



InnovateUK
KTN

Introduction to Horizon Europe – Energy

Frequently Asked Questions

Questions and Answers

Are Northern Ireland / UK based bids still eligible for Horizon funding?

Due to the ongoing delay in the UK's association to Horizon Europe, organisations from Northern Ireland / UK are fully eligible to apply but currently not eligible for funding from the European Commission. However, the UK government has put a safety net in place, which guarantees funding for successful applicants that have Grant Agreements signed before the end of December 2022. Read more about the guarantee funding here: <https://www.ukri.org/apply-for-funding/apply-for-horizon-europe-guarantee-funding/>

Does the Guarantee Fund cover the JUs such as Clean Hydrogen?

The Clean Hydrogen JU has a number of deadlines coming up in September 2022, which are not covered under the current UK Guarantee Fund. However, there is a statement within the UK's R&D Roadmap, which says that the UK government will guarantee funding for any calls that are open to third country participation. We are continuing to encourage applicants apply for these calls, even though they are not specifically covered under the current Guarantee Fund.

Clean Hydrogen Partnership - is the €1bn from private sources simply the match funding of the successful projects or are there private orgs co-sponsoring grants at a programme level? How are UK organisations represented in this public-private partnership?

It is both matching funds and certified additional activities that contribute to the sector (further detail here). The UK Gov't is not currently involved in the Programme Committee for this programme.

Is it possible to have a UK lead in the Clean Hydrogen Partnership calls?

Yes, it is possible for UK organisations to coordinate a proposal for the September deadlines. However, if the UK's association is not ratified before the Grant Agreement needs to be signed, the UK organisation would become an associated partner and thereby ineligible to lead a project. The coordinator role would in this case need to be passed on to another partner within the project.

Are the Built4People calls focusing on residential housing or would tertiary building projects be eligible?

Generally, residential and tertiary buildings are eligible.

Have you any tips for companies who want to be involved in projects but not coordinate them (especially if they have not been involved in Horizon before). e.g. how to identify if the funding call is right for them / if there is a role for them - and how to find project leads?)

There are a number of resources that provide support and help for potential applicants:

- National Contact Points: <https://www.gov.uk/business-finance-support/horizon-europe-funding>
- Innovate UK KTN: <https://ktn-uk.org/programme/european/>
- Innovate UK Edge: <https://www.innovateukedge.ukri.org>
- Cordis, which provides details of successful projects and applicants: <https://cordis.europa.eu>
- The European Commission organises regular info days and brokerage events where you can find out the latest on new Work Programmes and forthcoming funding calls and find project partners: https://ec.europa.eu/info/events_en (filter by "Research and Innovation

Get in touch and sign up for newsletters that are of interest to you, so you receive the latest information automatically.

What tangible support are NCPs able to provide when it comes to forming consortia and developing proposals? And how are these proposals assessed by Horizon Europe?

NCPs can provide guidance and support on any aspect of your Horizon Europe proposal development, except for writing the proposal for you. NCPs can help with discussing your project idea and identifying the right call topic, talking through call requirements and scope, giving advice on financial or legal issues, finding partners, etc.

Proposals will be assessed by expert evaluators employed by the European Commission. The three key evaluation criteria are:

- Excellence
- Impact
- Quality and Efficiency of implementation

You can find more details here: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/experts/standard-briefing-slides-for-experts_he_en.pdf

Can African countries also take part?

Yes, African countries can participate in Horizon Europe as Third Country. There are also dedicated Horizon Europe calls for European Union – African Union collaboration, which specifically require the involvement of African partners. You can find more information here: https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/strategy/strategy-2020-2024/europe-world/international-cooperation/eu-africa-cooperation_en

What TRL should our product be at to have access to Horizon, and Innovate UK?

With regards to Horizon Europe, the expected TRL depends on the specific call topic and project type. It's important to read the call description and requirements very carefully.

There are three different types of projects that are funded under Horizon Europe and which require different maturity levels in terms of TRL:

Research and Innovation Action (RIA): TRL 2 – 5

Innovation Actions (IA): TRL 5 - 8

Coordination Support Actions: TRL 7 - 9

As far as Innovate UK is concerned, funding calls are usually aimed at TRLs between 3 / 4 to 6 / 7. However, this varies from funding scheme to funding scheme, so again it's important to look at the details for each call.

You mentioned that there is financial support to travel to meetings. How does that work?

Before COVID, Innovate UK KTN offered travel support for R&D performing SMEs based in the UK to attend the large consortia building events organised by the Commission in Brussels and other European cities. SMEs had to go through an application process for this travel support and a panel of assessors selected the SMEs that were highly committed to submitting a Horizon application and likely to benefit most from this support.