How to build or lead consortia for Horizon Europe

Helen Sweeney
UK National Contact Point Horizon Europe Cluster 6
Innovate UK

6th December 2023

Helen.sweeney@iuk.ukri.org

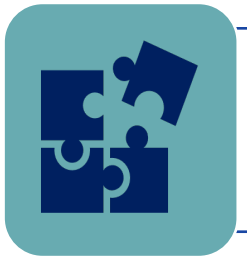
What is a National Contact Point (NCP)

The network of **National Contact Points in the UK** and **other countries** provide free guidance, practical information and assistance on all aspects of participation in Horizon Europe.

NCP services vary in each country/sector, but typically include:

Informing and awareness raising
on Horizon Europe and other EU programmes

Assisting, advising and training
to improve the quality of Horizon Europe proposals



Signposting and cooperation
highlighting support & supporting consortium development

Sign up to our UK NCP newsletter:

What is being covering today

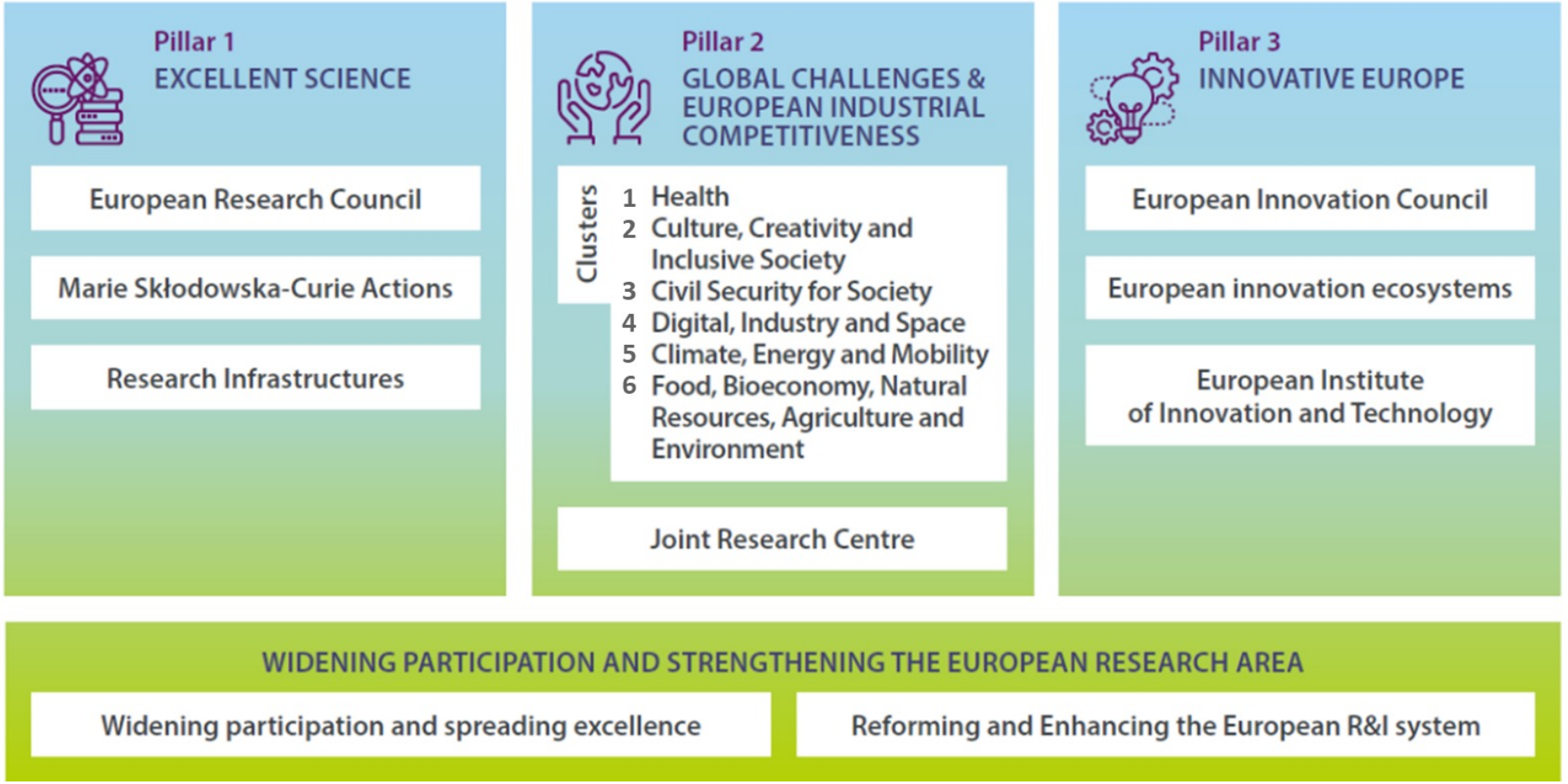
Being a partner in a project

- Why Horizon Europe
- Eligibility criteria
- Your offer
- Finding the right Call Topic
- How to find partners.

Being a coordinator of a project

- What are the role and responsibilities

Horizon Europe is the world's largest collaborative research and innovation programme



Why consider Horizon Europe?

- High funding rate
- Guaranteed and predictable funding
- No artificial constraints on consortia make up
- Access to cutting edge technologies, infrastructure & talent
- Increased visibility at EU & global level
- Build domestic and international partners/customers
- Solving global grand challenges
- Influence standards, regulations and research policies
- Creating UK jobs, growth and stronger supply chains

Eligibility criteria explained

Any legal entity is eligible to participate in Horizon (whether it is eligible for funding or not), This includes Universities Research organisation, Charities, Businesses, Local Authorities, Government Departments and other Public Bodies.

To be **eligible for funding**, applicants must be established in one of the eligible countries,

- Member States of the European Union, including their outermost regions;
- Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs) linked to the Member States
- Eligible non-EU countries:
  - Countries associated to Horizon Europe (UK from 1st Jan 2024)
  - Low- and middle-income countries

Consortium Composition:

- At least one independent legal entity established in a Member State; and
- At least two other independent legal entities, each established in different Member States or Associated Countries.

Stated in the General Annexes

Types of Action

Coordination and support actions (CSA)

Activities contributing to the objectives of the Horizon Europe Programme

Research and innovation actions (RIA)

Activities aiming primarily to **establish new knowledge or to explore the feasibility** of a new or improved technology, product, process, service or solution.

Innovation actions (IA)

Activities directly aimed at **producing plans and arrangements** or designs for new, altered or improved products, processes or services,including prototyping, testing, demonstrating, piloting, large-scale product validation and market replication.

Pre-commercial procurement actions (PCP) and Public procurement of innovative solutions actions (PPI)

EC Technology Readiness Levels

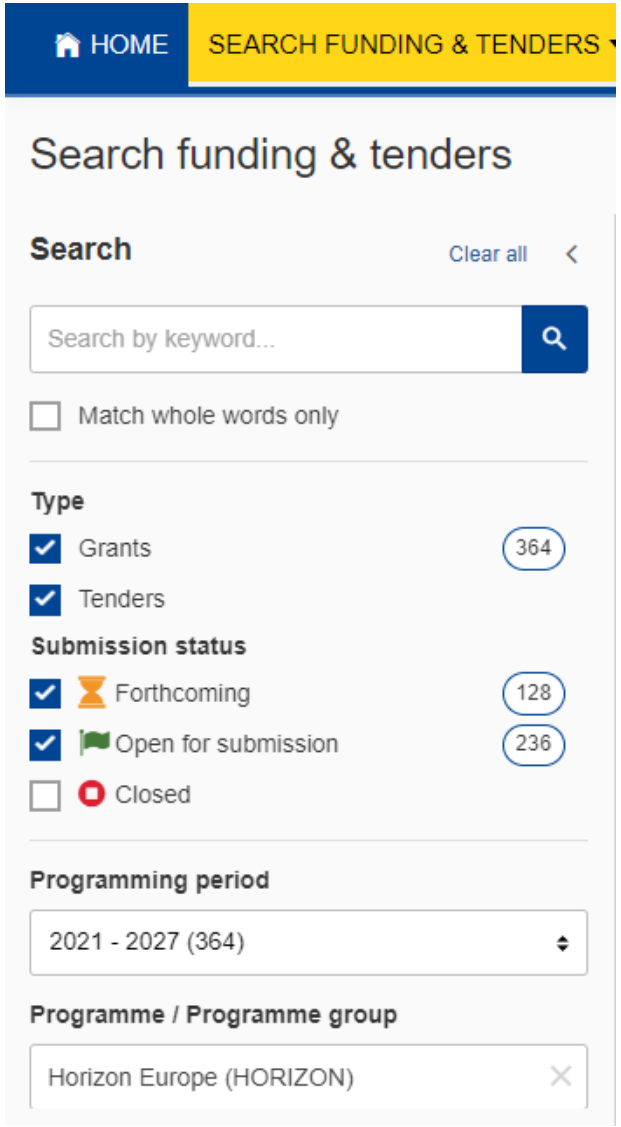
Let's start with you

- What are your strengths?
- What and where are your connections and networks?
- What are the challenges that collaborative working would assist?

What's in Horizon Europe that might be of interest?

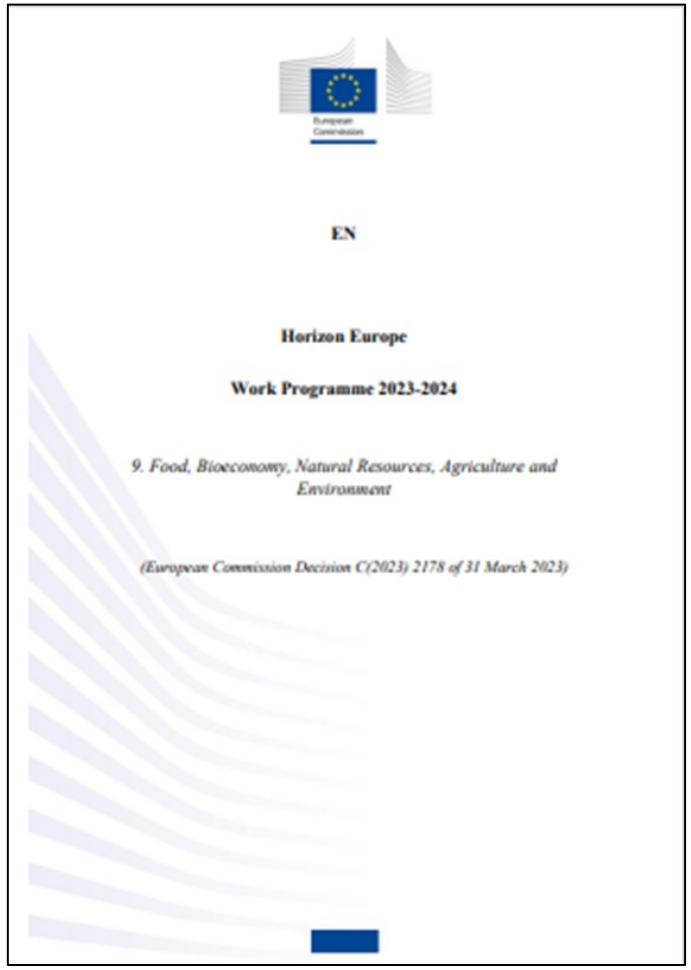
Some pointers on where to find information

EC Funding and Tenders Portal website

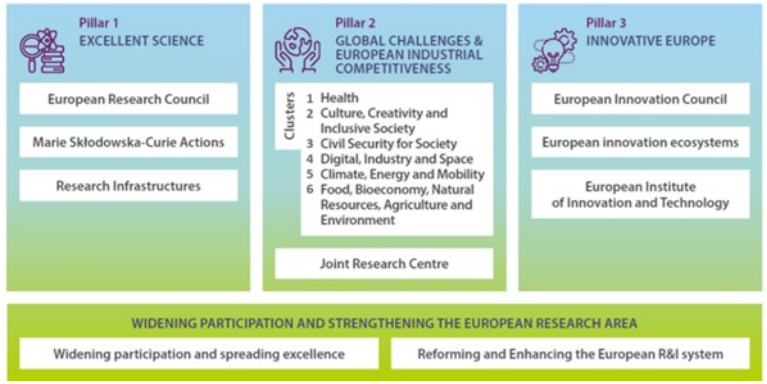


Some pointers on where to find information

Published Work Programmes



- Usually published every 2 years
- Read the Introduction. It sets the context with supporting policy and strategy and useful information on the specific requirements
- Don't forget the Destination introductions. More information about what is expected by the EC.



Looking for appropriate Calls

Call Identifier and Call Topic Title this is the question to be addressed

Specific conditions include budget, type of action and eligibility conditions

HORIZON-CL6-2024-FARM2FORK-01-1: Agro-pastoral/outdoor livestock systems and wildlife management

Specific conditions	
Expected EU contribution per project	The Commission estimates that an EU contribution of around EUR 5.00 million would allow these outcomes to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of a proposal requesting different amounts.
Indicative budget	The total indicative budget for the topic is EUR 5.00 million.
Type of Action	Research and Innovation Actions
Eligibility conditions	The conditions are described in General Annex B. The following exceptions apply: The following additional eligibility criteria apply: the proposals must apply the multi-actor approach. See definition of the multi-actor approach in the introduction to this work programme part.
Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements	The rules are described in General Annex G. The following exceptions apply: Eligible costs will take the form of a lump sum as defined in the

This is what the project must deliver

- Expected Outcome
- Scope - this provides some insights to approaches or solutions

Expected Outcome: In line with the objectives of the farm to fork strategy for a transition to fair, healthy and environmentally friendly livestock production systems, and of the EU biodiversity strategy for 2030, including the conservation status of certain habitats and species, the successful proposal will help policy makers and other actors to monitor and improve the management of farming and terrestrial wildlife relationships, thus contributing to sustainable agriculture and ecosystem services.

Project results are expected to contribute to all of the following outcomes:

- Innovative and sustainable practices and tools at landscape level to prevent and control negative consequences of interactions between livestock and wild animals to protect wildlife and pastoral/outdoor production systems
- Recommendations/policy advice on optimal management at EU level of wildlife and agro-pastoral systems
- Decision-making process on wildlife management and land planning participated by relevant stakeholders
- Improved coordination across Europe in terms of wildlife management, surveillance and data collection systems

Scope: Agro-pastoral/outdoor livestock farming systems, which include a large number traditional activities in Europe such as grazing systems, mountain livestock farming, transhumance, silvo-pastoral and agroforestry systems, offer beneficial effects not only to animal production, e.g., in case of scarce fodder resources, or to animal welfare, but also to habitat maintenance, carbon sequestration, biodiversity conservation and soil protection.

What do you have to offer?

- Self-assessment of relevant skills, experience, strengths, technologies and innovations
- Check against the Call Topic scope and expected impacts for a good fit
- Collaboration is the next step

Finding Partners

Can feel a bit like this

What do good partners look like?

- Enthusiastic and committed
- Trustworthy and good to work with - these are long projects

Refer to the call topic

- Which sectors and disciplines are needed?
- What expertise is needed for the project? Good to have some partners with EU/collaborative experience, especially as coordinator.
- Expert in their area
- Not everyone needs to have the same size role
- Each partner should have a clear and defined purpose

Remember

- Have a good balance of countries and types of organisation and gender representation.

What constitutes a winning consortium?

One that can **deliver** the expected outcomes and impact within the stated scope and budget (and give the evaluators confidence that they can).

There is no 'typical' or 'model' consortium structure/membership
Common to see universities, big business, small business, research and technology organisations, consultancies, local authorities, national authorities all within the one consortium.

Useful to include **exploitation partners** – someone who is going to take the outputs of the project and actually implement them to show immediate impact.

Useful to include the **end user community**, possibly as an advisory board or associate partners (not direct beneficiaries but costs e.g. travel can be included in 'other costs'), again to demonstrate route to implementation.

Evaluation criteria (RIAs and IAs)

EXCELLENCE

- ✓ Clarity and pertinence of the **project's objectives**, and the extent to which the proposed work is ambitious, and goes beyond the state-of-the-art.
- ✓ Soundness of the proposed **methodology**, including the underlying concepts, models, assumptions, inter-disciplinary approaches, appropriate consideration of the **gender dimension** in research and innovation content, and the quality of **open science practices** including sharing and management of research outputs and engagement of citizens, civil society and end users where appropriate.

IMPACT

- ✓ Credibility of the **pathways** to achieve the expected **outcomes and impacts** specified in the work programme, and the likely scale and significance of the contributions due to the project.
- ✓ Suitability and quality of the **measures to maximize expected outcomes and impacts**, as set out in the dissemination and exploitation plan, including communication activities.

QUALITY AND EFFICIENCY OF THE IMPLEMENTATION

- ✓ Quality and effectiveness of the **work plan**, assessment of risks, and appropriateness of the effort assigned to work packages, and the resources overall.
- ✓ Capacity and role of each **participant**, and extent to which the **consortium** as a whole brings together the necessary expertise.

Proposals aspects are assessed to the extent that the proposed work is within the scope of the work programme topic

Start with who you know

- Are there people you have worked with before or know with suitable expertise?
- Ask your networks to ask their networks for any information or introductions. It's a small world
- Engage effectively at networking events. Make yourself known and indispensable
- Continue, restart or start engaging at European events, networks and partnership appropriate to your sector
- Some limited Travel grants are available.

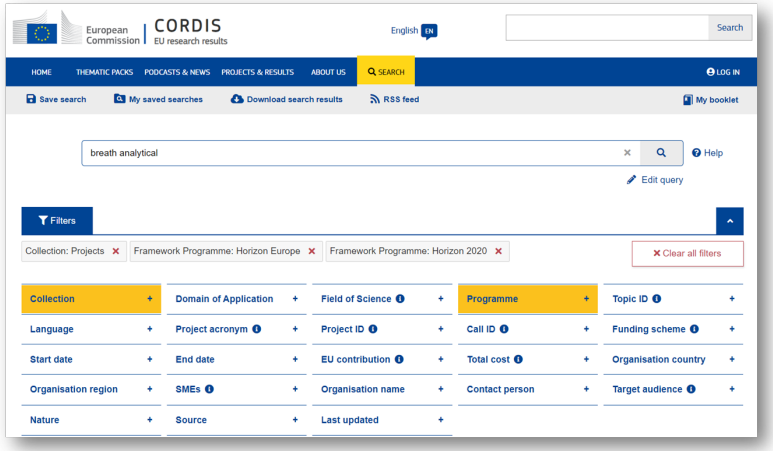
Who has been successful in the past?

CORDIS: European Commission website where you can search for past Horizon projects and participants.

You can use your keywords, phrases or Call identifier code to interrogate the database and check whether what you are considering has already been funded.

All live and completed projects are listed and will show all published results.

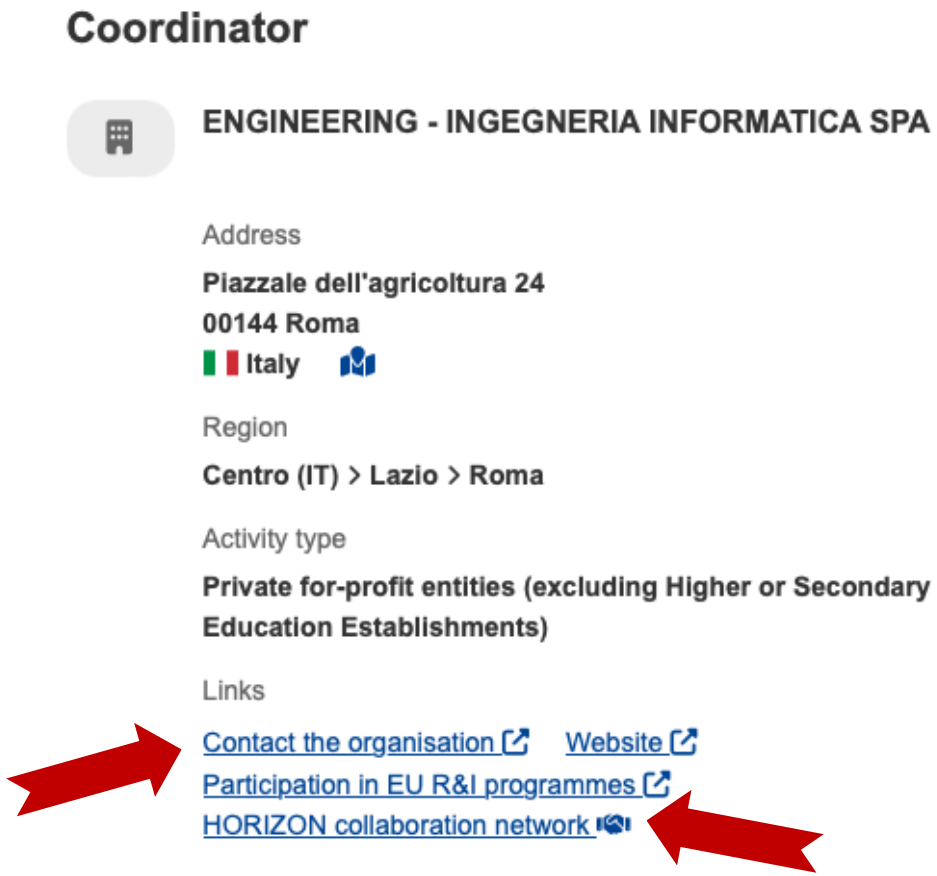
Details of the coordinator and the project partners. You can also contact them directly via the website.

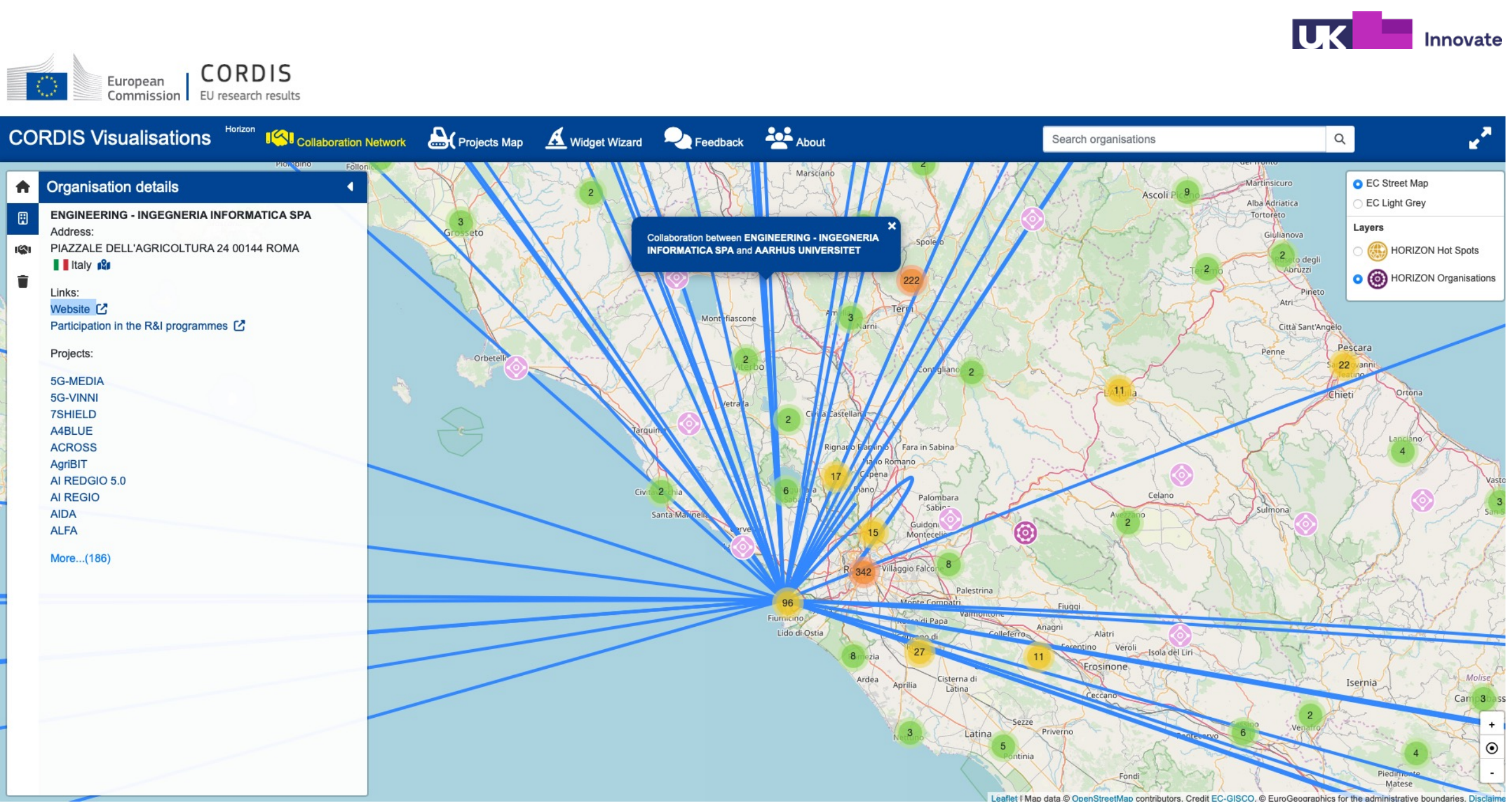


How to find partners with a track record of success

Search Cordis using key words for relevant projects already underway

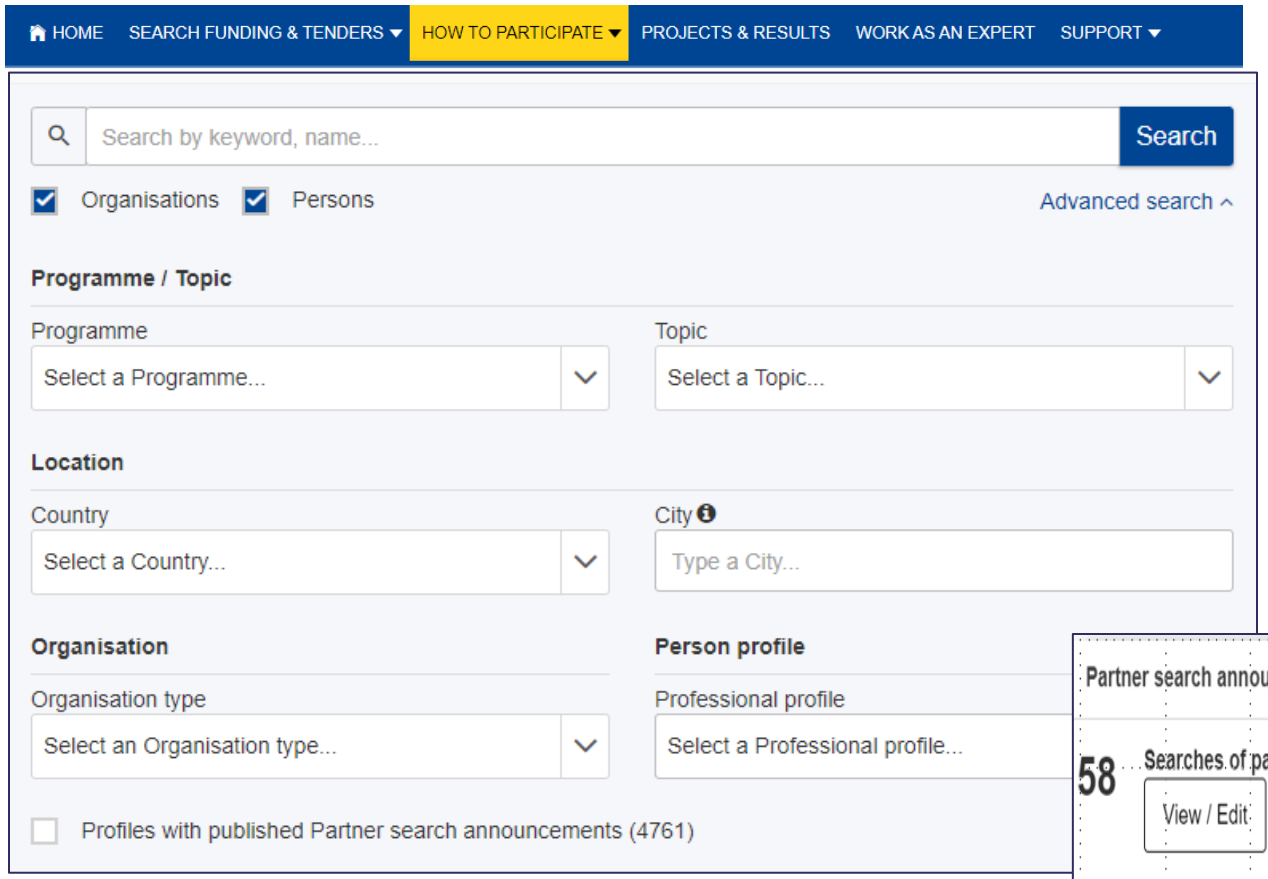
- E.g. searching for 'precision' AND 'agriculture' AND 'GNSS returns 33 projects
- 1st listed is AgriBIT: Artificial intelligence applied to precision farming by the use of GNSS and integrated technologies
- Project coordinator as ENGINEERING - INGEGNERIA INFORMATICA SPA of Italy and gives opportunity to contact them and their partners
- Contact is to the Project Participant, not just a central administrative function.

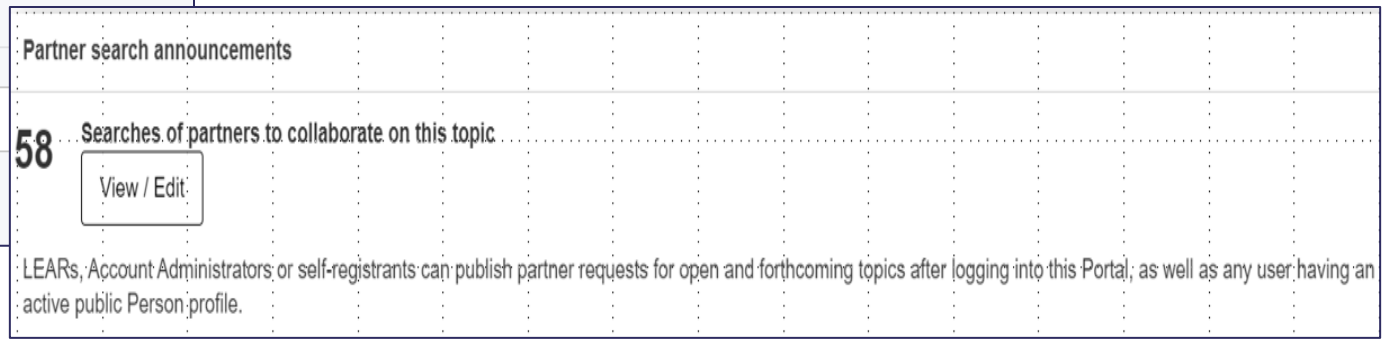



European Commission | CORDIS
EU research results
UK Innovate
CORDIS Visualisations
Horizon
Collaboration Network
Projects Map
Widget Wizard
Feedback
About
Search organisations
Organisation details
ENGINEERING - INGEGNERIA INFORMATICA SPA
Address:
PIAZZALE DELL'AGRICOLTURA 24 00144 ROMA
Italy
Links:
Website
Participation in the R&I programmes
Projects:
5G-MEDIA
5G-VINNI
7SHIELD
A4BLUE
ACROSS
AgriBIT
AI REDGIO 5.0
AI REGIO
AIDA
ALFA
More...(186)
Collaboration between ENGINEERING - INGEGNERIA INFORMATICA SPA and AARHUS UNIVERSITET
EC Street Map
EC Light Grey
Layers
HORIZON Hot Spots
HORIZON Organisations
Leaflet | Map data © OpenStreetMap contributors. Credit EC-GISCO. © EuroGeographics for the administrative boundaries. Disclaime

EC Funding and Tenders Portal

All Partner Search Information





This information is gathered from the individual Call Topic pages Partner Search on the Portal.

Organisations have uploaded their details, profiles and relevant information.

For each organisation you can see, info on previous/current project, the number of projects and roles (coordinator/beneficiary), main collaboration partners, project title, contact, link to project info on CORDIS.

Brokerage Tools

The European Commission holds Info Days and accompanying Brokerage events using B2Match platforms.

Other groups and organisations will carry out Brokerage events related to the Cluster Partnerships or the Missions.

National Support Services

Innovate UK KTN

Knowledge Transfer Network

Has deep thematic knowledge and networks including in Europe to help companies identify opportunities and partners. It supports NCPs with their thematic activities.

Innovate UK KTN: European Programmes

Work closely with the National Contact Points (NCPs), Innovate UK EDGE and FCDO.

Support UK organisations in **engaging with International R&I** initiatives:

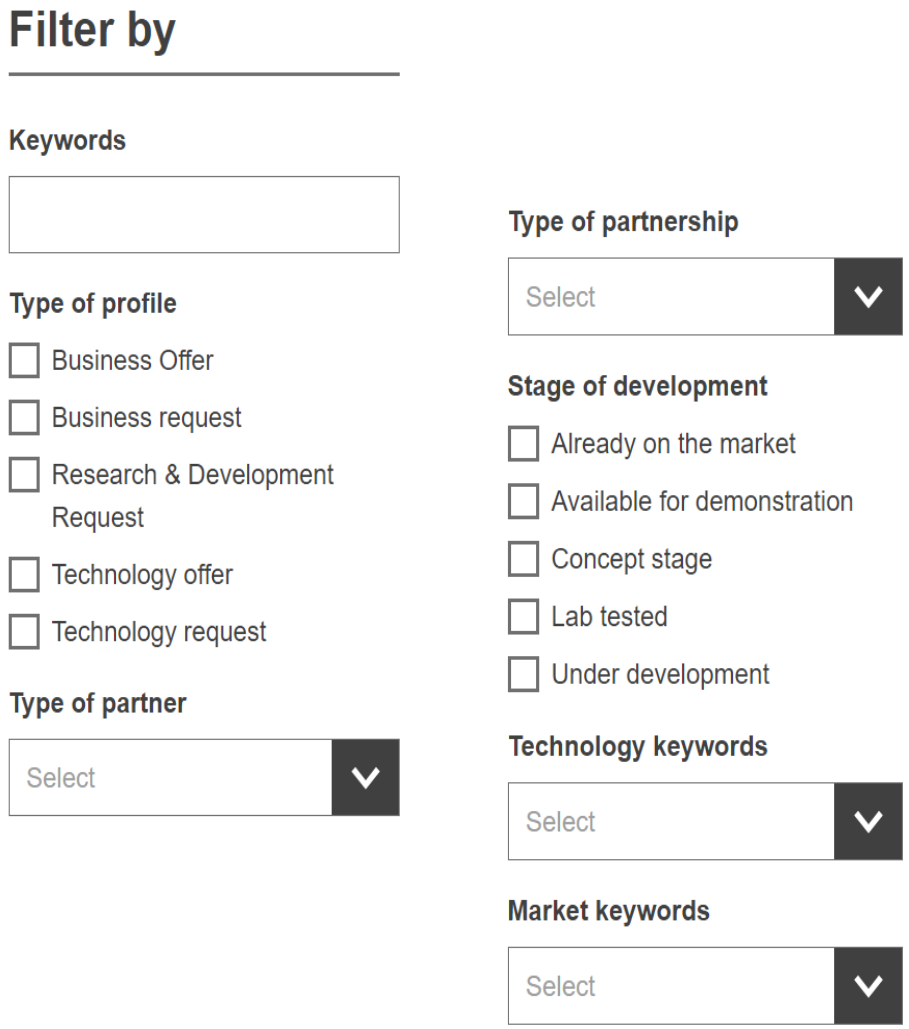
- Horizon Europe
- EUREKA
- UK-European R&I Bilateral calls

- Innovate UK KTN – European Programmes Team **activities**:
  - Organising consortium building activities / events in selected topics
  - Offering “Travel Grants” to attend selected European brokerage events and activities.
  - Collaborating with European initiatives: European working groups, technology platforms, etc.
  - Working with our sectors teams to embed internationalization in the UK innovation networks.

UKRI Innovate UK KTN

Innovate UK EDGE

- EEN is delivered by Innovate UK EDGE in UK
- The Enterprise Europe Network (EEN) helps businesses innovate and grow on an international scale.
- It is the world's largest support network for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) with international ambitions
- Database of over 5,000 partnering opportunities for both Commercial and Research & Innovation
- Contact Innovate UK EDGE to upload your own partner request or to respond to one already posted



Support services – Regional support

Northern Ireland

NICP (Northern Ireland Contact Point) Network: provides regional advice and support to potential NI Horizon Europe applicants by way of assistance with identifying areas of relevance within the competitive calls, help with application completion, identifying collaborative partners for applications, organising events & workshops, and engaging with National Contact Points

Scotland

Regional contact point in Scotland for Horizon Europe who can help coordinate a range of support depending on your needs and is based at Scotland Europa (Scottish Enterprise).

Wales

Horizon Europe Unit: dedicated team supporting Welsh organisations to access Horizon Europe opportunities. Based within the Welsh European Funding Office (WEFO), Welsh Government.

Other support services

UK Research Office (UKRO)

UK NCPs for the European Research Council and Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions
Those based at subscribing organisations can also get support on other areas of Horizon Europe and can register for updates

EU Intellectual Property (IP) Helpdesk

Very useful free to use helpdesk including helpline, training events and templates, guides and proformas (including Consortium Agreements, MOUs, NDA templates, how to write an exploitation and dissemination plan).

EU Science and Innovation

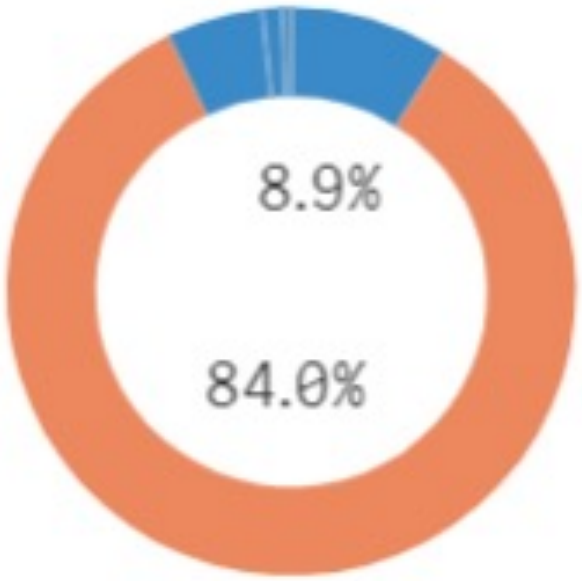
Useful webinars that are hosted on their YouTube Channel

Leading a Consortium

H2020 UK Co-ordinators

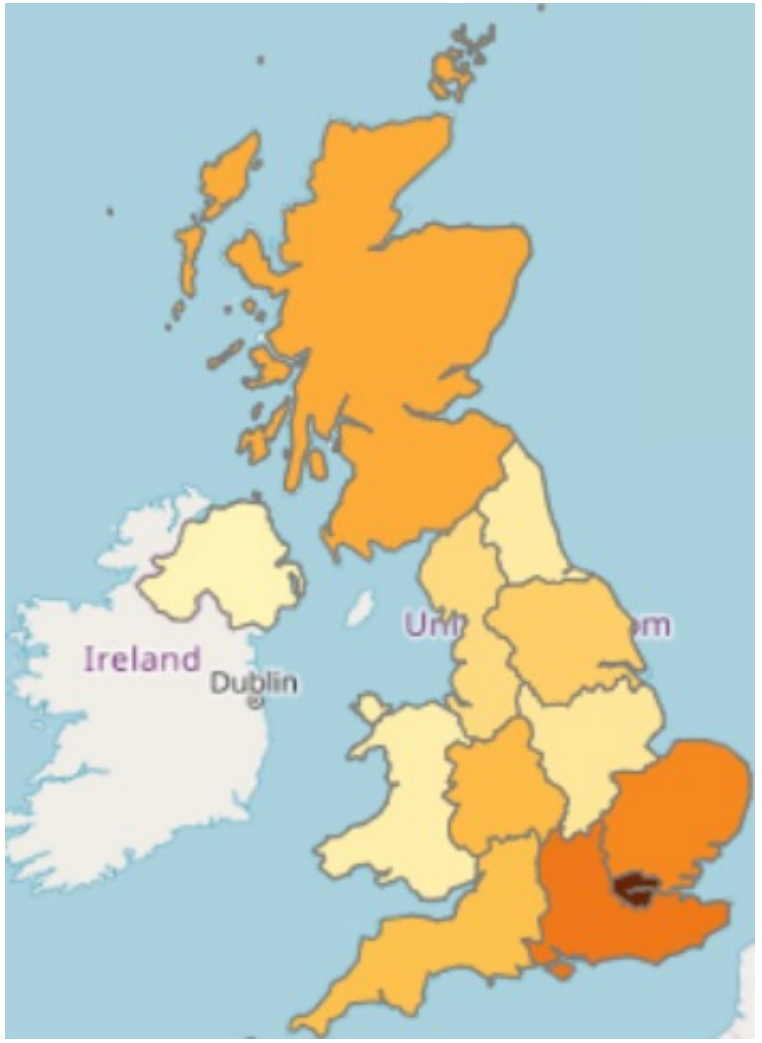
Across the whole of Horizon 2020
UK participants co-ordinated 5616 projects

This was 15% of the total of all H2020 projects



UK Coordinator, types of organisation

84% Higher or Secondary Education Establishment
8.9% Private for profit
5.4% Research Organisation
Not for profit etc



Horizon Europe UK Co-ordinators

Horizon Europe 2021-2023

As we were a Candidate Associated Country during this period we were unable to co-ordinate any projects.

Many organisations acted as the Co-ordinator up until Grant Agreement stage when they had to relinquish the role to another member as the Association status was not ratified.

Horizon Europe 2024 –2027

For the remainder of the Programme the UK is an Associated Country from 1st January 2024 and now able to co-ordinate projects once more.

We look forward to the UK re-establishing itself as a respected co-ordinator in HEU

Co-ordinator Definition

From Article 7 (b) Model Grant Agreement
The co-ordinator must:

(i) monitor that the action is implemented properly

(ii) act as the intermediary for all communications between the consortium and the granting authority, submit the deliverables and reports to the granting authority and inform the granting authority about the payments made to the other beneficiaries

(iii) distribute the payments received from the granting authority to the other beneficiaries without unjustified delay

What is the Co-ordinator Role?

Initially **Proposal Development and Submission**

Bringing a group of individuals together

Leading the science, taking the initiative, leading some of the WP as well as the administrative management tasks.

Work through the detail of the scope and expected outcome what type of organisation needs to do what matrix management

https://rea.ec.europa.eu/news/common-mistakes-avoid-when-applying-horizon-europe-funding-2023-02-09_en

Evaluation criteria (RIAs and IAs)

EXCELLENCE

- ✓ Clarity and pertinence of the **project's objectives**, and the extent to which the proposed work is ambitious, and goes beyond the state-of-the-art.
- ✓ Soundness of the proposed **methodology**, including the underlying concepts, models, assumptions, inter-disciplinary approaches, appropriate consideration of the **gender dimension** in research and innovation content, and the quality of **open science practices** including sharing and management of research outputs and engagement of citizens, civil society and end users where appropriate.

IMPACT

- ✓ Credibility of the **pathways** to achieve the expected **outcomes and impacts** specified in the work programme, and the likely scale and significance of the contributions due to the project.
- ✓ Suitability and quality of the **measures to maximize expected outcomes and impacts**, as set out in the dissemination and exploitation plan, including communication activities.

QUALITY AND EFFICIENCY OF THE IMPLEMENTATION

- ✓ Quality and effectiveness of the **work plan**, assessment of risks, and appropriateness of the effort assigned to work packages, and the resources overall.
- ✓ Capacity and role of each **participant**, and extent to which the **consortium** as a whole brings together the necessary expertise.

Proposals aspects are assessed to the extent that the proposed work is within the scope of the work programme topic

What is the Co-ordinator Role?

If successful **Consortium Co-ordination** involves

- ✓ Financial Management
- ✓ Reporting and Documentation
- ✓ Risk Management
- ✓ Intellectual Property
- ✓ Dissemination & Exploitation
- ✓ Ethics and Compliance
- ✓ Co-operation with other EC Projects
- ✓ Legal

plus the science

We are going to give the last word to a Horizon 2020 Coordinator Santi Dominguez based in Wales

We are going to give the last word to a Horizon 2020 Coordinator Santi Dominguez based in Wales

Video Clip

Any Questions?

[Sign up to our UK NCP newsletter]

Innovate UK

Thank you

@InnovateUK Innovate UK Innovate UK