



#HorizonEU

June 2021



*"Global challenges require global solutions. Multilateral research and innovation initiatives are the most effective way to tackle the challenges facing our world. Working together reduces the global burden, pools resources and achieves greater impact. This is why Horizon Europe is open to researchers and innovators from across the globe while ensuring reciprocity and level playing field."*

**Mariya Gabriel** Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth

## A GLOBAL APPROACH TO RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Promoting European research and innovation (R&I) values and principles allows the EU to maintain its global leadership in science and to secure its industrial sovereignty.

### Why is it important for Europe to cooperate internationally in R&I?

#### KNOWLEDGE SHARING AND TALENT POOLING

Cooperation with leading scientists, researchers, innovators and knowledge-intensive companies around the world, attracts talents to Europe and creates new market opportunities. Pooling investments and resources provides access to knowledge, expertise, markets and value chains that are developing outside the EU and enables sharing infrastructures and costs for research.

#### GLOBAL PROJECTS FOR GLOBAL CHALLENGES

International cooperation in research and innovation tackles global challenges (e.g. climate change, infectious diseases) more effectively. It also delivers on the common global commitments including the Sustainable Development Goals.

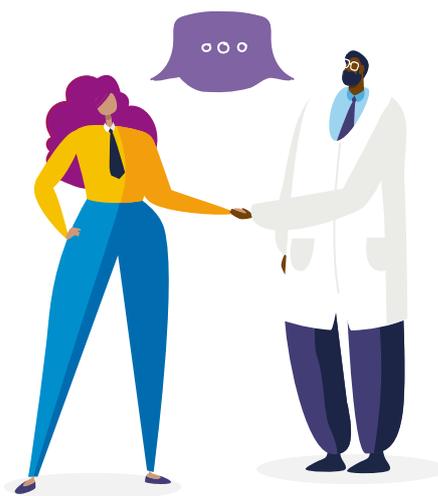
#### GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS FOR GLOBAL POLICIES

Global research and innovation builds on co-creation with international partner countries; agreements on shared policy objectives; implementation of identified solutions in the EU and partner countries, and increases the role of science in shaping global policies.



## How will international cooperation be streamlined in Horizon Europe?

Horizon Europe is one of the main tools to implement Europe's strategy for international cooperation: the [Global Approach to research and innovation](#). It is **open to researchers and innovators from around the globe** who are encouraged to team up with EU partners in preparing proposals. It will include dedicated actions to support and strengthen cooperation through multilateral initiatives in areas such as **clean and renewable energy, ocean research, earth observation, or infectious diseases**. It will also include targeted actions with key third-country partners, including the development of [Africa Initiative](#) that will draw on topics across the six clusters of Pillar II.



### General openness to international participation

#### For standard (cooperative) research projects

Minimum 3 participants from different EU Member States or Associated Countries, with at least one of them from an EU Member State. In addition, entities from any country in the world may participate under certain conditions.

#### For actions aimed at individuals (e.g.: European Research Council; Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions)

Researchers of any nationality may apply.

### Horizon Europe will encourage international participations in different ways such as:

- Topics encouraging or requiring international cooperation
- Twinning activities with entities from non-associated third countries
- Topics contributing to the implementation of multilateral or bilateral agreements or initiatives

The openness of Horizon Europe to international cooperation will be balanced with the need to safeguard EU interests in strategic areas, in particular to promote the EU's strategic autonomy and its technological leadership and competitiveness where necessary.

### Eligibility for EU funding in Horizon Europe:

- EU Member States
- Associated countries
- International European research organisations
- Low to middle income countries
- Exceptionally other countries if they are identified in the Work Programme, or their participation is essential for implementing the action.



#### INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN NUMBERS (in Horizon 2020)

There were **more than 6,000 participations** from non-associated third countries

..... entities from non-associated third countries have contributed with **more than €500 million** to Horizon 2020 projects

## Which countries will be associated to Horizon Europe?

Association to Horizon Europe is the closest form of cooperation with non-EU countries, which allows entities of Associated Countries to participate in programme actions on equal terms with entities of EU Member States. It is offered not only to EU neighbouring countries, but to any country in the world with a strong R&I capacity that share common values.

### Horizon Europe sets up four categories of countries eligible for association:



1. Countries of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), which are members of the European Economic Area (EEA);
2. Acceding Countries, Candidate Countries and potential Candidate Countries;
3. European Neighbourhood Policy countries (Eastern Partnership – Southern Neighbourhood);
4. Other third countries and territories that fulfil a set of criteria related to their economic and political system and their R&I system (most notably: to have a strong science, technology and innovation capacity; a rules-based open market economy, including protection of IPR, respect of human rights, democratic institutions; policies for economic and social wellbeing of citizens).



### ASSOCIATED COUNTRIES IN NUMBERS (in Horizon 2020)



**7.6 %** of participations



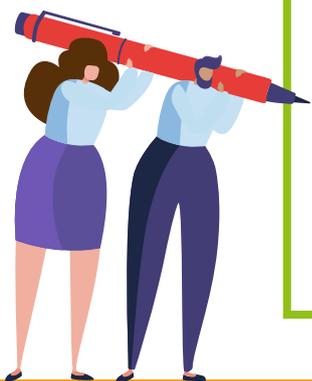
**6.9 %** of beneficiaries  
of Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions



**12.6 %** of participations in ERC



**3,509** participants from associated countries  
in Horizon 2020 funded grants who received  
**€5,500,893,102.91** EU contribution



### MORE INFORMATION

#### [International cooperation and association in Horizon Europe](#)

**#EUGlobalApproach**  
**#EUAfrica**  
**#HorizonEU**  
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