



EUROPEAN RESEARCH EXECUTIVE AGENCY

FOSTERING EXCELLENT  
SCIENCE FOR FUTURE  
GENERATIONS





This document should not be considered as representative of the European Commission's official position.

Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union, 2023

© European Union, 2023



The reuse policy of European Commission documents is implemented by Commission Decision 2011/833/EU of 12 December 2011 on the reuse of Commission documents (OJ L 330, 14.12.2011, p. 39). Unless otherwise noted, the reuse of this document is authorised under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International (CC-BY 4.0) licence (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>). This means that reuse is allowed provided appropriate credit is given and any changes are indicated.

For any use or reproduction of elements that are not owned by the European Union, permission may need to be sought directly from the respective rightholders.

PDF ISBN 978-92-95080-35-5 doi:10.2848/96852 JW-05-22-126-EN-N  
PRINT ISBN 978-92-95080-36-2 doi:10.2848/670247 JW-05-22-126-EN-C



EUROPEAN RESEARCH EXECUTIVE AGENCY

# FOSTERING EXCELLENT SCIENCE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

April 2023



## WELCOME TO THE EUROPEAN RESEARCH EXECUTIVE AGENCY



Dear reader,

A warm welcome to the European Research Executive Agency (REA) – a dynamic place where we collaborate with the world's brightest minds to foster excellence in science and beyond! Our mission is to serve EU citizens by finding concrete solutions to humanity's ever-changing challenges.

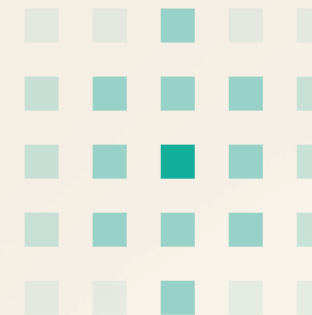
We manage an extraordinary range of projects funded under several EU programmes, including the Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe research framework programmes. From empowering a new generation of outstanding researchers to providing answers to pressing environmental and social issues, or enhancing the competitiveness of the EU's agricultural sector, we select and fund trailblazing ideas that contribute to a green, digital, healthy and inclusive Europe. Between 2021 and 2027, we will invest over EUR 22.7 billion in excellent projects, helping the European Commission to achieve its key policy priorities and the five EU Missions under Horizon Europe.



The most complex enigmas require brilliant minds! By equipping and working closely with Europe's greatest innovators, we provide a basis of new industries, markets and broader social innovations of the future. I am proud to say that researchers supported by REA have repeatedly won acclaimed awards, including several Nobel Prizes.

Our agency also manages several key services that support the implementation of EU-funded projects. We rely on outstanding, service-oriented and motivated staff who support each project from the application stage to the funding and implementation stages. There is real energy, momentum and ambition within REA. I am thrilled to be able to share how that energy translates into concrete solutions for the benefit of citizens.

In this brochure, you will discover some of our fascinating projects and learn more about what REA can do for you.



**Marc Tachelet**  
*Director*  
*European Research Executive Agency (REA)*





## WHAT WE DO



Mandated by the European Commission to support the EU research and innovation (R & I) policy, the European Research Executive Agency (REA) funds and manages pioneering projects in virtually all domains of R & I.

REA's mission is to help build a greener Europe with prosperous, inclusive societies and economies that take full advantage of the digital age.

Although the Horizon Europe and Horizon 2020 framework programmes are the centrepiece of the agency's portfolio, REA's responsibilities also comprise the 'Research Fund for Coal and Steel' and the 'Promotion of agricultural products' programme.



## BETWEEN 2021 AND 2027, REA WILL BE MANAGING:



23% OF HORIZON EUROPE



RESEARCH FUND  
FOR COAL AND STEEL



PROMOTION OF  
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS



AN OVERALL BUDGET OF  
EUR 22.7 BILLION



AN AVERAGE OF ALMOST  
7 000 RUNNING PROJECTS  
PER YEAR



ONGOING HORIZON 2020  
PROJECTS



### THE REA'S RESPONSIBILITIES ARE TO:

- support the European Green Deal by funding multinational research projects in food, biodiversity and low-emission industries, while enhancing the competitiveness of our agricultural sector in Europe and around the globe;
- ensure that excellent science is spread across the EU and that necessary reforms are made in EU Member States to upgrade their R & I capacity, in line with the policy objectives of the European research area;
- boost the careers of researchers through the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA), helping to build a highly skilled scientific human capital;
- help researchers deliver solutions for social inclusion, creativity and security;
- help to build world-class, accessible research infrastructures to foster Europe's innovation potential;
- make sure its project results feed into the Commission's key R & I policy development;
- manage the European Commission's Research Enquiry Service, providing customer-oriented support to applicants, project beneficiaries and expert evaluators;
- carry out the legal validation and financial assessment of participants in EU grants and procurements, managed via the EU's funding and tenders portal;
- support independent experts in evaluating project proposals competing for EU research funds.

#### Executive agencies

The European Commission's executive agencies manage EU funding on its behalf. While the Commission focuses on developing policies and funding programmes, the agencies put them into action and feed their project results back into the policymaking process. This way, funding is managed more efficiently, with lower costs and in close proximity to beneficiaries.

### THE EU MISSIONS – A NEW WAY TO BRING CONCRETE SOLUTIONS TO SOME OF OUR WORLD'S GREATEST CHALLENGES BY 2030

REA has a leading role in implementing the R & I component of the EU Mission 'A soil deal for Europe', and contributes to the achievement of the other four Missions



**MISSION:  
A SOIL DEAL FOR  
EUROPE**  
100 LIVING LABS AND  
LIGHTHOUSES TO  
LEAD THE TRANSITION  
TOWARDS HEALTHY  
SOILS



**MISSION:  
ADAPTATION TO  
CLIMATE CHANGE**  
SUPPORT AT LEAST  
150 EUROPEAN  
REGIONS AND  
COMMUNITIES IN  
BECOMING CLIMATE  
RESILIENT



**MISSION:  
CANCER**  
WORKING WITH  
EUROPE'S 'BEATING  
CANCER' PLAN TO  
IMPROVE THE LIVES  
OF MORE THAN  
3 MILLION PEOPLE



**MISSION:  
RESTORE OUR OCEAN  
AND WATERS**  
RESTORE, PROTECT  
AND PRESERVE THE  
HEALTH OF OUR  
OCEAN, SEAS AND  
WATERS



**MISSION:  
CLIMATE-NEUTRAL  
AND SMART CITIES**  
ACHIEVE 100  
CLIMATE-NEUTRAL  
AND SMART CITIES



## THE EU PROJECT MANAGEMENT LIFE CYCLE



# HORIZON EUROPE

Horizon Europe is the world's largest R & I programme to date. By teaming up with the best available talent, it fosters excellent science and helps to create new services and markets. With a budget of EUR 95.5 billion, Horizon Europe will position the EU at the forefront of R & I and support the green and digital transitions. Horizon Europe is divided into three pillars, corresponding to the programme's main priorities. REA manages almost 23% of the Horizon Europe budget and is responsible for multiple programmes, as shown on the next page.

## PILLAR 1



### Excellent science

- ▶ European Research Council
- ▶ **Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions**
- ▶ **Research infrastructures**

## PILLAR 2



### Global challenges and European industrial competitiveness

- ▶ Clusters
  - Health
  - **Culture, creativity and inclusive society**
  - **Civil security for society**
  - Digital, industry and mobility
  - Climate, energy and mobility
  - **Food, bioeconomy, natural resources, agriculture and environment**
- ▶ Joint Research Centre

## PILLAR 3



### Innovative Europe

- ▶ European Innovation Council
- ▶ European innovation ecosystems
- ▶ European Institute of Innovation and Technology

### Widening participation and strengthening the European research area

- ▶ **Widening participation and spreading excellence**
- ▶ **Reforming and enhancing the European R&I system**

## HORIZON EUROPE

### MARIE SKŁODOWSKA-CURIE ACTIONS (MSCA)

The MSCA are the EU's reference programme for doctoral education and postdoctoral training. With a budget of EUR 6.6 billion, they contribute to excellent research, boosting jobs, growth and investment by equipping researchers of any nationality with new knowledge and skills.

Between 1996 and 2027, over 200 000 researchers will have participated in the MSCA, of which 64 000 are PhD candidates. Moreover, since 2014, over 8 700 organisations from more than 130 countries have been involved in the programme.

## 15 NOBEL PRIZE WINNERS \*

15 MSCA researchers have been awarded the Nobel Prize to date. Some of the laureates also supervised the award-winning research.



8  
CHEMISTRY



3  
PHYSICS



3  
MEDICINE



1  
ECONOMIC SCIENCE

\* Reference period: 2012-2022

### Targeting synthetic lethal interactions for new cancer treatments training network (Syntrain)

Breast and ovarian cancer are serious health challenges in the EU. The Syntrain project offers specialised doctoral training to young researchers. It has contributed to a better understanding of breast and ovarian cancers and has helped to identify new therapeutic approaches for their treatment. The close collaboration between academic and industrial partners will facilitate a wide commercial use of the project's findings. Syntrain contributes to the EU Cancer Mission.

### Removal and recovery of pharmaceutical persistent pollutants from wastewater by selective reagentless process (RecoPharma)

Pharmaceutical products frequently find their way into our wastewater treatment plants, polluting our drinking water. Current methods to remove drug compounds are expensive and often ineffective. RecoPharma is developing advanced water treatment technologies that are fast, versatile and cost effective. The project aligns with the goals of the European Green Deal, which aims to reduce environmental water pollution.



## HORIZON EUROPE

### RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURES

The programme supports the setting up of new pan-European research infrastructures, drawing on a budget of EUR 1.8 billion. It also funds transnational and virtual access to research infrastructures, offering researchers the most suitable facilities for their work.

#### International network for terrestrial research and monitoring in the Arctic (Interact)

Large-scale environmental changes can lead to natural catastrophes that destroy people's livelihood, if unprepared. The pan-Arctic research and infrastructure project Interact seeks to identify, understand, predict and respond to diverse environmental changes. It thereby aims to provide rapid response services. Interact supports the European Green Deal.



## HORIZON EUROPE

### CULTURE, CREATIVITY AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETY

This programme funds research that addresses wider challenges, including economic instability, demographic changes, social exclusion, e-government, migration and radicalisation. Funded projects also support job creation in the creative industries and preserve European cultural heritage. A budget of over EUR 2 billion has been allocated to this action.

#### Policy development based on advanced geospatial data analytics and visualisation (PoliVisu)

The project seeks to help public administrations resolve local challenges linked to mobility and urban planning. By harnessing big data and advanced visualisation techniques, the PoliVisu team has developed new urban mobility solutions. This project contributes to the 'A Europe fit for the digital age' strategy and the EU Mission 'Climate-neutral and smart cities'.



## HORIZON EUROPE

### CIVIL SECURITY

The programme develops new solutions to fight crime and terrorism, to better manage EU borders and to protect communities and infrastructures from natural and man-made disasters. It also works to improve cybersecurity and digital privacy. The available budget is almost EUR 1.1 billion.

#### Improving frontline responses to high-impact domestic violence (Improdova)

Improdova set out to address barriers within domestic violence policing. Using a case-by-case approach, the project developed risk assessment tools and a training platform for frontline responders and law enforcement agencies. The project delivered exceptional results, with several significant positive effects in policymaking. Improdova aligns with the objectives of the Commission's 2020–2025 EU gender equality strategy.

## HORIZON EUROPE

### FOOD, BIOECONOMY, NATURAL RESOURCES, AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Innovations in agriculture, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture are crucial to accelerate the transition to a sustainable European bioeconomy and to help preserve biodiversity. The programme is supported by a budget of EUR 7.4 billion.

#### Holistic management of emerging forest pests and diseases (HOMED)

Invasive pests and pathogens threaten EU forests, causing tremendous growth loss and tree mortality. HOMED develops cost-effective, environmentally friendly tools for the prevention, detection and control of pests and pathogens. It seeks to reduce economic loss and maintain EU forests' ecosystems, which are critical for climate change mitigation.

# HORIZON EUROPE

## EU MISSION 'A SOIL DEAL FOR EUROPE'

The five EU Missions are a new and innovative way for society and stakeholders to address major societal challenges together. REA leads the implementation of the R & I component of the EU Mission 'A soil deal for Europe' by funding multinational projects that will help protect and restore soil health in Europe and beyond. During the 2021–2023 period, EUR 320 million of funding will be available.



### Achieving the full potential of crop diversification to preserve biodiversity, restore soils and ensure healthier and more sustainable diets (DiverIMPACTS)

This project provided breakthrough innovations to crop diversification for improved productivity, the delivery of ecosystem services and resource-efficient and sustainable value chains. In line with the EU farm-to-fork strategy, and the EU Missions 'Adaptation to climate change' and 'A soil deal for Europe', this project helps to increase the long-term resilience, sustainability and economic revenues of agriculture across the EU.

# HORIZON EUROPE

## WIDENING PARTICIPATION AND SPREADING EXCELLENCE

With a budget of EUR 2.4 billion, this programme aims to ensure that the R & I capacity of all Member States converges and improves. It helps to bridge the gap among the Member States and to spread the benefits of innovation across the EU.



### Renewable materials and healthy environments research and innovation centre of excellence (InnoRenew CoE)

InnoRenew CoE is an independent research institute, established as a centre of excellence in 2017. It conducts cutting-edge scientific research on renewable materials such as wood. It also supports businesses in implementing R & I activities. The institute collaborates with policymakers to direct more support towards companies and research in the forestry sector.

## REFORMING AND ENHANCING THE EUROPEAN RESEARCH AND INNOVATION SYSTEM

With a budget of EUR 371 million, this programme contributes to reforming the European research area through numerous actions. These include promoting the EU's open science policy and empowering universities and research organisations to strengthen diversity, inclusion, ethics and gender equality values.

Video No. 2543

13778977432.600000



### Trustworthy, reliable and engaging scientific communication approaches (Tresca)

Recognising trustworthy scientific information is important, particularly in the current era of fake news. Tresca seeks to improve public trust in science communication by increasing the production, exchange and consumption of accurate scientific information. Among its multiple actions to achieve this, Tresca has produced a highly successful informative video with project partner Kurzgesagt. It conveys in a transparent manner the challenges and responsibilities of science communication, helping to boost trust in this process.

## RESEARCH FUND FOR COAL AND STEEL

With a budget of EUR 780 million, this programme contributes to the European Green Deal by supporting research activities in the coal and steel sectors. In addition, it supports the just transition of coal regions and the Clean Steel Partnership. The programme promotes the modernisation and decarbonisation of the steel industry, helping to move towards climate neutrality by 2050.



### Sustainable use of mining waste dumps (SUMAD)

Almost 70 % of EU soils are unhealthy due to human activity. SUMAD unites European experts to optimise the use and long-term management of mining waste. By identifying potential revitalisation activities, this project contributes to the EU Mission 'A soil deal for Europe', which aims to restore healthy soils.

## PROMOTION OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

As part of the common agricultural policy market measures, this programme aims to enhance the competitiveness of the EU's agricultural sector in the internal market and around the globe. Promotion campaigns highlight the unique characteristics of EU agricultural products worldwide, especially in countries with high growth potential. Part of the programme's EUR 679 million budget is dedicated to campaigns promoting organic products and sustainable and environmentally friendly agriculture. Its campaigns are recognisable through the 'Enjoy! It's from Europe' slogan.

## Europe labels the products of its territories

This communication campaign aims to increase the recognition of European quality labels, such as the protected designation of origin and protected geographical indication. These labels promote the unique characteristics of European produce, including geographical origin, traditional expertise and complexity of production. The EU created them to strengthen consumers' and producers' trust in European food standards.



## STAKEHOLDER SERVICES

The agency is home to several crucial services that support the implementation of EU-funded R & I, along with other selected programmes. It provides expert management and support services to various EU bodies implementing the Horizon Europe programme.

## REA'S PORTFOLIO OF SUPPORT SERVICES



### Research enquiry service

This service answers questions from project applicants, participants and the broader public on European R & I. It also provides information on funding instruments in the fields of research.



### Participant validation\*\*

Before a project can receive EU funding, it must undergo legal and financial checks. REA manages these verifications for all EU programme grants and procurement operations that are directly funded by the European Commission.



### Expert management

REA works with numerous independent external experts to ensure scientific excellence across the Horizon Europe programme. We also manage the contracting of these expert evaluators\* and of those who monitor the implementation of REA-funded projects.



### Evaluation support

REA manages the planning and publication of all EU calls for proposals, and the Horizon evaluation facility.

\* Except for the European Research Council.

\*\* Calls for proposals and calls for tender under direct management of the European Commission.

## WORK WITH US

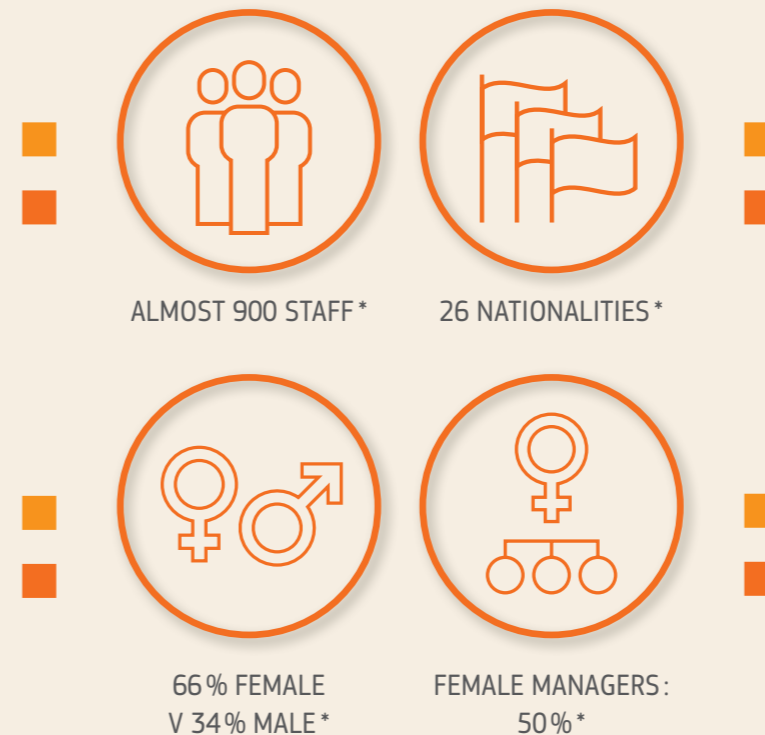
### CAREERS AT REA

Our agency relies on highly qualified, dynamic colleagues with multicultural backgrounds, which even include former MSCA fellows! We are the Commission's largest executive agency, but have been frequently recognised for our stimulating, collaborative atmosphere and excellent customer service. Harnessing our distinctive strengths and creative energy, we have one common vision: to deliver a significant and sustainable societal impact.

Over the coming years, we seek to attract additional talented, motivated colleagues with the right qualifications and expertise. We also offer various inspiring and career-enriching traineeship opportunities, as part of the Commission's Blue Book traineeship scheme.

#### Interested in joining us?

Find out more here.



\* Reference period: December 2022

## WORK AS AN EVALUATOR

REA is looking for experts to help evaluate funding proposals and review pioneering projects. Subject-matter experts from various fields – from public authorities and civil society organisations to universities, businesses and research organisations – are invited to register in the European Commission's experts database.



FROM IDEA TO ACTION  
**BE PART OF THE JOURNEY**

BECOME AN EVALUATOR  
**OF EU RESEARCH  
PROJECTS**

Register in the European Commission's experts' database today



Access the online brochure:



## STAY IN TOUCH

Subscribe to our newsletter (see link on our website's footer) to receive information on funding opportunities, guidance for projects, project breakthroughs, events, and much more!



[rea.ec.europa.eu](https://rea.ec.europa.eu)



+32 22991111



@REA\_Research

@EUgreenresearch



REA on LinkedIn

**European Research Executive Agency**

1049 Bruxelles / Brussel  
BELGIQUE / BELGIË



Publications Office  
of the European Union