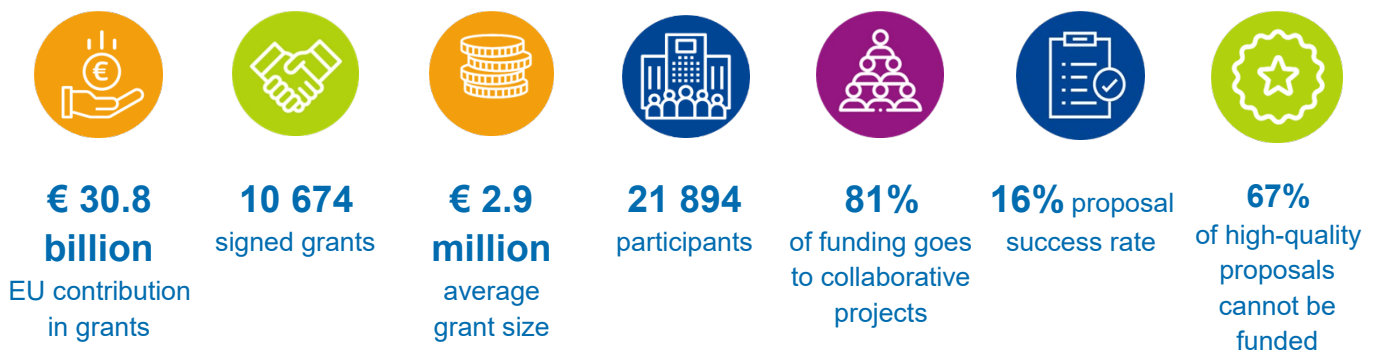




May 2024

## Horizon Europe Implementation

### Key Figures 2021 – 2023



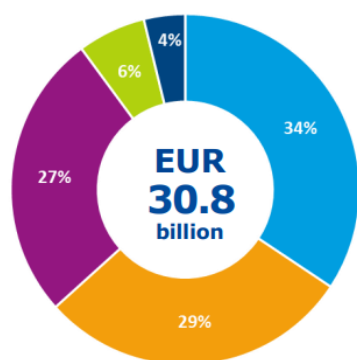
### Three years of Horizon Europe

Horizon Europe was launched in April 2021 with a total budget of **EUR 95.5 billion**, including **EUR 5.4 billion** from NextGenerationEU to support the green and digital recovery from the pandemic. By the end of 2023, 45% of the budget had been committed and 23% of the payments made.

### Higher education establishments are the main beneficiaries, but more than 7474 SMEs and a considerable share of newcomers joined the programme

Between 2021 and 2023, **10 674 grants** had been signed, requesting **EUR 30.8 billion** in EU contribution.

Higher education establishments received the largest contribution (EUR 10.5 billion), followed by private for-profit entities (EUR 8.9 billion) and research organisations (EUR 8.2 billion). The share of funding by type of organisation is similar to Horizon 2020.



**7474 SMEs received a fifth of EU funding** in Horizon Europe projects, or EUR 6.6 billion. Each SME joined on average 1.9 projects. Pillar 2 involves three quarters of all SME participants, and half of all EU contribution for SMEs, with EUR 3.5 billion allocated to them. When including the EIC Fund in Pillar 3, it accounts for 40% of all EU contributions to SMEs, with the EIC contributing EUR 1.3 billion.

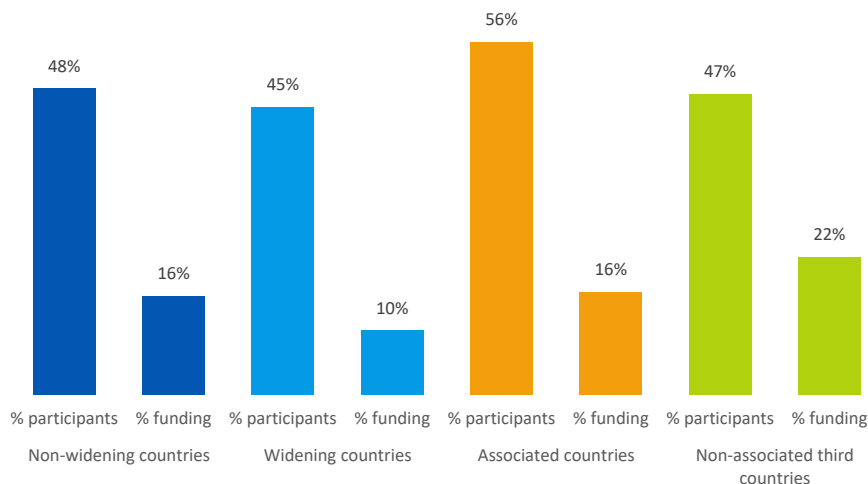
**EU beneficiaries** have signed grants worth **EUR 28.3 billion**, or 92% of all grants. Beneficiaries from Widening Member States have signed grants worth EUR 4.2 billion, or 15% of the grants allocated to EU beneficiaries – up from 9% in Horizon 2020 for the same countries.<sup>1</sup> On average, beneficiaries from Member States have received EUR 30 052 from Horizon Europe per million Euro spent on R&D domestically.<sup>2</sup> Beneficiaries from Widening Member States have received, on average, EUR 51 134, while those from Non-widening Member States have received EUR 28 044.

### The number of new participants to the programme keeps increasing

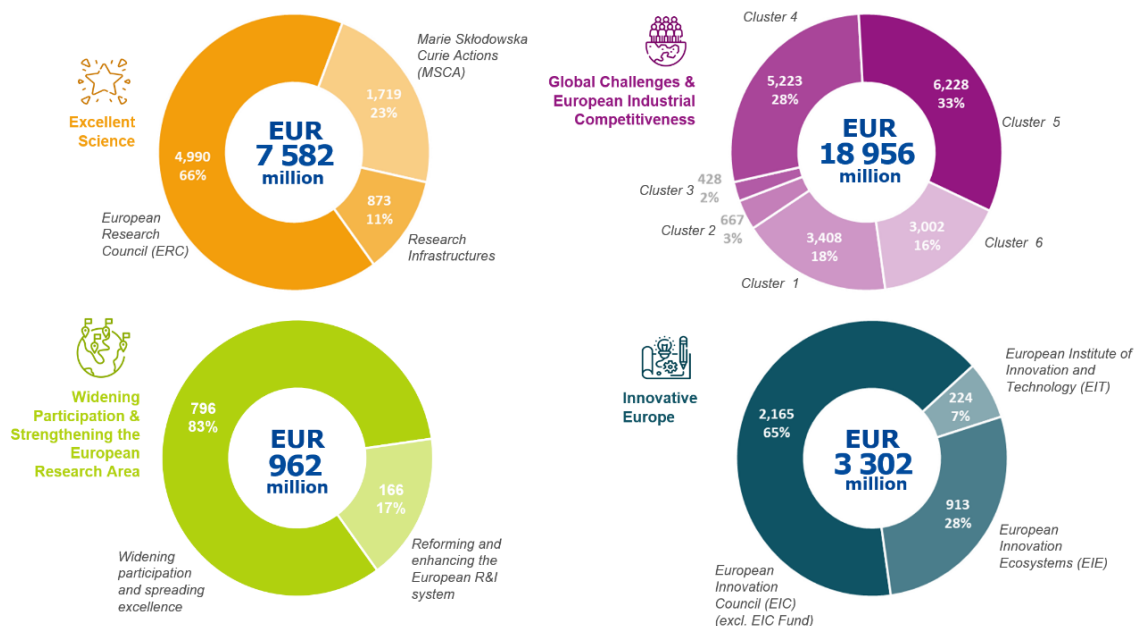
Newcomers to the programme represent today 47% of all participants in grants, compared to 36% a year ago.

**10 425 newcomers** have received EUR 4.4 billion in EU contribution, of which EUR 0.8 billion from the EIC Fund.

More than half of private for-profit participants and just under half of public bodies are newcomers.



### More collaborative projects and larger grants



Eight out of every 10 euros went to collaborative projects, an increase from 78% in Horizon 2020. The **average grant size is around EUR 2.9 million**, 61% higher than in Horizon 2020. The largest share of funding has been allocated to Pillar 2 – Global challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness (61%), of which 60% was allocated to the climate and digital clusters of activities. The Excellent Science pillar has granted 25% of the funding, mainly to the European Research Council. The other two pillars share the remaining 14% of funding through grants.

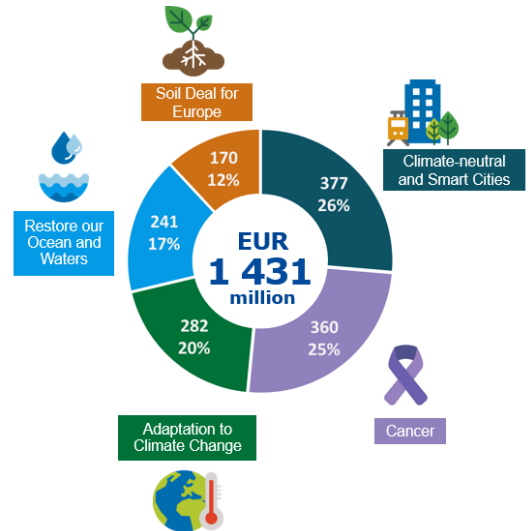
<sup>1</sup> Although the Widening Member States list has changed from Horizon 2020 to Horizon Europe, we refer to the latter for comparison across the two programmes. They are Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia.

<sup>2</sup> Gross domestic expenditure on R&D (GERD) at national and regional level.

## EU Missions and Joint Undertakings on their way to tackle global challenges

Five EU Missions aim to provide concrete solutions to the greatest challenges Europe is facing and to directly support EU priorities. Horizon Europe will provide initial funding of up to EUR 1.9 billion for the first three years. By the end of 2023, 39 mission calls had been evaluated and 173 grants had been signed for a total of **EUR 1.43 billion**. Of the 2386 beneficiaries, 88% are from Member States, 33% of which from Widening countries. Moreover, 664 SMEs participate in mission projects and receive almost EUR 240 million.

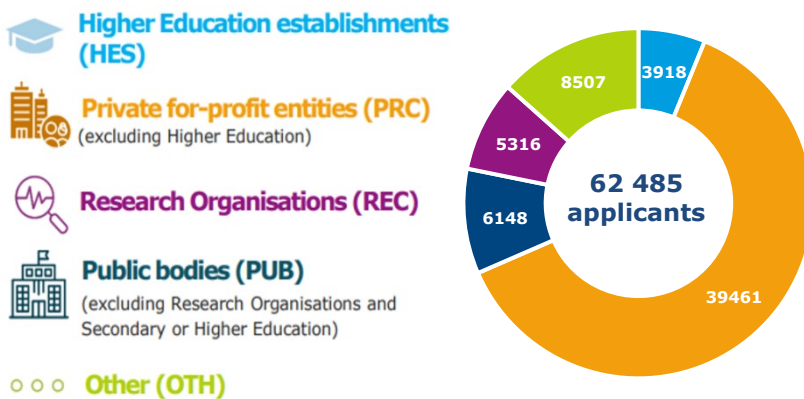
By the end of 2023, 345 grants were signed through Joint Undertakings. 3000 organisations, 30% of which are SMEs, have received **EUR 2.9 billion** in EU funding. 86% of the funds are dedicated to climate and digital transition initiatives.



## Horizon Europe contributes to gender equality

Women represent 37% of all researchers (51 204) in Horizon Europe projects. Moreover, they make up 45% of the over 54 000 researchers benefitting from upskilling activities. They also represent 43.6% of expert evaluators and 48.7% of the persons appointed to expert groups.

## The programme raised plenty of interest with many high-quality applications and higher success rates, but 7 out of 10 high-quality proposals still cannot be funded

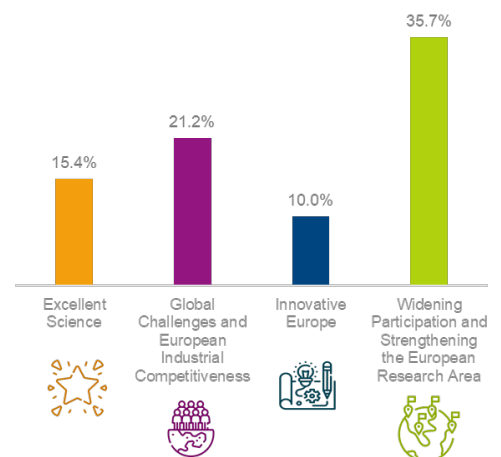


The programme has been very attractive, receiving **68 167 eligible proposals** to 382 fully evaluated calls.

There were **62 485 applicants** to the programme. On average, each is involved in five proposals. Most applicants are private for-profit entities (39 461) and they have applied on average 3 times. Higher education applicants

comprise 3918 entities, each being involved in 31 proposals, on average. Each research organisation has applied, on average, 12 times.

With its strong focus on mono-beneficiary grants, the Excellent Science pillar attracted the majority of proposals (60%). In terms of funding, the “Global challenges and Industrial Challenges” pillar registered 50% of the requested EU contribution.

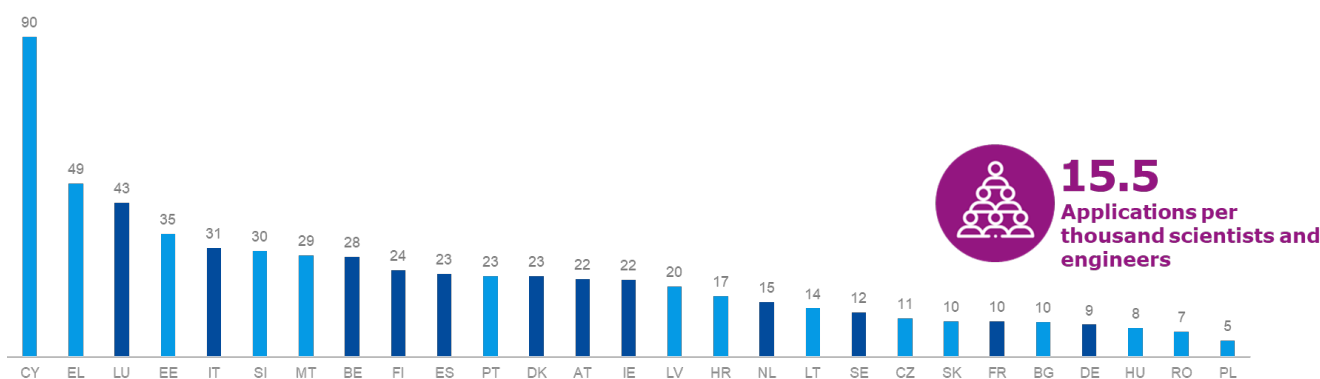


The **average proposal success rate has increased** to 16% in Horizon Europe from 12% in Horizon 2020. Success rates vary by pillar, but there are no large differences between country groups. The quality of proposals has also improved compared to Horizon 2020, 49% of them being assessed as high quality by external experts, compared to 46% in Horizon 2020. Only 33% of the high-quality proposals could be funded with the available budget. Even if this has improved from Horizon 2020 (25%), an **additional €55 billion** would have been needed to fund them all. To promote support through other means at national or regional level, 4622 high-quality unfunded proposals have received Seal of Excellence certificates.

## A wide geographical coverage and higher success rates than in Horizon 2020

The programme generated interest from **187 countries**. Half of the Member State applications to Horizon Europe are from organisations located in four countries, which also have the largest population of scientists and engineers in the EU and the highest national R&D expenditure – Spain, Italy, Germany, and France. These four and the Netherlands also share more than half of the EU contribution, including grants and equity investments from the EIC Fund.

Entities located in the 15 Widening Member States applied less than the other Member States and represent 19% of all applications and 23% of EU Member State applications. However, this is to be expected considering the former are home to 26% of the EU population of scientists and engineers.



Associated countries represent 6% of applications (mostly Norway, Turkey, Israel, and Serbia), while non-associated third countries represent 12%. Most third-country applications were from the United Kingdom, even if their share has decreased since Horizon 2020 (from 10% to 6%).

**Application success rates** average 21.6% and are similar throughout the different country groups. They are higher for organisations based in Non-widening Member States (22.5%) than Widening Member States (19.6%), and slightly lower for organisations based in Associated Countries (18.9%). Widening Member States have substantially increased their success rates from Horizon 2020 (13.5%), as did the other EU Member States (16%).

