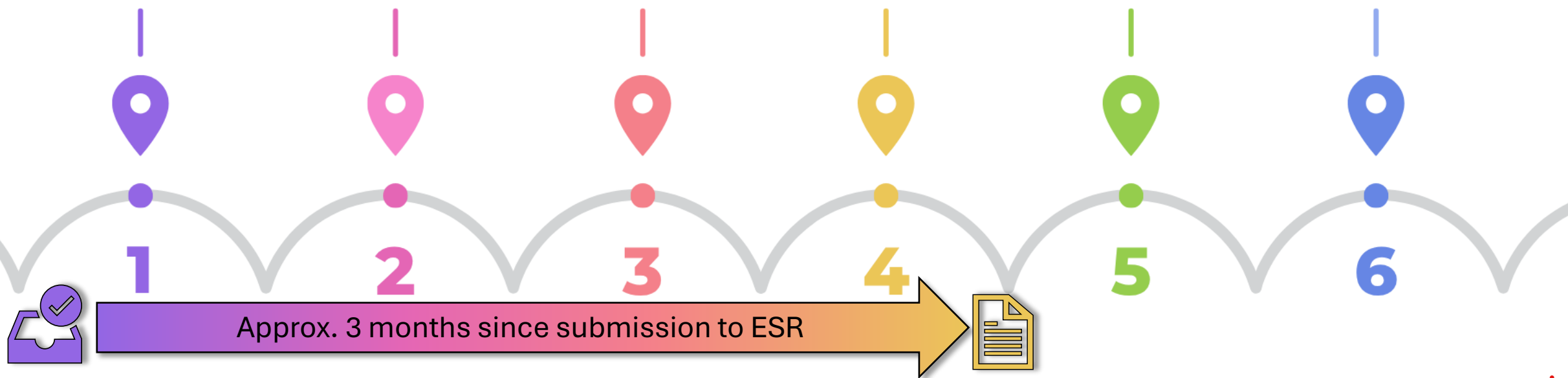
The group of experts reaches a consensus on the scores, the **ESRs** are written and they are classified in a *ranking*.

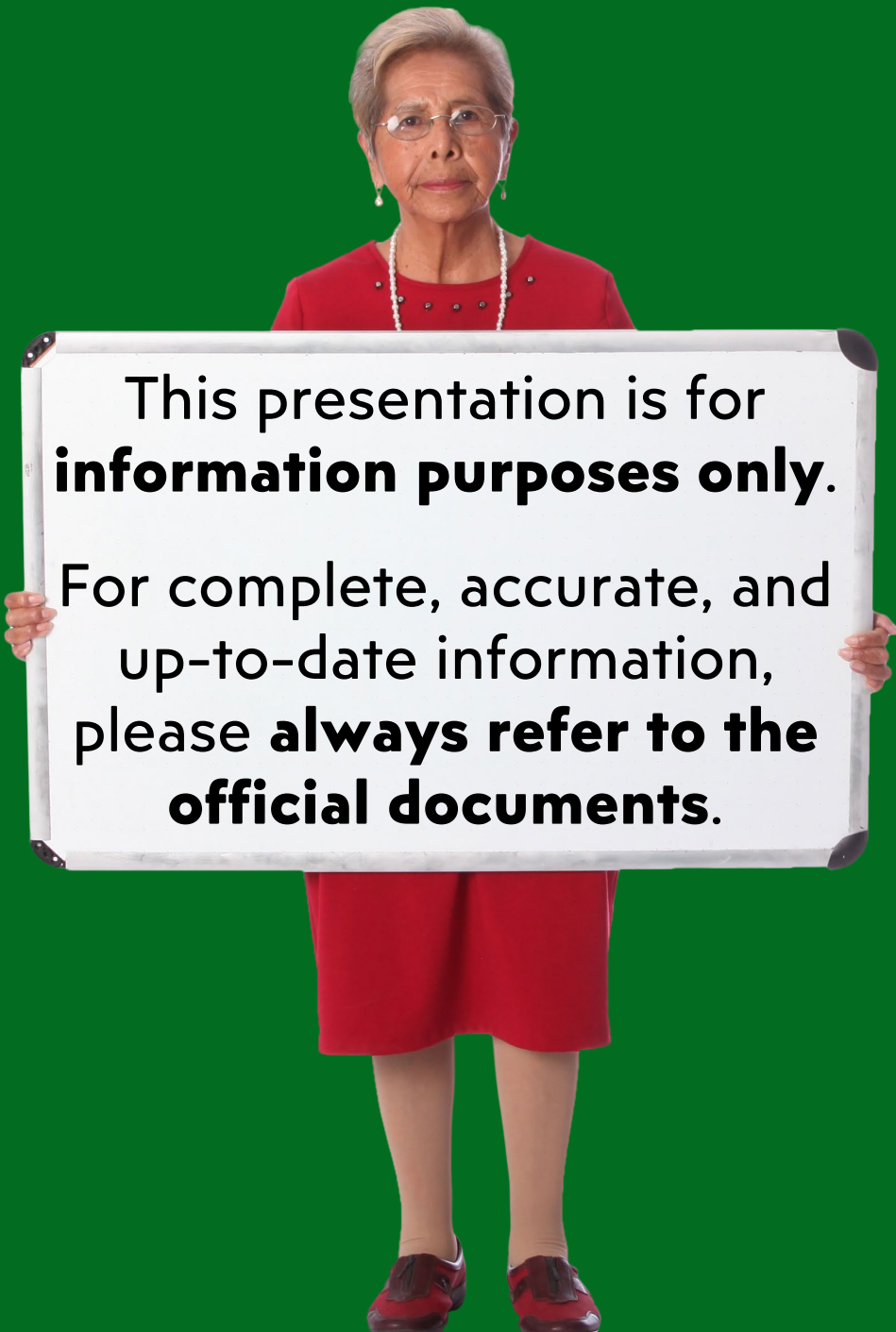
Ethical review

The proposals eligible for funding according to the ranking, are reviewed by a committee of ethics experts.

Security scrutiny

If necessary, national experts from the Member States conduct a final assessment.



An elderly woman with short grey hair and glasses, wearing a red dress and a pearl necklace, stands against a green background. She is holding a large white rectangular sign with black text. The background features several green circles of varying sizes on the left and a single light blue circle on the top right.

This presentation is for
information purposes only.

For complete, accurate, and
up-to-date information,
please **always refer to the
official documents.**



Bibliography & Useful links

- 📖 [Researcher Career Path in Spain at a Glance!](#) PDF by FECYT
- 📖 Euraxess Career Development Plan [Handbook](#)
- 📖 [Multiannual Financial Framework](#) infographic
- 📖 Horizon Europe [Strategic Plan](#) 2025-2027
- 📖 Horizon Europe [Work Programmes](#) (2026-27).
- 📖 EU [Funding & Tenders](#) Portal
- 📖 ["IT How To"](#) online EC guideline
- 📖 List of [reference documents and official templates](#), including application and assessment forms.
- 📖 ["Guía del Participante Horizonte Europa"](#) by Ministerio de Ciencia e Innovación, CDTI y FECYT (2022) - *Spanish*
- 📖 ["Guía rápida de Horizonte Europa"](#) by Ministerio de Ciencia e Innovación, CDTI y FECYT (2022) - *Spanish*
- 📖 CDTI (NCP) training events in Spain, available in their [website](#)

Thanks for your attention!

You can find me at the Cafeteria.

For real, ITPS headquarter are at:

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Follow me and ITPS in [LinkedIn](#)!

