

In and Outs of Research Grants

EAAE Masterclass

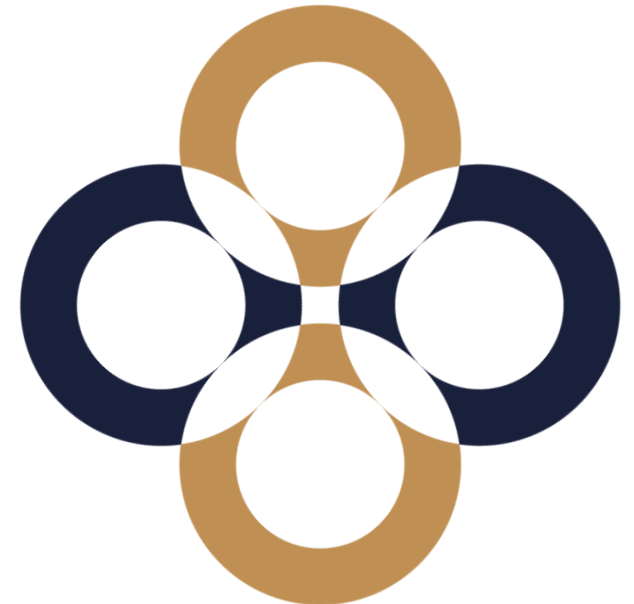
20 March 2025

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Overview

1. Introduction & Benefits of Grants
2. The European Research Funding Landscape
3. Collaborative grants: the application process & its follow-up: do's and don'ts
4. Excellence science grants in different career stages (MSCA, ERC, COST)
5. Building up your grant strategy: How to get started?
6. Where to find open calls & more information?
7. Conclusions

Grants at Corvinus University of Budapest



Centre for Grants and Projects:

- team of 23 research managers
- portfolio: **100+ national and international projects with a total value of €27 million**
- Pre- and post-award grant management
- Financial management & compliance
- Science communication
- Trainings & events for researchers
- Liaison office in Brussels

Why should you apply for grants?



How can grants benefit organisations?



Securing funding



Creating societal and economic impact



More scientific results



Network building & benchmarking



Institutional development

How can grants benefit researchers?



Funding opportunities in Europe

Types of funding:

Grants, Tenders, Prizes, Internships, Scholarships, Mobilities...

According to the donors:

- Institutional resources
- Domestic / national grants
- Bilateral grants
- Regional grants (e.g. IVF, Interreg, Swiss)
- European grants (shared, direct and indirect management programs)
- Grants offered by Private Funds (foundations, companies)
- Grants offered by International Organisations

Types of EU programmes

- **Direct management: 20% of programmes are directly managed by the EU and its executive agencies**

European funding programmes, e.g.
ERASMUS Plus Programme (EPLUS)
Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE)
Creative Europe (CREA)
Horizon Europe, etc.

- **Shared management: 70% of EU funding is jointly managed by the EC & Member States' agencies**

Structural & Investment funds, e.g.
European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)
European Social Fund (ESF)
Common Agricultural Policy Funds
Cohesion Fund (CF), etc.

- **Indirect management: 10% of EU funding programs are partly or fully implemented with the support of national authorities or international organisations**

The majority of the EU budget allocated to humanitarian aid and international development, is implemented in this set-up.



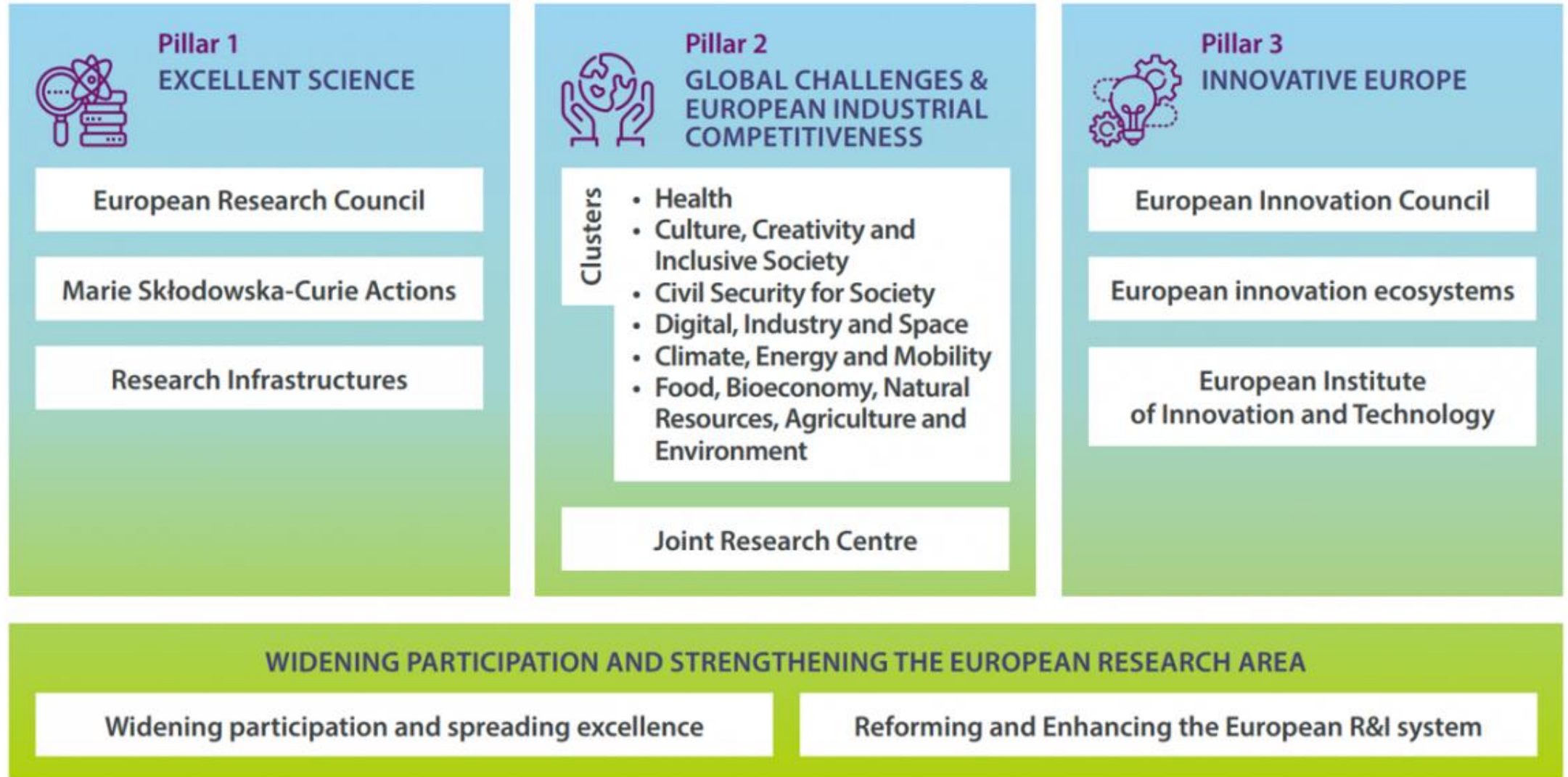
Horizon Europe

2021-2027



- The largest research & innovation funding programme: **€95.5 billion**
- 7-year periods (Framework Programs)
 - FP8: **Horizon 2020 (2014-2020)** 35 000 projects (over 1 million applications from 177 countries), 4000 patents, contribution to over 276 000 peer-reviewed publications, mobility to 50 000 researchers
 - FP9: **Horizon Europe (2021-2027)**
 - FP10: now under preparation **(2028-2034)**
- Great diversity of grants and topics (individual, collaborative, capacity building...)
- Bottom-up & top-down

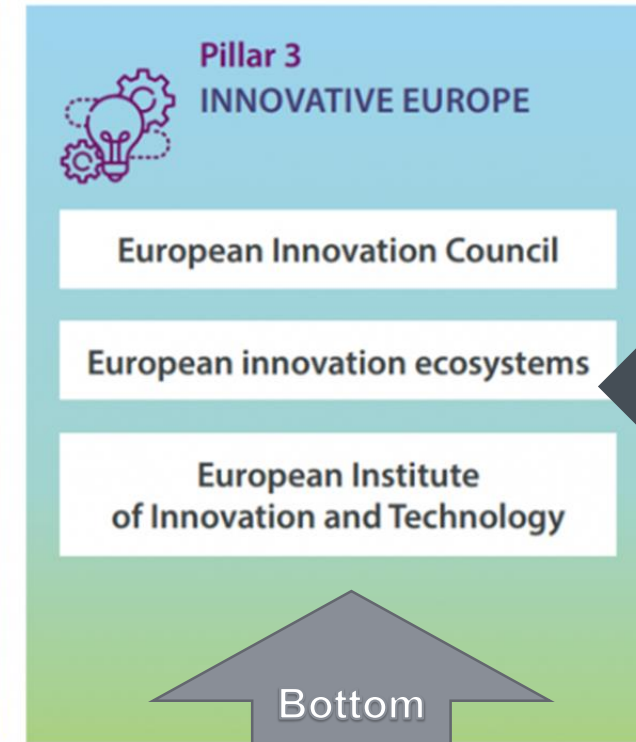
Horizon Europe landscape



EU development policies



Researcher's idea



Innovation idea



Bottom up

individual

collaborative

collaborative

collaborative

Pillar 2: Multiactor, collaborative projects

Top-down projects: min. 3 member/associated countries, larger consortia (10+/20+), 3-5 years for implementation, larger budgets of some million euros

Research & Innovation Action (RIA)

Objectives:
development of new knowledge +
product, service, testing
of methods

Innovation Action (IA)

Objectives:
new product, service, testing
of methods, business plan

Coordination & Support Action (CSA)

Objectives: networking, coordi-
nation, dissemination, dialogue
with decision makers, planning &
development of ecosystems

Pillar 2:

Where to find topics related to Agricultural Economics?

- **Cluster 6: Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment** ([Article & Calls in 2025](#)) Publication date: 6 May, Submission date: 4, 17, 24 September 2025
 - Fair, healthy, and environment-friendly food systems from primary production to consumption (**FARM2FORK**)
 - Circular economy and bioeconomy sectors
 - Biodiversity and ecosystem services (**for agriculture-related sustainability**)
 - Clean environment and zero pollution (**for agricultural sustainability and resource management**)
 - Land, ocean, and water for climate action (**for climate-smart agricultural policies**)
 - Innovative governance, environmental observations and digital solutions in support of the Green Deal
- **Cluster 2:** Culture, Creativity, and Inclusive Society (**For rural development, governance, and economic policy in agriculture**)
- **Cluster 4:** Digital, Industry, and Space (**digitalization in agriculture, precision farming, or AI-driven food economy models**)
- **Cluster 5:** Climate, Energy and Mobility (**Relevant for agricultural resilience in climate transition and energy-efficient farming**)
- **EU Missions:** Adaptation to Climate Change, A Soil Deal for Europe, Climate neutral Smart Cities ([Draft calls for 2025](#))

EU Partnerships

- **Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking** ([Info day](#) on 3 April 2025)
- **Biodiversa+ Partnership:** research on biodiversity with an impact for policy and society ([LINK](#))
- **Agroecology Partnership:** European Partnership on accelerating farming systems transition through agroecology Living Labs and Research Infrastructure ([LINK](#))
- **European Partnership for Agriculture of Data:** to boost sustainable agriculture and strengthen policy evaluation by leveraging Earth Observation and other data with advanced technologies

Preparation for collaborative projects

12 months

Development of relevant EU policies, priorities

- Participating in the EU Decision Making Process
- Lobbying, proposing topics for proposals (via NCPs, experts)
- In case of consortium leading ambition: preparing the concept, contacting core partners

9 months

Work programmes: Draft call for proposals

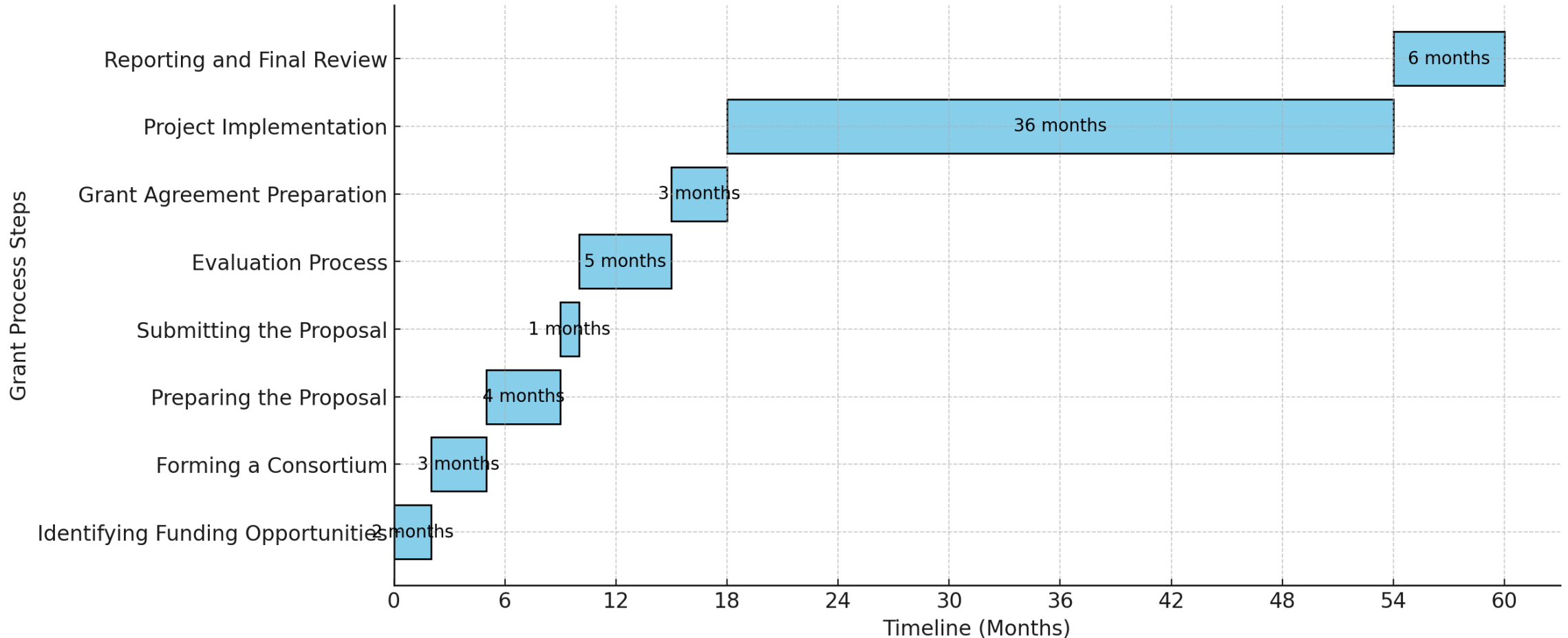
- Identifying opportunities, screening proposal ideas
- In case of consortium leading role: selecting partners, developing the proposal
- For WP leading position, time to find the right consortium

4 months

Call for proposals open for submission

- Most consortia are set up, some task leading roles might be av.
- Budget development
- Legal, financial eligibility check
- Finalization (and pre-review) of the proposal

Horizon Europe Grant Timeline



Proposal writing process



Do's and don'ts in the Application Process



- ✓ Identify the right call
- ✓ Check eligibility, scope, requirements
- ✓ Develop a strong concept
- ✓ Get a proposal manager / grant writer
- ✓ Engage the right partners, define their roles, check their PIC
- ✓ Manage proposal writing process
- ✓ Get friendly reviews
- ✓ Submit your proposal on time



- ✗ Ignore the call text, address a different topic
- ✗ Recycle old proposals
- ✗ Use excessive technical jargon & buzzwords
- ✗ Only focus on excellence, neglect impact and implementation
- ✗ Find a long and complicated title
- ✗ Form a weak consortium
- ✗ Submit at the last minute

Implementation Process

Evaluation:

- **Eligibility check:** for compliance with formal criteria
- **Independent Expert Review:** on Excellence, Impact, and Implementation – 5 points each
- **Consensus Meeting:** Reviewers agree on final scores
- **Panel Review:** Proposals are ranked, and final funding decisions are made

Grant Agreement Preparation (GAP):

- Minor adjustments to the workplan
- Signing the Grant Agreement (and preparation of a Consortium Agreement)

Project Implementation:

- Set up project governance & management
- Kick-off meeting, Steering Group Meetings, WP meetings, Annual Project Board Meetings
- Submit Periodic reports every 18–24 months
- Ensure dissemination and exploitation of results

Reporting and Final Review:

- Final report 60 days after the closure of the project
- Certificate on Financial Statement (above 430K €), audit, financial checks

Do's and don'ts in the Implementation Phase

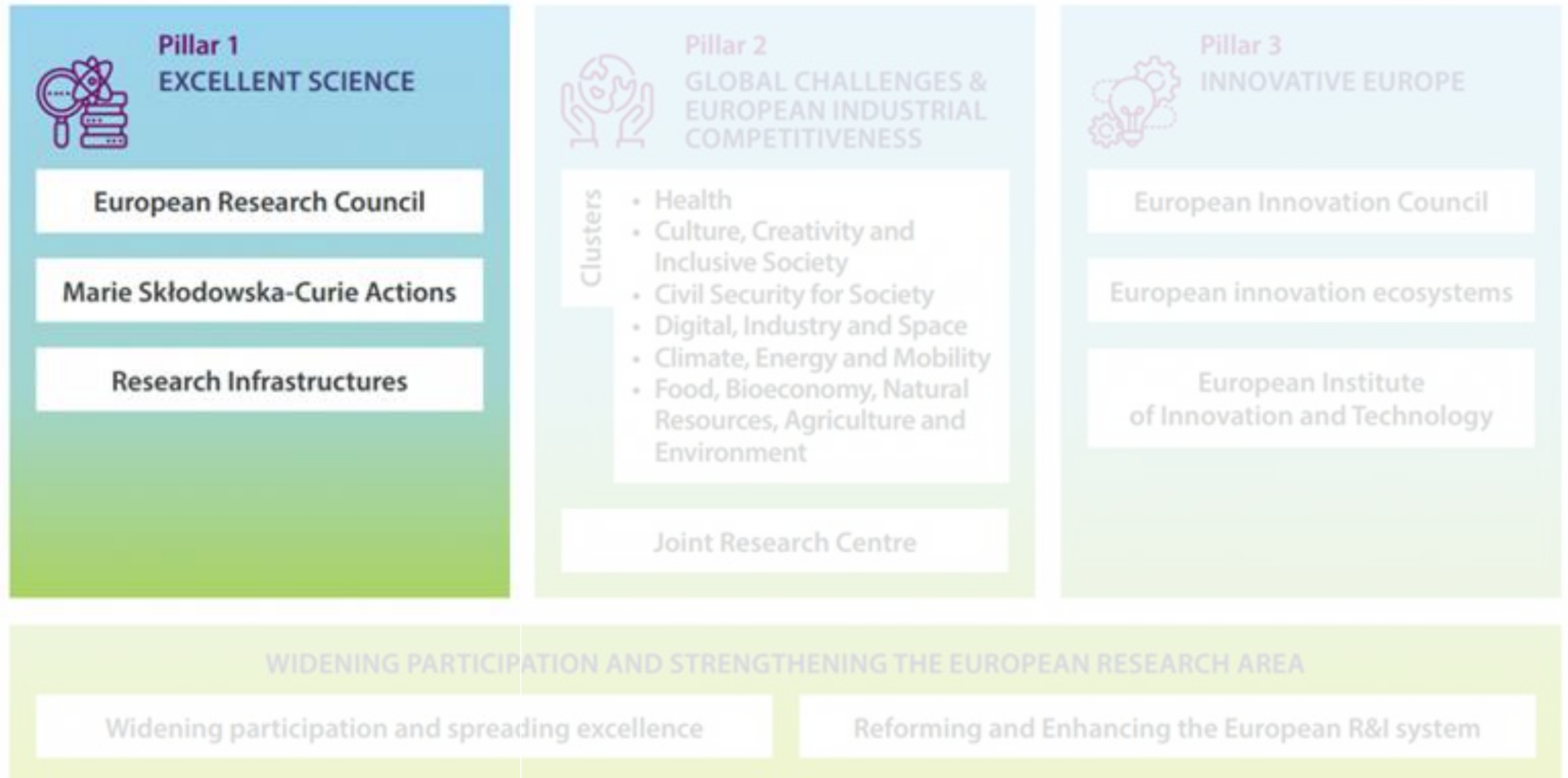


- ✓ Be reliable: this work will serve as a reference for your future work
- ✓ Adhere to Agreements
- ✓ Submit deliverables and reports on time
- ✓ Project Management: Assign clear roles, hold regular meetings, track progress
- ✓ Keep documentation, adhere to cost eligibility rules
- ✓ Dissemination & Exploitation Plan, ensure Open Access
- ✓ Ethics and Data Protection

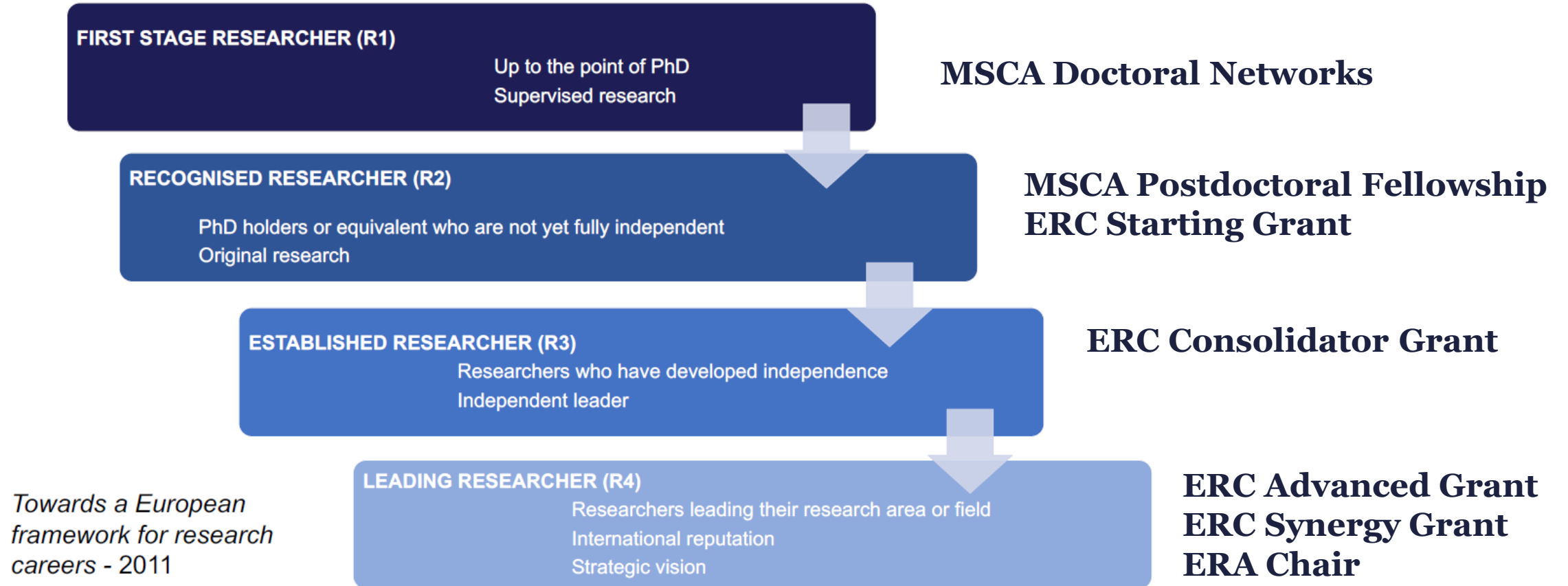


- ✗ Poor communication → inefficiencies & conflicts
- ✗ Different person turns up at each meeting
- ✗ Absorbing information without contributing
- ✗ „Doing it your way”: major changes from the Work Plan without prior EC approval
- ✗ No grant manager involvement
- ✗ Ineligible costs, poor documentation
- ✗ Focusing only on the scientific tasks, ignoring Dissemination & Impact

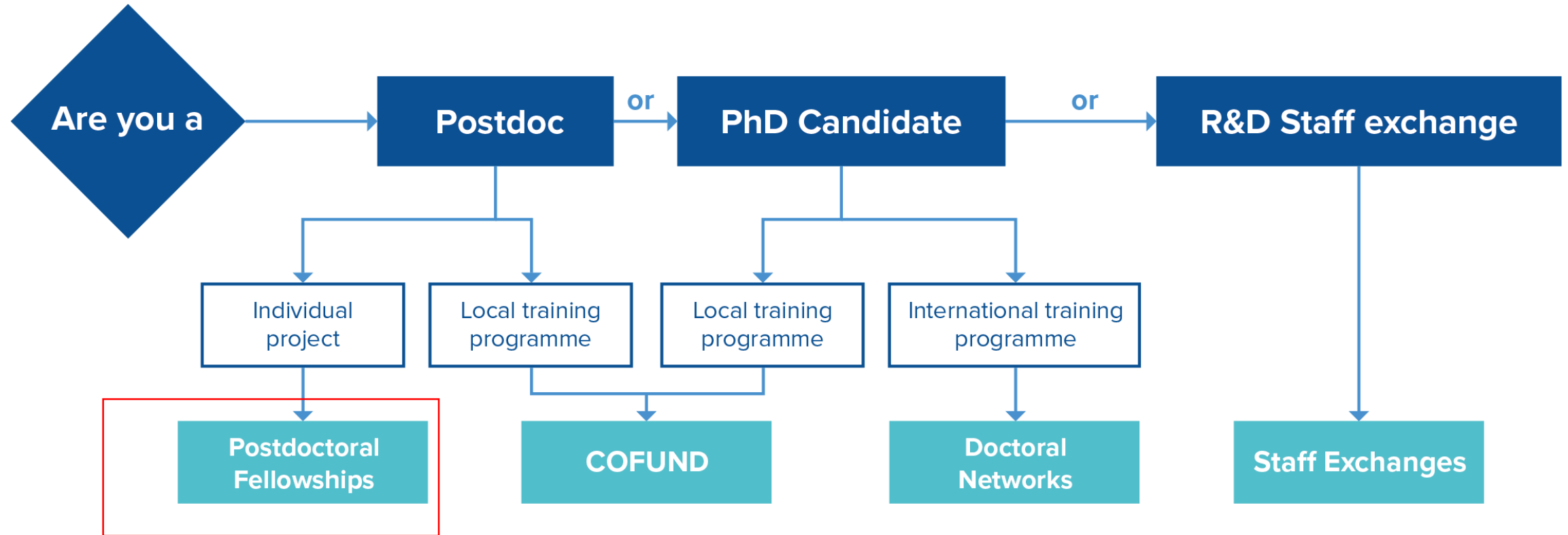
Excellent science, ground-breaking R&I



Excellent science grants at different career stages



Marie Skłodowska-Curie (MSCA) Actions



https://rea.ec.europa.eu/funding-and-grants/horizon-europe-marie-sklodowska-curie-actions_en

<https://marie-sklodowska-curie-actions.ec.europa.eu/actions/how-to-apply>

<https://marie-sklodowska-curie-actions.ec.europa.eu/actions/postdoctoral-fellowships>

<https://marie-sklodowska-curie-actions.ec.europa.eu/actions/doctoral-networks>

https://rea.ec.europa.eu/funding-and-grants/horizon-europe-marie-sklodowska-curie-actions/horizon-europe-msca-how-apply_en#postdoctoral-fellowships--call-2023

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/horizon-msca-2024-pf-01-01?keywords=MSCA%20postdoctoral>

Types of MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowship

European Postdoctoral Fellowships

- open to **researchers moving within Europe or coming to Europe from another part of the world**
- take place in an **EU Member State or HE Associated Country** and can last **between 1 and 2 years**
- researchers of **any nationality** can apply

Global Postdoctoral Fellowships

- mobility of researchers **outside Europe**
- it lasts **between 2 to 3 years**: the **first 1 to 2 years** will be spent in a **non-associated Third Country**, followed by a mandatory return phase of **1 year** to an organisation based **in an EU Member State or HE Associated Country**.
- Only **nationals or long-term residents of the EU Member States or HE Associated Countries** can apply.

How to apply?

Application process:

- find a host organisation
- develop an application jointly with your chosen host organisation
- submit your application to an open funding call on the Funding & Tenders Portal

Where can you find a host organisation?

- [check the list of hosting offers \(expressions of interest\) published on Euraxess](#) and other job portals from research institutions interested in supporting your application
- Offers are often in very concrete fields of research proposed by the host organisation. In many cases, you will be in contact with a supervisor to develop your application. You will need to check carefully the requirements to make sure you are eligible to apply.

European Research Council (ERC) Grants



**Very prestigious & highly competitive grants
to fund the best ideas and best researchers**

Starting Grant	Consolidator Grant	Advanced Grant
early career researchers 2-7 years after PhD 1,5+1 million € 5 years	excellent researchers 7-12 years after PhD 2+1 million € 5 years	established researchers 2,5+1 million € 5 years
Proof-of-Concept Grant	Synergy Grant	Other opportunities
for ERC grant holders to market their research 150 000 € for 1,5 years	2-4 PIs in joint research project 10 + 4 million € for 6 years	mentoring, visiting fellowships, etc.

ERC Grants: <https://erc.europa.eu/homepage> & <https://erc.easme-web.eu/>

How to get started?



How to get started?

Set your short/long term goals

- Find the field where you are good at, be committed and ambitious
- Identify your desired place in the international funding landscape

Join a Research Team

- Find mentor(s)
- Support senior researchers in their international collaborative projects
- Get the know-how, project references and participate in relevant publications
- Help increasing the visibility of your research team & your scientific portfolio

Choose the type of grants & role you aim for

- Domestic / International grants;
- Individual, excellence science grants / Collaborative grants;
- Task leader role / Later on... Work Package leader/ Coordinator role
- Later on... get engaged as an EU grant proposal evaluator

Collect information

- Check the [Funding and Tenders Portal](#)
- Check the relevant Horizon Europe [Work Programs](#)
- Get to know previously funded projects via [CORDIS](#), contact leading research teams

Build your international network & look for collaboration

Use your existing networks: join a collaboration by invitation or by proactive search

- ➡ Prepare an **expression of interest** (one pager of value proposition & research ideas regarding a specific call)



Tools to expand your network:

- ➡ Join further international **professional networks** and organisations
- ➡ Follow leading scientists in your field through **social media**
- ➡ Join [COST Actions](#) relevant to your field
- ➡ Participate in **mobilities**
- ➡ Engage in international **internships & traineeships** (e.g. [Blue Book traineeship](#) or Scientific traineeship at the EC)

Matchmaking Platforms:

- ➡ [EU Research and Innovation Community Platform](#) (EU Info Days & brokerage events)
- ➡ Net4Society - Brokerage events
- ➡ NCP Networks, Universities Networks, [Crowdhelix](#)

Brokerage events

IN CLUSTER 6:

Transforming Our Future: Sustainability and beyond - for a Greener Planet!
Connect, Pitch & Collaborate

- **Date & Venue: April 29-30, 2025**, Brussels, Belgium
- The aim of the event is to build a platform for everyone to share ideas in **biodiversity, bioeconomy, food, mission soil, land, ocean and water for climate action** and find suitable partners for future consortia.
- **Registration:** [LINK](#)

IN CLUSTER 4:

Circular Economy and Materials Matchmaking Event

- **Date & Venue: 29-30 April 2025, Barcelona, Spain** (DFactory Barcelona, Leitat Technological Center)
- Crowdhelix' event will bring together leading researchers, business leaders and industry experts so that they can build innovative consortia that respond to Horizon Europe's 2025 pillar II cluster 4 calls.
- **Registration:** [LINK](#)

COST Actions



COST - European Cooperation in Science and Technology (www.cost.eu)

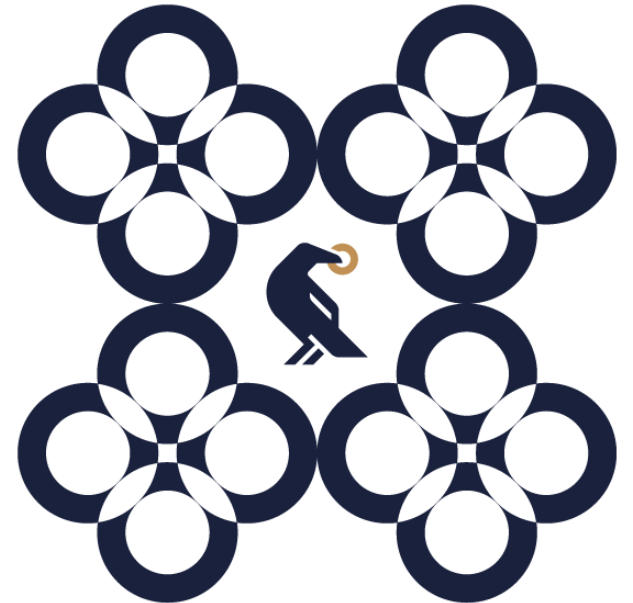
Excellent opportunity to **build your international professional network**.
Approx. 300 researcher networks – you can join them in the first 3 years.

Examples:

- **FoodWaStop** COST Action CA22134 ([LINK](#))
- **Pan-European Network of Green Deal Agriculture and Forestry Earth Observation Science** (PANGEOS - CA22136) ([LINK](#))
- **Network for Evidence Synthesis in The Agri-Food Sector** ([LINK](#))

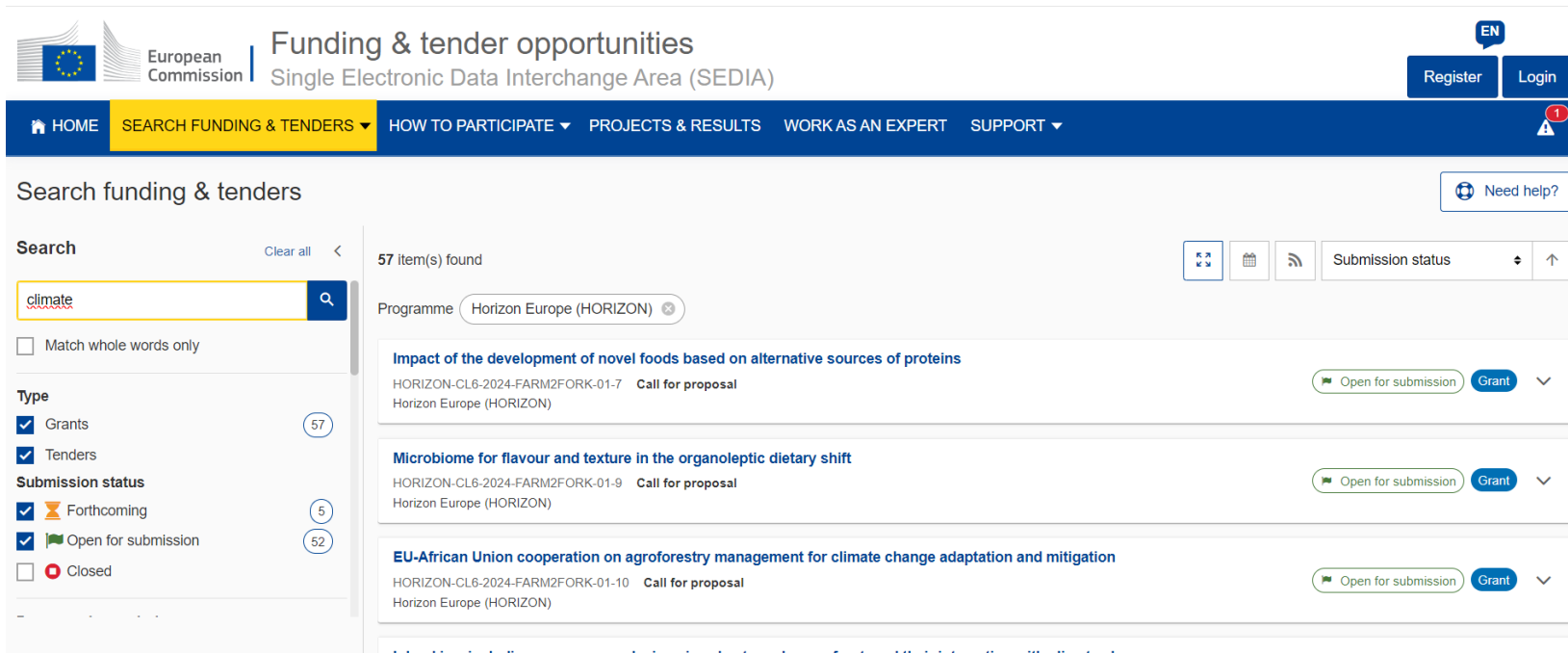
Check out this short [Video](#)!

Where to find open calls for proposals & useful resources?



EU Funding and Tenders Portal

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/home>



The screenshot shows the EU Funding & tender opportunities portal. The header includes the European Commission logo and the text 'Funding & tender opportunities Single Electronic Data Interchange Area (SEDIA)'. Navigation links include HOME, SEARCH FUNDING & TENDERS (highlighted), HOW TO PARTICIPATE, PROJECTS & RESULTS, WORK AS AN EXPERT, and SUPPORT. A language selector (EN) and buttons for Register and Login are in the top right. The main content area is titled 'Search funding & tenders' and shows a search for 'climate' with 57 results found. The results are filtered by 'Horizon Europe (HORIZON)'. Three specific funding opportunities are listed:

- Impact of the development of novel foods based on alternative sources of proteins**
HORIZON-CL6-2024-FARM2FORK-01-7 Call for proposal
Horizon Europe (HORIZON) [Open for submission] [Grant]
- Microbiome for flavour and texture in the organoleptic dietary shift**
HORIZON-CL6-2024-FARM2FORK-01-9 Call for proposal
Horizon Europe (HORIZON) [Open for submission] [Grant]
- EU-African Union cooperation on agroforestry management for climate change adaptation and mitigation**
HORIZON-CL6-2024-FARM2FORK-01-10 Call for proposal
Horizon Europe (HORIZON) [Open for submission] [Grant]

The left sidebar contains filters for Search (Clear all), Type (Grants, Tenders), and Submission status (Forthcoming, Open for submission, Closed).

- 40+ direct EU programs
- calls for proposals
- work programs
- proposal templates
- evaluation sheets
- projects & results
- register as an expert
- statistics

Horizon Dashboard

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/horizon-dashboard>

- Statistics per countries, types of organisations, previous projects
- Your organisation's profile and your project partners' profile (by PIC number)
- Overview on the organisations your university has worked with (for Corvinus see the map below: 150+ partner organisations in Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe projects)



CORDIS – database of all funded EU projects

<https://cordis.europa.eu/projects/en>

- What has been funded in your scientific field? Browse all R&I EU projects since the 1980s.
- Data includes participants, results, reports, deliverables and links to open-access publications.
- Example: Trade4SD project, coordinated by Corvinus (trade4sd.eu)



European
Commission

[Log in](#) [English](#)

Search

CORDIS - EU research results

[Home](#) [Thematic Packs](#) [Projects & Results](#) [Videos & Podcasts](#) [News](#) [Datalab](#) [Search](#)

HORIZON
2020

Fostering the positive linkages between trade and sustainable development

[Fact Sheet](#) [Reporting](#) [Results](#)

Project description

[DE](#) [EN](#) [ES](#) [FR](#) [IT](#) [PL](#)

Planting the seeds for a more sustainability-oriented agricultural trade policy

What is the relationship between international trade and sustainable farming practices? According to the EU-funded TRADE4SD project, trade can yield positive results if the policies that define the rules are framed in a way to promote access to markets, fair prices and standards of living for farmers and ensuring sustainable farming

Project Information

TRADE4SD
Grant agreement ID: 101000551



DOI
[10.3030/101000551](https://doi.org/10.3030/101000551)

EC signature date

ResearchComp:

Tool to assess and develop researchers' transferable skills and foster career development

([LINK](#))

THE EUROPEAN COMPETENCE FRAMEWORK FOR RESEARCHERS



Online learning resources on EU Grants

- EC [webinars](#), [events](#) and [trainings](#)
- PM2 project management methodology developed by the EC ([guide](#))
- foRMAtion [online learning platform](#) & self-assessment tool providing a certificate in research management
- “[The Grant](#)” podcast series, thematic expert interviews on grant writing and management (av. via spotify as well)
- Articles on how to be successful in Horizon Europe projects by [Europa Media](#), [Enspire Science](#), etc.

Conclusions:



- ✓ Explore the **R&I funding system** and identify what is in it for you
- ✓ **Plan the next steps:** different funding schemes require different preparations
- ✓ Seek **collaboration and interdisciplinarity**
- ✓ Develop **transversal research skills** (e.g. how to engage, plan your impact, open science, research data management, ethics, gender equality)
- ✓ Make your scientific work **visible**
- ✓ Leverage support from your university's **research management team**
- ✓ Failure is part of **SUCCESS... Resubmit until FUNDED!**
- ✓ Treat every collaborative grant as a **reference for future work.**



**Thank you for
your attention!**

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