



## OVERVIEW

Horizon Europe is the EU's and the **world's largest research and innovation collaboration** program, **C\$140 billion** (2021-2027). Canada is now an associated country (closest form of partnership) to Pillar II project calls (effective January 1st, 2024; the Agreement was signed on July 3, 2024).

There is roughly **C\$10 billion worth of Pillar II project calls each year**. These are based on global challenges where a group of chosen partners (consortium) of [Europeans](#), [associated countries](#) and others, work together to co-innovate on projects.

Canadians should look to Horizon Europe to expand their capabilities, build on an innovation that can take 2-6 years to develop, and connect with potential future partners, clients and markets.

Association means Canadians can **participate under equivalent conditions** as legal entities from the EU Member States and **receive grants directly** from the European Commission.

All Canadians are eligible to apply. A consortium can include: researchers, businesses (small and big), institutions, universities, associations, etc. There is no mandatory checklist for types of partners.

Europeans actively seek out Canadians to collaborate with as we are recognized for our strength in innovation, ease to collaborate with, and are viewed as trusted, like-minded and strong partners.

Canadians to date have been successful in 22% of the project calls pursued vs the average of 17%.

Canadians have been active participants since the very first program (1984-1987), and in the latest program were the third most active non-Europeans, behind the US and China.

For a full overview watch this webinar on [Horizon Europe and Canada](#) (Jan 2024, 77 mins).

## [Horizon Europe Pillar II – Global Challenges](#)

### FIRST STEPS

*One should register to get an account, upload their profile and promote themselves as a potential partner, look into past successful projects for insights, search for open and upcoming calls, and conduct partner searches through contacts, databases and research networks.*

1. **Register.** First and foremost, register your organization so you can be found as potential partner and get an account to participate in a call for proposals or tenders. Go to: [Create an account \(europa.eu\)](#).
2. **Promote.** Go to the official EU websites: [EEN Partnerships Database](#) and [EURAXESS Partnering Portal](#) to upload and promote your profile.
3. **Past Projects.** See [CORDIS](#) is the primary source of results from EU-funded projects. Use it to find participating organizations in past projects. Browse through their database to find past projects in your field of interest and check which institutions participated in them. Use the filters to refine your search.

Horizon Europe Support Document for Canadians – developed by Mission of Canada to the EU's Head of Innovation [Aslin.Unlusoy@international.gc.ca](mailto:Aslin.Unlusoy@international.gc.ca). Updated October 10, 2024.



4. **Open and Upcoming Project Calls.** All Horizon Europe calls for 2023-2024 are accessible through the EU Funding & Tender website. Go the main [Horizon Europe website](#), scroll down, then click on “Apply now”, within Apply for funding. To search for, then apply for a [Horizon Europe project call](#), go to the “Funding” tab on top and select from the dropdown “Calls for proposals”. I suggest going to the “All filters” tab on the left and ensure the “Programming period” is “2021-2027”, “Programme” is “Horizon Europe” and within “Programme Part” click on “Global Challenges” for Pillar II project calls, or “Excellent Science” for Pillar I calls. For “Submission Status”, you can select “Open for Submission” for what’s available now, or “Forthcoming” for what’s to come to best prepare. For Pillar II, you can also scroll down and select related Mission (theme), Destination (more specific), Cross-Cutting Priority (eg AI). To access [all cluster calls](#), with their criteria and budgets, in one file, go to the tab “Guidance & documents”, then click on [“Reference Documents”](#). Ensure that in the left column, with the drop downs, Programming period is “2021-2027” and Programme is “Horizon Europe”. Click on “Work programme & call documents”, then “2023-2025”, then “HE Main Work Programme 2023-2025”, then the cluster/programme of interest. A large document will appear, with a Table of Contents listing all project calls. Click on the subject/project of interest and see related details.
  
5. **Partner Search - General**
  - a. See [How to search partners and get noticed](#), a great document that lists practical information on partner searches, with linked options and good tips by cluster 1.
  
  - b. See [EURAXESS Partnering Portal](#). [EURAXESS North America](#), an official initiative of the European Commission promotes transatlantic research collaboration. Search the EURAXESS partnering portal to find institutions to build a consortium. Also register your institution within EURAXESS so that you can be found as potential partner. You have to create an account as a user to then register your organization. Canadians can go their [homepage](#) for the latest information on Horizon Europe Pillars I & II, as well as upcoming events, news, and funding information. You can also sign up for [EURAXESS newsletters](#) to learn of upcoming events of interest, including European Commission hosted brokerage (networking) events. When there is a need you can also connect with Europe-based NCPs through EURAXESS: [northamerica@euraxess.net](mailto:northamerica@euraxess.net).
  
  - c. See the [EEN Partnerships Database](#) to search for partners as it is the world’s largest network for SMEs and innovation stakeholders.
  
  - d. See Horizon Europe’s [EC Funding & Tender Opportunities SEDIA Partner Search](#) tool to find partners for your project ideas among those registered in the portal. One can also: enter a keyword/topic of a past call for proposals to find related organizations, search by geographical criteria or by types of organization and/or search by call topics to find organizations that have participated or expressed interest in participating in the future.
  
  - e. **For Cluster 2 – Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society** – see their Net4Society hosted [Networking Platform](#), to find partners for upcoming Cluster 2 calls.
  
  - f. **For Cluster 4 – Digital**, see [IDEAL-IST](#) Partner Search Tool
  
  - g. **For Cluster 5 – Climate, Energy and Mobility** –see the [GREENET](#) Partner Search Tool



6. **Research Network.** Another means to expand one's network is to look into and potentially join an EU research network. See [COST](#), European Cooperation in Science and Technology, which is an EU-funded intergovernmental framework with 40 member countries accessible through an [online PLATFORM](#). Here researchers can submit a proposal for a COST Action for EU funding or can join ongoing COST Actions. The COST Actions are based on the researchers' own interests and ideas, and allow one to create a network in which researchers, innovators and industry specialists, based in Europe and beyond, collaborate in any fields of science, from frontier to applied research. Interested Canadians can apply to be a partner for new COST Actions or can join preparatory teams submitting new proposed project calls for possible collaboration. Canadians can register at [e-COST](#) for consideration.

## RESOURCES

*There are many resources Canadians can avail of to support them through Horizon Europe project calls.*

1. **National Contact Points (NCPs)** are experts in their fields who can guide and support innovators through the process, including finding the right partners and project calls to pursue, to increase their chances of success. They are the subject matter experts in their field and should have a strong awareness of domestic and international expertise in their cluster. Canada's NCPs have recently been named and are learning themselves about the Horizon Europe programme. Canadians are encouraged to work with both Canada's NCPs and an EU NCP that supports one of their key consortia partner to effectively understand and complete a proposal for a project call. See link for [Canada's NCPs](#) and link for [all NCPs](#).
2. **Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED)**, the lead on Canada's association to Horizon Europe, continues to develop, compile and upload material on its [Horizon Europe website](#), EN & FR. The site has great information on the programme and relevant links, detailed Q&As, Canada's National Contact Point (NCP) names and contact information, and Horizon Europe Award Criteria. For questions on Horizon Europe one can also email ISED at: [Horizon.Europe@ised-isde.gc.ca](mailto:Horizon.Europe@ised-isde.gc.ca).
3. **European Commission (EC)**. One can also submit a form directly to the EC's [Research Enquiry Service](#) that can address questions on research, funding instruments and the validation process of participants.
4. **Horizon Europe Resources and Networks by Cluster**  
[Cluster 1 - Health, C1 work programme](#), NCP network [HNN 3.0](#)  
[Cluster 2 - Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society, C2 work programme](#), NCP network [Net 4](#)  
[Cluster 3 - Civil Security for Society, C3 work programme](#), NCP network [Seren](#)  
[Cluster 4 - Digital, Industry and Space, C4 work programme](#)  
[Cluster 5 Climate, Energy and Mobility, C5 work programme](#)  
[Cluster 6 - Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment, C6 work programme](#)
5. **EU Science & Innovation – Horizon Europe [YouTube Channel](#)**  
See what is relevant to you like the [Funding & Tenders Portal](#) videos, tips on writing a [successful proposal](#), and the EC's do's and don'ts when [applying for funding](#).



## [Horizon Europe Pillar I – Researcher Mobility](#)

The Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MCSA) support researcher mobility, to develop new knowledge and skills and innovate to convert ideas into product and services. Canadian participation and funding in MCSA are handled through Canada's Mitacs' [Globalink Research Award Advanced Research](#). This supports academic research collaboration supported by bilateral mobility internships of 12-24 weeks with postsecondary partners. Award amount of research grant is \$6,000. Projects are supervised by a Canadian home supervisor and a host supervisor at a university in one of Mitacs's partner countries or regions. For more information or support on [Mitacs programs](#) please email: [international@mitacs.ca](mailto:international@mitacs.ca).

## [Horizon Europe Pillar I – ERC Grants](#)

“The European Research Council (ERC) supports researchers to push the frontiers of knowledge. Researchers themselves identify topics and directions of their projects with a focus on scientific excellence. One can create their own team to do high gain, high risk research.”

Canadians are encouraged to apply to the [European Research Council's](#) (ERC) yearly calls for [Synergy Grants](#) which support bold scientific challenges, in ANY field of research. Research must be carried out in an EU Member State or Associated Country. A group of two to maximum four Principal Investigators working together and bringing different skills and resources to tackle ambitious research problems. Synergy Grants can be up to a max of **€ 10 million for 6 years** (pro rata for projects of shorter duration).

## [Horizon Europe Pillar III – Innovative Europe – Accelerator](#)

The [EIC Accelerator](#) is a funding programme that supports start-ups and SMEs that have a game changing product that could create new markets or disrupt existing ones, and are ready to scale up from TRL 5 to TRL 9. A Canadian innovator would have to be incorporated in Europe at the time of submission. A successful applicant could receive a grant of up to €2.5 million (TRL 5-8, to be completed within 24 months) and a direct investment of up to €15 million for market deployment (TRL 9).