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**COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION**

**of 1.3.2021**

**adopting a financing decision for 2021-2022 as regards the horizontal support expenditure in the framework of the Specific Programme implementing Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2021-2027) and the Research and Training Programme of the European Atomic Energy Community for the period 2021-2025 complementing Horizon Europe**

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Atomic Energy Community,

Having regard to Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union, amending Regulations (EU) No 1296/2013, (EU) No 1301/2013, (EU) No 1303/2013, (EU) No 1304/2013, (EU) 1309/2013, (EU) No 1316/2013, (EU) No 223/2014, (EU) No 283/2014, and Decision No 541/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 966/2012<sup>1</sup>, and in particular Article 110 thereof,

Having regard to [Regulation (EU) [XXXX] of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing Horizon Europe – The Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, laying down its rules for participation and dissemination<sup>2</sup>, and in particular Article 9(4) thereof],

Having regard to [Council Decision No [XXXX], establishing the Specific Programme implementing Horizon Europe - The Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, and in particular Article 4 thereof],

Having regard to [Council Regulation [XXX] establishing the Research and Training Programme of the European Atomic Energy Community for the period 2021-2025 complementing Horizon Europe – The Framework Programme for Research and Innovation<sup>3</sup>, in particular Article 4(3)],

Whereas:

- (1) In order to support the implementation of the actions and horizontal expenditure under the specific programme implementing Horizon Europe - the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation and under the Research and Training Programme of the European Atomic Energy Community it is necessary to adopt a multiannual financing decision for 2021-2022. Article 110 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 ('the Financial Regulation') establishes detailed rules on financing decisions.

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p. 1

<sup>2</sup> OJ [...].

<sup>3</sup> OJ [...].

- (2) The envisaged assistance is to comply with the conditions and procedures set out by the restrictive measures adopted pursuant to Article 215 TFEU.
- (3) It is necessary to allow for the payment of interest due for late payment on the basis of Article 116(5) of the Financial Regulation, subject to the availability of the appropriations provided for in the draft budget for 2022, following the adoption of that budget for 2022 by the budgetary authority.
- (4) In order to allow for flexibility in the implementation of the financing decision, it is appropriate to allow changes which should not be considered substantial for the purposes of Article 110(5) of the Financial Regulation.
- (5) It is appropriate to authorise the award of grants without a call for proposals and to provide for the conditions for awarding those grants.
- (6) Pursuant to Article 6(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1291/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>4</sup>, where necessary and duly justified, appropriations may be entered in the Horizon 2020 budget beyond 2020 to cover technical and administrative assistance expenses, in order to enable the management of actions not yet completed by 31 December 2020. Certain activities included in the Horizon 2020 Framework Programme work programmes, including the evaluation of the Green Deal calls, the monitoring of ongoing projects, and the business coaches, are planned to be implemented in 2021. In order to support the implementation of those additional activities, it is necessary to provide the corresponding budget to cover the expenses related to those additional activities,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

*Article 1*

*The financing decision*

The Decision, constituting the multiannual financing decision for the implementation of the 'Horizontal support expenditure for Horizon Europe and Euratom' to support the implementation of the actions and horizontal expenditure under the Horizon Europe specific programme and under the Euratom Research and Training Programme ('the 2021-2022 Horizontal support expenditures for Horizon Europe and Euratom') for the years 2021-2022, as set out in Annex, is adopted.

*Article 2*

*Union contribution*

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the horizontal support expenditure linked to the general and common management, and implementation of the Specific Programme implementing Horizon Europe - the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation and of the Euratom Research and Training Programme, is set at

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<sup>4</sup> Regulation (EU) No 1291/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 establishing Horizon 2020 - the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020) and repealing Decision No 1982/2006/EC (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 104).

EUR 304 640 326<sup>5</sup> and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the following lines of the general budget of the Union for 2021-2022:

- (a) budget line 01.020500: EUR 298 832 834;
- (b) budget line 01.030100: EUR 557 080;
- (c) budget line 01.030200: EUR 250 412;
- (d) budget line 01.029901: EUR 5 000 000.

The appropriations provided for in the first paragraph may also cover interest due for late payment.

The implementation of this Decision is subject to:

- a) the final adoption of the [Council] Decision establishing the Specific Programme implementing Horizon Europe – The Framework Programme for Research and Innovation and the Regulation establishing Horizon Europe - The Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, laying down the rules for the participation and dissemination, and of the [Council] Regulation (Euratom) establishing the Research and Training Programme of the European Atomic Energy Community for the period 2021-2025 complementing Horizon Europe – The Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, by the legislative authority without significant modifications of the [basic act],
- b) the availability of the appropriations provided for in the draft general budget of the Union for 2022, following the adoption of that budget by the budgetary authority or if the budget is not adopted as provided for in the system of provisional twelfths.

### *Article 3*

#### *Methods of implementation and entrusted entities or persons*

The implementation of the actions carried out by way of indirect management, as set out in the Annex, may be entrusted to the entities or persons referred to or selected in accordance with the criteria laid down in that Annex.

### *Article 4*

#### *Flexibility clause*

Cumulated changes to the allocations to specific actions not exceeding 20% of the maximum Union contribution set in the first paragraph of Article 2 of this Decision shall not be considered to be substantial for the purposes of Article 110(5) of the Financial Regulation, where those changes do not significantly affect the nature of the actions and the objective of the ad hoc financing decision.

The authorising officer responsible may apply the changes referred to in the first paragraph. Those changes shall be applied in accordance with the principles of sound financial management and proportionality.

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<sup>5</sup> This amount includes the EFTA contribution of 2,7 % of the appropriations.

*Article 5*  
*Grants*

Grants may be awarded without a call for proposals in accordance with the conditions set out in the Annex. Grants may be awarded to the bodies referred to in the Annex.

Done at Brussels, 1.3.2021

*For the Commission*  
*Mariya GABRIEL*  
*Member of the Commission*

**EN**

**Annex**

**Horizon Europe**

**2021-2022**

*Horizontal support expenditure for Horizon Europe and Euratom  
Programmes*

**DISCLAIMER**

This draft has not been adopted or endorsed by the European Commission. Any views expressed are the preliminary views of the Commission services and may not in any circumstances be regarded as stating an official position of the Commission.

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## **Introduction**

### 1. Scope

The draft REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL establishing Horizon Europe Framework Programme for Research and Innovation<sup>1</sup> ('Horizon Europe Framework Programme'), foresees that the financial envelope for the implementation of the Framework Programme for the period 2021 – 2027 may also cover expenses necessary for managing and implementing actions through the Horizon Europe specific programme.

This ad-hoc financing decision is also covering similar expenses for the Research and Training Programme of the European Atomic Energy Community for the period 2021-2025 complementing Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation ('Euratom Research and Training Programme').

The ad-hoc financing decision supports the actions related to the preparation, monitoring, control, audit, and evaluation and other activities and expenditures necessary for managing, implementing and evaluating the achievement of the objectives of the Horizon Europe Framework Programme and the Euratom Research and Training Programme.

It may also cover expenses relating to studies, information and communication actions, in so far as they are related to the objectives of the Programmes, as well as expenses linked to information technology networks focusing on information processing and exchange, including corporate information technology tools and other technical and administrative assistance needed in connection with the management of the Programmes.

### 2. Flexibility Clause

The budgets set out in this ad-hoc financing decision are indicative. The final figures may change by up to 20% compared to the total budget allocated of this ad-hoc decision.

It should be noted that this flexibility cannot be used for changes that significantly affect the nature of the actions proposed or altering the objective of the ad-hoc financing decision.

The estimated budget for Horizontal support expenditure for Horizon Europe is composed of a contribution from all the components and clusters of the Horizon Europe Framework Programme (by default in a pro rata manner according to the budget weight, except for component/cluster not benefitting from the expenditure). The various Horizon Europe Parts will contribute accordingly.

The Euratom Research and Training Programme budget breakdown for 2021-2025 between Fusion and Fission is still in the process of adoption by Council decision. An indicative share of the budget of 69% for Fusion and 31% for Fission here applied but could be subject to further update at a later stage.

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<sup>1</sup> COM(2018)435, Article 9.4.

## **Other actions not subject to calls for proposals**

### **Grants to identified beneficiaries**

#### **1. Analysing the R&I productivity-inequality nexus**

Expected outcome: Reduction of cost and enhancement of the quality and comparability of the data on firm and productivity dynamics. Better understanding of firm and industry dynamics for explaining aggregate productivity growth in European countries, as well as comparison with important non-European countries. Better understanding of the role of market conditions and policy frameworks on firm dynamics and productivity patterns leading to better measurement of their impact and an identification of the channels through which research and innovation policies could contribute on issues such as patterns of technology adoption and diffusion, social inclusion and job quality and contributions to broader environmental objectives. Reinforcement of the scientific community focused on the role of research and innovation in the EU economy based on macro-economic models and increased interactions between this community and policy makers in charge of R&I policy in Europe.

Expected impact: Better understanding about the firm dynamics in European countries could lead to different levels of policy intervention (EU, national, regional), and reinforced alignment between the analysis of data and policy use, for example in the context of assessing policy options. Novel evidence on technology adoption and diffusion, job quality and resource efficiency will give policy makers options for synergies in addressing policy issues. Reduction of cost and reinforcement of the scientific community around these topics could encourage countries to further improve access and coordinate data infrastructure to allow for more cross-country analysis approaches.

Scope: Analysis of reasons behind productivity paradox to better understand the differences in productivity and employment growth and how these further link to business dynamism, technology diffusion, quality of jobs and sustainability. The project should deepen the understanding of widely discussed phenomena such as increase in concentration and mark-ups as well as use the collected data to examine new trends in employment and linkages between productivity and sustainable production.

Funding rate: 100%

Legal entities:

ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT, Rue André-Pascal 2, PARIS CEDEX 16, 75775, France

Form of Funding: Grants not subject to calls for proposals

Type of Action: Grant to identified beneficiary according to Financial Regulation Article 195(e) - Coordination and support action

Indicative timetable: Third quarter 2021

Indicative budget: EUR 1.00 million from the 2021 budget

## **2. Implementation of the OECD - European Commission collaboration**

Expected outcome: Novel methods to identify innovative start-ups working on green and digital sectors. Revamped analysis of how the COVID-19 and economic crisis has affected the business dynamics of innovative start-ups. Improved and expanded cross-country evidence on R&D tax credits and other forms of public support to business R&D.

Expected impact: Increased knowledge-sharing on the European innovative start-ups ecosystem in the context of the New Industrial Strategy and the Green Deal. Greater understanding of the whole life cycle of innovative start-ups, from entry based on academic research to exit through mergers and acquisitions. Greater understanding of how the policy environment affects the resilience of innovative ecosystems across countries. More solid understanding of the impact and effectiveness of public support for innovation.

Scope: The Commission and the OECD will exploit synergies between their respective strands of work on monitoring and analysing R&I funding, policies and their impact. The collaboration includes a number of priority areas. The first part of the grant will broaden the evidence and understanding of the lifecycle of start-ups (including the role of public research) and analyse the innovative start-ups landscape in the context of COVID-19.

The second part will support further analytical work on public support for innovation. This will produce key evidence to underpin further EU policies in these areas.

Funding rate: 100%

Legal entities:

ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT, Rue André-Pascal 2, PARIS CEDEX 16, 75775, France

Form of Funding: Grants not subject to calls for proposals

Type of Action: Grant to identified beneficiary according to Financial Regulation Article 195(e) - Coordination and support action

Indicative timetable: First quarter 2021, First quarter 2022

Indicative budget: EUR 0.50 million from the 2021 budget and EUR 0.90 million from the 2022 budget

## **3. Implementation and analysis of the joint Commission - OECD international survey on STI policies**

Expected outcome: An up to date and easy to access inventory of R&I policy developments and priorities in Europe and the OECD.

Expected impact: Better defined R&I policies throughout Europe and a stronger impact of R&I feeding into other policies, notably in the six priority areas for the European Commission.

Scope: Since 2015, the Commission and the OECD conduct a joint international survey on Science, Technology and Innovation policies (STIP) that has reduced substantially the reporting burden on EU Member States. The STIP survey and Compass intend to become the international reference for collecting and displaying STIP. This action will continue to support the roll-out of the joint STIP survey, make refinements to the infrastructure underpinning the survey and boost the analysis of the information gathered through the survey, in order to underpin further policy development related to the priorities of the von der Leyen Commission.

Funding rate: 100%

Legal entities:

ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT, Rue André-Pascal 2, PARIS CEDEX 16, 75775, France

Form of Funding: Grants not subject to calls for proposals

Type of Action: Grant to identified beneficiary according to Financial Regulation Article 195(e) - Coordination and support action

Indicative timetable: 2022

Indicative budget: EUR 0.80 million from the 2022 budget

#### **4. Development of indicators & econometric analysis on R&I performance**

Expected outcome: Methods and evidence to better understand the state of research and innovation performance of the European Union. Improvement of tools available for monitoring and measuring key elements of the research and innovation system. Provide research and innovation policy experts and practitioners with evidence and tools to better understand and analyse the role and impact of R&I in the implementation of the SDGs

Expected impact: Address innovation policy challenges in a comprehensive way, through scientific output that combines micro and macro perspectives.

Strengthen the evidence base on the digital and environmental transformations with focus on the role of R&I.

Scope: Regular production and update of composite indicators on R&I and 3P Dashboard, including methodological revisions to address technical issues and adapt to the new policy priorities. Econometric and economic analysis to address innovation policy challenges using among others, company level data and linking information from various sources.

Funding rate: 100%

Legal entities:

Joint Research Center (JRC), Giacomo DAMIOLI, Via E. Fermi 2749, Ispra (VA), Italy

Form of Funding: Grants not subject to calls for proposals

Type of Action: Grant to identified beneficiary according to Financial Regulation Article 195(e) - Coordination and support action

Indicative timetable: First quarter 2021

Indicative budget: EUR 0.50 million from the 2021 budget

## **5. Horizontal support to European Partnerships (ERA-LEARN)**

Expected Outcome: Project results are expected to contribute to all of the following expected outcomes:

- Support to the Strategic Coordinating Process for partnerships, including the community building and mutual learning across partnerships;
- Supports the community of actors involved in partnerships;
- Provide knowledge to the European Partnership community by publishing via their website reports and data, organizing webinars, workshops.

Expected Impact:

- Improved knowledge and access to information and know how in the Member States and other stakeholders active in European Partnerships;
- Participation of new actors in European Partnerships.

Scope: Continuation of the ERA-LEARN platform for the period 2023 to 2027. ERA-LEARN provides a web-based information, learning and support platform European Partnerships and other R&I partnerships of European relevance. It supports the Strategic Coordinating Process for partnerships, including the community building and mutual learning across partnerships, raising visibility and strengthen stakeholder communication and consultation. It supports the community of actors involved in partnerships, such as research funders but also others, to develop common tools and approaches to implement partnerships in a way that they generate economies of scales, contribute to the policy priorities and ERA. It also provides insights on the impacts of partnerships in the context of ERA – both at the level of EU and its Member States – and supports a feedback loops to Member States and Partnerships.

Funding rate: 100%

Legal entities:

FFG - Austrian Research Promotion Agency, 1090 Wien, Sensengasse 1, Austria

Form of Funding: Grants not subject to calls for proposals

Type of Action: Grant to identified beneficiary according to Financial Regulation Article 195(e) - Coordination and support action

Indicative timetable: Second quarter of 2022

Indicative budget: EUR 4.00 million from the 2022 budget

## **Public procurement**

### **1. Corporate Communication**

As provided in the “corporate/institutional communication clauses” included in the legal bases of the Horizon Europe Framework Programme and the Euratom Programme, the financial resources allocated to the Programmes shall also contribute to the corporate communication of the political priorities of the UE, as far as they are related to the objectives of the Programmes.

In the period 2021-23, enhanced and strengthened corporate communication campaigns will be launched. Corporate communication informs and engages with citizens about EU values and actions and how the EU impacts daily lives. As indicated in the budget circular, all programmes of the new MFF are called upon to financially support the corporate communication, ensuring the pooling of sufficient resources to fund communication actions on priorities based on the general objectives of the European Union.

DG Communication will implement these actions.

Form of Funding: Procurement

Type of Action: Public procurement

Indicative timetable: First and second semester of 2021; first and second semester of 2022

Indicative budget: EUR 3.68 million from the 2021 budget and EUR 3.75 million from the 2022 budget

### **2. Common Communication for Horizon Europe**

As provided in the Annexes to the Specific Programme implementing Horizon Europe, the Commission will implement information and communication activities relating to Horizon Europe, to promote the fact that results were obtained with the support of EU funding. They will also seek to raise public awareness on the importance of research and innovation and the broader impact and relevance of EU funded research and innovation, by means of e.g. publications, media relations, events, knowledge repositories, databases, multichannel platforms, websites or a targeted use of social media. Horizon Europe will also provide support to the beneficiaries to communicate their work and its impact to society at large.

## **2.1. DG R&I flagship event: European Research and Innovation days**

The European Research & Innovation days is an annual policy event of the Commission bringing together research and innovation stakeholders to debate and shape the future of research and innovation landscape. At the same time, the event aims to mobilise EU citizens and increase awareness of how important research and innovation are in addressing the challenges that face society.

All related activities around, the European Research & Innovation days will raise awareness of European research and innovation policy by mobilising and engaging different stakeholders for Horizon Europe that will better reflect views and needs of citizens. It will allow the creation of a more defined and corporate image of the research and innovation message at European and worldwide level.

Taking stock of the previous editions, the future European Research & Innovation days would evolve and adapt in terms of policy, format, and tools to be available for DG R&I family events.

Form of Funding: Procurement

Type of Action: Public procurement

Indicative timetable: Third and fourth quarter 2021, third and fourth quarter 2022

Indicative budget: EUR 6.00 million from the 2021 budget and EUR 6.00 million from the 2022 budget

## **2.2. DG R&I communication activities including events, media relations, media analysis and media buying & promotional material related to those activities and audience mapping**

The objective is to support the new programme priorities around events. The work will include organising events or participating to events, the format of events will be either virtual or physical. Activities around events will demonstrate the active support of the EU in communicating R&I policies, using different means available in the media landscape, raising awareness on main concerns of citizens and priorities of the EU, mirroring the R&I priorities, disseminating communication material to large public, assessing the impact of those actions and supporting organisers, stakeholders and citizens in engaging & adhering to the European actions. A follow up of DG R&I target audience segmentation study will include analyses of additional Member States and the possibility to gain detailed insights on target audiences' attitudes and behavior with regards to specific DG R&I policy priorities through focus groups.

Form of Funding: Procurement

Type of Action: Public procurement

Indicative timetable: 2021, 2022

Indicative budget: EUR 1.03 million from the 2021 budget and EUR 1.09 million from the 2022 budget

### **2.3. Publications (print, dissemination, storage, translations) & Horizon magazine**

Publications activities will continue illustrating and facilitating the dissemination of R&I policies developments.

#### Internal services:

The Publication Office remains the main provider for publications, translation tasks, proofreading of texts, normal print services and digiprint, and storage of electronic and paper publications. It will also continue disseminating publications on request.

The DG Translations services continue supporting DG R&I requests for translations of non-legislative documents such as brochures, leaflets, infographics, websites, country fiches, etc.

#### External services:

Some publications, mainly brochures, leaflets and reports will be outsourced as appropriate for more specific services such as editorial tasks, graphic design and production. In order to convey DG R&I messages, infographics will be produced on different supports and contexts: e-publications, printed publications, stand-alone infographics, infographics for social media, events and conference, press releases, etc.

Horizon Magazine is the flagship online magazine, which features priorities and achievements of EU-funded research, its impact on citizens' lives and its contribution to the EU goals. The insight is evolving from a text magazine concept to multimedia. This includes articles, interviews, videos and tailor-made videos for social media to attract higher audience to people with a general interest in popular science stories, people with an interest in specific topics, stakeholders and policy audiences interested in engaging and journalistic content. Services needed relate to editorial production, web maintenance, social media and stakeholders' activities. Services also consist of measuring the impact of the magazine through key performance indicators. The main indicators will be the level of readership, video views, social media engagement, but also the number of re-publications/translations on external platforms in EU Member States.

Form of Funding: Procurement

Type of Action: Public procurement

Indicative timetable: Second and third quarter 2021, second and third quarter 2022

Indicative budget: EUR 1.47 million from the 2021 budget and EUR 1.30 million from the 2022 budget

## **2.4. Audio-visual production**

Audio-visual material is an attractive and successful means to explain the aim, budget and goals of Horizon Europe, using and buying social media to promote our policies and multiply our targeted messaging. Other forms of videos and formats such as podcasts will help promote our programmes. Videos shall be available in all EU languages to reach out all stakeholders and citizens and will be part of a toolkit for multipliers amongst other communication material.

Form of Funding: Procurement

Type of Action: Public procurement

Indicative timetable: Second quarter 2021, second quarter 2022

Indicative budget: EUR 1.10 million from the 2021 budget and EUR 1.00 million from the 2022 budget

## **3. Corporate Information Technology**

As mentioned in the Communication to the Commission “Guidelines on Financing of Information Technology and Cybersecurity (IT)<sup>2</sup>” that establishes guidelines to implement the co-financing of corporate IT for the new MFF 2021-2027 operational programmes, all programmes that benefit from the corporate communication and information systems, whether from infrastructure, developments, hosting or security, should contribute to the financing of these corporate systems.

The corporate communication and information systems (CIS) means any system enabling the handling of information in electronic form, including all assets required for its operation, as well as infrastructure, organisation, personnel and information resources. This definition includes business applications, shared IT services, outsourced systems, and end-user devices governed under the Commission’s administrative autonomy and institutional prerogatives. This includes notably Sysper, ABAC, ARES, AGM, E-procurement, Opsys etc.

DG Informatics (DIGIT) will implement the actions.

Form of Funding: Procurement

Type of Action: Public procurement

Indicative timetable: First and second semester of 2021; first and second semester of 2022

Indicative budget: EUR 18.68 million from the 2021 budget and EUR 19.05 million from the 2022 budget

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<sup>2</sup> C(2020)6126 and Ares(2020)1174062 - 25/02/2020

## **4. Common Information Technology for Horizon Europe**

### **4.1. IT services related to the development and support of the eGrants information systems**

The mission of the Common IT service is to implement reliable, modern and high-quality information systems in order to support the full cycle of the grant management of Directorates-General of the Research family for Horizon Europe, Horizon 2020, common FP7 applications and for the other Programmes and entities supported in the Commission in the context of eGrants.

The scope of these IT applications used both by internal and external user communities covers the complete grant cycle, from call definition, publication, participants' data management, creation and submission of proposals, experts selection, evaluation of proposals by experts, notifications of the results as well as the invitation to the preparation and signature of grant agreements, grants management, the reporting on the progress of financed projects, the prefinancing, cost submission and reimbursement, the monitoring by external experts, the ex-post auditing, recoveries, and closure of projects reporting and programme evaluation. A single entry point for applicants, experts, external administrative staff and beneficiaries is provided via the Funding and Tenders Portal.

The external users and Commission's staff are using the modules that support the abovementioned activities. Several IT Systems support such a dual mode. These systems encompass SyGMa, PPGMS, ECS, SEP, Eris and TGS which are the Grants, Experts and back-office modules allowing the exchange of information between beneficiaries, experts and Commission staff. Beyond the analysis, development and infrastructure expenditures, the budget also covers external and internal user support and training activities provided by the Common IT Service.

Form of Funding: Procurement

Type of Action: Public procurement

Indicative timetable: 2021, 2022

Indicative budget: EUR 13.20 million from the 2021 budget and EUR 12.80 million from the 2022 budget

### **4.2. Web /visual activities and maintenance, Intranet and social media activities**

Activities concern maintaining DG R&I's web presence on Europa<sup>3</sup>, digital developments and the revamp or launch of new websites such as Horizon Europe, website & platforms for specific physical and virtual events, revamp & development of Horizon magazine website,

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<sup>3</sup>

Those activities will be carried out in full compliance with the web governance of the Commission as per the Europa Web Guide. The procurement procedures associated to those activities will be aligned with the compliance requirements.”

maintaining and updating the dedicated website for staff, adapting other communication material such as publications, infographics, and videos to social media and other means of communication. Those activities need the support of external professional resources and are essential communication channels.

Form of Funding: Procurement

Type of Action: Public procurement

Indicative timetable: Second quarter 2021, second quarter 2022

Indicative budget: EUR 1.50 million from the 2021 budget and EUR 1.40 million from the 2022 budget

### **4.3. SINAPSE e-communities**

The action will cover the evolutive maintenance of SINAPSE (**Scientific INformation for Policy Support in Europe**), enhancement of its functionalities, ergonomic and infrastructure.

SINAPSE is a Web communication platform promoting a better use and exchange of expertise in EU policy making and governance. SINAPSE® is accessible via EUROPA (<http://europa.eu/sinapse>) and hosted by the EC data centre on a dedicated infrastructure.

SINAPSE e-communities are supporting the following type of activities:

- Information and networking of large group of stakeholders and policy beneficiaries
- Evaluation and monitoring of proposals by external experts
- Support to advisory committees, bodies and expert groups
- Ad hoc public consultations
- Offer a dedicated communication platform for projects supported by the Union
- Information of the public on policy related events and activities
- Support policy oriented activities (interactions with and between experts)

Form of Funding: Procurement

Type of Action: Public procurement

Indicative timetable: 2021, 2022

Indicative budget: EUR 0.50 million from the 2021 budget and EUR 0.50 million from the 2022 budget

## **5. Implementation of Financial Audit Strategy**

The Common Audit Service (CAS) is in charge of the audits conducted on behalf of the Directorates-General of the Research family. It may also join the audits performed by the Court of Auditors.

The objective of the CAS is to ensure that the compliance audits required by the research grant agreements are performed to the highest professional standards and to support the management of R&I activities. It is also to provide high quality services in the area of ex-post audit to the Directorates-General of the Research family, the Executive Agencies and Joint Undertakings implementing Horizon 2020, Horizon Europe and Euratom. The action covers also ex-ante assessments.

The audit cycle is as follows: audit selection, planning, application of rules, relations with beneficiaries and management information on the audit process. The IT tools used for the audit process management are "COMPASS and "AUDEX".

### **5.1. Implementation of Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe financial audit strategy: outsourced and in-house audits and implementation of ex-ante assessments**

The budget planning is based on the audit strategy. The planning for Horizon Europe defining the audit targets and thus determining the required budget is expected to be available at the end of 2021.

Form of Funding: Procurement

Type of Action: Public procurement

Indicative timetable: 2021, 2022

Indicative budget: EUR 4.64 million from the 2021 budget and EUR 4.64 million from the 2022 budget

### **5.2. Implementation of Euratom financial audit strategy**

The Council Regulation on the Research and Training Programme of the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom) adopted in 2013 covers the programming period 2014-2018 and complements the Horizon 2020 Framework Programme for Research and Innovation. The Euratom Research and Training programme has been extended with two years (2019-2020) in order to align with Horizon 2020. The duration of the Euratom ex-post Audit Strategy (2016-2025) is also aligned accordingly.

The Euratom Audit Strategy envisages, on average, 12 annual audits for 16 participations. However, in order to avoid over-auditing, these numbers are only indicative.

In December 2020, the intention is to select up to 12 new Euratom audits to be performed in 2021 if the situation with pandemic allows it.

Form of Funding: Procurement

Type of Action: Public procurement

Indicative timetable: 2021, 2022

Indicative budget: EUR 0.12 million from the 2021 budget and EUR 0.12 million from the 2022 budget

## **6. Support for a stronger quantitative evidence to EU policy in the field of research and innovation**

The action will provide indicators to supplement official statistics in monitoring research and innovation activities and their outputs across all Member States, Associated Countries and other selected countries. The action is the follow up of an ongoing study and it will ensure the continuation of indicators currently used for analysis and monitoring of R&I systems. It will also encompass new indicators to reflect the role of R&I in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals Economic analysis and will allow better understanding of the trends relating to R&I performance of the EU and its main competitors.

Expected results: New evidence on the scientific production and excellence of the EU MSs and the overall positioning of the EU worldwide. Development of new indicators that place the scientific research and innovation outputs in the perspective of the Sustainable Development Goals. Quantitative and qualitative analysis of bibliometric and IP data in support to methodological, technical and analytical reports allowing for the reproducibility of the results, synergies with other data and better understanding of various aspects of the research output and their role in the innovation performance of the EU. The evidence and research acquired in the project will feed into the annual comparative assessment of the research and innovation performance of the EU Member States and selected third countries through the European Innovation Scoreboard and other similar tools. Strengthened evidence base on publications, innovation outputs, research excellence, knowledge transfer, public-private co-operation, multidisciplinary of research and other R&I related key areas.

Form of Funding: Procurement

Type of Action: Public procurement

Indicative timetable: Second quarter 2021

Indicative budget: EUR 0.85 million from the 2021 budget

## **7. Policy experimentation**

This action will address the need for more experimentation in the design and implementation of R&I policies in Europe to accelerate the recovery and sustainability transitions. The activity will build upon ESIR 2 group reflections and SRIP evidence to attest and suggest novel approaches in order to build a transformative R&I policy across all levels of government in Europe (local, regional, national and European). It will support the

identification of concrete areas for experimentation within Horizon Europe and provide evidence and suggestions for potential plans for implementation.

Expected results: The action will deliver a body of practical experiences and knowledge on R&I policy experimentation. This will include key recommendations, practice-led reflections as well as concrete pathways for strengthening the experimentation angle of EU R&I policy and Horizon Europe. The action will contribute to embedding innovation and experimentation in the design of truly transformative R&I policies. From a European perspective it will provide the possibility to scale up innovative practices based on experimentation, particularly testing and engaging in co-creation bringing new policy opportunities to light. It will facilitate the emergence of policy-relevant solutions to drive and accelerate the green and digital transitions, support the recovery and strengthen Europe's competitive edge. It will help move beyond traditional research and innovation policies that often exclude the end-user perspective and the co-creation with citizens and thereby contribute to sustainable growth.

Form of Funding: Procurement

Type of Action: Public procurement

Indicative timetable: Second quarter 2021

Indicative budget: EUR 0.50 million from the 2021 budget

## **8. Foresight activities**

Foresight activities will support the future orientations of EU policy, to anticipate trends and developments and analyse their implications in coordination, engagement and cooperation with the national agencies, experts, stakeholders and citizens.

Future orientations of EU R&I policy will be supported through horizon scanning, strategic intelligence, sense-making, and scenario building bringing together and building upon existing forward looking activities in the EU with regard to R&I priority setting.

Further analyses of foresight knowledge and anticipatory intelligence will be carried out to strengthen the use of R&I evidence in EU and national policies across the board.

Expected results: Forward looking strategic choices and robust setting of objectives, impact pathways and expected impacts in EU R&I policy in general and for Horizon Europe in particular. Library of trends, scenarios, wildcards, future visions, and stories. Better, future-proven policy; stronger and wider public engagement with EU policies, Stronger foresight capacity as well as improved foresight competences and policy orientation across the EU.

Form of Funding: Procurement

Type of Action: Public procurement

Indicative timetable: Third quarter 2021, Second quarter 2022

Indicative budget: EUR 2.00 million from the 2021 budget and EUR 2.00 million from the 2022 budget

## **9. Multidisciplinary open repository for research objects from Horizon Europe projects**

Horizon Europe lays down a set of provisions for mandatory open science practices such as open access to scientific publications, open access to research data and responsible management of research data, through the mainstreaming of data management plans and in line with the FAIR principles<sup>4</sup>. The notion of ‘FAIRness’ can also be extended to other research outputs such as models, workflows, algorithms, etc.

Horizon Europe beneficiaries will notably have to:

- establish and regularly update a Data Management Plan (DMP);
- deposit the data in a trusted repository<sup>5</sup> as soon as possible and within the deadlines set out in the DMP.
- ensure open access – via the repository – to the deposited data, under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International Public License (CC BY 4.0) or a Creative Commons Public Domain Dedication (CC0 1.0) or a licence with rights equivalent to the above, under the principle 'as open as possible as closed as necessary'.
- provide information via the repository about any research output or any other tools and instruments needed to re-use or validate the deposited data.

Considering:

- the size of the programme, its multidisciplinary and international nature;
- the implementation cost of the open access provisions encumbering on the budget of grants;
- the principles of simplification and of reducing the burden to researchers;
- and the previous implementation of centralised services, such as the Open Research Europe publishing platform;

the Commission intends to provide a centrally-managed, cloud-based repository platform to offer services at no cost to its beneficiaries during and after the end of their grants. This will contribute to ensure the implementation of the open science provisions, foster a harmonised approach among other repositories and to facilitate the necessary oversight by the responsible EU services

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<sup>4</sup> Final Report and Action Plan from the European Commission Expert Group on FAIR Data, “TURNING FAIR INTO REALITY”  
[https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/turning\\_fair\\_into\\_reality\\_0.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/turning_fair_into_reality_0.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> If indicated in the relevant Work Programme, beneficiaries must deposit the data in a trusted repository federated in the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC) in compliance with EOSC requirements.

This action will be implemented through an open public procurement process. As outcome of this procedure, the European Commission expects a four years framework contract (maximum amount of 4,3M€) to acquire centralised repository services that will:

- accept research outputs from all scientific disciplines;
- implement a reach research data management cycle in line with the open access provisions, including a framework for data curation;
- ensure the implementation of the FAIR principles in line with the specificity of the different communities;
- be open and flexible to accept different research outputs and to adapt to new provisions and practices;
- be included among the service providers of the EOSC federation.
- be pay per use on the base of a unit cost.

Form of Funding: Procurement

Type of Action: Public procurement

Indicative timetable: First quarter 2022

Indicative budget: EUR 1.30 million from the 2022 budget

## **10. European Open Research Publishing Platform**

Based on the Horizon 2020 Work Programme 2018-2020 “18. Dissemination, Exploitation and Evaluation”<sup>6</sup>, the European Commission has signed the Framework Contract “Open Research Publishing Platform”. This Framework Contract is valid until March 2024 and represents a total amount of EUR 5.8 million out of which, EUR 4.5 million are allocated to support the publication of approximately 5.600 peer-reviewed articles.

In its period of peak 2018-2019, Horizon 2020 had a yearly average of about 27 000 peer-reviewed publications that can be considered the maximum expected volume per year. Currently the Open Research publishing platform has the yearly capacity of covering less than 7% of the maximum expected volume. Taking into consideration an increased expression of interest at the outset of the platform, the European Commission proposes to increase the publishing capacity up to 10% for the benefit of Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe beneficiaries. Therefore, it proposes to increase the total amount of the Framework Contract by EUR 2.2 million, in accordance with Regulation 2018/1046 on the financial rules

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<sup>6</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/wp/2018-2020/main/h2020-wp1820-comm-diss\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/wp/2018-2020/main/h2020-wp1820-comm-diss_en.pdf)

applicable to the general budget of the Union<sup>7</sup>. The increase of the threshold of the Framework Contract will result in the signature of subsequent specific contracts for an amount equivalent to this increase.

Form of Funding: Procurement

Type of Action: Public procurement

Indicative timetable: 4th quarter 2021

Indicative budget: EUR 2.20 million from the 2021 budget

## **11. Evaluation and monitoring of the Research and Innovation Programmes**

### **11.1. Evaluation study on Excellent Science in the Research and Innovation Framework Programmes**

This study will evaluate 'Excellent Science' activities of the European Framework Programme for Research and Innovation in two phases:

- 1) the ex-post evaluation of relevant activities under Horizon 2020;
- 2) the interim evaluation of relevant activities under Horizon Europe.

The study will be composed of

- 1) a horizontal Work Package for coordination, data collection and provision, methodological support, meta-analysis of excellent science aspects and scientific impact across the whole programme and
- 2) four thematic Work Packages to evaluate the European Research Council, the Marie-Sklodowska Curie Actions, the Research Infrastructures, and the Future and Emerging Technologies programme parts.

Form of Funding: Procurement

Type of Action: Public procurement

Indicative timetable: Second quarter 2021

Indicative budget: EUR 1.00 million from the 2021 budget

### **11.2. Evaluation study of the Research and Innovation Framework Programmes for addressing Global Challenges and Industrial Competitiveness - Focus on activities for a more Resilient Europe**

This study will evaluate activities of the Research and Innovation Framework Programme that supports a more resilient Europe in two phases:

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<sup>7</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32018R1046&from=EN>

- 1) the ex-post evaluation of relevant activities under Horizon 2020;
- 2) the interim evaluation of relevant activities under Horizon Europe.

The study will be composed of

- 1) a horizontal Work Package for coordination, data collection and provision, methodological support, meta-analysis of resilience aspects and impact across the whole programme and
- 2) three thematic Work Packages to evaluate the followings:

- Under Horizon 2020: Societal Challenges 1, 6 and 7
- Under Horizon Europe: Cluster 1 - Health, Cluster 2 – Culture, Creative industries and Inclusive society and Cluster 3 – Civil Security for Society and Cluster 6 - Food, Bioeconomy Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment.

Including relevant partnerships and one mission (Cancer).

Form of Funding: Procurement

Type of Action: Public procurement

Indicative timetable: Second quarter 2021

Indicative budget: EUR 1.20 million from the 2021 budget

### **11.3. Evaluation study of the Research and Innovation Framework Programmes for addressing Global Challenges and Industrial Competitiveness - Focus on activities for the Digital Transition**

This study will evaluate activities of the Research and Innovation Framework Programme that supports the digital transition in two phases:

- 1) the ex-post evaluation of relevant activities under Horizon 2020;
- 2) the interim evaluation of relevant activities under Horizon Europe.

The study will be composed of

- 1) a horizontal Work Package for coordination, data collection and provision, methodological support, meta-analysis of digital transition aspects and impact across the whole programme and
- 2) three thematic Work Packages to evaluate:

- Under Horizon 2020: the LEIT- ICT, LEIT-NMBP, LEIT-SPACE programme parts
- Under Horizon Europe: Cluster 4 – Digital, Industry and Space.

Including relevant partnerships.

Form of Funding: Procurement

Type of Action: Public procurement

Indicative timetable: Second quarter 2021

Indicative budget: EUR 1.50 million from the 2021 budget

#### **11.4. Evaluation study of the Research and Innovation Framework Programmes for addressing Global Challenges and Industrial Competitiveness - Focus on activities related to the Green transition**

This study will be performed in collaboration with the respective responsible units of DG RTD and DG MOVE and will evaluate activities of the Research and Innovation Framework Programme that supports the green transition in two phases:

- 1) the ex-post evaluation of relevant activities under Horizon 2020;
- 2) the interim evaluation of relevant activities under Horizon Europe.

The study will benefit from specific evaluations that are planned to be performed under the respective Clusters of Pillar II of Horizon Europe and will be composed of:

- 1) a horizontal Work Package for coordination, data collection and provision, methodological support, meta-analysis of green transition aspects and impact across the whole programme;
- 2) four thematic Work Packages to evaluate:
  - Under Horizon 2020: the Societal Challenges 2, 3, 4 and 5
  - Under Horizon Europe: Cluster 5 – Climate, Energy and Mobility and Cluster 6 – Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment.

Including relevant partnerships and relevant Missions.

Form of Funding: Procurement

Type of Action: Public procurement

Indicative timetable: Second quarter 2021

Indicative budget: EUR 2.00 million from the 2021 budget

#### **11.5. Evaluation study of the Research and Innovation Framework Programmes for an Innovative Europe**

This study will evaluate activities of the Research and Innovation Framework Programme for an Innovative Europe in two phases:

- 1) the ex-post evaluation of relevant activities under Horizon 2020;

2) the interim evaluation of relevant activities under Horizon Europe.

The study will be composed of

1) a horizontal Work Package for coordination, data collection and provision, methodological support and meta-analysis, incl. inputs from EIT/KICs, and incl. innovation/economic aspects and impact across all pillars and

2) three Work Packages for Access to Risk Finance, Support to innovative SMEs (incl EIC pilot) and Innovative Europe programme parts under Horizon Europe, including relevant partnerships.

Form of Funding: Procurement

Type of Action: Public procurement

Indicative timetable: Second quarter 2021

Indicative budget: EUR 1.00 million from the 2021 budget

### **11.6. Evaluation study of the Research and Innovation Framework Programmes for Widening participation and Strengthening the European Research Area**

This study will evaluate 'Excellent Science' activities of the Research and Innovation Framework Programme for widening participation and strengthening the European Research Area (ERA) in two phases:

1) the ex-post evaluation of relevant activities under Horizon 2020;

2) the interim evaluation of relevant activities under Horizon Europe.

The study will be composed of

1) a horizontal Work Package for coordination, data collection and provision, methodological support, meta-analysis incl. horizontal widening and ERA aspects and impacts across all pillars and

2) four Work Packages for 1) Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation; 2) Science with and for society actions, incl. gender equality and responsible R&I; 3) Social Sciences and Humanities; 4) International cooperation.

Form of Funding: Procurement

Type of Action: Public procurement

Indicative timetable: Second quarter 2021

Indicative budget: EUR 1.00 million from the 2021 budget

### **11.7. Coordinated in-depth case studies on the scientific, economic/technological and societal impacts of Horizon 2020 and FP7 projects**

This procurement will cover the provision of coordinated in-depth case studies on the scientific, economic/technological and societal impacts of the projects funded under Horizon 2020 and FP7 - towards addressing Societal Challenges and contributing to Sustainable Development Goals.

Form of Funding: Procurement

Type of Action: Public procurement

Indicative timetable: Second quarter 2021

Indicative budget: EUR 0.50 million from the 2021 budget

### **11.8. Interim review of Missions approach under Horizon Europe**

This procurement will support the interim review of Missions approach under Horizon Europe, as per Horizon Europe regulatory requirements.

Form of Funding: Procurement

Type of Action: Public procurement

Indicative timetable: First quarter 2022

Indicative budget: EUR 0.30 million from the 2022 budget

### **11.9. Interim evaluation of the approach to European Partnerships in Horizon Europe (covering co-funded, co-programmed and institutionalised)**

This procurement will support the interim review of the approach to European Partnerships under Horizon Europe (covering co-funded, co-programmed and institutionalised).

Form of Funding: Procurement

Type of Action: Public procurement

Indicative timetable: First quarter 2022

Indicative budget: EUR 0.30 million from the 2022 budget

### **11.10. Ex-post meta-evaluation of Horizon 2020**

This procurement will support the ex-post meta-evaluation of Horizon 2020, including the assessment of the impact and EU added value of Horizon 2020 and past Framework Programmes in terms of scientific impact, economic impact (including economic modelling), societal impact (according to the sustainable development goals (SDGs) and with climate modelling), including social network analysis of collaborations.

Form of Funding: Procurement

Type of Action: Public procurement

Indicative timetable: First quarter 2022

Indicative budget: EUR 0.40 million from the 2022 budget

## **12. Dissemination and Exploitation Activities**

Maximising the impacts of the research that EU funds requires better dissemination and exploitation of the results. Improving knowledge flows and spillovers is fundamental to ensure that researchers build on the latest available knowledge and thus build “on the shoulders of giants”. Moreover, the exploitation of research results and the creation of value for our economy and society, often depend on the skills and abilities of the beneficiaries to present and connect to those stakeholders that can help them take the results into the next level. Many times, the beneficiaries lack sufficient information, skills or connections to the right stakeholders and these gaps can jeopardise their ability to maximise the potential value of their results.

Against this backdrop, we want to create an ecosystem supporting our beneficiaries towards the maximum dissemination and exploitation of their results. This includes innovations that can translate into and contribute to new products and services that create economic or social value, more efficient production or distribution processes; results that can feed into policymaking and help public authorities; and results that can contribute to building and evolving standards.

This is a crosscutting activity. Most of Horizon Europe is in its scope. The Dissemination and Exploitation (D&E) integrated support ecosystem supports up to 40,000 Research and Innovation projects simultaneously.

The dissemination of research results will include an array of editorial services to better target the content to different audiences as well as outreach activities through a variety of channels, e.g. websites, magazines or targeted dissemination events, including those organised by National Contact Points. They will support the creation, curation and actual dissemination of information about the projects and their results- either presented individually or clustered to maximise the joint impact, in multiple languages, including previous Framework Programmes.

Expected outcome: The general outcome of the activities implemented in the context of the D&E Strategy is a set of coherent and integrated actions supporting our beneficiaries to better valorise their research results.

More specifically, the expected outcomes are:

(1) Guidelines and educational/inspirational material to incite our beneficiaries to achieve higher impact, including outreach events.

(2) Supporting services to help the beneficiaries disseminate their results in a targeted way exploit them or find third parties to exploit them, and increase, where appropriate, their market readiness (e.g. boosters, tailored support, coaching, training, etc.).

(3) Services to help the beneficiaries connect to the right stakeholders, including presentation and networking events (e.g. marketplace activities, link with investors platforms, local, national, European policymakers, etc.)

(4) Services to the Commission's services to help clustering and analysing research results and integrate them, when and if needed, with other material to reach out targeted audiences and contribute to feedback to policy.

(5) The Horizon Result Platform and its associated services, offering all beneficiaries the opportunity to describe their results, needs, etc. The Horizon Result Platform is also the base for analysing the results, their objectives, needs and maturity, and propose their owners the most appropriate support action. It will also feature opening to VC/BA/Investors networks.

The Publications Office (OP) will implement some of the actions through CORDIS and related services, using a large part of the indicative budget.

Form of Funding: Procurement

Type of Action: Public procurement

Indicative timetable: 2021, 2022

Indicative budget: EUR 3.50 million from the 2021 budget and EUR 7.40 million from the 2022 budget

### **13. Horizon Data Management and Data Integration for Horizon Europe Monitoring**

We need to be able to properly gather, control and ensure availability and usability the Horizon Europe (and previous R&I Programmes) Data. This mostly refers to (1) Horizon Europe Data Quality Framework; (2) Integrating external data to complement Horizon Europe data and contribute to its monitoring (KIPs); (3) Develop and make tools to give access and visualise Horizon Europe related data, both internally (data for policy) and externally (data transparency and contribution to data for Policy).

Some of the actions will be implemented by DG Informatics (DIGIT), and by the Publications Office (OP) using a significant part of the indicative budget for web presence, data transparency and linked open data.

The use of a new Framework Contract for data integration is envisaged for a duration of 4 years with a maximum amount of 8m€ (start in 2022).

Form of Funding: Procurement

Type of Action: Public procurement

Indicative timetable: 2021, 2022

Indicative budget: EUR 3.70 million from the 2021 budget and EUR 3.60 million from the 2022 budget

## **Other budget implementation instruments**

### **1. External expertise**

The use of high quality independent expertise in the evaluation process underpins the engagement of the programme across all stakeholders, communities and interests, and is a prerequisite for maintaining the excellence and relevance of the funded activities.

This action will support the use of appointed external independent experts for the evaluation of project proposals (including the implementation of the ethics appraisal scheme) and prize applications throughout the entire Horizon Europe work programmes for the calls and prize contests.

The action will cover also the evaluations of Horizon 2020 calls with late call deadlines in 2021.

The European Research Executive Agency will implement the above actions.

The action will support also the use of appointed external independent experts for the monitoring, ethics checks and coaching of ongoing Horizon 2020 projects.

Form of Funding: Other budget implementation instruments

Type of Action: Expert contract action

Indicative budget: EUR 76.84 million from the 2021 budget and EUR 77.92 million from the 2022 budget

### **2. Commission expert group on the Economic and Societal Impact of Research and innovation (ESIR2 )**

The Expert group on the Economic and Societal Impact of Research and innovation (ESIR2) will support the Commission with strategic advice on how to develop an evidence-based, transformative research and innovation policy that drives the sustainability transitions in Europe. The experts will cover sustainability subjects from various angles such as social and ecologic transitions, citizens' engagement, sustainable development measurement, higher education, youth, digitalisation, circular economy and governance issues. The group will engage and co-create with relevant stakeholders to establish an 'ESIR Community'. The group will produce policy briefs, organise outreach activities, foster policy experimentation and propose solution-oriented policy initiatives based on a demand-driven approach.

A special allowance of EUR 450 per day will be paid to the experts appointed in their personal capacity who act independently and in the public interest. This amount is considered

to be proportionate to the specific tasks to be assigned to the experts, including the number of meetings to be attended and possible preparatory work.

Form of Funding: Other budget implementation instruments

Type of Action: Expert contract action

Indicative timetable: Fourth quarter 2021

Indicative budget: EUR 0.30 million from the 2021 budget

### **3. Use of individual experts in support for a transformative research and innovation policy (reports)**

Experts will provide intelligence on how R&I policy can support the recovery and enable and drive the economic, ecological, and societal transitions towards sustainable development. Among others, and drawing on future policy discussions, they will contribute to the analysis supporting the Science, Research and Innovation Performance of the EU Report, as well as to its overall quality assurance.

A special allowance of EUR 450/day will be paid to the individual experts appointed in their personal capacity who act independently and in the public interest.

Form of Funding: Other budget implementation instruments

Type of Action: Expert contract action

Indicative timetable: First quarter 2021, Fourth quarter 2022

Indicative budget: EUR 0.10 million from the 2021 budget and EUR 0.10 million from the 2022 budget

### **4. High Level Expert Group on the future of Horizon Europe**

The High Level Expert Group is intended to provide recommendations for the future of Horizon in 2023-2024 based on the conclusions of the ex-post meta-evaluation of Horizon 2020 and of the interim evaluation of Horizon Europe to feed into the design of FP10. Proper timing is needed to feed with the right information at the right time. The Expert Contract is to be launched in 2022 for an expected duration of 16 months, from June 2023 to September 2024.

A special allowance of EUR 450/day will be paid to the experts appointed in their personal capacity who act independently and in the public interest.

Form of Funding: Other budget implementation instruments

Type of Action: Expert contract action

Indicative timetable: First quarter 2022

Indicative budget: EUR 0.10 million from the 2022 budget

## **5. Use of individual experts**

This action will support the provision of independent experts working individually (and therefore not in the context of an expert group) for advising and assisting the Commission services with the implementation, evaluation and design of EU research and innovation policies. Individual experts can be called to perform e.g. (including but not limited to) the following tasks:

- Analysis, design, and evaluation of policies and actions,
- Analysis of the state-of-the-art, impact assessment of policies and actions,
- Analysis of the contribution of the funded research to the EU policy objectives
- Assistance to the elaboration of research and development strategies,
- Contribution to and elaboration of reports, policy papers, and guidance notes,
- Moderation, facilitation, reporting and follow-up for events, conferences, seminars and forums.

Individual experts will be called on ad-hoc basis and will be selected based on their knowledge and experience of the work to be performed. Their tasks might include attending bilateral meetings with Commission services, preparatory work, remote drafting and further development of findings. They will be appointed in a personal capacity, will work independently and in the public interest, and will be paid a special allowance of EUR 450/day.

Form of Funding: Other budget implementation instruments

Type of Action: Expert contract action

Indicative budget: EUR 0.05 million from the 2021 budget and EUR 0.05 million from the 2022 budget

## **6. Use of individual experts for dissemination of science advice and increase of public understanding of the function, role and method of scientific advice in policymaking**

The importance is growing as regards science advice in the policy and decision-making process within the Commission and in Member States. In particular in the context of the Better Regulation Agenda, but also at national and international level (just to name a few like the European Science Advisors Forum, the International Network of Governmental Science Advisors).

Therefore, it is key to rely on the support of external independent individual experts with extensive and demonstrated experience in providing science advice to the Commission and

who espouse practical experience in providing science advice with a reputation as independent scientists of the broadest repute.

The contributions of these independent individual experts should revolve around multiplying the (impact of) outreach activities and supporting the delivery and communication of the scientific advice such as opinions of the Group of Chief Scientific Advisors.

These individual experts would be asked as well to support the digital transformation of the working modalities and endeavours to implement the Green Deal Agenda, by connecting the advice to society in general and stakeholder communities in particular.

A special allowance of EUR 450/day for each full working day spent assisting the Commission or a special allowance of EUR 225 for each half working day spent assisting the Commission will be paid to the experts appointed in their personal capacity. The latter will act independently and in the public interest.

Form of Funding: Other budget implementation instruments

Type of Action: Expert contract action

Indicative timetable: First quarter 2021

Indicative budget: EUR 0.03 million from the 2021 budget

## **7. Commission expert group on regulatory advice for innovation - the Regulatory Advice Mechanism**

The Regulatory Advice Mechanism (RAM) will be set up as a high-level expert group. It will provide upstream policy advice on the link between regulation and innovation, with a focus on new technologies and business models. The group would identify anticipated impacts of innovations on EU rules, explore how regulation can pave the way for innovation, and provide policy recommendations. An important part of the mandate will be outreach to stakeholders and wider public in order to communicate in an accessible way about the stakes behind regulating new technologies and emerging business models. A balanced composition, including geographical origin, gender and type of expertise would be ensured in the selection process, conducted through an open call. This would be done according to the horizontal rules on expert groups of the Commission.

A special allowance of EUR 450/day will be paid to the experts appointed in their personal capacity who act independently and in the public interest. This amount is considered to be proportionate to the specific tasks to be assigned to the experts, including the number of meetings to be attended and possible preparatory work.

Form of Funding: Other budget implementation instruments

Type of Action: Expert contract action

Indicative timetable: Third and Fourth quarter 2021, First and second quarter 2022

Indicative budget: EUR 0.10 million from the 2021 budget and EUR 0.03 million from the 2022 budget

### **8. External expertise for ethics reviews and checks**

This action will support the use of appointed independent experts for ethics reviews and checks (monitoring) of serious and complex cases.

Form of Funding: Other budget implementation instruments

Type of Action: Expert contract action

Indicative timetable: 2021, 2022

Indicative budget: EUR 0.60 million from the 2021 budget and EUR 0.90 million from the 2022 budget

*Horizon Europe - 2021-2022*  
*Horizontal support expenditure for Horizon Europe and Euratom Programmes*

## Budget<sup>8</sup>

	Budget line(s)	2021 Budget (EUR million)	2022 Budget (EUR million)
<b>Calls</b>			
<b>Other actions</b>			
Grant to identified beneficiary according to Financial Regulation Article 195(e)		2.00	5.70
	<i>from</i> <i>01.020500</i>	2.00	5.70
Public procurement		72.86	66.96
	<i>from</i> <i>01.030200</i>	0.12	0.13
	<i>from</i> <i>01.030100</i>	0.28	0.28
	<i>from</i> <i>01.020500</i>	72.46	66.55
Expert contract action		78.02	79.10
	<i>from</i> <i>01.020500</i>	73.02	79.10
	<i>from</i> <i>01.029901</i>	5.00	
<b>Estimated total budget</b>		152.89	151.75

<sup>8</sup>

The budget figures given in this table are rounded to two decimal places.  
The budget amounts are subject to the availability of the appropriations provided for in the general budget of the Union for years 2021 and 2022.