

# Overview

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- EU-Africa STI Cooperation and the AU-EU Innovation Agenda
- Horizon Europe – Structure and Africa Initiative(s)
- Africa Initiative IV

**Horizon Europe Africa Initiative IV Webinar**  
**Norwegian Research Council, 30 January 2026**

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# EU-Africa cooperation in Research & Innovation (R&I)

- As a strategic partner, the EU seeks to **enhance cooperation with Africa** to promote actions targeted to finding locally adapted solutions to global challenges, that often hit Africa hardest.
- The [Comprehensive EU strategy with Africa](#) and the [Global Approach to Research & Innovation \(R&I\)](#) are the EU's most recent policy initiatives that **prioritise R&I** as a key dimension of **sustainable development**.
  - The *Comprehensive EU Strategy with Africa* proposes to **scale up the EU's academic and scientific cooperation with Africa**, with a view to creating **prosperous knowledge societies**.
  - The *EU Global Approach to R&I* foresees **special openness vis-à-vis African countries** that wish to thrive as knowledge-based economies and accelerate their **sustainable and inclusive development**.
- The [AU-EU High Level Policy Dialogue \(HLPD\) on Science, Technology and Innovation \(STI\)](#) (est. 2010) is the **policy forum** where regular exchanges on R&I policy take place and where **long-term priorities** to strengthen cooperation are established. Under its aegis, the **AU-EU R&I Ministerial Meeting** took place in **July 2020**, establishing the **4 joint priorities** of the AU-EU cooperation in R&I\*:



Public Health



Green Transition



Innovation & Technology



Capacities for Science



# The Joint AU-EU Innovation Agenda

*For building stronger value chains for sustainable growth and decent jobs*



- Flagship Initiative of the **Global Gateway Africa – Europe Investment Package**.
- Outcome of the first ever AU-EU R&I Ministerial Meeting of July 2020, aims to **enhance the impact of STI on socio-economic development, fostering the translation of R&I into products, services, businesses and jobs, in Africa and Europe.**

## 4 objectives:



### Make it real

- **Translate innovative capacities and achievements into tangible outputs**, supporting sustainable growth and jobs, in particular for the youth



### Generate impact by design

- **Foster - strengthen innovation ecosystems** to enhance socio-economic impact



### Strengthen people, communities & institutions

- **Develop sustainable, long lasting and mutually beneficial higher education and R&I partnerships**



### Learn, monitor, and scale it up

- Scale-up instruments that can take forward existing successful programmes and projects, enable - strengthen the knowledge triangle of education, R&I & place special focus on **public participation, transparency, and inclusion**



**Short-, medium- and long-term set of actions,** according to four joint priority areas:



- i. Public Health*
- ii. Green Transition*
- iii. Innovation & Technology*
- iv. Capacities for Science + the area of:*
- v. Cross-cutting issues*

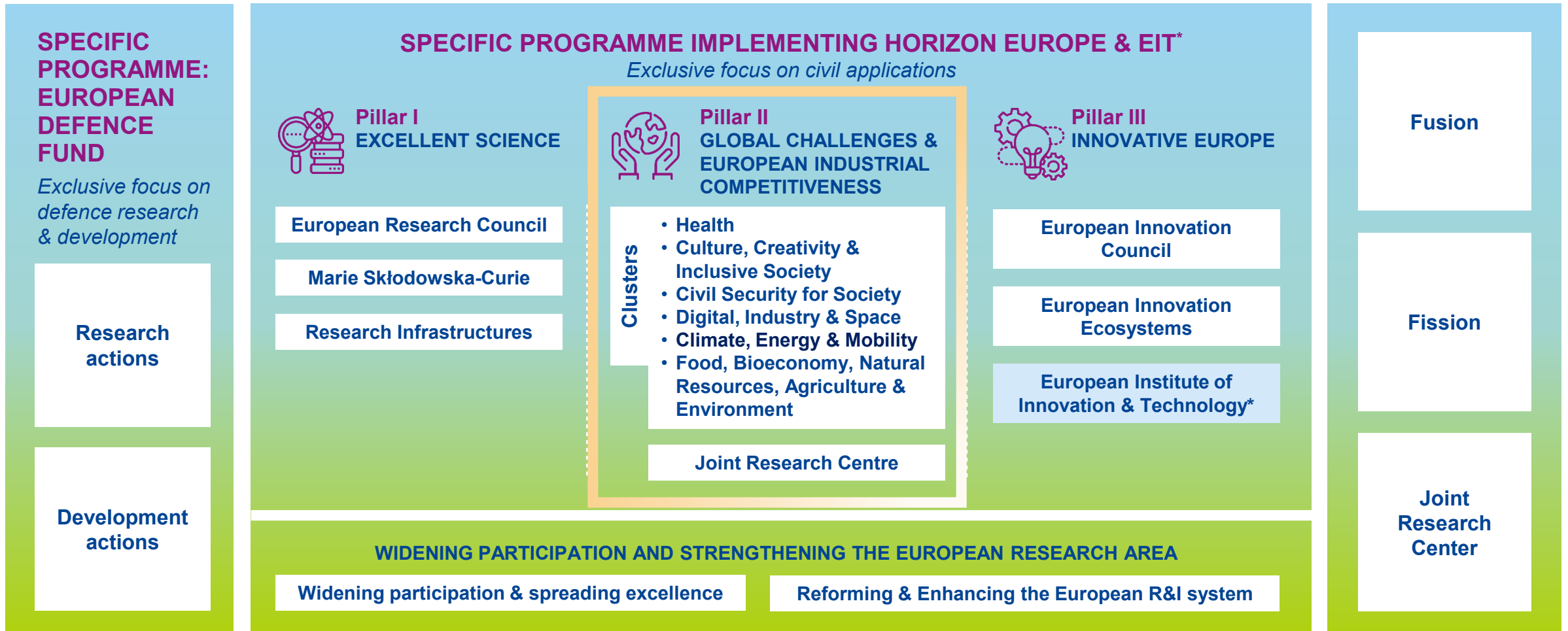


Mapping of **gaps & needs** for each priority area

- Adopted on 19 July 2023 - First Virtual Workshops on 28 November 2023 and 29 May 2024
- Dashboard launched during EU R&I Days 2024 and revised periodically
- More information on the AU-EU Innovation Interface [AU-EU Innovation Interface | EURAXESS \(europa.eu\)](https://euraxess.europa.eu)

# HORIZON EUROPE

# EURATOM

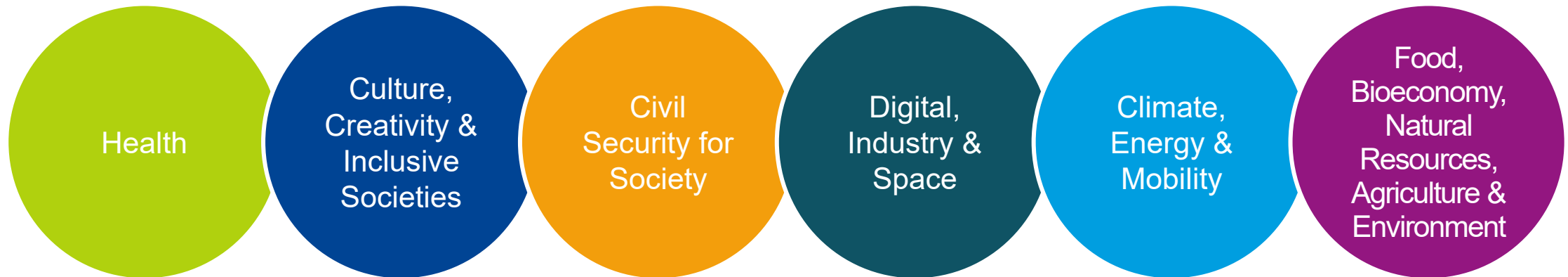


\* The European Institute of Innovation & Technology (EIT) is not part of the Specific Programme

## Pillar II - Clusters

# GLOBAL CHALLENGES & EUROPEAN INDUSTRIAL COMPETITIVENESS:

boosting **key technologies** and solutions underpinning **EU policies & Sustainable Development Goals** (6 clusters and JRC – non-nuclear direct actions)



€53.5 billion

# Award Criteria

| Excellence   | Impact  | Quality and efficiency of the implementation  |
|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- 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.</li><li>- Soundness of the proposed methodology</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- 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 from the project.</li><li>- Suitability and quality of the measures to maximise expected outcomes and impact</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Quality and effectiveness of the work plan, assessment of risks, and appropriateness of the effort assigned to work packages, and the resources overall.</li><li>- Capacity and role of each participant, and the extent to which the consortium as a whole brings together the necessary expertise</li></ul> |

# Africa Initiatives



- The calls actively encouraged or required African research institutions to participate in consortia, fostering new partnerships to address shared global challenges.

|                       | Years     | #Topics | Total Budget (M€) |
|-----------------------|-----------|---------|-------------------|
| Africa Initiative I   | 2021-2022 | 36      | 350               |
| Africa Initiative II  | 2023-2024 | 30      | 300               |
| Africa Initiative III | 2025      | 24      | 500               |

- 219 signed grants highlight EU's commitment to Africa.
- 535 African organizations from more than 40 African countries engaged.
- Total EU financial contribution under Africa Initiative I+II : €175 million to African entities.
- Significant funding allocated to projects under the thematic priorities:
  1. Food and Nutrition security and Sustainable Agriculture (FNSSA)
  2. Climate Change and Sustainable Energy (CCSE)
  3. Global Health and European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership GH EDCTP 3
- Participation in MSCA (Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions) and ERC (European Research Council) complements efforts under the Africa Initiatives

# Beyond Africa Initiative I

*In the first Work Programme of Horizon Europe  
2021-2022 Outcome*

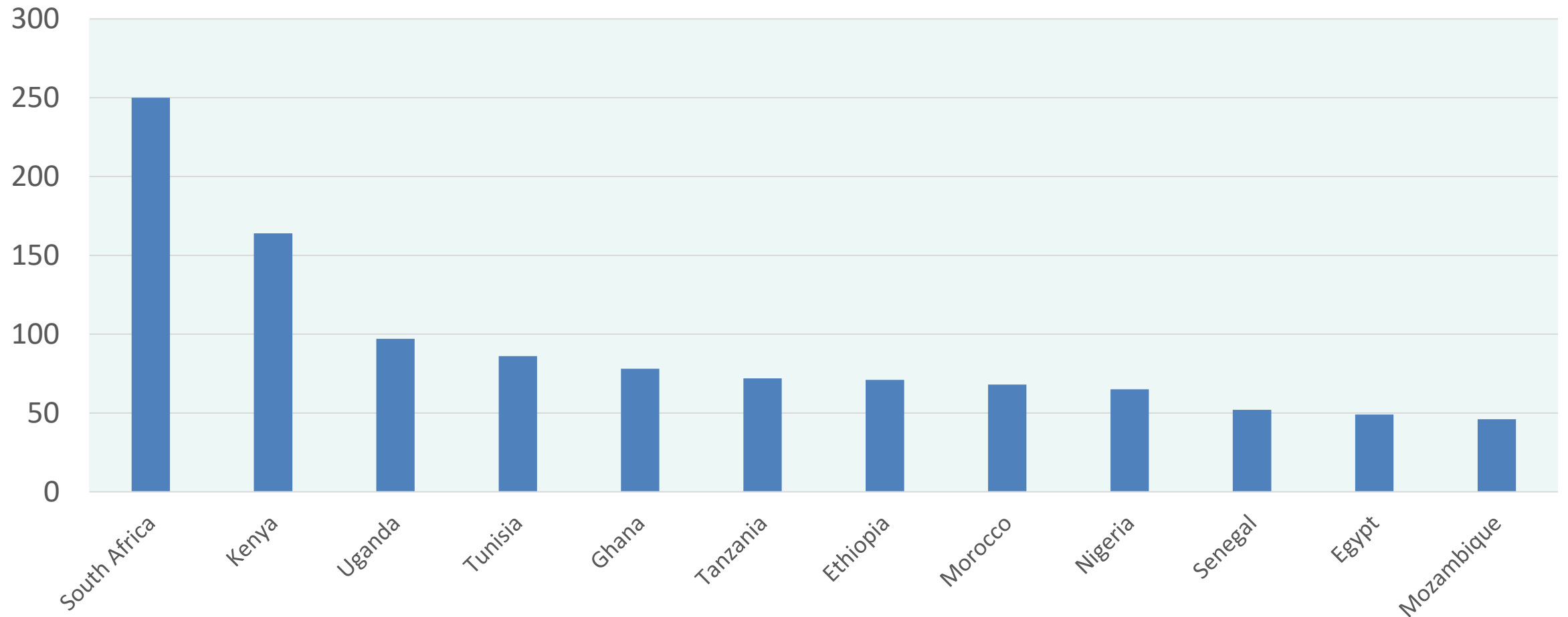


- **There are additional African participations in other Horizon Europe calls that do not encourage specifically the participation of African entities as European consortia often reach out to African partners to access unique expertise, data or research infrastructures**
- **76 grants from 61 topics outside the Africa Initiative I that feature significant African involvement.**
- **131 African organizations from 23 African countries engaged.**
- **Total EU financial contribution of €33 million to African entities.**



# Top Participants to Horizon Europe from Africa

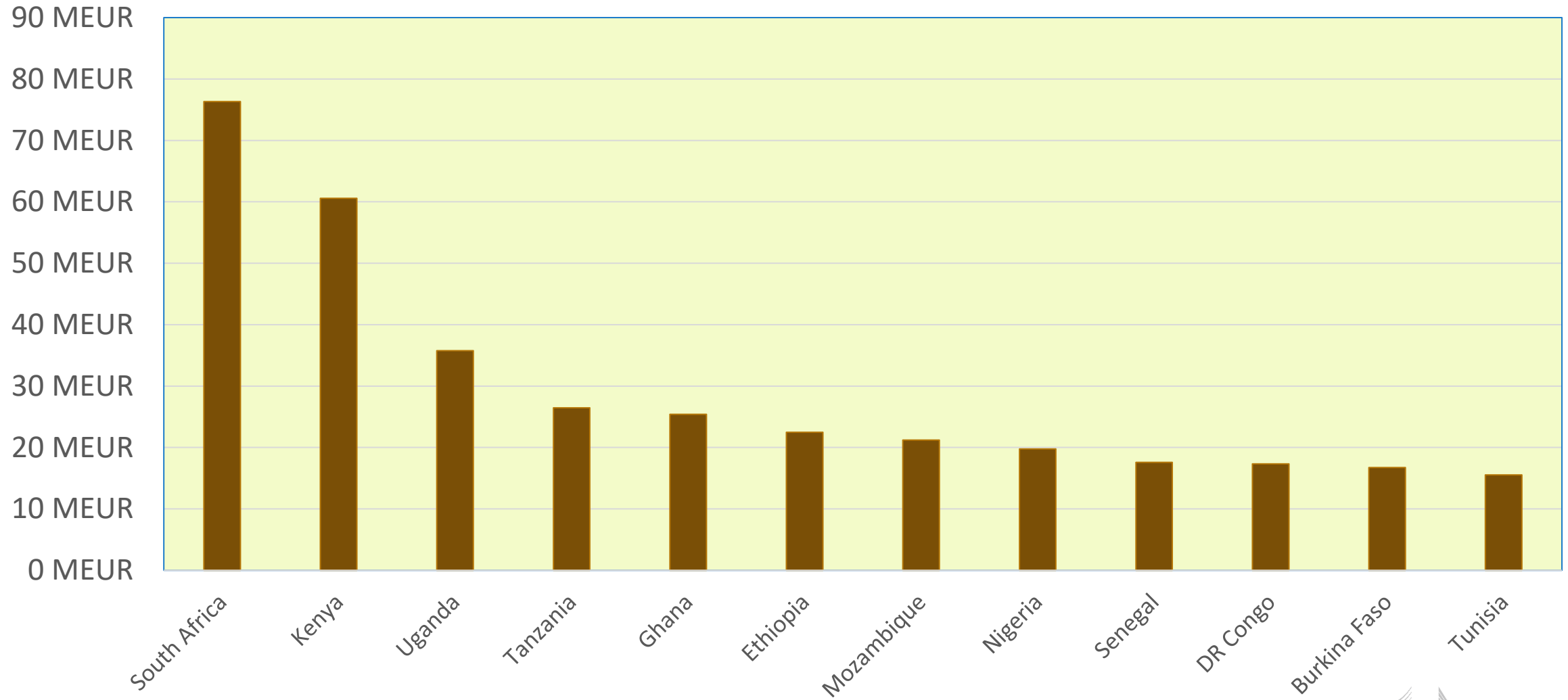
Participation



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# Top Recipients of Horizon Europe from Africa

Net EU Contribution



# Projects Coordinated by Norway with Participation from African Countries in Horizon Europe

| Acronym      | Title  | EU Contribution | Coordinator                                    |
|--------------|--|-----------------|--|
| DiverSea     | INTEGRATED OBSERVATION, MONITORING AND PREDICTION ARCHITECTURE FOR FUNCTIONAL BIODIVERSITY OF COASTAL SEAS   | € 9,688,014     | Norges teknisk-naturvitenskapelige universitet |
| DUALSAVE-FGS | Dual screening by Spectral Artificial Visual Examination (SAVE) for Female Genital Schistosomiasis (FGS) and cervical cancer. Digital, new, low-cost, and simple screening and training. | € 7,984,441     | Oslo universitetssykehus                       |
| HAlMan       | Sustainable Hydrogen and Aluminothermic Reduction Process for Manganese, its alloys and Critical Raw Materials Production  | € 7,316,152     | Norges teknisk-naturvitenskapelige universitet |
| QUASAR       | 70%plus eco-efficiency gains in the PV EOL supply chain by closed loop systems with enhanced recycling rates, systematic collection and management utilising digital twins               | € 7,114,973     | SINTEF AS                                      |
| ACACIA       | Anticipatory Climate Adaptation for Communities in Africa  | € 5,576,854     | NORCE Norwegian Research Centre AS             |
| CryptoT&T    | A CRYPTOSPORIDIOSIS POINT-OF-CARE TEST-AND-TREAT STRATEGY IN CHILDREN WITH DIARRHOEA   | € 4,700,000     | Universitetet i Bergen (UiB)                   |
| ENABLE       | Enabling environments for NCD risk reduction in Ethiopia   | € 4,499,945     | Folkehelseinstituttet                          |
| AtLAST2      | Consolidating plans for the Atacama Large Aperture Submillimeter Telescope   | € 4,005,690     | Universitetet i Oslo                           |
| OPTIC-TB     | OPTIMIZING THE IMPLEMENTATION AND SCALE-UP OF THE WHO TB TREATMENT DECISION ALGORITHMS FOR CHILDREN WITH PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA                                    | € 3,999,998     | Universitetet i Bergen (UiB)                   |
| BAMBOO       | Biodiversity and trade: mitigating the impacts of non-food biomass global supply chains  | € 3,291,497     | Norges teknisk-naturvitenskapelige universitet |

# Links between Norwegian and African participants in HE projects



# Health

| Action ID                       | Topic title   | Budget      | Type of Action | Deadline      |
|---------------------------------|---|-------------|----------------|---------------|
| HORIZON-HLTH-2026-01-ENVHLTH-01 | Towards a better understanding and anticipation of the impacts of climate change on health                                  | €55 million | RIA (7-8)      | 16 April 2026 |
| HORIZON-HLTH-2026-01-DISEASE-04 | Development of novel vaccines for viral pathogens with epidemic potential   | €45 million | RIA (4)        | 16 April 2026 |
| HORIZON-HLTH-2027-01-DISEASE-05 | Development of novel small molecule antiviral therapeutics for pathogens with epidemic potential                            | €45 million | RIA (4)        | 13 April 2027 |
| HORIZON-HLTH-2027-01-DISEASE-06 | Development of monoclonal antibodies to prevent and treat infections from Flaviviruses                                      | €38 million | RIA (4)        | 13 April 2027 |
| HORIZON-HLTH-2027-01-DISEASE-07 | Development of monoclonal antibodies to prevent and treat infections from Filo-, Nairo-, Phenui-, Picorna- and Toga viruses | €38 million | RIA (4)        | 13 April 2027 |
| HORIZON-HLTH-2027-01-DISEASE-08 | Development of innovative antimicrobials against pathogens resistant to antimicrobials                                      | €45 million | RIA (5)        | 13 April 2027 |

# Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society

| Action ID                        | Topic title   | Budget        | Type of Action | Deadline          |
|----------------------------------|---|---------------|----------------|-------------------|
| HORIZON-CL2-2026-01-HERITAGE-05  | Creative alliances: Fostering global partnerships in cultural policies and CCI innovation | €15 million   | RIA (4)        | 23 September 2026 |
| HORIZON-CL2-2027-01-DEMOCRACY-08 | Global Human Rights and EU values   | €12 million   | RIA (4)        | 23 September 2027 |
| HORIZON-CL2-2027-01-DEMOCRACY-05 | Development aid and democratic governance   | €12 million   | RIA (3)        | 23 September 2027 |
| HORIZON-CL2-2026-01-DEMOCRACY-02 | Understanding the forms of local democracy in low-income and low-middle income countries  | €12 million   | RIA (3)        | 23 September 2026 |
| HORIZON-CL2-2026-01-DEMOCRACY-07 | Supporting post-conflict democracy and reconstruction                                     | €12 million   | RIA (3)        | 23 September 2026 |
| HORIZON-CL2-2027-01-HERITAGE-06  | Future-proofing sustainable cultural tourism  | €14.5 million | RIA (3)        | 23 September 2027 |

# Digital, Industry and Space

| Action ID                               | Topic title  | Budget        | Type of Action | Deadline         |
|---|--|---------------|----------------|------------------|
| HORIZON-CL4-2026-04-DIGITAL-EMERGING-09 | Advanced local digital twins using AI for early warning and preparedness   | €6 million    | IA (1)         | 15 April 2026    |
| HORIZON-CL4-2026-01-MAT-PROD-11         | Innovative technologies and tools for exploration and data modelling of raw materials                                      | €18.5 million | RIA (3)        | 21 April 2026    |
| HORIZON-CL4-2026-01-MAT-PROD-12         | Technologies for innovative extraction of critical raw materials   | €19 million   | RIA (3)        | 21 April 2026    |
| HORIZON-CL4-2026-01-MAT-PROD-13         | Monitoring of secondary raw materials  | €4 million    | CSA (1)        | 21 April 2026    |
| HORIZON-CL4-2026-01-MAT-PROD-14         | Improving availability of secondary raw materials through recycling  | €28 million   | IA (4)         | 21 April 2026    |
| HORIZON-CL4-2027-01-MAT-PROD-16         | Technologies for innovative processing of raw materials  | €49 million   | IA (4)         | 02 February 2027 |
| HORIZON-CL4-2027-01-MAT-PROD-17         | Expert network on critical raw materials   | €3 million    | CSA (1)        | 02 February 2027 |
| HORIZON-CL4-2027-04-DIGITAL-EMERGING-06 | International cooperation in AI  | €3 million    | IA (2)         | 18 March 2027    |
| HORIZON-CL4-2027-01-MAT-PROD-22         | Innovative advanced materials and new production processes – reducing dependencies on critical and strategic raw materials | €36 million   | IA (5)         | 02 February 2027 |

# Climate, Energy and Mobility

| Action ID                 | Topic title  | Budget      | Type of Action | Deadline      |
|---------------------------|--|-------------|----------------|---------------|
| HORIZON-CL5-2026-07-D1-05 | Improving climate and weather models for Africa  | €21 million | RIA (3)        | 15 April 2026 |
| HORIZON-CL5-2027-01-D1-11 | Africa–EU co-fund action on climate  | €15 million | CO-fund (1)    | 2027          |
| HORIZON-CL5-2027-02-D3-10 | Renewable Energy Valleys in Africa to increase energy security and energy access in Africa | €9 million  | IA (2)         | 31 March 2027 |

# Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture & Environment

| Action ID                                    | Topic title   | Budget       | Type of Action | Deadline          |
|--|---|--------------|----------------|-------------------|
| HORIZON-CL6-2026-02-FARM2FORK-13             | Boosting plant health and reducing losses on farm and during storage for sustainable growth in Africa (FNSSA) | €12 million  | RIA (2)        | 14 April 2026     |
| HORIZON-CL6-2026-02-FARM2FORK-14             | Green transition food processing in Africa  | €11 million  | RIA (2)        | 14 April 2026     |
| HORIZON-CL6-2027-02-FARM2FORK-09             | AU–EU Partnership on Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture (FNSSA)                          | €7 million   | CSA (1)        | 23 September 2027 |
| HORIZON-CL6-2027-02-FARM2FORK-02 (two-stage) | Optimising the water-nutrient-energy nexus for sustainable and climate smart agriculture in Africa (FNSSA)    | €12 million  | RIA (2)        | 08 April 2027     |
| HORIZON-CL6-2026-03-GOVERNANCE-04            | Supporting All-Atlantic Ocean Research and Innovation Alliance  | €4.5 million | CSA (1)        | 15 April 2026     |

# Beyond Horizon Europe Pillar II

| Action ID                    | Topic title   | Budget      | Type of Action | Deadline     |
|------------------------------|---|-------------|----------------|--------------|
| HORIZON-INFRA-2026-DEV-01-06 | Strengthening the international dimension of ESFRI and/or ERIC research infrastructures | €12 million | CSA (5)        | 16 June 2026 |

# Improving climate & weather models for Africa

 **Objective:** Improve weather and climate models over Africa, enhance prediction capacity, and strengthen African climate research.

## Key Details:

- **Call:** Cluster 5 — Call 07-2026 (WP 2026–2027)
- **Type:** Research and Innovation Action (RIA)
  - **EU contribution:** €7–8M per project
  - **Total budget:** €24M
- **Eligibility:** At least 30% African beneficiaries; Copernicus/Galileo required when using space-based data
  - **Additional Requirements:** Open access to all new/improved modules & model code.

## Expected Outcomes

- Higher-quality climate and weather models that reflect African conditions and support adaptation & early warning
- Stronger climate prediction services enabling communities to better respond to climate impacts
- Stronger African climate research capacity, with increased representation in IPCC, UNFCCC, etc.
- Enhanced collaboration between African and European scientific institutions
- Support to the EU Adaptation Strategy, Sendai Framework, Nairobi Declaration & Team Europe Initiative on Adaptation

## Scope of Activities

- Closing key knowledge gaps on rainfall, extreme events, regional dynamics
- Integrating local knowledge, historical data rescue, improved assimilation
- Leveraging AI/ML, digital tools & high-performance computing
- Strong co-design with African stakeholders
- Capacity-building for long-term African scientific leadership
- Cooperation with existing EU initiatives (ClimSA, CS4RRA, AfriGEO, etc.)

# Africa–EU CO-FUND action on climate

 **Objective:** Establish long-term EU–AU collaboration under the Climate Action pillar of the CCSE Partnership through joint activities and co-funded projects.

## Key Details:

- **Call:** Cluster 5 — Call 01-2027
- **Type:** Programme Co-Fund Action
- **EU contribution:** €15M per project
  - **Total budget:** €15M
- **Eligibility:** At least 30% African partners; Copernicus/Galileo requirement
  - **Funding rate:** Up to 50% of eligible costs
  - Up to **1/3** of EU funding may support additional African partners

## Expected Outcomes

- Long-term EU–AU climate research cooperation
- Aligned EU, national & multilateral funding, reducing fragmentation
- Improved African capacity to understand & adapt to climate impacts
- Enhanced African representation in IPCC, UNFCCC, and global for a
- Contributions to the Paris Agreement, Sendai Framework, Nairobi Declaration and EU Adaptation Strategy

## Scope of Activities

- Implement joint calls based on CCSE Roadmap priorities
- Focus on climate risk reduction & resilience
- Improve climate data access, sharing, and services
- Ensure co-design with end-users & communities
- Support skills development, exchange programmes & local capacity
- Run coordination & clustering with Horizon Europe and Global Gateway initiatives
- Duration expected: 5–6 years

# International cooperation in AI

 **Objective:** Strengthen AI uptake in low- and middle-income countries by enabling tailored solutions, local data use, and demonstration in real-life settings.

## Key Details:

- **Call:** DIGITAL
- **Type:** Innovation Action (IA)
- **EU contribution:** €1.5M per project
  - **Total budget:** €3M
- **TRL:** Start at **TRL 5**, reach **TRL 7**
- **Eligibility:** Subject to restrictions for protection of EU communication networks
  - **Funding model:** Lump-sum

## Expected Outcomes

- Faster uptake of localised, tailored AI solutions
- Easier large-scale deployment of local AI solutions in low and middle-income countries
- Strengthened local AI innovation ecosystems
- Socio-economic impact in education, health, agriculture, sustainability
- More efficient system demonstrations in real environments

## Scope of Activities

- Prototype, test, validate, and demonstrate AI systems in operational environments
- Align activities with EU initiatives (International Digital Strategy for the EU, AI Continent Action Plan)
- Support local data gathering and access consistent with EU data strategy
- Establish and support Living Labs in local innovation hubs
- Develop tailored and contextualised AI solutions using local data
- Strengthen local innovation environments and talent pipelines

# Global Health EDCTP3

| Action ID                                      | Topic title  | Budget        | Type of Action | Deadline                           |
|--|--|---------------|----------------|------------------------------------|
| HORIZON-JU-GH-EDCTP3-2026-01-TB-01-two-stage   | Global collaboration action for the development of TB drugs for therapy and chemoprophylaxis in adults and children in sub-Saharan Africa                      | €30 million   | JU RIA         | 04 March 2026<br>17 September 2026 |
| HORIZON-JU-GH-EDCTP3-2026-02-CH-01-two-stage   | Global collaboration action on climate and health in sub-Saharan Africa  | €25 million   | JU RIA         | 04 March 2026<br>17 September 2026 |
| HORIZON-JU-GH-EDCTP3-2026-01-HIV-03-two-stage  | Global collaboration action towards better prevention, treatment and clinical management of HIV co-infections or co-morbidities in sub-Saharan Africa          | €25 million   | JU RIA         | 04 March 2026<br>17 September 2026 |
| HORIZON-JU-GH-EDCTP3-2026-01-LRTI-02-two-stage | Global collaboration action for prevention and treatment of Lower Respiratory Tract Infections (LRTIs) in sub-Saharan Africa                                   | €33.9 million | JU RIA         | 04 March 2026<br>17 September 2026 |
| HORIZON-JU-GH-EDCTP3-2026-03-DIGIT-02          | Enhancing integrated research and healthcare in sub-Saharan Africa through digital innovation and Artificial Intelligence                                      | €18 million   | JU CSA         | 02 September 2026                  |
| HORIZON-JU-GH-EDCTP3-2026-03-SERP-01           | Training and innovation networks for sustained capacity development related to ethics, regulatory, pharmacovigilance, and related digital regulatory platforms | €15 million   | JU CSA         | 02 September 2026                  |

# LEAP-SE Joint Call 2026 – Sustainable Energy

 **Objective:** Establish and strengthen long-term EU–AU cooperation in Research & Innovation on Sustainable Energy, supporting the green energy transition and climate action through co-funded, balanced, and mutually beneficial projects under the AU–EU High-Level Policy Dialogue (HLPD) on STI.

## Key Details:

**Type:** Transnational co-funded joint call

• **Duration of programme:** 6 years

• **Consortium:** ~26 European and African partners

• **Total programme budget:** ~€33 million

• **EC contribution:** €10 million

• **2026 Call indicative budget:** ~€13 million (national/regional funding agencies), €3.5 million (European Commission)

## Expected Outcomes

- Minimum consortium composition:
  - ≥ 2 independent entities from EU Member States or Horizon Europe Associated Countries
  - ≥ 2 independent entities from African Union countries
- Mandatory participation:
  - At least one research organisation
  - At least one commercial company

❑ Funding subject to national/regional eligibility rules

## Scope of Activities

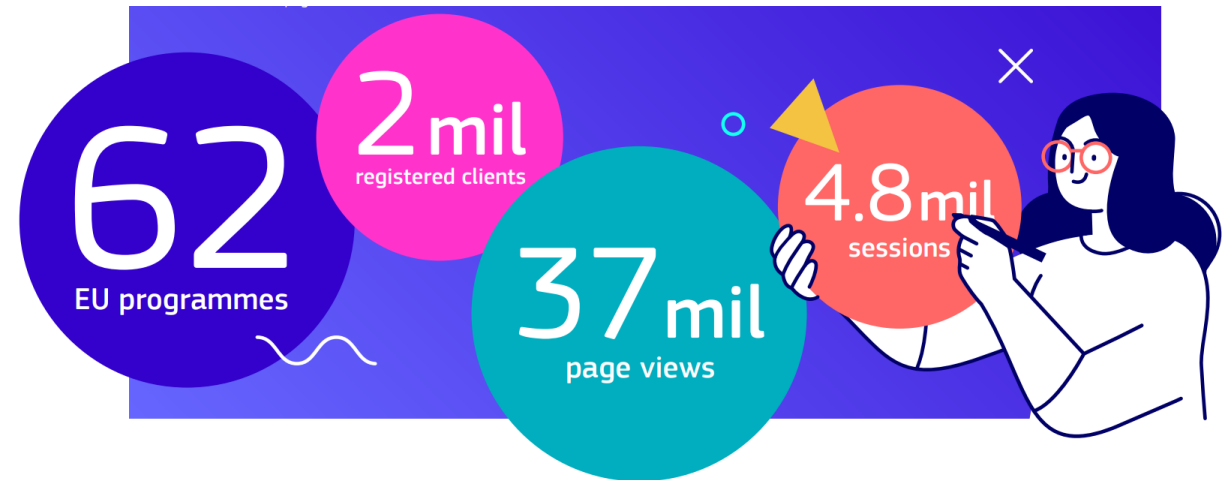
- Renewable Energy assessment & integration in sustainable scenarios
- End-of-life & second-life management of RE components
- Smart stand-alone energy systems
- Smart grids for off-grid applications (multiple scales)
- Energy solutions for productive uses (agriculture, mobility, industry)
- Innovative domestic solutions (clean cooking, cold chain)
- Production & use of Green Hydrogen

# How to search for Horizon Europe Opportunities ?

✓ The [Funding & tenders \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/eu-funding-portal/) (F&T) portal is a one stop shop for EU funding opportunities including Horizon Europe Programme, including for finding partners

✓ Features and functions:

- Searching for calls for proposals
- Registering your organisation
- Searching for partners
- Data and statistics
- Support and guidance (NCPs)
- Proposal and project management



# Follow us, engage and keep up to date via:

- [EU-Africa Cooperation in Research and Innovation](#)
- [AU-EU High-Level Policy Dialogue on Science, Technology and Innovation](#)
- [EU-Africa R&I Cooperation Factsheet](#)
- [Horizon Europe website](#)
- [Africa Initiative I Factsheet](#)
- Joint AU-EU Innovation Agenda: [Presentation](#), [Promotional Video](#), [Working Document](#) and [Pre-print of Commentary Paper](#)
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# Thank you!

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