



UNIUNEA EUROPEANĂ



GUVERNUL ROMÂNIEI



Instrumente Structurale
2014-2020

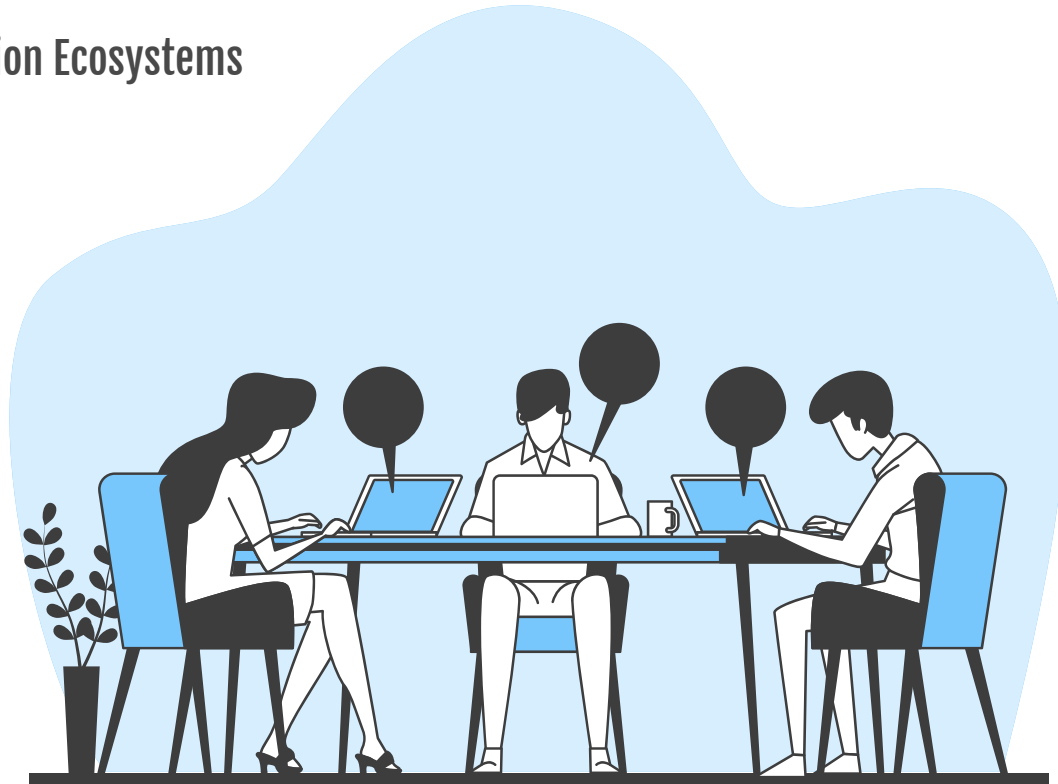


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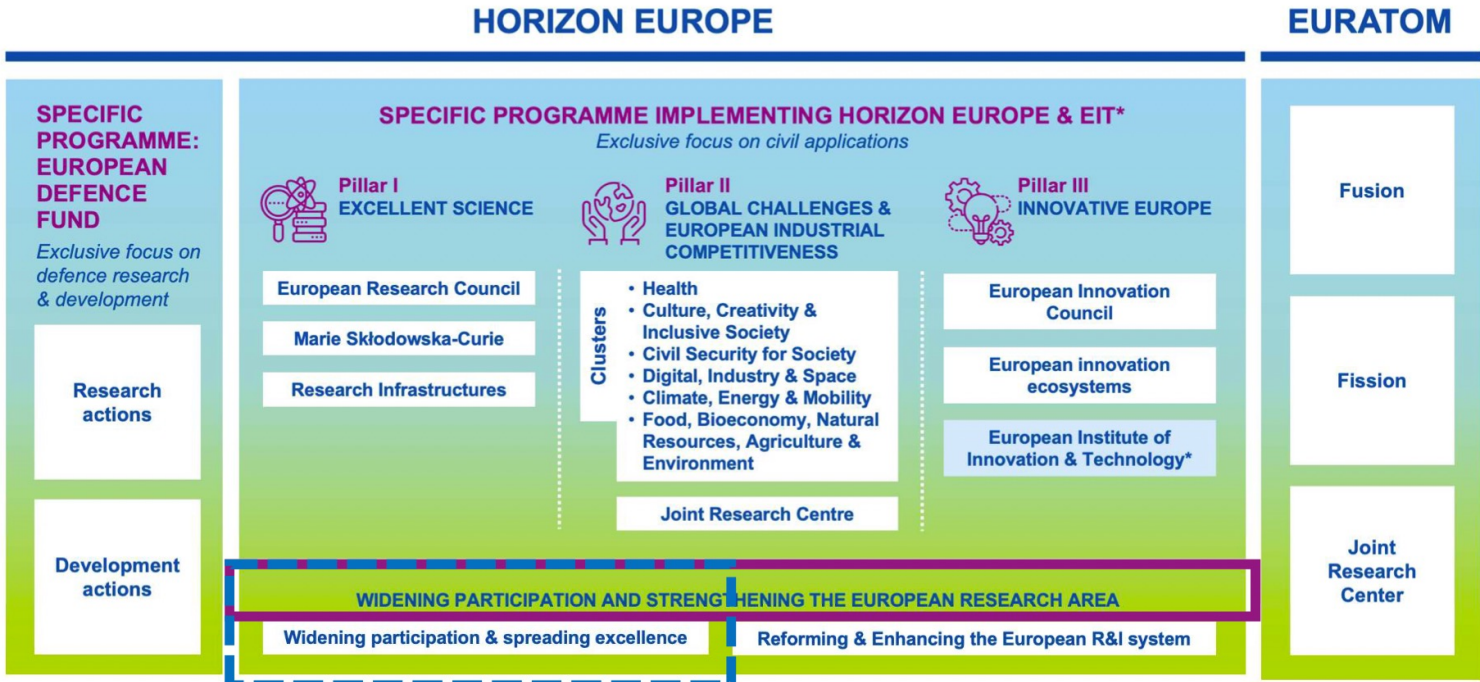
Widening Participation and Strengthening the European Research Area

European Innovation Ecosystems



About Horizon Europe

Horizon Europe supports research and innovation through Work Programmes, which set out funding opportunities for research and innovation activities.

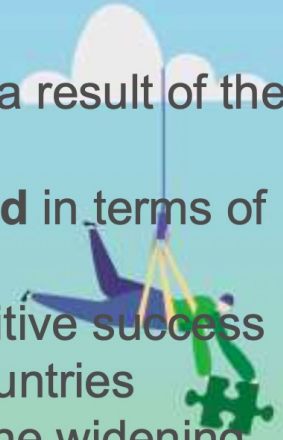


* The European Institute of Innovation & Technology (EIT) is not part of the Specific Programme

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Rationale:

- **Innovation divide** persists in Europe and risks to broaden as a result of the pandemic crisis.
- Despite some progress many countries and regions **lag behind** in terms of **their R&I investments**.
- Strong **linkages between science and business** are competitive success factors for R&I performance in more advanced regions and countries
- Legislators have requested for '**initiatives for excellence**' in the widening component of Horizon Europe → two complementary actions for excellence in innovation and Higher Education
- **Place based innovation ecosystems** are drivers for development, diffusion and uptake of R&I results in catching up countries and regions
- Close collaboration of academia, business, regional government and societal actors based on the quadruple helix principle is instrumental
- **European added value** by cross-border collaboration of eco-systems alongside **value adding chains, EU policy priorities** and/or **regional smart specialisation strategies**



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Key features of placed based innovation ecosystems

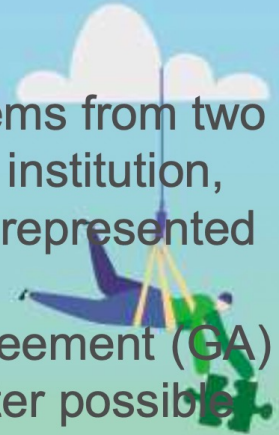
- Place based innovation ecosystems are **interconnected companies, research institutions, governmental bodies and societal actors** (quadruple helix) that are mutually reinforcing each other in a territorial context and together raise the level of innovation excellence in their regional fabric.
- **Quadruple helix ecosystems** described in many scientific articles on knowledge economy and innovation and have inspired a number of funding initiatives in Europe and US
- Inclusion of **societal actors** on top of formerly known triple helix adds the culture- and media-based public and civil society
- **Geographic proximity** of actors (place based approach) facilitates stronger and sustainable collaborative links especially between academia and business
- Ecosystems are **dynamic networks** (different from traditional industry clusters) including co-operation as well as competition ('co-petition')
- Need to upscale from regional context to European and International



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Consortium structure in practice:

- **Minimum requirement:** Two placed based innovation ecosystems from two different countries, all components of quadruple helix (research institution, business, regional/local government, societal actor) need to be represented
- **Umbrella organisations** may replace individual partners
- For large ecosystems **not all members need to sign** grant agreement (GA) individually, associated partners with mandate/endorsement letter possible
- However, per ecosystem **at least one research institutions + one established commercial company** (existing at least 3 years, proven commercial revenues) must sign the GA
- Keep consortium at **manageable size** i.e. not overly exceeding 20 partners
- **No advanced partners**, but entities and ecosystems from non-widening countries may participate if justified and center of gravity of the project (budget share +- 70%) remains in widening countries
- Define thematic scope of consortium by **common denominator** in related smart specialisation strategies and/or **European policy priorities** such as   European Commission | green and digital transition



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Core components of the project:

Coherent and balanced package of actions with the following content:

- 1) **Cross-border joint R&I strategy aligned with strategic priorities:** detailed strategy and agenda based on sound analysis of demand and opportunities within the scope of common smart specialization or European policy priorities
- 2) **Joint R&I project consolidating academia business linkages:** in the scope of joint strategy, active involvement of business partners envisaging marketable solutions
- 3) **Action and investment plan for implementation of the strategy:** Concrete implementation and finance plan including the mobilization of funds from ERDF, national funds, venture capital etc.
- 4) **Conceptual design and pre-planning for pilots and demonstrators (if applicable):** e.g. specification of R&I infrastructure, feasibility and proof of concept studies
- 5) **Accompanying measures:** e.g. to raise visibility, citizen engagement, technology transfer, entrepreneurship training, staff exchange, mutual learning etc. in view of creating innovation culture



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Expected impact:

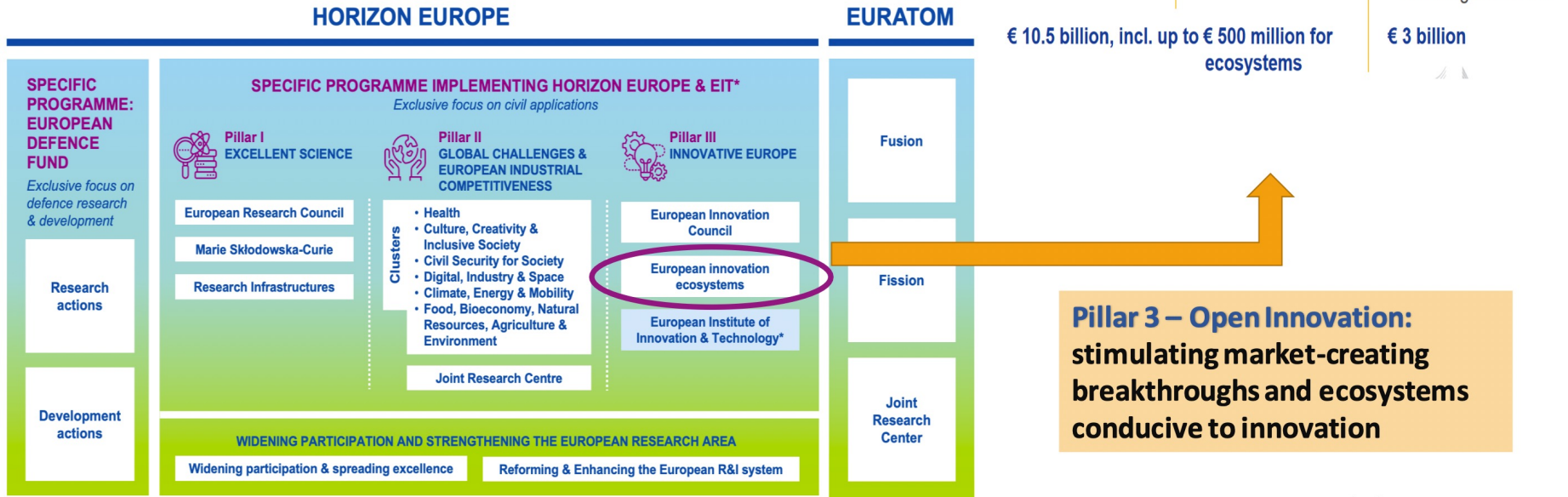
- R&I results **translated** into economy
- Contribution to **structural changes** leading to a modernised and more competitive R&I systems in eligible countries
- Improved **environment for business R&I** investment and deployment of new technologies
- Regionally developed innovation ecosystems connected across Europe as drivers of new European **strategic value adding chains**
- Better involvement of regional actors in European R&I initiatives
- **Placed based innovation culture** in widening countries based on a strategic agenda aligned with regional or national **smart specialisation** strategies and or European policy priorities





European Innovation Ecosystems in Horizon Europe

- Horizon Europe is implemented through **work programmes** which set out funding opportunities.



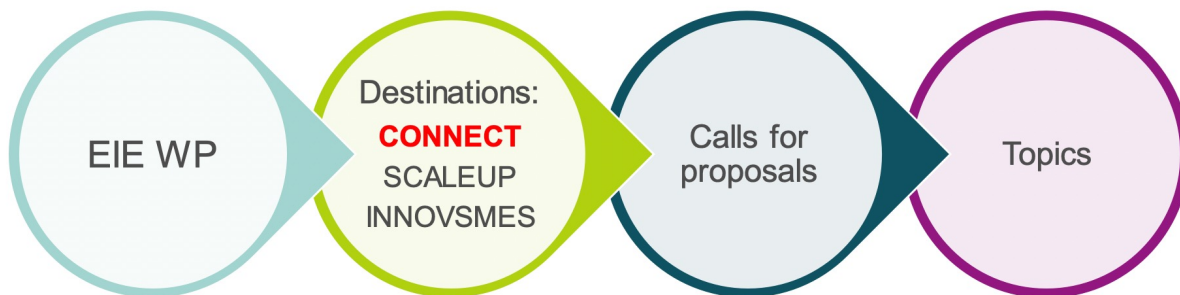
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Horizon Europe Work Programmes

- Horizon Europe is implemented through **work programmes** which set out funding opportunities.
- The work programmes are divided into **destinations**, which describe the **expected impact(s)** and contain calls for proposal.
- A **call for proposals** will normally contain one or more **topics** with a common deadline.
- In our case, this is the first call of 2022 with 2 topics.
- Each topic will include:

- **expected outcome(s)**
- **scope**
- **type of action**
- **budget**



• Biannual WP
EIE 2021 2022

• 3 destinations


Novelty!

• 2022 Calls

• 2 topics under
CONNECT 2022-
01 call



European
Commission



European Innovation Ecosystems Work Programme (EIE WP)

The EIE WP aims to create more **connected, inclusive and efficient** innovation ecosystems that support the scaling of companies and spur innovation to address important challenges in a responsible way.



European Innovation Ecosystems Work Programme (EIE WP)

CONNECT destination

Objective

To encourage the inclusion of more stakeholders from across the quadruple helix (academia, industry, public bodies, civil society and citizens) and a wider participation of territories in existing successful initiatives and networks towards the deployment of innovation



Expected impact

Proposals for topics under this destination should set out a credible pathway to contributing to interconnected innovation ecosystems, and more specifically to the following impact:

- **Interconnected, inclusive and more efficient** innovation ecosystems across Europe that draws on the existing strengths of European, national, regional and local ecosystems and pulls in new, less well-represented stakeholders and less advanced in innovation territories, to set, undertake, and achieve **collective ambitions towards challenges for the benefit of the society**, including green, digital, and social transitions.

HORIZON-EIE-2021-CONNECT-01-01: Towards more inclusive networks and initiatives in European innovation ecosystems



36 proposals to be evaluated

Key words: Inclusiveness, diversity, links to moderate and modest innovator countries, value-added, social innovators, women-led business, civil society organisations, complementarity



INNOVATION ECOSYSTEMS WORK PROGRAMME 2022

Topic-01: Towards more inclusive networks and initiatives in European innovation ecosystems

Target group(s): Public national, regional and/or local authorities, private organisations, public-owned enterprises, professional associations, clusters, accelerators, innovation hubs, incubators, technology parks...

Expected Outcomes:



- Increased inclusiveness by enlarging the participation of more diverse innovation actors and broaden the participation among EU and Associated Countries territories, in already existing successful initiatives and networks that interconnect European innovation ecosystems and promote the deployment and scale-up of innovative solutions;



- Reduce the innovation divide in Europe and reinforce the innovation aspect of the European Research Area in the areas of inclusiveness and connectivity, improving the innovation capacities of Member States and Associated Countries and enabling them to engage in joint efforts for sustainable growth and economic development.



Type of Action	CSA
Total Indicative budget	4 m €
Expected EU contribution / project	0.5 m €
Expected grants	8
Estimated project duration	Not specified
Additional eligibility criterion	At least three (3) independent legal entities from MS/AC. At least one is established in 'modest' or 'moderate' innovator region and at least one in 'strong' or 'innovation leader' innovator region.
Lump sum grant	Eligible costs will take the form of a lump sum.



INNOVATION ECOSYSTEMS WORK PROGRAMME 2022

Topic-01: Towards more inclusive networks and initiatives in European innovation ecosystems

The proposals should:

- present the existing initiatives and/or networks;
- demonstrate that they successfully operate in Europe;
- describe the process applicants plan to follow in order to implement a solid “opening-up” strategy of the initiatives and/or networks they represent
- explain how expansion to new territories and/or inclusion of new stakeholders would bring added value both at initiative/network level and at EU level;
- describe the proposed activities to achieve the topic outcomes;
- present the variety of involved stakeholders;
- explain the diversion of involved Member States and Associated Countries with the participation of legal entities from countries and/or regions that are moderate and modest innovators;
- demonstrate the complementarity and encourage the alignment of the proposed initiatives/networks with other national and/or regional and/or local policies and strategies, including the smart specialisation strategies.

HORIZON-EIE-2021-CONNECT-01-02: Integration of social innovation actors in innovation ecosystems

34 proposals to be evaluated

Key words: connection to stakeholders, innovation hubs/centers of excellence, access to entrepreneurial skills and knowledge, detection of scalable innovation models, promotion of best practices





INNOVATION ECOSYSTEMS WORK PROGRAMME 2022

Topic-02: Integration of social innovation actors in innovation ecosystems

Target group(s): Social innovation actors/social entrepreneurs, SMEs, start-ups, accelerators and business incubators, investors, industry, foundations and philanthropy societies, universities and RTOs public-owned enterprises.

Main expected outcomes:

- **Active participation of social innovation actors in innovation ecosystems**, by ensuring their interlinking and connection with all other actors, including the SMEs and start-ups, accelerators and business incubators, industry, investors, philanthropy societies and the public sector, with the aim to ensure access to their entrepreneurial knowledge and skills required to run successful projects;
- **Wider access to alternative means of financing** social innovations achieved by promoting its impact and mobilising a broad range of partners;
- **Tested innovation models with potential of scaling up and replicability**, and that are available for widespread use, possibly through the policy actions.

Type of Action	CSA
Total Indicative budget	3 €
Expected EU contribution / project	0.5 m €
Expected grants to be signed	6
Estimated project duration	Not specified
Additional eligibility criterion	At least 3 legal entities from MS/AC
Lump sum grant	Eligible costs will take the form of a lump sum.



INNOVATION ECOSYSTEMS WORK PROGRAMME 2021-2022

Topic-02: Integration of social innovation actors in innovation ecosystems

Proposals should:

- the transfer of knowledge and building capacities among the innovation actors;
- creation and/or connection of social innovation hubs/centres of excellence; integration of social innovation dimension to existing tech-oriented hubs;
- detection of possible innovation models with potential of scaling and replicability at national, regional, and local level; help in detecting the local partners (e.g. other organisation and/or individuals – micro franchisees) to deploy the model;
- creation or utilization of the already existing open platform that use digital technologies to connect a global network of social entrepreneurs to promote the best practices, alternative financing opportunities and improve their skills.