2025 Horizon Europe Funding Opportunities

With a focus on arts, humanities and social sciences research

With the publication of the 2025 Work Programme of Horizon Europe and the UK's associated member status, there are numerous funding opportunities available to Cambridge researchers. Highlighted below are key funding schemes that are currently open that have a focus on arts, humanities and social sciences research. The list is not exhaustive, so if there is a call you do not see here, please do read through the full call documentation. If you are a researcher working in the Arts, Humanities or Social Sciences and you have any questions about applying to Horizon Europe funding, please do not hesitate to get in contact with Dr Elizabeth Penner, AHSS Research Facilitator (EU/Intl funding).

Overview of Horizon Europe Thematic Cluster Work Programmes 2025[1]

[Horizon Europe work programmes - European Commission](#)

The Work Programmes 2025 for Pillar 2 of Horizon Europe have been published. This pillar supports research relating to societal challenges and reinforces technological and industrial capacities through six clusters (themed areas).

The themed areas are:

- Cluster 1: Health
- Cluster 2: Culture, creativity and inclusive society
- Cluster 3: Civil security for society
- Cluster 4: Digital, Industry and Space
- Cluster 5: Climate, Energy and Mobility
- Cluster 6: Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment

Grants in pillar 2 are multi-country grants, which require a consortium of partners and have very specific call topics, TRL levels and expected outcomes. These are therefore very different to pillar 1 (excellent science) schemes such as the ERC. If an application does not precisely match the specific call scope and expected outcome then it is unlikely to be funded.

UKRI have a helpful set of webpages which try to explain these funding opportunities. Please see here: Global Challenges - Innovate UK Business Connect

What to look out for?

Consortia

These calls require a consortium of partners. For most projects the minimum requirement is to have at least three legal entities, independent of each other and each established in a different EU Member State or Associated Country (and at least one must be in an EU Member State). However, most projects will have more than the minimum number of partners required. For example, the average number of partners in successful bids is 8-12, with some having as many as 20 partners. Some calls will have specific requirements or expectations around the involvement of certain countries. It is

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[1] *With thanks to the SPS and ST Research Relations Team for providing this helpful summary.

common to see partners outside EU member states and associated countries as part of consortia but generally they would not be able to receive EU funding and so would not be included in the budget.

The role of lead or coordinating partner is a very big job and if you are inexperienced with multi-partner EU applications we would not recommend you take this role.

A useful document on building consortia is here: factsheet_heu_consortium_building.pdf

Whilst there are some matchmaking/partner finding tools available, generally it is established partnerships that are most successful. It is advisable to work with existing collaborators and join established consortia if invited to do so.

A useful quote emphasises this point: "Never in the history of Horizon Europe has a team of newcomers to the programme been successful". If you are new to Horizon Europe, work with partners who are familiar!

Type of Action
Each opportunity will specify the type of 'action', which indicates the type of activity expected in the application. The most common are:
- **Research and Innovation Actions (RIA)** - typically involve activities aiming to establish new knowledge and/or explore the feasibility of a new or improved technology, product, process, service, or solution [implied by reaching expected TRLs 4-6].
- **Innovation Actions (IA)** - typically involve activities that aim to demonstrate or pilot solutions in an operational or near-to-operational environment. This includes prototyping, testing, demonstrating, and validating new or improved technologies, products, processes, services, or business models [typically higher TRLs reaching TRL 6-8], hence these types of actions will usually always involve or be led by businesses.
- **Coordination and Support Actions (CSA)** - Unlike RIA or IAs that focus on developing or demonstrating new technologies or solutions, the primary goal of CSAs is typically to coordinate and support research and innovation activities, networks, or policies and involve organising events, managing and maintaining databases and platforms, facilitating coordination, collaboration, and networking, Preparing reports, studies, analyses, guidelines, and policy briefs, supporting capacity building, training, and skills development, monitoring and evaluating activities.

There are a few other types of action which are less relevant to universities: For example, COFUND actions typically involve national funders coming together, and the funding opportunities to individual researchers will come later once the funders cascade the opportunity down. PCP actions (Pre-Commercial Procurement) are for organisations to manage a programme on behalf of the European Commission and are not targeted at universities.

Some more useful information on Technology Readiness Levels (TRLs) can be found here: TRL Assessment | NCP Portal Management | Horizon Europe NCP Portal. Note UKRI funding is typically TRL 1-4.

How do these calls differ from other Horizon Europe pillars?
Generally, pillar 2 calls will be at higher TRL levels than research funded though the excellent science pillar, such as ERC, or the EIC innovation Pillar 3.

If your research is blue sky, fundamental or laying the foundations for future technologies then ERC is likely to be more appropriate to you as ERC typically funds research at TRL 1-2. ERC awardees can apply for proof-of-concept funding to take their research to higher TRLs (typically TRL 3-4). For more information on ERC see here: Apply for an ERC Grant – Secure Funding for Frontier Research

Another option is the EIC Pathfinder awards. These sit in Pillar 3 of Horizon Europe and support early-stage development of future technologies (e.g. various activities at low TRL 1-3), up to proof of concept (TRL 4). There are two Pathfinder strands:
- 'EIC Pathfinder Open' open to support projects in any field of science, technology or application without predefined thematic priorities. Although these are like ERC in being open in any area, they are like Pillar 2 cluster calls in their requirements for a consortium of partners (at least three different independent legal entities from different member states or associated countries with at least one from an EU member state).
- 'EIC Pathfinder Challenges' to support coherent portfolios of projects within predefined thematic areas with the aim to achieve specific objectives for each Challenge. These challenge areas are also very specific and are in a smaller number of topic areas compared to Pillar 2. These don't have the same consortia requirements as Pathfinder Open.

For more information on the Pathfinder scheme see here: EIC Pathfinder - European Commission

Budget & Support for applications
Each opportunity in the Thematic Cluster Work Programmes will give an indication of the total budget available and the expected size of each award and therefore the number of awards expected to be made. Note, the expected size of each award is for the whole consortia, so depending on the number of partners in the consortia and the way the lead/coordinator divvies up the budget will determine the budget envelope you have to cost your activities. EU budgets are very different to UKRI budgets and so you should speak to your department finance/grant support team to determine what is feasible in the budget you have available. Generally speaking, it is usually advisable that no more than 40% of the budget goes to one partner.
There will usually be significant project management costs, or a partner will be included which can provide project management. There are a number of companies that specialise in EU project management. They can also play an active role in the proposal writing including reading drafts of the proposal and providing valuable input to increase the chance of being funded. Two examples can be found here: Grant writing companies | Research Relations Team

Cambridge's bid preparation fund maybe a useful source of funding to pay for support if costs are required up front: Bid Preparation Fund | Research Strategy Office

Deadlines

The 2025 Work Programme covers a two-year period with deadlines in 2025 and 2026. Some calls are single stage whilst some are two stages. Two stage calls tend to be used when the Commission expects that there will be a lot of demand. The initial stage of 2-stage calls is usually shorter (approx. 10 pages) whilst the full stage or single stage calls will have an application form which is much longer (and can run to over 100 pages).

Please bear in mind that it will take a long time to establish a consortium and prepare an application. The 2025 WP was launched in May but the first deadlines are typically in September. However, if you are not already part of a consortium and preparing your application, it will be very difficult to meet these earlier deadlines. The deadlines are indicated in the Work Programme but are also now in the EU funding and tenders portal: EU Funding & Tenders Portal.

Where to find help?
For more advise the following contacts are very helpful:
- The National Contact Points. Each cluster has an NCP person who will be very knowledgeable about the opportunities and rules. Filter Find your NCP | Horizon Europe NCP Portal. These are external to the university but are the best contacts for discussing whether your idea fits with a particular funding call.
- ROO Horizon Grants horizongrants@admin.cam.ac.uk. This is the team within the Cambridge Research Office which can answer details questions about the EC application process.
- School Research Facilitator – eap49@cam.ac.uk.
- Please contact your department research grant administrator if you are planning on making an application. AHSS Research Grant Administrators Contact List

MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships

Information sessions and resources
- UKRO 2025 MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships Information Webinar (12 May 2025), recorded and available here.
- 24 June 2025, 10 am: University of Cambridge MSCA PF Information Session for Researchers in Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. This online session will be hosted by Dr Elizabeth Penner (School Research Facilitator). Click here to register.
- MSCA PF Guide for Researchers

Key Documents: All relevant documents are available for each call on the Funding and Tender Opportunities Portal, including:
- MSCA work programme and general annexes
- guide for applicants
- specific FAQs
- guidelines on the calculation of 8-years research experience in Postdoctoral Fellowships under Horizon Europe

- self-assessment tool for the calculation of the 8-years research experience
- MSCA Supervision Guidelines

Indicative timeline
- 10 September 2025: Deadline for submitting proposals
- February 2026: Notification of call results to applicants (TBC)
- April 2026: Grant agreement signature for successful projects (TBC)
- April 2026: First EU-funded projects start (TBC)

MSCA Choose Europe for Science 2025

The MSCA Choose Europe for Science pilot scheme aims to increase the attractiveness of European research careers by addressing precarity and offering excellent working conditions, turning the current challenge of brain drain in the R&I sector into brain gain. Choose Europe for Science will support projects in which academic and non-academic organisations recruit postdoctoral researchers with a vision to employment beyond the project period. The main novelty of the initiative is that organisations will also be selected based on their offers of longer-term professional perspectives.

Indicative timeline:
1 October 2025: Launch of the call for proposals
3 December 2025: Deadline for submitting proposals
Indicative budget: The total budget for this call is €22.5 million. A beneficiary can receive a maximum of €3.5 million for this call.

More information will be available soon.

ERC Grants

Updates
- Increased ERC Funding for top global researchers moving to Europe. Researchers from outside the EU can now receive up to 2 million EUR (previously up to 1 million EUR) to cover start-up costs in taking up ERC grants in Europe and Associated Countries. This increase will begin with the 2025 call of the ERC Advanced Grant.
- Choose Europe for Science: ERC welcomes new budget for 'super grants': On 05 May 2025, the Scientific Council of the European Research Council announced that it welcomes the offer of substantial additional budget from the European Commission for the development of a new ERC funding instrument offering larger, longer-term grants. The grants will follow the same principles as other ERC grants, i.e. projects will be selected on the basis of scientific excellence only, and will be for all areas of research and open to individual researchers of any nationality,

working at or ready to move to a host institution in an EU Member State or a country associated to the EU R&I framework programme Horizon Europe. There are currently no further details on this initiative.

- The 2026 ERC Work Programme is expected to be ratified July 2025.

ERC Advanced Grant

Call Opens: 22 May 2025; **Deadline:** 28 August 2025

[ERC Work Programme 2025](#)

Information sessions

- 10 June 2025: UKRO ERC Advanced Grant 2025 Webinar. [Click here to register](#).
- 17 June 2025: ERC Advanced Grant Webinar and Workshop (British Academy). [Click here to register](#).
  The British Academy will be holding its next webinar for UK-based researchers in the humanities and social sciences interested in applying for European Research Council (ERC) grants on Tuesday, 17 June from 14:00-15:30. This webinar will focus on the [ERC Advanced Grants 2025 Call](#), which is scheduled to open on 22 May 2025. The webinar will be led by [Professor Simon Goldhill FBA](#) and British Academy Fellows who have experience with ERC grants and panels. The aim of the webinar is to provide participants with a deeper understanding of the proposal and evaluation format and the key issues they are required to address in planning, writing, and costing a proposal. There is an opportunity to have your B1 draft proposal reviewed by the panel. If selected, your B1 proposal will be discussed during the webinar (names and personal details will be removed). The webinar will not be recorded. ***Please note that not all B1 proposals will be reviewed. However, the guidance provided is designed to benefit all attendees.**

  If you would like to attend the webinar please register by Friday 13 June at 12:00 (noon) BST. If you would like to submit a B1 draft proposal to be considered for feedback during the webinar, please register your interest on the [registration form](#) and send your B1 draft to Hannah Moscovitz (h.moscovitz@thebritishacademy.ac.uk) no later than Tuesday 3 June 12:00 (noon) BST. Please note that, as above, not all B1 proposals will be reviewed.

Horizon Europe Pump Priming Collaboration between UK and EU Partners 25-26

Pre-announcement: deadline for submissions is expected to be 11 June 2025

Aims: To provide pump priming funding to seed collaborations for applications to specific Horizon Europe topics in Pillar 2. The aim is to build collaborative activity between UK and EU/Associated Countries' entities in Pillar 2, where the major consortia building type of applications in Horizon Europe are centred. This will help UK-based entities overcome the barriers to collaborative engagement with EU/Associated Countries' partners to maximise the opportunities Horizon Europe presents. For the purpose of this call, Associated Countries include those countries in the process of

associating, as listed on the [list of participating countries in Horizon Europe](). Third country partners, such as Switzerland, can also be considered as appropriate, but projects and proposed consortia must provide confidence that they will address necessary eligibility and impact criteria.

Scope of the call: The call is focused solely on Pillar 2 of Horizon Europe – Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness.   Within Pillar 2, the Calls and Topics that this pump priming funding can be used to target Calls and Topics from the 2025 Work Programmes onwards (ie Calls and Topics with 2025 in the call code) that are listed on the [Horizon Europe funding portal]() as either 'open for submission' or 'forthcoming'. The 2025 calls can be found in the [published work programme]().

Value: up to £10,000.   **Duration:** Award activity and use of funds must conclude with an interim report by the deadline of the Horizon Europe call being applied to. Awards will be required to provide further reporting on their award, including in relation to the outcome of their application to Horizon Europe.

Cluster 2: Culture, Creativity and Inclusive society

Work Programme can be found [here]()
Information sessions: 15 May 2025 - Details can be found [here]().
Overview: Cluster 2, 'Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society' aims to meet EU goals and priorities on enhancing democratic governance and citizens participation, on the safeguarding and promotion of cultural heritage, and to respond to and shape multifaceted social, economic, technological and cultural transformations. Cluster 2 mobilises multidisciplinary expertise of European social sciences and humanities (SSH) for understanding fundamental contemporary transformations of society, economy, politics and culture. It aims to provide evidence-based policy options for a socially just and inclusive European green and digital transition and recovery. Proposals are invited against the following three (3) destinations:
- democracy
- cultural heritage
- social and economic transformations

Destination - Innovative Research on Democracy and Governance

Resilient and strengthened democratic systems, anchored in robust and inclusive political decision-making, will be fundamental in the context of complex and interconnected challenges and threats our citizens and societies are confronted with. Social sciences and humanities research is critical for effectively addressing those challenges. While science will provide knowledge, insights and theoretical frameworks, the involvement of stakeholders on the ground (community organisations, policymakers, civil society representatives, among others) is determinant for facilitating the uptake and impact of research results and therefore encouraged in this destination. This collaborative approach ensures that research is based on real-world experiences and needs, leading to more effective and relevant outcomes.

By addressing key societal challenges through this inclusive methodology, the impact of research on citizens' lives will be enhanced. For instance, promoting gender equality and protecting minority rights are not only academic endeavours but necessities that reinforce social cohesion and justice. Research findings can shape legislation, drive social innovations, and support the development of initiatives that directly benefit communities. Research contributes to the development of democratic systems that are more inclusive, flexible and adaptable to change. By considering a wide range of views and experiences, policies and institutions are better able to address the needs of all citizens, increasing social fairness.

Topic	Type of action	Budgets (EUR million)	Expected EU contribution per project (EUR million)	Indicative no. of projects to be funded	Deadline
HORIZON-CL2-2025-01-DEMOCRACY-01: Advisory support and network to counter disinformation and foreign information manipulation and interference (FIMI)	Coordination and Support Action (CSA)	3.5	3.0 to 3.5	1	16 Sept 2025
HORIZON-CL2-2025-01-DEMOCRACY-02: Fostering the consolidation of European science diplomacy	Coordination and Support Action (CSA)	3.0	2.5 to 3.0	1	16 Sept 2025
HORIZON-CL2-2025-01-DEMOCRACY-03: Preparing the EU for future enlargement: challenges and opportunities	Research and Innovation Action (RIA)	10.5	3.0 to 3.5	3	16 Sept 2025
HORIZON-CL2-2025-01-DEMOCRACY-04: Open strategic autonomy, economic and research security in EU foreign policy	Research and Innovation Action (RIA)	7.0	3.0 to 3.5	2	16 Sept 2025
HORIZON-CL2-2025-01-DEMOCRACY-05: Countering and preventing radicalisation, extremism, hate speech and polarisation	Research and Innovation Action (RIA)	10.5	3.0 to 3.5	3	16 Sept 2025
HORIZON-CL2-2025-01-DEMOCRACY-06: Towards a European research hub on contemporary antisemitism and Jewish life and culture	Coordination and Support Action (CSA)	3.5	3.0 to 3.5	1	16 Sept 2025
HORIZON-CL2-2025-01-DEMOCRACY-07: The autocratic appeal: nature, drivers and strategies	Research and Innovation Action (RIA)	10.5	3.0 to 3.5	3	16 Sept 2025
HORIZON-CL2-2025-01-DEMOCRACY-08: Economic inequalities and their impact on democracy	Research and Innovation Action (RIA)	10.5	3.0 to 3.5	3	16 Sept 2025
HORIZON-CL2-2025-01-DEMOCRACY-09: Fighting against disinformation while ensuring the right to freedom of expression	Research and Innovation Action (RIA)	10.5	3.0 to 3.5	3	16 Sept 2025
HORIZON-CL2-2025-01-DEMOCRACY-10: The role of civic and citizenship education for strengthening civic and democratic participation and support for common European values	Research and Innovation Action (RIA)	10.5	3.0 to 3.5	3	16 Sept 2025

HORIZON-CL2-2025-01-DEMOCRACY-11: Independence of the judiciary as an aspect of rule of law compliance	Research and Innovation Action (RIA)	10.5	3.0 to 3.5	3	16 Sept 2025
HORIZON-CL2-2025-01-DEMOCRACY-12: Community of democracy practitioners and researchers	Coordination and Support Action (CSA)	3.5	3.0 to 3.5	1	16 Sept 2025

Destination - Innovative Research on European Cultural Heritage and Cultural and Creative Industries

Europe's rich cultural heritage and strong creative industries not only reflect our past but also shape our future. It is by building on this foundation and developing our strengths that we can face the great challenges of our time with confidence and shape a desirable common future. Europe's cultural heritage originates from the interaction between people and places through time and is constantly evolving. Every citizen has a right to engage with the cultural heritage of their choice, while respecting the rights and freedoms of others, as an aspect of the right freely to participate in cultural life.

Many of Europe's multinational companies build their international success on European heritage and creativity. At the same time, the sector is nurturing large numbers of dynamic small, medium (SMEs) and micro enterprises, creating employment not the least for young people, while deploying their creativity not only to generate income but also to contribute to social and cultural sustainability, wellbeing and to projecting European values at home and abroad. The cultural and creative industries are engines of innovation not only in themselves, but across the entire economy, thus contributing strongly to Europe's overall competitiveness and future prosperity. This destination adopts a people-centred perspective and places cultural heritage and the cultural and creative industries at the very heart of the European economy, its competitiveness and sustainability. R&I activities under this destination will support and strengthen European cultural heritage and cultural and creative industries essentially along the following lines:

GREEN: Europe's cultural heritage and cultural and creative industries engage for carbon neutrality and for adapting to and mitigating the consequences of climate change. European citizens and societies are mobilised for an inclusive, socially and culturally sustainable climate transition. R&I actions will focus in particular on the establishment of a new European partnership for Resilient Cultural Heritage, supporting cultural heritage institutions to turn the challenges of the climate transition into opportunities, and become drivers of an inclusive societal transition. R&I actions will for instance foment the development of new environmentally friendly technologies and methods to manage, restore and preserve cultural heritage, with a view to making Europe a world leader in sustainable management of cultural heritage. R&I actions will also assess the role intangible cultural heritage plays for fostering societal resilience amidst societal challenges.

DIGITAL: The digital transition promises enormous opportunities for Europe's cultural heritage and cultural and creative industries but also implies serious challenges. It is important to ensure that, throughout the digital transition, EU citizens enjoy cultural heritage and contribute to its interpretation and enrichment. R&I actions will focus on how the benefits of digitised and digital cultural heritage may be exploited, reaping the benefits while avoiding the pitfalls. A particular focus will be on supporting the European Collaborative Cloud for Cultural Heritage (ECCCH), as well as on exploring challenges

and opportunities of digital technologies such as artificial intelligence for culture, creativity and cultural heritage, and the ways cultural and creative industries can successfully engage with such technologies.

INNOVATIVE: To an ever-greater degree, creativity and cultural dimensions drive innovation and competitiveness – while underpinning resilience and well-being. Cultural and creative dimensions make new digital and physical products and services appealing and attractive. Similarly, societal transformations depend on behavioural changes, which are largely based on changes in lifestyle, culture and perceptions. In such processes, the human is at the centre, and cultural heritage, the arts and the cultural and creative industries are key. R&I actions will cover a variety of subjects, such as strengthening the capacity of European design to act as a driver of sustainable competitiveness and reinforcing the role of culture and the arts for promoting European values, preventing conflicts, fostering peace and reconciliation and promoting health, well-being and social cohesion. Many of the actions funded under this Destination will need access to and/or generate data. Where appropriate, actions should leverage the data and services available through European Research Infrastructures federated under the European Open Science Cloud or included in the European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures (ESFRI) and the ESFRI roadmap, as well as data from relevant Data Spaces. Particular efforts should be made to ensure that the data produced in the context of such actions is FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Re-usable). The innovation ecosystems created and nurtured by the Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs) of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT), in particular the KIC "EIT Culture and Creativity", may contribute to actions under this destination, and may as appropriate be considered by applicants. In line with the Commission priorities, R&I actions under this Destination will help promote our European way of life, contribute to a Europe fit for the digital age and to achieving the European Green Deal goals, as well as support an economy that works for people.

Topic	Type of action	Budgets (EUR million)	Expected EU contribution per project (EUR million)	Indicative no. of projects to be funded	Deadline
HORIZON-CL2-2025-01-HERITAGE-03: A European Collaborative Cloud for Cultural Heritage – Innovative use cases	Innovation Action (IA)	26.0	2.50 to 4.00	8	16 Sept 2025
HORIZON-CL2-2025-01-HERITAGE-04: Leveraging artificial intelligence for creativity-driven innovation	Research and Innovation Action (RIA)	15.0	4.00 to 5.00	3	16 Sept 2025
HORIZON-CL2-2025-01-HERITAGE-05: Evolution of culture in a virtualising world	Research and Innovation Action (RIA)	10.5	2.50 to 3.50	3	16 Sept 2025
HORIZON-CL2-2025-01-HERITAGE-06: Europe as a global powerhouse of design for sustainable competitiveness	Research and Innovation Action (RIA)	13.50	3.50 to 4.50	3	16 Sept 2025
HORIZON-CL2-2025-01-HERITAGE-07: Cultural Strategies for Peace: culture and creativity as catalysts for conflict prevention and post-conflict reconciliation	Research and Innovation Action (RIA)	12.00	3.00 to 4.00	3	16 Sept 2025

HORIZON-CL2-2025-01-HERITAGE-08: Bridging historical past and future potential through conservation, preservation, and adaptive use of Europe's contentious and dissonant heritage	Coordination and Support Action (CSA)	3.50	2.50 to 3.50	1	16 Sept 2025
HORIZON-CL2-2025-01-HERITAGE-09: Impacts of culture and the arts on health and well-being	Coordination and Support Action (CSA)	2.00	Around 2.00	1	16 Sept 2025

Destination - Innovative Research on Social and Economic Transformations

Projects funded under this destination should contribute to the following expected impacts in the Horizon Europe Strategic Plan 2025-2027:
- Strengthening social and economic resilience and sustainability
- Boosting inclusive growth and reducing vulnerabilities effectively

The expected impacts reflect the two-pronged nature of the destination. On the one hand, research funded by this destination will improve the understanding of how the macro drivers of change (technological change, climate change, new global trade patterns, along with migration, human mobility, and other demographic changes) impact society and inform policy makers on how to mitigate negative consequences and harness newly created opportunities. The results obtained should improve the understanding of the interplay between different drivers of change and their social, ethical, political, and economic implications. The improved understanding of these challenges and their economic, social, and distributional impacts will fill in the research gaps while also inform the design and assessment of policies addressing existing and emerging challenges, including in the areas of education, well-being and mental health. On the other hand, research and innovation investment should be geared towards deepening the understanding of how ongoing changes impact society, with a specific emphasis on the key objectives of boosting inclusive and sustainable growth and effectively reducing vulnerabilities, poverty and inequalities. This knowledge should provide valuable insights to policymakers to design and assess policies that effectively address vulnerabilities while capitalizing on emerging opportunities.

Overall, the destination's activities will help promote the EU's inclusive growth, resilience, and fair transition towards climate neutrality, by providing solid analytical evidence to implementing actions related to:
- The European Pillar of Social Rights, and its Action Plan with its three ambitious targets (78% employment rate, 60% of population with yearly training, and reduction of the number of people at risk of poverty and social exclusion by at least 15 million by 2030)
- the European Education Area and its EU-level 2030 targets
- The Union of Equality policies and strategies, including:
  - the Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030, the European
  - Accessibility Act (Directive 2019/882), and the European Disability Card.
  - The Gender Equality Strategy 2020 – 2025 and the Directive combating violence against women and domestic violence
  - EU Anti-racism Action Plan 2020-2025

- o The Strategic EU Framework for Roma Equality, Inclusion and Participation 2020-2030
- o The LGBTIQ Equality Strategy 2020-2025
- o   The Strategy on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-203
- • The Communication on Demographic change in Europe: a toolbox for action
- • The EU's just transition policy framework, in line with the 2040 Climate Target Plan, including the Just Transition Mechanism, the Social Climate Fund, and the Council Recommendation on ensuring a fair transition towards climate neutrality.
- • The Council Recommendation on strengthening social dialogue in the EU.
- • The European Child Guarantee
- • The Council Recommendation on adequate minimum income
- • EC Communication on a comprehensive approach to mental health
- • The New Pact on Asylum and Migration and its accompanying actions, initiatives and legislation.

Applicants are encouraged to consider, where relevant, the services offered by the current and future EU-funded European Research Infrastructures, particularly those in the social sciences and humanities domain. Where applicable, proposals should leverage the data and services available through European Research Infrastructures federated under the European Open Science Cloud, as well as data from relevant Data Spaces. Particular efforts should be made to ensure that the data produced in the context of this research is FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Re-usable).

To maximise the impacts of R&I under this Destination in line with EU priorities, international cooperation is encouraged whenever relevant in the proposed topics. Research on socio and economic transformations funded by topics in the Work Programmes 2025-27 will build upon its predecessors in Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe and further push the boundaries of state-of-the-art knowledge. It will do so by further engaging with a vast array of stakeholders. Not only universities and research centers, but also social partners (trade unions and business organizations), civil society organizations, practitioners, VET providers, and SMEs. The destination will rely on a carefully balanced mix of actions, to bring together the right mix of actors to achieve the highest quality research, while aiming at providing recommendations to policymakers at European, national, regional and local level that could have a beneficial societal and economic impact. In order to achieve this, it will maximise the feedback to policy and the dissemination and exploitation of research and innovation results and practices in the domain of social and economic transformations.

Topic	Type of action	Budgets (EUR million)	Expected EU contribution per project (EUR million)	Indicative no. of projects to be funded	Deadline
HORIZON-CL2-2025-01-TRANSFO-01: Tackling gender-based violence in different social and economic spheres	Research and Innovation Action (RIA)	10.20	Around 3.40	3	16 Sept 2025

HORIZON-CL2-2025-01-TRANSFO-02: Historical and regional analyses of industrial transitions and their lessons for ensuring a fair green transition	Research and Innovation Action (RIA)	10.20	Around 3.40	3	16 Sept 2025
HORIZON-CL2-2025-01-TRANSFO-03: Working time reduction: barriers, challenges, benefits and policy implications	Research and Innovation Action (RIA)	10.20	Around 3.40	3	16 Sept 2025
HORIZON-CL2-2025-01-TRANSFO-05: Improving fairness in the economy through a better understanding of undeclared and underdeclared work	Research and Innovation Action (RIA)	10.20	Around 3.40	3	16 Sept 2025
HORIZON-CL2-2025-01-TRANSFO-06: Evaluation and use of evidence in education policy and practice	Research and Innovation Action (RIA)	10.20	Around 3.40	3	16 Sept 2025
HORIZON-CL2-2025-01-TRANSFO-07: Impact of the learning environment and the use of digital tools in everyday life on key skills and competence development	Research and Innovation Action (RIA)	10.20	Around 3.40	3	16 Sept 2025
HORIZON-CL2-2025-01-TRANSFO-08: Improving mental health outcomes for people in education, training and work	Research and Innovation Action (RIA)	15.00	3.00 to 5.00	3	16 Sept 2025
HORIZON-CL2-2025-01-TRANSFO-09: Good practices for increased autonomy of persons with disabilities, including physical, mental, intellectual and sensory disabilities	Research and Innovation Action (RIA)	10.20	Around 3.40	3	16 Sept 2025
HORIZON-CL2-2025-01-TRANSFO-10: Intergenerational fairness in the context of demographic change in the EU	Research and Innovation Action (RIA)	15.00	3.00 to 4.00	3	16 Sept 2025
HORIZON-CL2-2025-01-TRANSFO-11: Migration and climate change: building resilience and enhancing sustainability	Coordination and Support Action (CSA)	2.00	Around 2.00	1	16 Sept 2025
HORIZON-CL2-2025-02-HERITAGE-02- two-stage: Innovative approaches to intangible cultural heritage for societal resilience	Research and Innovation Action (RIA)	12.00	3.00 to 4.00	3	**16 Sept 2025 (Stage 1); 17 March 2026 (Sage 2)**
HORIZON-CL2-2025-02-TRANSFO-04-two-stage: Gender differences in career trajectories of parents and their implications for gender equality and family well-being	Research and Innovation Action (RIA)	10.20	Around 3.40	3	**16 Sept 2025 (Stage 1);**

					17 March 2026 (Stage 2)

Call - Cluster 2 Partnerships

Scope: The challenge of cultural heritage lies in preserving and safeguarding a society's rich history, traditions, artefacts, and knowledge. This involves addressing issues such as deterioration, damage, theft, conflict, changing societal values and new challenges such as the climate change. In addition, it is essential to strike a balance between accessibility for future generations and respect for cultural sensitivities. Proposals for the co-funded partnership on resilient cultural heritage must aim to enhance efforts to better understand and mitigate the effects of the triple planetary crisis (climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss), with focus on the impact of climate change on tangible and intangible cultural heritage, in line with the EU's cultural and environmental policies, embodied in the Creative Europe programme and the European Green Deal. The partnership will focus on resilience as the individual and collective capacity to anticipate, respond and adapt to situations where the protection and safeguarding of cultural heritage becomes more challenging due to increased risks of loss and damage. At the same time, the potential of cultural heritage to support resilience needs to be harnessed, as cultural heritage has a strong societal, environmental, economic, psychological and well-being dimension and contributes to the construction and preservation of individual and collective identity and acceptance of incoming changes.

Topic	Type of action	Budgets (EUR million)	Expected EU contribution per project (EUR million)	Indicative no. of projects to be funded	Deadline
HORIZON-CL2-2025-03-HERITAGE-01: Co-funded European partnership for Resilient Cultural Heritage	COFUND	60.00	Around 60.00	1	16 Sept 2025

Cluster 4: Digital, Industry and Space

Work Programme can be found here

Information sessions: 13 May 2025. Details can be found here.

Overview: Cluster 4, 'Digital, Industry and Space' aims to shape competitive and trusted technologies for EU leadership in these technologies; to enable production and consumption respecting the boundaries of our planet; and to maximise the benefits for all parts of society in the variety of social, economic and territorial contexts in Europe. It will for example boost Europe leadership and competitiveness on Artificial Intelligence innovation (AI), leading the way on making AI safer and more trustworthy, and on tackling the risks stemming from its misuse. Similarly, it will ease the exploitation of untapped data potential while promoting high standards of data protection.

Destination 6 - Digital and industrial technologies driving human-centric innovation

Summary: Destination 6 will develop technologies for an inclusive, gender-equal trustworthy and humancentric internet. This will build on a more resilient, sustainable, and decentralised architecture, empower end-users with more control over their data and their digital identity, and enable new social and business models that respect European values. The destination will also spearhead the use of virtual worlds and digital twins where they can make a real difference. Industrial virtual worlds could increase productivity, improve working conditions and access to work, and address and anticipate skills gaps for highly complex products/services or for safety-critical operations. Smart communities and 'citiverses' can empower public authorities and people to fulfil their aspirations. To reach the ambitious goal of achieving trustworthy AI, 'compliant by design' with the AI Act – challenges such as accuracy, robustness, transparency and efficiency have to be addressed, along eliminating biases in data entry to assure fairness in light of individual differences, e.g. in gender or age, and intersectional diversity. Increasing the cognitive level of AI systems (like from combining data-driven and symbolic learning) is crucial for their wider uptake and acceptance. Smart 'technology-for-trust' (e.g. blockchain for identity and transaction tracking, AI to counter biases, deep-fake recognition, fact checking) will also have a role. The Cluster will focus particularly on generative AI (addressing algorithms, data and computational resources), foundational models and language technologies to gain strategic autonomy in this area. This is expected to trigger a whole range of new applications in entertainment, education and commerce, starting with assisted and virtual content production, and on demand synthetic media. Beyond these, the possibilities in industrial settings (e.g. robotics, training, process planning, quality assurance), in public services and public administrations are largely untapped. Involvement of social sciences and humanities will help bring benefits and respect for European values.

Specific measures are needed to allow start-ups and smaller companies to use and benefit from AI, data (including by enabling access to the high-performance computing power needed), photonics and robotics, and to play an active part in developing the next generation of smart technologies within a diverse and open European innovation ecosystem. Similarly, the responsible use of AI in science, research and engineering is going to be key for keeping up the scientific and technological global competitiveness of the EU. These elements will also contribute to the EU's Apply AI Strategy, a comprehensive approach aimed at establishing Europe as a global leader in the development and adoption of AI, by fostering a vibrant AI ecosystem and making Europe a hub for AI innovation and growth, where world-class AI models are developed and integrated into strategic sectors. This initiative is designed to drive innovation, economic growth, and competitiveness, while ensuring that the benefits of AI are shared by all.

Topic	Type of action	Budgets (EUR million)	Expected EU contribution per project (EUR million)	Indicative no. of projects to be funded	Deadline
HORIZON-CL4-INDUSTRY-2025-01-HUMAN-60: Horizon Standardisation Booster	Coordination and Support Action (CSA)	1.50	Around 1.50	1	23 Sept 2025
HORIZON-CL4-INDUSTRY-2025-01-HUMAN-61: Standardisation landscape analyses tool	Coordination and Support Action (CSA)	1.00	Around 1.00	1	23 Sept 2025
HORIZON-CL4-INDUSTRY-2025-01-HUMAN-62: Artificial Intelligence for knowledge valorisation	Coordination and Support Action (CSA)	2.00	Around 2.00	1	23 Sept 2025

HORIZON-CL4-INDUSTRY-2025- 01-HUMAN-63: Value creation pilots for scaling up innovative solutions	Coordination and Support Action (CSA)	2.00	Around 2.00	1	23 Sept 2025
HORIZON-CL4-INDUSTRY-2025-01-HUMAN-64: Pilot initiatives on Technology Infrastructures	Coordination and Support Action (CSA)	5.00	0.50 to 1.00	5	23 Sept 2025
HORIZON-CL4-INDUSTRY-2025- 01-HUMAN-65: System innovation experimentation for Industry 5.0	Innovation Action (IA)	3.00	Around 3.00	1	23 Sept 2025
HORIZON-CL4-INDUSTRY-2025-01-HUMAN-66: Assessment of Technology Infrastructure needs in Ukraine	Coordination and Support Action (CSA)	1.50	1.00 to 1.50	1	23 Sept 2025
HORIZON-CL4-2025-03-HUMAN-14: Core technologies for virtual worlds (Virtual Worlds and Photonics Partnerships)	Research and Innovation Action (RIA)	43.00	5.00 to 6.00	7	02 Oct 2025
HORIZON-CL4-2025-03-HUMAN-15: GenAI4EU: Generative AI for Virtual Worlds: Advanced technologies for better performance and hyper personalised and immersive experience (AI/Data/Robotics & Virtual Worlds Partnerships)	Innovation Action (IA)	20.00	4.00 to 5.00	5	02 Oct 2025
HORIZON-CL4-2025-03-HUMAN-16: Drive the evolution of the internet towards open and interoperable Web 4.0 and Virtual Worlds: building blocks in priority areas (RIA) (Virtual Worlds Partnership)	Research and Innovation Action (RIA)	14.50	1.00 to 3.00	9	02 Oct 2025
HORIZON-CL4-2025-03-HUMAN-17: Specific support for the Virtual Worlds Partnership and the Web 4.0 initiative (Virtual Worlds Partnership)	Coordination and Support Action (CSA)	2.50	Around 2.50	1	02 Oct 2025
HORIZON-CL4-2025-03-HUMAN-18: GenAI4EU central Hub (AI/Data/Robotics Partnership)	Coordination and Support Action (CSA)	3.00	Around 3.00	1	02 Oct 2025
HORIZON-CL4-2025-03-HUMAN-19: International cooperation in semiconductors	Coordination and Support Action (CSA)	3.00	Around 3.00	1	02 Oct 2025
HORIZON-CL4-2025-04-HUMAN-08: GenAI for Africa	Research and Innovation Action (RIA)	5.00	1.00 to 2.00	2	02 Oct 2025

Cluster 5: Climate, Energy and Mobility

Work Programme can be found here
Information sessions: 06 May 2025. Recording can be found here.

Overview: The overarching driver for this cluster is to accelerate the twin green and digital transitions and associated transformation of our economy, industry and society with a view to achieving climate neutrality in Europe by 2050, and to increase the competitiveness of the European economies. This encompasses the transition to greenhouse gas neutrality of the energy and
mobility sectors by 2050 at the latest (as well as that of other sectors not covered by this cluster), while boosting their competitiveness, resilience, and utility for citizens and society. Europe has been at the forefront of climate science and is committed to keep delivering the knowledge for enabling efficient pathways and just transitions to climate neutrality. Activities of this work programme support the implementation of the Paris Agreement and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. By putting research and innovation at the heart of our economy, the EU aims to create more jobs and improve the competitiveness of its industry. On this basis, activities of this work programme will support the European Commission's Net-Zero Industry Act and Clean Industrial Deal, a more circular and resilient economy, as well as enhanced climate adaptation, preparedness and solidarity. This will finally contribute to sustaining our quality of life and strengthening European societies and their social and economic model.

Cluster 5 supports the EU's strategic objectives through activities included in this work programme and through the support of Institutional European Partnerships 2 which are implemented through dedicated structures. Although the latter activities are not included in this work programme, it is of great importance to maximise synergy and coherence between activities regardless of their implementation mode3. Cluster 5 contributes also to the Strategic Energy Technology Plan (SET Plan) objectives and its domain-specific implementation plans.

Destination - Climate sciences and responses for the transformation towards climate neutrality

Summary: This Destination contributes directly to the Strategic Plan's **Key Strategic Orientations** '*Green transition*', '*Digital transition*' and '*A more resilient, competitive, inclusive and democratic Europe*'. In line with the Strategic Plan, the overall **expected impact** of this Destination is to contribute to the *"Advancing science for a transition to a climate-neutral and resilient society"*. Advancing climate science and the knowledge base necessary to underpin actionable solutions is essential for catalysing the global transition to a climate-neutral and climate-resilient society. Evidence on research gaps of high policy relevance can be found in the European Climate Risk Assessment (EUCRA), and in the report "The Next frontier for Climate Change Science". Research should contribute to closing major knowledge gaps on the changing climate together with their associated impacts and risks, on both society and nature, and to developing tools to support decision-makers in designing and implementing effective mitigation and adaptation actions at various time and spatial scales while properly accounting for synergies and trade-offs with other policy objectives, such as biodiversity, industrial competitiveness, just transition and leaving no one behind. Notably, state-of-art scientific evidence will be increasingly vital to guide policy decisions aimed at safeguarding long-term societal welfare and EU's economic resilience as climate change impacts increase. Tailored scientific approaches that take into account disparities between regions, countries, communities and diverse groups within society, are needed, to understand how they are affected by global warming and what array of response options is available to them.

Topic	Type of action	Budgets (EUR M))	Expected EU contribution per project (EUR million)	Indicative no. of projects funded	Deadline
HORIZON-CL5-2025-06-D1-06: Fostering equity and justice in climate policies – Societal Readiness Pilot	Research and Innovation Action (RIA)	15.00	4.00 to 5.00	3	23 Sept 2025
HORIZON-CL5-2025-06-D1-07: Implementing the climate action pillar of the EU-African Union Partnership on Climate Change and Sustainable Energy	Coordination and Support Action (CSA)	4.00	3.00 to 4.00	1	23 Sept 2025
HORIZON-CL5-2025-06-D2-07: Driving Urban Transitions to a sustainable future (DUT) Co-Funded Partnership	COFUND	56.00	Around 56.00	1	23 Sept 2025

Destination - Cross-sectoral solutions for the climate transition

Summary: This Destination contributes directly to the Strategic Plan's Key Strategic Orientations '*Green transition*', '*Digital transition*' and '*A more resilient, competitive, inclusive and democratic Europe*'. In line with the Strategic Plan, the overall expected impact of this Destination is to contribute to the *"Facilitating a clean and sustainable transition of the energy and transport sectors towards climate neutrality through cross-cutting solutions"*. This Destination covers thematic areas which are cross-cutting by nature and can provide key solutions for climate, energy and mobility applications. In line with the scope of cluster 5 such areas are batteries, hydrogen, communities and cities and others. Although these areas are very distinct in terms of challenges, stakeholder communities and expected impacts, they have their cross-cutting nature as a unifying feature and are therefore grouped, if not addressed in other places of this work programme, under this Destination.

Topic	Type of action	Budgets (EUR M))	Expected EU contribution per project (EUR million)	Indicative no. of projects funded	Deadline
HORIZON-CL5-2026-01-D2-09: Monitoring and Evaluation of the Societal Readiness Pilot	Coordination and Support Action (CSA)	1.50	Around 1.50	1	20 Jan 2026

Destination - Sustainable, secure and competitive energy supply

Summary: This Destination includes activities targeting a sustainable, secure and competitive energy supply. In line with the scope of cluster 5, this includes activities in the areas of renewable energy; energy system, grids and storage; as well as Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage (CCUS). This Destination contributes directly to the Strategic Plan's Key Strategic Orientations '*Green transition*', '*Digital transition*' and '*A more resilient, competitive,*

inclusive and democratic Europe'. In line with the Strategic Plan, the overall expected impact of this Destination is to contribute to the *'Ensuring more sustainable, secure and competitive energy supply through solutions for smart energy systems based on renewable energy solutions'*. This destination contributes to the activities of the Strategic Energy Technology Plan (SET Plan) and its implementation working groups.

Topic	Type of action	Budgets (EUR M))	Expected EU contribution per project (EUR million)	Indicative no. of projects funded	Deadline
HORIZON-CL5-2026-02-D4-02: Smarter buildings as part of the energy system for increased efficiency and flexibility – Societal Readiness Pilot	Innovation Action (IA)	12.00	Around 4.00	3	17 Feb 2026
HORIZON-CL5-2026-02-D4-03: Innovative pathways for low carbon and climate resilient building stock and built environment (Built4People Partnership)	Research and Innovation Action (RIA)	15.00	Around 5.00	3	17 Feb 2026
HORIZON-CL5-2026-02-D4-04: Innovative approaches for the deployment of Positive Energy Districts	Innovation Action (IA)	15.00	Around 5.00	3	17 Feb 2026
HORIZON-CL5-2026-02-D4-05: Optimal combination of low embodied carbon construction products, technical building systems and circularity principles for climate neutral buildings (Built4People Partnership)	Research and Innovation Action (RIA)	12.00	Around 4.00	3	17 Feb 2026

Feedback opportunity for Horizon Europe work programme 2025 now open!

The feedback is being collected at the level of the 'Destinations' or Missions, corresponding to the six Horizon Europe clusters, research infrastructures, European innovation ecosystems, the five EU Missions and cross-cutting activities and the New European Bauhaus facility.