



European Commission



The second STRATEGIC PLAN 2025-2027 sets direction to the future of R&I

March 2024

The second Horizon Europe strategic plan will steer research and innovation funding within and beyond Europe, to tackle the key global challenges such as climate change, pollution and loss of biodiversity, the digital transition and an ageing population.

From fundamental research to breakthrough innovation and deployment of innovative solutions, the strategic plan directs investments into the **green** and **digital transition**, building a **more resilient, competitive, democratic and inclusive Europe**.

To ensure it is fit for purpose, the strategic plan has been developed together with the Member States, Associated Countries and the European Parliament through extensive exchanges including a large public consultation and a citizens' engagement event. The evidence for the strategic plan is based on the [Strategic Plan Analysis](#).

IMPLEMENTING HORIZON EUROPE THROUGH THE STRATEGIC PLAN





KEY ELEMENTS

- three key strategic orientations for Horizon Europe R&I activities in 2025-2027;
- 32 expected impacts distributed across clusters;
- 9 new co-programmed and co-funded European Partnerships;
- EU Missions; and gives an overview on the achievements of the first years;
- New European Bauhaus Facility

KEY STRATEGIC ORIENTATIONS



Green transition



Digital transition



A more resilient,
competitive, inclusive &
democratic Europe

The key strategic orientations mirror the political priorities of the European Union and outline the way research and innovation can address them through Horizon Europe. **Open strategic autonomy and securing Europe's leading role in developing and deploying critical technologies are overarching principles that apply across all three key strategic orientations.**

TARGETS ON CLIMATE, BIODIVERSITY AND DIGITAL EXPENDITURE

The strategic plan raises the ambition and commits to reach the target of 10% of the Horizon Europe's total budget 2025-2027 dedicated to biodiversity-related topics across all pillars. This new commitment complements existing targets for climate expenditure (35% over the lifetime of Horizon Europe) and main digital activities (EUR 13 billion over the same period).

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

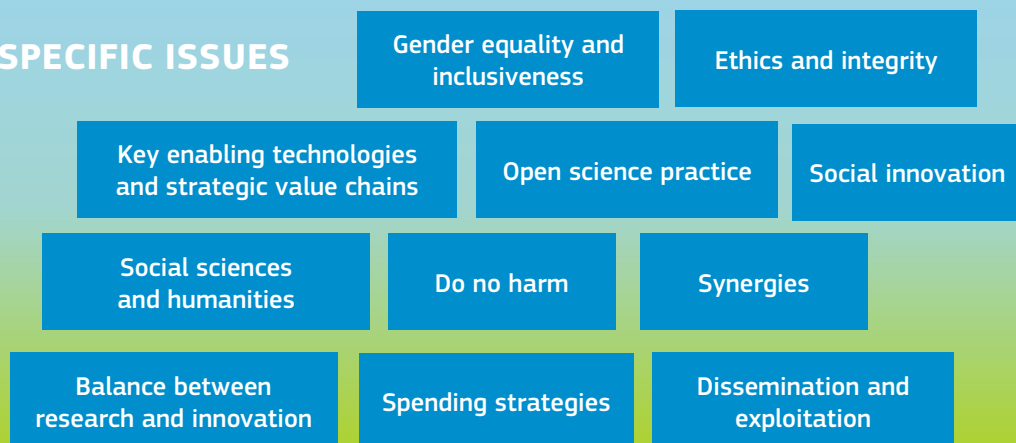
The EU is committed to preserve openness in international cooperation, while safeguarding the Union's strategic interests based on reciprocity and respect of fundamental values and principles. International cooperation takes various approaches, including further association agreements with eligible third countries, international mobility and cooperation in frontier research and EU participation and leadership in multilateral alliances.

RESEARCH SECURITY

Improving research security is key to protecting the EU's open strategic autonomy by ensuring a systematic use of the existing tools and identifying and addressing any remaining gaps. Therefore, the strategic plan highlights the existing measures under Horizon Europe that aim at safeguarding the Union's interests, autonomy and security and will be put in place where necessary to mitigate risks related to research security and technology leakage.



SPECIFIC ISSUES



MISSIONS

- EU Missions are flagships of Horizon Europe. Their aim is to channel efforts across programmes to support well-defined, urgent and bold global challenges with engagement and support of policymakers, stakeholders and the wider public.
- In 2021, five EU Missions were launched: **Adaptation to Climate Change; Cancer; Restore our Ocean and Waters; Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities; and a Soil Deal for Europe.** In 2025–2027, more work will be done to ensure that missions successfully shift from their initial phase to deployment and impact.

LIST OF NEW PARTNERSHIPS

With the second strategic plan, the following partnerships are launched:

- Brain Health (co-funded)
- Forests and Forestry for a Sustainable Future (co-funded)
- Innovative Materials for EU (co-programmed)
- Raw Materials for the Green and Digital Transition (co-funded)
- Resilient Cultural Heritage (co-funded)
- Social Transformations and Resilience (co-funded)
- Solar Photovoltaics (co-programmed)
- Textiles of the Future (co-programmed)
- Virtual Worlds (co-programmed)

#HorizonEU



More information:

[Horizon Europe Strategic Plan](#)



© European Union, 2024

Reuse of this document is allowed, provided appropriate credit is given and any changes are indicated (Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International license). For any use or reproduction of elements that are not owned by the EU, permission may need to be sought directly from the respective right holders.

All images © European Union, unless otherwise stated.

Image sources: © ivector #251163013, #318273051, #241215668, #263530636, © Hanna #343035399, 2020. © mimacz #133762883, 2021. Source: Stock.Adobe.com

ISBN 978-92-68-11806-1, doi:10.2777/518974, KI-09-24-024-EN-N