



Brussels, 19.12.2022
C(2022) 9339 final

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 19.12.2022

adopting a financing decision for 2023-2024 as regards the horizontal support expenditure in the framework of the Specific Programme implementing Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2021-2027) and the Research and Training Programme of the European Atomic Energy Community for the period 2021-2025 complementing Horizon Europe

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Atomic Energy Community,

Having regard to Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union, amending Regulations (EU) No 1296/2013, (EU) No 1301/2013, (EU) No 1303/2013, (EU) No 1304/2013, (EU) 1309/2013, (EU) No 1316/2013, (EU) No 223/2014, (EU) No 283/2014, and Decision No 541/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 966/2012¹ ('the Financial Regulation'), and in particular Article 110 thereof,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) 2021/695 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing Horizon Europe – The Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, laying down its rules for participation and dissemination, and repealing Regulations (EU) No 1290/2013 and (EU) No 1291/2013² and in particular Article 12(6) thereof,

Having regard to Council Decision (EU) 2021/764 of 10 May 2021, establishing the Specific Programme implementing Horizon Europe - The Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, and repealing Decision 2013/743/EU and in particular Article 4(3) thereof,

Having regard to Council Regulation (Euratom) 2021/765 of 10 May 2021 establishing the Research and Training Programme of the European Atomic Energy Community for the period 2021-2025 complementing Horizon Europe – The Framework Programme for Research and Innovation and repealing Regulation (Euratom) 2018/1563³, and in particular Article 4(3),

Whereas:

- (1) In order to support the implementation of the actions and horizontal expenditure under the Specific Programme implementing Horizon Europe - the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation and under the Research and Training Programme of the European Atomic Energy Community it is necessary to adopt a multiannual financing decision for 2023-2024. Article 110 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 ('the Financial Regulation') establishes detailed rules on financing decisions.

¹ OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p. 1

² OJ L 170, 12.5.2021, p. 1

³ OJ L 167I, 12.5.2021, p. 81

- (2) The envisaged assistance is to comply with the conditions and procedures set out by the restrictive measures⁴ adopted pursuant to Article 215 TFEU.
- (3) It is necessary to allow for the payment of interest due for late payment on the basis of Article 116(5) of the Financial Regulation.
- (4) Pursuant to Article 62(1)(c) of the Financial Regulation indirect management is to be used for the implementation of the programme.
- (5) The Commission is to ensure a level of protection of the financial interests of the Union with regards to entities and persons entrusted with the implementation of Union funds by indirect management as provided for in Article 154(3) of the Financial Regulation. To this end, such entities and persons are to be subject to an assessment of their systems and procedures in accordance with Article 154(4) of the Financial Regulation⁵ and, if necessary, to appropriate supervisory measures in accordance with Article 154(5) of the Financial Regulation before a contribution agreement can be signed.
- (6) The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the actions and horizontal expenditure under the Specific Programme implementing Horizon Europe - the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation in 2023 includes part of EFTA contribution which is fixed for 2023 at 2.89% of the appropriations. The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the actions and horizontal expenditure under the Specific Programme implementing Horizon Europe - the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation in 2024 includes part of EFTA contribution which is estimated for 2024 at 2.89% of the appropriations.
- (7) In order to allow for flexibility in the implementation of the financing decision, it is appropriate to allow changes which should not be considered substantial for the purposes of Article 110(5) of the Financial Regulation.
- (8) It is appropriate to authorise the award of grants without a call for proposals and to provide for the conditions for awarding those grants.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

The financing decision

The multiannual financing decision constituting the multiannual work programmes to support the implementation of the actions and horizontal expenditure under the Specific Programme implementing Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation and under the Euratom Research and Training Programme for the years 2023-2024, as set out in the Annex of this decision, is adopted.

Article 2

⁴ www.sanctionsmap.eu Note that the sanctions map is an IT tool for identifying the sanctions regimes. The source of the sanctions stems from legal acts published in the Official Journal (OJ). In case of discrepancy the OJ prevails.

⁵ Except for the cases of Article 154(6) of the Financial Regulation, where the Commission may decide, not to require an ex-ante assessment

Union contribution

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the horizontal support expenditure linked to the general and common management, and implementation of the Specific Programme implementing Horizon Europe - the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation is set at EUR 279 577 146 and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the following lines of the general budget of the Union for the years 2023 and 2024:

- (a) budget line 01.020500: EUR 279 577 146;

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the horizontal support expenditure linked to the general and common management, and implementation of the Euratom Research and Training Programme, is set at EUR 997 912 and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the following lines of the general budget of the Union for the years 2023 and 2024:

- (a) budget line 01.030100: EUR 688 560;
- (b) budget line 01.030200: EUR 309 352;

The appropriations provided for in the first paragraph may also cover interest due for late payment.

The implementation of this Decision is subject to the availability of the appropriations provided for in the draft general budget of the Union for 2023 and for 2024, following the adoption of that budget by the budgetary authority or if the budget is not adopted as provided for in the system of provisional twelfths.

Article 3

Methods of implementation and entrusted entities or persons

The implementation of the actions carried out by way of indirect management, as set out in the Annex to this decision, may be entrusted to the entities or persons referred to or selected in accordance with the criteria laid down in that Annex.

Article 4

Flexibility clause

Cumulated changes to the allocations to specific actions not exceeding 20% of the maximum Union contribution set in the first paragraph of Article 2 of this Decision shall not be considered to be substantial for the purposes of Article 110(5) of the Financial Regulation, where those changes do not significantly affect the nature of the actions and the objective of the work programme.

The authorising officer responsible may apply the changes referred to in the first paragraph. Those changes shall be applied in accordance with the principles of sound financial management and proportionality.

Article 5

Grants

Grants may be awarded without a call for proposals in accordance with the conditions set out in the Annex to this decision. Grants may be awarded to the bodies referred to in the Annex.

Done at Brussels, 19.12.2022

For the Commission
Mariya GABRIEL
Member of the Commission



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ANNEX

ANNEX

to the

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

adopting a financing decision for 2023-2024 as regards the horizontal support expenditure in the framework of the Specific Programme implementing Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2021-2027) and the Research and Training Programme of the European Atomic Energy Community for the period 2021-2025 complementing Horizon Europe

Annex

Horizon Europe

Euratom

2023-2024

*Horizontal support expenditure for Horizon Europe and Euratom
Programmes*

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Introduction

1. Scope

According to Article 12(6) of REGULATION (EU) 2021/695 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing Horizon Europe Framework Programme for Research and Innovation¹ ('Horizon Europe Framework Programme'), a financial envelope for the implementation of the Framework Programme for the period 2021 – 2027 may also cover expenses necessary for managing and implementing actions through the Horizon Europe Specific Programme.

This multiannual financing decision is also covering, in line with Article 4(3) of Council Regulation (Euratom) 2021/765, similar expenses for the Research and Training Programme of the European Atomic Energy Community for the period 2021-2025 complementing Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation ('Euratom Research and Training Programme').

The multiannual financing decision supports the actions related to the preparation, monitoring, control, audit, and evaluation and other activities and expenditures necessary for managing, implementing and evaluating the achievement of the objectives of the Horizon Europe Framework Programme and the Euratom Research and Training Programme.

It may also cover expenses relating to studies, information and communication actions, in so far as they are related to the objectives of the Programmes, as well as expenses linked to information technology networks focusing on information processing and exchange, including corporate information technology tools and other technical and administrative assistance needed in connection with the management of the Programmes.

2. Flexibility Clause

The budgets set out in this financing decision are indicative. The final figures may change by up to 20% compared to the total budget allocated of this decision.

It should be noted that this flexibility cannot be used for changes that significantly affect the nature of the actions proposed or altering the objective of the financing decision.

The estimated budget for horizontal support expenditure for Horizon Europe is composed of a contribution from all the components and clusters of the Horizon Europe Framework Programme (by default in a pro rata manner according to the budget weight, except for component/cluster not benefitting from the expenditure). The different Horizon Europe Parts will contribute accordingly.

The Euratom Research and Training Programme budget breakdown for 2021-2025 between Fusion and Fission has been adopted by Council Regulation (Euratom) 2021/765.

¹ OJ L 170, 12.5.2021, p. 1-68.

Other actions not subject to calls for proposals

Indirect Management

1. Implementation of the OECD - European Commission collaboration

The Commission and the OECD will exploit synergies between their respective strands of work to broaden the evidence and the understanding of innovative start-ups ecosystems, in the context of the post-COVID-19 recovery. The project will support further analytical work on trends in innovative start-ups business dynamics, focusing on the entire lifecycle of innovative companies, and will provide a more comprehensive overview on the evolution of the EU innovative start-ups landscape, as well as a greater understanding of how the policy environment affects innovative ecosystems across countries.

Funding rate: 100%

Legal entities:

ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT, Rue André-Pascal 2, PARIS CEDEX 16, 75775, France

Form of Funding: Indirectly managed actions

Type of Action: Indirectly managed action

Indicative timetable: Q3 2024

Indicative budget: EUR 0.60 million from the 2024 budget

2. Implementation of the OECD - European Commission collaboration

The Commission and the OECD will exploit synergies between their respective strands of work on monitoring and analysing R&I funding, policies and their impact. The project will support further analytical work on public support for innovation and provide more solid understanding of their impact and effectiveness, to further underpin EU policies. It will provide improved and expanded cross-country evidence on R&D tax credits and other forms of public support to business R&D.

Funding rate: 100%

Legal entities:

ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT, Rue André-Pascal 2, PARIS CEDEX 16, 75775, France

Form of Funding: Indirectly managed actions

Type of Action: Indirectly managed action

Indicative timetable: Q2 2023

Indicative budget: EUR 1.00 million from the 2023 budget

3. Implementation and analysis of the joint Commission - OECD international survey on STI policies

Since 2015, the Commission and the OECD conduct a joint international survey on Science, Technology and Innovation policies (STIP) that has reduced substantially the reporting burden on EU Member States. Over the last years, the STIP survey and Compass have become the international reference for collecting and displaying STIP. This action will continue to support the roll-out of the joint STIP survey, make refinements to the infrastructure underpinning the survey and boost the analysis of the information gathered through the survey. In this context, it will underpin further and ongoing policy developments related to the Commission's priorities, for instance the twin transition and the five EU Missions².

Funding rate: 100%

Legal entities:

ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT, Rue André-Pascal 2, PARIS CEDEX 16, 75775, France

Form of Funding: Indirectly managed actions

Type of Action: Indirectly managed action

Indicative timetable: Q3 2024

Indicative budget: EUR 1.00 million from the 2024 budget

Grants to identified beneficiaries

1. Horizon Europe Office in Ukraine as the key National Contact Point (NCP)

Expected Outcomes:

- Horizon Europe (HE) Office is established in Ukraine and facilitates the creation of an active and effective network of thematic NCPs across Ukraine who are able to provide professional services to the Ukrainian R&I actors in different parts of the country.
- HE Office in Ukraine provides individual support to the National Contact Points (NCPs) and acts as their coordinator.
- HE Office in Ukraine provides support to the NCPs and prospective HE applicants by organising targeted information events on R&I cooperation opportunities, by preparing

² https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe/eu-missions-horizon-europe_en#what-are-eu-missions

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relevant communication materials, by offering training activities on drafting competitive proposals and by assisting them in finding the project partners in the EU and worldwide.

- HE Offices monitors and analyses the implementation of R&I cooperation projects, raises awareness about the success stories and alerts to specific implementation issues (legal, operational, financial etc). This work will inform the discussions in the annual EU-Ukraine Joint Committees under the Association Agreement to Horizon Europe and Euratom.
- HE Office in Ukraine promotes Ukraine's active participation in the HE Programme Committees configurations in close coordination with Ukraine's Ministry of Education and Science and with the focus on Ukraine's key research and innovation priorities.
- HE Office in Ukraine creates a dedicated webpage as an entry point to the Ukrainian R&I community on opportunities under HE Programme, referring to the official Funding and Tenders Portal.
- HE Office in Ukraine provides policy advice linked to Ukraine's integration into the European Research Area (ERA) by focusing on a selected number of policy priorities. It also provides support to Ukraine's participation in the ERA governance structures, in particular the ERA Forum.
- Horizon Europe Office in Ukraine explores and facilitates synergies with the EU-linked R&I cooperation opportunities beyond the HE programme.

Expected Impact:

- Professional Horizon Europe NCP services are provided in Ukraine.
- Better awareness about the Horizon Europe opportunities among the Ukrainian R&I community.
- Simplified access to the Horizon Europe calls; improved ability to find the right EU partner and higher quality proposals from Ukraine.
- An increase in the Ukrainian applications to the Horizon Europe calls as compared to Horizon 2020 (or the number of applications is at least similar to the pre-war levels).
- Good uptake of the dedicated Horizon Europe support measures for Ukraine.
- Ukraine gains a solid basis for closer integration into the ERA.

Scope:

The agreement with Ukraine associating it to Horizon Europe and Euratom Research and Training Programmes is in force since 9 June 2022 and represents a key instrument to support Ukrainian researchers and innovators in the context of ongoing military aggression by Russia. In accordance with the Association Agreement, Ukrainian entities can participate in the

programmes on equal terms³ with entities from EU Member States. Ukraine does not have to contribute financially for years 2021 and 2022 and there is a general encouragement across the Horizon Europe Work Programme to create opportunities, where possible, for the affected persons and entities of Ukraine.

At the same time, Ukraine's R&I capacity, both at institutional and individual levels, is at risk in view of public R&I budget cuts and destroyed research infrastructure. According to the latest survey of 2000 Ukrainian scientists, 38% have been forced to relocate internally and 15% have left abroad. In addition, almost three quarters are struggling to carry on their work for various reasons (damaged research infrastructure, electricity and water cuts, moral impact etc.

In addition, as the EU candidate country, Ukraine has to improve its R&I related policy frameworks aiming at closer integration into the ERA. It has to implement additional policy reforms, which should receive prior relevant policy advice in line with the national priorities and reconstruction and recovery-related plans.

In this context, establishing a Horizon Europe Office in Ukraine would help to maximise on opportunities presented by Ukraine's association to Horizon Europe as well as by the specific support measures put in place. It would guide prospective Ukrainian participants on calls, the application process and finding the project partners; ensure Ukraine's involvement in the Horizon Europe Programme Committees configurations and coordinate the network of the National Contact Points. In addition, it would provide policy advice on Ukraine's integration into the ERA, which could feed into the subsequent government-led R&I sector-related reforms, and support Ukraine's participation in the ERA governance structures, in particular the ERA Forum.

In relation to other associated countries, Horizon Europe Offices exist in Georgia (Executive Agency of the Ministry) and Turkey (the Scientific and Technological Research Council (Tubitak) and represent useful tools to facilitate and/or improve these countries' overall participation in the Horizon Europe programme. Mutual learning activities could be organized if considered relevant and appropriate. In addition, complementarities will be sought with the current Horizon 2020 project 'Bridge2HE' and its follow up project.

The Horizon Europe Office in Ukraine project will cover the staff costs, organization of events, training sessions and roadshows as well as the setup of a dedicated webpage to promote Horizon Europe opportunities in Ukraine.

A grant to identified beneficiary is an appropriate implementation modality for this action as it will reinforce the key R&I public institution of Ukraine - the National Research Foundation of Ukraine (NRFU) – in view of the ongoing military aggression by Russia and its far-

³ According to the Regulation (EU) 2021/695 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, laying down its rules for participation and dissemination, and repealing Regulations (EU) No 1290/2013 and (EU) No 1291/2013 (OJ 12.5.2021 L 170/1)

reaching impacts on the R&I sector in Ukraine. The NRFU is the only public institution that runs competitive R&I calls in Ukraine.

This grant will be awarded without a call for proposals according to Article 195(e) of the Financial Regulation and Article 24(3)(b) of the Horizon Europe Framework Programme and Rules for Participation.

Funding rate: 100%

Legal entities:

The National Research Foundation of Ukraine (NRFU), Ukraine, Kyiv, 01001, Borysa Hrinchenka Street, 1

Form of Funding: Grants not subject to calls for proposals

Type of Action: Grant to identified beneficiary according to Financial Regulation Article 195(e) - Coordination and support action

Indicative timetable: Q2 2023

Indicative budget: EUR 1.50 million from the 2023 budget

Service Level Agreement

1. Implementation of Article 5 of Commission Decision C(2021)9331 - Financial management of the Mutual Insurance Mechanism (MIM)

As described in Recitals 5 and 6 and Article 5 of Commission Decision C(2021)9331⁴, given the environment of low or negative interest rates that prevails in financial markets already for several years, there is a material risk of periods during which negative financial returns may jeopardise the capacity of the MIM to operate.

In order to preserve the MIM's capacity (a) to return the beneficiary contributions at the payment of the balance, (b) to pay any negative financial returns, including interests, net realised losses and valuation losses, administrative and bank fees for the management of the MIM such as, but not limited to, transaction fees, IT costs, account fees, custodian fees, external audit fees, costs, as well as any late payment interests on the return due to beneficiaries, and (c) to pay the Granting Authorities' contractual obligations of previously signed H2020 grant agreements, the Commission may use internal and/or external assigned revenues stemming from past and current Research and Innovation Framework Programmes, as well as from the budget of the participating programmes.

Type of Action: Service Level Agreement

Indicative timetable: 2023, 2024

⁴ Commission Decision on the financial management of the mutual insurance mechanism established under Regulation (EU) 2021/695 of the European Parliament and of the Council for actions under the Seventh Framework Programme, Horizon 2020, Horizon Europe and Euratom Programmes

Indicative budget: EUR 28.00 million from the 2023 budget and EUR 17.00 million from the 2024 budget

2. Development of indicators and econometric analysis on R&I performance (JRC) - INNOVA-MEASURE6

This action will provide the methods and evidence to better understand the state of research and innovation performance of the European Union. Improvement of tools available for monitoring and measuring key elements of the research and innovation system. Provide research and innovation policy experts and practitioners with evidence and tools to better understand and analyse the role and impact of R&I in the implementation of the SDGs as well as in the green and digital transitions.

It will address R&I policy challenges in a comprehensive way, through scientific analysis that combines micro and macro perspectives. Strengthen the evidence base on the digital and environmental transformations with focus on the role of R&I.

It will encompass the development and regular production of composite indicators and dashboards such as the Innovation Output Indicator and the 3Ps Dashboards, measuring the research and innovation (R&I) performance of EU Member States and selected benchmark countries, including methodological revisions to address technical issues and adapt to the new policy priorities. Econometric and economic analysis to address innovation policy challenges and to explore the determinants and impacts of green and digital innovations using among others, company level data, IP data and linking information from various sources.

Funding rate: 100%

Form of Funding: Direct action grants

Type of Action: Provision of technical/scientific services by the Joint Research Centre

Indicative timetable: Q3 2023

Indicative budget: EUR 0.55 million from the 2023 budget

Public Procurement⁵

1. Corporate Communication

As provided in the “corporate/institutional communication clauses” included in the legal bases of the Horizon Europe Framework Programme and the Euratom Programme, the financial resources allocated to the Programmes shall also contribute to the corporate communication

⁵ IT development of Commission systems and related procurement choices will be subject to pre-approval by the European Commission Information Technology and Cybersecurity Board

of the political priorities of the EU⁶, as far as they are related to the objectives of the Programmes.

In the period 2021-23, enhanced and strengthened corporate communication campaigns have been launched. Corporate communication informs and engages with citizens about EU values and actions and how the EU impacts daily lives. As indicated in the budget circular, all programmes of the new MFF are called upon to financially support the corporate communication, ensuring the pooling of sufficient resources to fund communication actions on priorities based on the general objectives of the European Union.

DG Communication will implement these actions.

Form of Funding: Procurement

Type of Action: Public procurement

Indicative timetable: Q1 and Q2 2023, Q1 and Q2 2024

Indicative budget: EUR 3.07 million from the 2023 budget and EUR 3.07 million from the 2024 budget (*For the years 2024 to 2027, a new corporate communication Decision will be adopted in due time. The Decision will be drafted and finalized together with DG BUDG. The idea is that DG BUDG will, as for previous years, include the amounts (final or indicative depending on the state of play of the adoption procedure for the corporate communication decision) in the standing instructions for DB 2024. As a consequence, the 2024 budget mentioned above is an estimated budget based on 2023).*

2. Common Communication for Horizon Europe

As provided in the Annexes to the Specific Programme implementing Horizon Europe, the Commission will implement information and communication activities relating to Horizon Europe, to promote the fact that results were obtained with the support of EU funding. They will also seek to raise public awareness on the importance of research and innovation and the broader impact and relevance of EU funded research and innovation, by means of e.g. publications, media relations, events, knowledge repositories, databases, multichannel platforms, websites or a targeted use of social media. Horizon Europe will also provide support to the beneficiaries to communicate their work and its impact to society at large.

2.1. DG R&I flagship event: European Research and Innovation days

The European Research & Innovation days is an annual policy event of the Commission bringing together research and innovation stakeholders to debate and shape the future of research and innovation landscape. At the same time, the event aims to mobilise EU citizens

⁶ Commission Decision C(2020)9390 final of 18.12.2020 “Corporate Communication action in 2021-2023 under the Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027” and Budget Circular for 2023 - Annex XII: Corporate communication - Annual contribution by heading/programme/budget line for 2022 and 2023 budget years

and increase awareness of how important research and innovation are in addressing the challenges that face society.

All related activities around, the European Research & Innovation days will raise awareness of European research and innovation policy by mobilising and engaging different stakeholders for Horizon Europe that will better reflect views and needs of citizens. It will allow the creation of a more defined and corporate image of the research and innovation message at European and worldwide level.

Taking stock of the previous editions, the European Research & Innovation days would evolve and adapt in terms of policy and format. Indeed, R&I with its focus on innovative policies and programmes will support various initiatives, which will complement and better serve the Commission's political priorities.

Form of Funding: Procurement

Type of Action: Public procurement

Indicative timetable: Q1 2023, Q1 2024

Indicative budget: EUR 6.00 million from the 2023 budget and EUR 6.00 million from the 2024 budget

2.2. DG R&I communication activities including events, media relations, media analysis and media buying & promotional material related to those activities and audience mapping

The objective is to support the new programme priorities around events. The work will include organising events or participating to events, the format of events will be either virtual or physical. Activities around events will demonstrate the active support of the EU in communicating R&I policies, using different means available in the media landscape, raising awareness on main concerns of citizens and priorities of the EU, mirroring the R&I priorities, disseminating communication material to large public, assessing the impact of those actions and supporting organisers, stakeholders and citizens in engaging & adhering to the European actions. A follow up of DG R&I target audience segmentation study will include analyses of additional Member States and the possibility to gain detailed insights on target audiences' attitudes and behaviour with regards to specific DG R&I policy priorities through focus groups.

Form of Funding: Procurement

Type of Action: Public procurement

Indicative timetable: Q1 2023, Q1 2024

Indicative budget: EUR 1.09 million from the 2023 budget and EUR 1.09 million from the 2024 budget

2.3. Publications (print, dissemination, storage, translations) & Horizon magazine

Publication activities will continue illustrating and facilitating the dissemination of R&I policies developments.

Internal services:

The Publications Office of the EU remains the main provider for publications, translation tasks, proofreading of texts, normal print services and digital printing, and storage of electronic and paper publications. It will also continue disseminating publications on request.

The DG Translations services continue supporting DG R&I requests for translations of non-legislative documents such as brochures, leaflets, infographics, websites, country fiches, etc.

External services:

Some publications, mainly brochures, leaflets and reports will be outsourced as appropriate for more specific services such as editorial tasks, graphic design and production. In order to convey DG R&I messages, infographics will be produced on different supports and contexts: e-publications, printed publications, stand-alone infographics, infographics for social media, events and conference, press releases, etc.

Horizon Magazine is the R&I flagship online magazine, which features priorities and achievements of EU-funded research, its impact on citizens' lives and its contribution to the EU goals. The insight is evolving from a text magazine concept to multimedia. This includes articles, interviews, videos and tailor-made videos for social media to attract higher audience to people with a general interest in popular science stories, people with an interest in specific topics, stakeholders and policy audiences interested in engaging and journalistic content. Services needed relate to editorial production, web maintenance, social media and stakeholders' activities. Services also consist of measuring the impact of the magazine through key performance indicators. The main indicators are the level of readership, video views, social media engagement, but also the number of re-publications/translations on external platforms in EU Member States.

In order to fulfil the needs of the Horizon magazine, reach out to more readers, and rise expectations, a new Framework contract will be designed taking into account the evolution of R&I policies and initiatives. The type of contract envisaged concern services to cover communication activities of the DG for a duration of four years and a maximum global amount of EUR 5 million over the duration of the framework contract.

Form of Funding: Procurement

Type of Action: Public procurement

Indicative timetable: Q1 and Q3 2023, Q1 and Q3 2024

Indicative budget: EUR 1.52 million from the 2023 budget and EUR 1.52 million from the 2024 budget

2.4. Audio-visual production

Audio-visual material is an attractive and successful means to explain the aim, budget and goals of Horizon Europe, using and buying social media to promote our policies and multiply our targeted messaging. Other forms of videos and formats such as podcasts will help promote our programmes. Videos shall be available in all EU languages to reach out all stakeholders and citizens and will be part of a toolkit for multipliers amongst other communication material.

Form of Funding: Procurement

Type of Action: Public procurement

Indicative timetable: Q1 2023, Q1 2024

Indicative budget: EUR 0.50 million from the 2023 budget and EUR 0.50 million from the 2024 budget

2.5. DG R&I support to the New European Bauhaus (NEB) initiative

The New European Bauhaus (NEB) initiative brings the European Green Deal to the heart of people daily lives. Since its launch, it has created a movement to debate and shape how to make our future more sustainable, inclusive and beautiful.

An essential component of the NEB initiative is to mobilise EU citizens and increase awareness of how important research and innovation are in addressing the challenges that our society faces. In this context, the first ever NEB Festival was a great opportunity to network, exchange and celebrate – from science to art, from design to politics, from architecture to technology.

Taking stock of the relevant lessons learnt, a second Festival (expected in early 2024) would bring the discussion forward, in terms of policy content and people engagement. 2024 will be an important year to take stock of the Commission's achievements related to its headline political priorities. The Festival will be an excellent forum to illustrate these achievements in a tangible and concrete way. It will also be the occasion to assess to what extent the EU has enhanced its strategic autonomy, in light of the recent geopolitical developments.

Similar to the first edition, the event will boost a sense of community for all those who want to engage in the NEB movement. In doing so, the Festival will support the NEB values and let innovation emerge as a game changer, discussing relevant policies, programmes and initiatives, and mobilising and engaging different stakeholders. It will also be an opportunity to leverage relevant resources through Horizon Europe, to better reflect views and needs of citizens.

Form of Funding: Procurement

Type of Action: Public procurement

Indicative timetable: Q2 2023

Indicative budget: EUR 4.00 million from the 2023 budget

3. Corporate Information Technology

As mentioned in the Communication to the Commission “Guidelines on Financing of Information Technology and Cybersecurity (IT)⁷” that establishes guidelines to implement the co-financing of corporate IT for the new MFF 2021-2027 operational programmes, all programmes that benefit from the corporate communication and information systems, whether from infrastructure, developments, hosting or security, should contribute to the financing of these corporate systems.

The corporate communication and information systems (CIS) means any system enabling the handling of information in electronic form, including all assets required for its operation, as well as infrastructure, organisation, personnel and information resources. This definition includes business applications, shared IT services, outsourced systems, and end-user devices governed under the Commission’s administrative autonomy and institutional prerogatives. This includes notably Sysper, ABAC, ARES, AGM, E-procurement, Opsys etc.

As indicated in the 2023 budget circular⁸ a single mechanism to collect jointly the contributions for Corporate Information Technology, for eGrants/SEDIA IT tools, and for SEDIA Central Validation Service will be set up as from 2023. To ensure an efficient and streamlined collection process, the single contribution for the three processes will be set out in a Communication to the Commission, which will foresee the contribution from each programme, and the DGs collecting the contributions for their implementation. The amounts indicated below take into account this process. In addition, the amount indicated for 2023 includes the Horizon Europe contribution related to direct research.

DG for Informatics (DIGIT), DG HR, DG BUDG, SG, DG RTD and REA will implement the actions.

Form of Funding: Procurement

Type of Action: Public procurement

Indicative timetable: 2023, 2024

Indicative budget: EUR 17.46 million from the 2023 budget and EUR 13.00 million from the 2024 budget

⁷ C(2020)6126 and Ares(2020)1174062 - 25/02/2020

⁸ [Ares\(2021\)7768942, Standing Instructions, Block II, point 2.5.2.3, page 30](#)

4. Common Information Technology for Horizon Europe and Euratom Programmes

4.1. IT services related to the development and support of the eGrants/SEDIA information systems

The mission of the Common IT service is to implement reliable, modern and high-quality information systems in order to support the full cycle of the grant management of Directorates-General of the Research family for Horizon Europe, Horizon 2020, common FP7 applications and for the other Programmes and entities supported in the Commission in the context of eGrants.

The scope of these IT applications used both by internal and external user communities covers the complete grant cycle, from call definition, publication, participants' data management, creation and submission of proposals, experts selection, evaluation of proposals by experts, notifications of the results as well as the invitation to the preparation and signature of grant agreements, grants management, the reporting on the progress of financed projects, the prefinancing, cost submission and reimbursement, the monitoring by external experts, the ex-post auditing, recoveries, and closure of projects reporting and programme evaluation. A single entry point for applicants, experts, external administrative staff and beneficiaries is provided via the Funding and Tenders Portal.

The external users and Commission's staff are using the modules that support the abovementioned activities. Several IT Systems support such a dual mode. These systems encompass SyGMa, PPGMS, ECS, SEP, Eris and TGS which are the Grants, Experts and back-office modules allowing the exchange of information between beneficiaries, experts and Commission staff. Beyond the analysis, development and infrastructure expenditures, the budget also covers external and internal user support and training activities provided by the Common IT Service.

As indicated in the 2023 budget circular⁹ a single mechanism to collect jointly the contributions for Corporate Information Technology, for eGrants/SEDIA IT tools, and for SEDIA Central Validation Service will be set up as from 2023. To ensure an efficient and streamlined collection process, the single contribution for the three processes will be set out in a Communication to the Commission, which will foresee the contribution from each programme, and the DGs collecting the contributions for their implementation. The amounts indicated under action "Corporate Information Technologies" take into account this process. In addition, the amount indicated for 2023 includes the Horizon Europe contribution related to direct research.

The only budget indicated here is the one related to EURATOM programme.

Form of Funding: Procurement

Type of Action: Public procurement

⁹ [Ares\(2021\)7768942, Standing Instructions, Block II, point 2.5.2.3, page 30](#)

Indicative timetable: 2023, 2024

Indicative budget: EUR 0.28 million from the 2023 budget and EUR 0.28 million from the 2024 budget

4.2. Web /visual activities and maintenance, Intranet and social media activities

Activities concern maintaining DG R&I's web presence on Europa¹⁰, digital developments and the revamp or launch of new websites such as Horizon Europe, website & platforms for specific physical and virtual events, revamp & development of Horizon magazine website, maintaining and updating the dedicated website for staff, adapting other communication material such as publications, infographics, and videos to social media and other means of communication. Those activities need the support and services of external professional resources and are essential communication channels.

Form of Funding: Procurement

Type of Action: Public procurement

Indicative timetable: Q1 and Q3 2023, Q1 and Q4 2024

Indicative budget: EUR 1.70 million from the 2023 budget and EUR 1.70 million from the 2024 budget

4.3. SINAPSE e-communities

The action will cover the evolutive maintenance of SINAPSE® (**Scientific INformAtion for Policy Support in Europe**), enhancement of its functionalities, ergonomic and infrastructure.

This includes the continuous adaptation of the security aspects, the improvement of positive synergies with complementary EC/EU tools and language assistance.

SINAPSE® is an EU Interinstitutional Web communication platform promoting a better use and exchange of expertise in EU policy making and governance. SINAPSE® is accessible via EUROPA (<https://europa.eu/sinapse>) and hosted by the EC data centre on a dedicated infrastructure.

Form of Funding: Procurement

Type of Action: Public procurement

Indicative timetable: 2023, 2024

Indicative budget: EUR 0.45 million from the 2023 budget and EUR 0.45 million from the 2024 budget

¹⁰ Those activities will be carried out in full compliance with the web governance of the Commission as per the Europa Web Guide. The procurement procedures associated to those activities will be aligned with the compliance requirements.”

5. Implementation of Financial Audit Strategy

The Common Audit Service (CAS) is in charge of the audits conducted on behalf of the Directorates-General of the Research family. It may also join the audits performed by the Court of Auditors.

The objective of the CAS is to ensure that the compliance audits required by the concluded grant agreements are performed to the highest professional standards and to support the management of R&I activities. It is also to provide high quality services in the area of ex-post audit to the Directorates-General of the Research family, the Executive Agencies and Joint Undertakings implementing Horizon 2020, Horizon Europe and Euratom. The action covers also ex-ante assessments.

The audit cycle is as follows: audit selection, planning, application of rules, relations with beneficiaries and management information on the audit process. The IT tools used for the audit process management are "COMPASS and "AUDEX".

5.1. Implementation of Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe financial audit strategy: outsourced and in-house audits and implementation of ex-ante assessments

The budget planning is based on the audit strategy covering the cost of outsourced financial audits as well as all expenses related to carrying out in-house audits, including the translation of documents, interpretation, the use of expert services and the cost of using services provided by professional audit organisations.

Form of Funding: Procurement

Type of Action: Public procurement

Indicative timetable: 2023, 2024

Indicative budget: EUR 3.26 million from the 2023 budget and EUR 4.62 million from the 2024 budget

5.2. Implementation of Euratom financial audit strategy

The Council Regulation on the Research and Training Programme of the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom) adopted in 2013 covers the programming period 2014-2018 and complements the Horizon 2020 Framework Programme for Research and Innovation. The Euratom Research and Training programme has been extended with two years (2019-2020) in order to align with Horizon 2020. The duration of the Euratom ex-post Audit Strategy (2016-2025) is also aligned accordingly.

The Euratom Audit Strategy envisages, on average, 12 annual audits for 16 participations. However, in order to avoid over-auditing, these numbers are only indicative.

Form of Funding: Procurement

Type of Action: Public procurement

Indicative timetable: 2023, 2024

Indicative budget: EUR 0.16 million from the 2023 budget and EUR 0.24 million from the 2024 budget

5.3. Anti-Plagiarism checks against open source

In the framework of (and in addition to) the audits conducted by the Common Audit Service (CAS), the Directorates General, the Executive Agencies and the Joint Undertakings of the Research and Innovation family, frequently need additional assurance to address and manage the risk of double funding and/or research misconduct, such as plagiarism and data falsification and fabrication.

In order to cover this need, anti-plagiarism checks of documents are carried out.

Horizon Europe and Horizon 2020 documents such as deliverables, reports and proposals on top of being checked against other projects via the e-grants suite, have to be checked towards other open source documents such as published works, repositories of specialized newspapers, academically published material (licensed documents, reference works). The purpose is to identify potentially plagiarised content and its sources.

Since no in-house tool is available or foreseen for checking proposals and grant documents against open source, the use of an externally supplied service is needed.

Form of Funding: Procurement

Type of Action: Public procurement

Indicative timetable: 2023, 2024

Indicative budget: EUR 0.01 million from the 2023 budget and EUR 0.01 million from the 2024 budget

6. Policy experimentation

This action will address the need for more experimentation in the design and implementation of R&I policies in Europe to accelerate the recovery and sustainability transitions. The activity will build upon ESIR 2 group reflections and SRIP evidence to attest and suggest novel approaches in order to build a transformative R&I policy across all levels of government in Europe (local, regional, national and European). It will support the identification of concrete areas for experimentation within Horizon Europe and provide evidence and suggestions for potential plans for implementation.

Expected results: The action will deliver a body of practical experiences and knowledge on R&I policy experimentation. This will include key recommendations, practice-led reflections as well as concrete pathways for strengthening the experimentation angle of EU R&I policy

and Horizon Europe. The action will contribute to embedding innovation and experimentation in the design of truly transformative R&I policies. From a European perspective it will provide the possibility to scale up innovative practices based on experimentation, particularly testing and engaging in co-creation bringing new policy opportunities to light. It will facilitate the emergence of policy-relevant solutions to drive and accelerate the green and digital transitions, support the recovery and strengthen Europe's competitive edge. It will help move beyond traditional research and innovation policies that often exclude the end-user perspective and the co-creation with citizens and thereby contribute to sustainable growth.

Form of Funding: Procurement

Type of Action: Public procurement

Indicative timetable: Q2 2024

Indicative budget: EUR 0.25 million from the 2024 budget

7. Foresight activities

Foresight activities will support the future orientations of EU policy, to anticipate trends and developments and analyse their implications in coordination, engagement and cooperation with the national agencies, experts, stakeholders and citizens. Future orientations of EU R&I policy will be supported through horizon scanning, strategic intelligence, sense-making, and scenario building bringing together and building upon existing forward looking activities in the EU with regard to R&I priority setting. Further analyses of foresight knowledge and anticipatory intelligence will be carried out to strengthen the use of R&I evidence in EU and national policies across the board.

Expected results: Forward looking strategic choices and robust setting of objectives, impact pathways and expected impacts in EU R&I policy in general and for Horizon Europe in particular. Library of trends, scenarios, wildcards, future visions, and stories. Better, futureproven policy; stronger and wider public engagement with EU policies, stronger foresight capacity as well as improved foresight competences and policy orientation across the EU.

Form of Funding: Procurement

Type of Action: Public procurement

Indicative timetable: Q3 2023, Q2 2024

Indicative budget: EUR 0.50 million from the 2023 budget and EUR 0.50 million from the 2024 budget

8. Continuation of the Open Research Europe publishing platform for 2024-26

The Open Research Europe publishing platform (ORE) publishes scientific articles stemming from European Commission funded R&I projects in open access, enabling beneficiaries to

comply with contractual requirements at no cost to them. While preparing to ensure the long-term operation of the service and its technical autonomy, Open Research Europe will need to provide uninterrupted service to beneficiaries until such long-term provisions are in place. Hence, an additional procurement procedure will be launched to ensure the continuation of the ORE publishing platform services for two additional years (2024-2026). Indicatively, the procedure will ask to:

- customise an existing publishing platform to the current ORE procedures, workflows and user interface and to operate of the platform;
- manage the entire publications process (from submission to publication as well as post-publication curation and preservation) for pre-prints and articles submitted, including the open peer review process under the current ORE model (article processing charges);
- provide editorial services to ensure conformity to minimum criteria on ethical issues and plagiarism;
- inherit and, if necessary, improve the current editorial guidelines and the article metric system;
- provide communication activities and sustainability-related activities.

Form of Funding: Procurement

Type of Action: Public procurement

Indicative timetable: opening Q3 2022; first specific contracts Q2 2023, second specific contracts Q1 2024

Indicative budget: EUR 0.70 million from the 2023 budget and EUR 1.30 million from the 2024 budget

9. Open Source Software technical infrastructure for the European Open Research Publishing Platform

Open Research Europe, ORE, is the publishing platform of the European Commission for publishing scientific articles stemming from EC funded R&I projects in open access.

Its current deployment is based on a procurement contract with a contractor that offers its proprietary platform until March 2024. An additional procurement procedure will be launched in Q3 2022 to ensure the continuation of ORE services for 2024 to 2026.

The long-term commitment of the EC to ORE requires the acquisition of a platform based on open source software that will secure the technological autonomy of this publishing initiative.

The Commission will procure a customised and further customisable publishing platform software that will cover all the current functionalities of ORE, will operate in a cloud

infrastructure and will have all the requirements to be federated in the European Open Science Cloud environment.

The envisaged duration of the contract is two years with a maximum amount of EUR 1 million.

Form of Funding: Procurement

Type of Action: Public procurement

Indicative timetable: opening Q1 2023; specific contract Q4 2023

Indicative budget: EUR 1.00 million from the 2023 budget

10. Interim meta-evaluation of Horizon Europe

This procurement will support the interim evaluation of Horizon Europe by cross-analysing evidence from different studies and sources, collecting additional evidence whenever needed, in view of the overall assessment of the Horizon Europe Framework Programme at mid-term. It will include visualisations of the results of these analyses.

Form of Funding: Procurement

Type of Action: Public procurement

Indicative timetable: Q2 2023

Indicative budget: EUR 0.15 million from the 2023 budget

11. Monitoring Flash updates and preparatory work for future flashes

In the last years, several monitoring flashes were produced by the monitoring team in collaboration with other services. Those flashes will need to be updated with the most recent data whether it based on R&I programmes data or open data sources

The methodology used to produce those flashes, that was documented, will need to be reused. Additionally, new monitoring flashes will be produced for which compilation of corpus documents will be required through the service contract.

Form of Funding: Procurement

Type of Action: Public procurement

Indicative timetable: Q2 2023

Indicative budget: EUR 0.15 million from the 2023 budget

12. Dissemination and Exploitation Activities

Maximising the impacts of the research that EU funds requires better dissemination and exploitation of the results. Improving knowledge flows and spillovers is fundamental to ensure that researchers build on the latest available knowledge and thus build “on the shoulders of giants”. Moreover, the exploitation of research results and the creation of value for our economy and society, often depend on the skills and abilities of the beneficiaries to present and connect to those stakeholders that can help them take the results into the next level. Many times, the beneficiaries lack sufficient information, skills or connections to the right stakeholders and these gaps can jeopardise their ability to maximise the potential value of their results.

Against this backdrop, we want to create an ecosystem supporting our beneficiaries towards the maximum dissemination and exploitation of their results. This includes innovations that can translate into and contribute to new products and services that create economic or social value, more efficient production or distribution processes; results that can feed into policymaking and help public authorities; and results that can contribute to building and evolving standards.

This is a crosscutting activity. Most of Horizon Europe is in its scope. The Dissemination and Exploitation (D&E) integrated support ecosystem supports up to 40,000 Research and Innovation projects simultaneously.

The dissemination of research results will include an array of editorial services to better target the content to different audiences as well as outreach activities through a variety of channels, e.g. websites, magazines or targeted dissemination events, including those organised by National Contact Points. They will support the creation, curation and actual dissemination of information about the projects and their results- either presented individually or clustered to maximise the joint impact, in multiple languages, including previous Framework Programmes.

The exploitation of research results will include a set of services to match beneficiaries needs at every step of the exploitation journey – from capacity building to match-making with investors and interested third parties.

Expected outcome: The general outcome of the activities implemented in the context of the D&E Strategy is a set of coherent and integrated actions supporting our beneficiaries to better valorise their research results.

More specifically, the expected outcomes are:

- (1) Guidelines and educational/inspirational material to incite our beneficiaries to achieve higher impact, including outreach events.
- (2) Supporting services to help the beneficiaries disseminate their results in a targeted way, exploit them or find third parties to exploit them, and increase, where appropriate, their market readiness (e.g. boosters, tailored support, coaching, training, etc.).

(3) Services to help the beneficiaries connect to the right stakeholders, including presentation and networking events (e.g. marketplace activities, link with investors platforms, local, national, European policymakers, etc.)

(4) Services to the Commission's services to help clustering and analysing research results and integrate them, when and if needed, with other material to reach out targeted audiences and contribute to feedback to policy.

(5) The Horizon Result Platform and its associated services, offering all beneficiaries the opportunity to describe their results, needs, etc. The Horizon Result Platform is also the base for analysing the results, their objectives, needs and maturity, and propose their owners the most appropriate support action. It will also feature opening to VC/BA/Investors networks.

(6) Services to ensure complementarity between Horizon Result Platform and Commission thematic investment platforms such as BlueInvest.

The Publications Office of the EU (OP) and DG for Informatics (DIGIT) will implement some of the actions through the Community Research and Development Information System (CORDIS)¹¹ and related services, using a large part of the indicative budget.

Implementation shall be done through direct procurement and existing Framework Contracts. This action also covers the launch of a new Framework Contract dedicated to D&E support for a duration of 4 years with a maximum budget of 12m€ (start in 2024).

Form of Funding: Procurement

Type of Action: Public procurement

Indicative timetable: Q1 2023, Q1 2024

Indicative budget: EUR 5.00 million from the 2023 budget and EUR 7.00 million from the 2024 budget

13. Horizon Data Management and Data Integration for Horizon Europe Monitoring

We need to be able to properly gather, control and ensure availability and usability of the Horizon Europe (and previous R&I Programmes) Data. This mostly refers to (1) Horizon Europe Data Quality Framework; (2) Integrating external data to complement Horizon Europe data and contribute to its monitoring (KIPs); (3) Develop and make tools to give access and visualise Horizon Europe related data, both internally (data for policy) and externally (data transparency and contribution to data for Policy).

Some of the actions will be implemented by DG for Informatics (DIGIT), and by the Publications Office of the EU (OP) using a significant part of the indicative budget for web presence, data transparency and linked open data.

¹¹ [CORDIS | European Commission \(europa.eu\)](https://cordis.europa.eu/)

Implementation shall be done through direct procurement and existing Framework Contracts. We also envisage a new Framework Contract to Data Management Services, for a duration of four years and a maximum amount of 12m€, starting in 2023 or 2024; and a new Framework Contract for Data acquisition/licencing, for a duration of four years and a maximum amount of 8m€, starting in 2023 or 2024. If timing allows, these two Framework Contracts might be handles as a single one with 2 lots.

Form of Funding: Procurement

Type of Action: Public procurement

Indicative timetable: Q1 2023, Q1 2024

Indicative budget: EUR 4.60 million from the 2023 budget and EUR 5.10 million from the 2024 budget

14. Preparatory action to establish an EU policy experimentation living lab

This preparatory action will examine and test the potential for the establishment of an EU policy experimentation living lab for implementing innovation in the public sector. The living lab would be aimed at supporting an EU experimentation ecosystems between different public as well as private stakeholders and on different policy aspects, e.g. policy tools, instruments, processes, funding schemes. The preparatory action will particularly look at what resources are needed, barriers that might be encountered, relevant stakeholders, necessary digital infrastructure, and whether the Living Lab should be internal or external to the European Commission. Finally, this action will also contribute to the establishment in the future of a European community of policy experimentation practitioners and experts.

Form of Funding: Procurement

Type of Action: Public procurement

Indicative timetable: Q4 2024

Indicative budget: EUR 0.25 million from the 2024 budget

Other budget implementation instruments

1. External expertise

The use of high quality independent expertise in the evaluation process underpins the engagement of the programme across all stakeholders, communities and interests, and is a prerequisite for maintaining the excellence and relevance of the funded activities.

This action will support the use of appointed external independent experts for the evaluation of project proposals (including the implementation of the ethics appraisal scheme) and prize applications throughout the entire range of Horizon Europe work programmes for the calls and prize contests.

The European Research Executive Agency (REA) will implement the action.

Form of Funding: Other budget implementation instruments

Type of Action: Expert contract action

Indicative timetable: 2023, 2024

Indicative budget: EUR 65.00 million from the 2023 budget and EUR 65.00 million from the 2024 budget

2. Commission expert group on the Economic and Societal Impact of Research and innovation (ESIR)

The Expert group on the Economic and Societal Impact of Research and innovation (ESIR) will continue to support the Commission with strategic advice on how to develop an evidence-based, transformative research and innovation policy that drives the sustainability transitions in Europe from previous iterations of expert groups ESIR and ESIR2. The group's mandate and composition will be adapted in 2023, but its scope and tasks will remain largely the same. The experts will cover sustainability subjects from various angles such as social and ecologic transitions, citizens' engagement, sustainable development measurement, higher education, youth, digitalisation, circular economy and governance issues, as well as crisis preparedness and resilience. The group will engage and co-create with relevant stakeholders to establish an 'ESIR Community'. The group will produce policy briefs, organise outreach activities, disseminate their work in relevant events and conferences, foster policy experimentation and propose solution-oriented policy initiatives based on a demand-driven approach.

A special allowance of EUR 450¹² in the form of a daily unit cost for each full working day spent will be paid to the experts appointed in their personal capacity who act independently and in the public interest. This amount is considered to be proportionate to the specific tasks to be assigned to the experts, including the number of meetings to be attended and possible preparatory work.

Form of Funding: Other budget implementation instruments

Type of Action: Expert contract action

Indicative timetable: Q4 2023

Indicative budget: EUR 0.35 million from the 2023 budget

3. Use of individual experts in support for research and innovation policy

Experts will provide intelligence on how R&I policy can support the recovery and enable and drive the economic, ecological, and societal transitions towards sustainable development.

¹² [Decision C\(2016\)3301 establishing horizontal rules on the creation and operation of Commission expert groups](#)

Among others, and drawing on future policy discussions, they will support economic analysis of R&I and contribute to the Science, Research and Innovation Performance of the EU Report, as well as to its overall quality assurance.

A special allowance of EUR 450¹³ in the form of a daily unit cost for each full working day spent will be paid to the individual experts appointed in their personal capacity who act independently and in the public interest.

Form of Funding: Other budget implementation instruments

Type of Action: Expert contract action

Indicative timetable: 2023, 2024

Indicative budget: EUR 0.10 million from the 2023 budget and EUR 0.10 million from the 2024 budget

4. High-Level Expert group on lessons learnt from the Horizon Europe interim evaluation

The High Level Expert Group is intended to provide recommendations for the future of Horizon in 2023-2024 based on the conclusions of the ex-post meta-evaluation of Horizon 2020 and of the interim evaluation of Horizon Europe to feed into the design of FP10. Proper timing is needed to feed with the right information at the right time. The Expert Contract is to be launched in 2023 for an expected duration of 16 months, from June 2023 to September 2024.

A special allowance of EUR 450¹⁴ in the form of a daily unit cost for each full working day spent will be paid to the experts appointed in their personal capacity who act independently and in the public interest. This amount is considered to be proportionate to the specific tasks to be assigned to the experts, including the number of meetings to be attended and possible preparatory work.

Form of Funding: Other budget implementation instruments

Type of Action: Expert contract action

Indicative timetable: Q1 2023

Indicative budget: EUR 0.25 million from the 2023 budget

5. External expertise for ethics reviews and checks

This action will support the use of appointed independent experts for ethics reviews and checks (monitoring) of serious and complex cases. A special allowance of EUR 450/day¹⁵

¹³ [DG BUDG Interpretative Note on Remunerated External Experts Ares\(2021\)6858536](#)

¹⁴ See footnote 12

¹⁵ See footnote 13

will be paid to the expert appointed in his/her personal capacity who acts independently and in the public interest.

Form of Funding: Other budget implementation instruments

Type of Action: Expert contract action

Indicative timetable: 2023, 2024

Indicative budget: EUR 0.50 million from the 2023 budget and EUR 0.50 million from the 2024 budget

6. Use of individual experts

This action will support the provision of independent experts working individually (and therefore not in the context of an expert group) for advising and assisting the Commission services with the implementation, evaluation and design of EU research and innovation policies. Individual experts can be called to perform e.g. (including but not limited to) the following tasks:

- Analysis, design, and evaluation of policies and actions,
- Analysis of the state-of-the-art, impact assessment of policies and actions,
- Analysis of the contribution of the funded research to the EU policy objectives
- Assistance to the elaboration of research and development strategies,
- Contribution to and elaboration of reports, policy papers, and guidance notes,
- Moderation, facilitation, reporting and follow-up for events, conferences, seminars and forums.

Individual experts will be called on ad-hoc basis and will be selected based on their knowledge and experience of the work to be performed. Their tasks might include attending bilateral meetings with Commission services, preparatory work, remote drafting and further development of findings. They will be appointed in a personal capacity, will work independently and in the public interest, and will be paid a special allowance of EUR 450¹⁶ in the form of a daily unit cost for each full working day spent.

Form of Funding: Other budget implementation instruments

Type of Action: Expert contract action

Indicative timetable: 2023, 2024

Indicative budget: EUR 0.05 million from the 2023 budget and EUR 0.05 million from the 2024 budget

¹⁶ See footnote 13

7. Scientific writers for the Scientific Advice Mechanism Team

The European Commission's Group of Chief Scientific Advisors (GCSA) was established in 2015. They form part of the Scientific Advice Mechanism (SAM) of the Commission. The GCSA develops Scientific Opinions with policy recommendations on questions of complex and multidisciplinary nature. For its work, the Group is informed by Evidence Reviews carried out by the SAPEA consortium (Scientific Advice for Policy by European Academies), a Horizon 2020-grant, representing over 100 academies, young academies and learned societies in 40 European countries.

In order to be able to better respond to requests for advice, the SAM Team in Unit 03 will rely on scientific writers to support the writing of scientific opinions and statements. The scientific writers will contribute to the drafting and editing of documents (scientific opinions, statements), including writing the introduction and scientific chapters, compiling information on the policy background, conducting literature reviews, managing references and writing citizen summaries. The first topic on which the writer will work are 'Towards healthy and sustainable food consumption', two other topics will follow during 2023 and 2024.

A special allowance of EUR 450¹⁷ in the form of a daily unit cost for each full working day spent will be paid to the writers who act independently and in the public interest. This amount is considered to be proportionate to the specific tasks to be assigned to the writers.

It is foreseen to hire scientific writers in three periods of 60 days, at EUR 450 per day, plus up to six in-person meetings for each scientific writer with officials from the unit.

Form of Funding: Other budget implementation instruments

Type of Action: Expert contract action

Indicative timetable: 2023, 2024

Indicative budget: EUR 0.04 million from the 2023 budget and EUR 0.04 million from the 2024 budget

8. The European Group on Ethics in Science and New Technologies ('EGE Group')

The European Group on Ethics in Science and New Technologies (EGE) is an independent, multi-disciplinary body appointed by the President of the European Commission that advises on all aspects of Commission policies and legislation where ethical, societal and fundamental rights dimensions intersect with the development of science and new technologies.

The EGE was established in 1991 as the Group of Advisers on the Ethical Implications of Biotechnology ('GAEIB') and replaced in 1997 by the European Group on Ethics in Science and New Technologies ('EGE') extending the group's mandate to cover all areas of the application of science and technology. In 2021 the EGE's mandate was renewed for an

¹⁷ See footnote 13

indefinite period and the fifteen Members of the EGE under its new mandate were appointed by the President of the European Commission in January 2022.

The experts will advise the Commission by issuing Opinions and Statements on issues related to the Commission priorities, the Missions and the key ongoing and future Initiatives of the Commission, also building on the work of identification carried out with the Inter-Service Group on Ethics and EU Policies. The topics fall mainly within three overarching themes – *Green*, *Digital*, and *Democracy* – which coexist with more targeted domains, while most of them lie within – or between – these three themes.

In order to be able to better respond to requests for advice and optimize the outputs to be delivered, a more active contribution of the Members of the EGE is needed. Given that contrary to other Commission bodies of a similar standing, the Members of the EGE have not been remunerated for their work so far, Unit 03 is working on the amendment of the Comm Dec (EU) 2021/156 of 9 February 2021 renewing the mandate of the European Group on Ethics in Science and New Technologies in order to introduce a special allowance for the Members beyond the reimbursement of their expenses.

On the condition that the article 13 par. 1 of the Commission Decision (EU) 2021/156 of 9 February 2021 renewing the mandate of the EGE and, in particular, that the non-remuneration clause will be amended, a special allowance of EUR 450¹⁸ in the form of a daily unit cost for each full working day spent with a maximum number of 40 days per year for the Members and a maximum number of 60 days per year for the Chair will be paid to the experts appointed in their personal capacity who act independently and in the public interest. This amount is considered to be proportionate to the specific tasks to be assigned to the experts, including the number of meetings to be attended and possible preparatory work.

Form of Funding: Other budget implementation instruments

Type of Action: Expert contract action

Indicative timetable: 2023, 2024

Indicative budget: EUR 0.21 million from the 2023 budget and EUR 0.21 million from the 2024 budget

9. Use of individual experts for dissemination of science advice, outreach activities, support of the delivery of scientific advice and increase of public understanding of the function, role and method of scientific advice in policymaking

The importance *of science advice for policy-making* is growing within the Commission, European Union-institutions and in Member States. In particular in the context of the Better Regulation Agenda, but also in national and international contexts (just to name a few like the European Science Advisors Forum, the International Network of Governmental Science Advisors).

¹⁸ See footnote 12

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Therefore, it is key to rely on the support of external, independent individual experts with extensive and demonstrated experience in providing science advice to the Commission and who espouse practical experience in providing science advice with a reputation as independent scientists of the highest repute.

The contributions of these independent individual experts should revolve around multiplying the impact of outreach activities and supporting the delivery and communication of the scientific advice such as opinions of the Group of Chief Scientific Advisors.

These individual experts would be asked as well to support the digital transformation of the working modalities and endeavours to implement the Green Deal Agenda, by connecting the advice to society in general and stakeholder communities in particular.

A special allowance of EUR 450¹⁹ in the form of a daily unit cost for each full working day spent assisting the Commission or a special allowance of EUR 225 for each half working day spent assisting the Commission will be paid to the experts appointed in their personal capacity. The latter will act independently and in the public interest.

Form of Funding: Other budget implementation instruments

Type of Action: Expert contract action

Indicative timetable: 2023

Indicative budget: EUR 0.02 million from the 2023 budget

¹⁹ See footnote 13

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Budget²⁰

	Budget line(s)	2023 Budget (EUR million)	2024 Budget (EUR million)
Calls			
Other actions			
Indirectly managed action		1.00	1.60
	<i>from 01.020500</i>	<i>1.00</i>	<i>1.60</i>
Grant to identified beneficiary according to Financial Regulation Article 195(e)		1.50	
	<i>from 01.020500</i>	<i>1.50</i>	
Service Level Agreement		28.00	17.00
	<i>from 01.020500</i>	<i>28.00</i>	<i>17.00</i>
Provision of technical/scientific services by the Joint Research Centre		0.55	
	<i>from 01.020500</i>	<i>0.55</i>	
Public procurement		51.60	46.89
	<i>from 01.020500</i>	<i>51.15</i>	<i>46.35</i>
	<i>from 01.030100</i>	<i>0.32</i>	<i>0.37</i>
	<i>from 01.030200</i>	<i>0.14</i>	<i>0.17</i>
Expert contract action		66.53	65.90
	<i>from 01.020500</i>	<i>66.53</i>	<i>65.90</i>

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The budget figures given in this table are rounded to two decimal places.
The budget amounts are subject to the availability of the appropriations provided for in the general budget of the Union for years 2021 and 2022.

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Estimated total budget	149.18	131.39
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