

**BUSINESS
FINLAND**

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR STARTUPS AND SMES - WHEN SHOULD I LOOK AT BF, WHEN TO AIM AT EU?

IPR & Funding Session for SMEs and Startups

17th March 2025, A-Grid

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**THE MATCHMAKING EVENT MENTIONED IN MY PRESENTATION (WED 19TH):
ACCESS THE EVENT THROUGH THE LINK [HERE](#)**

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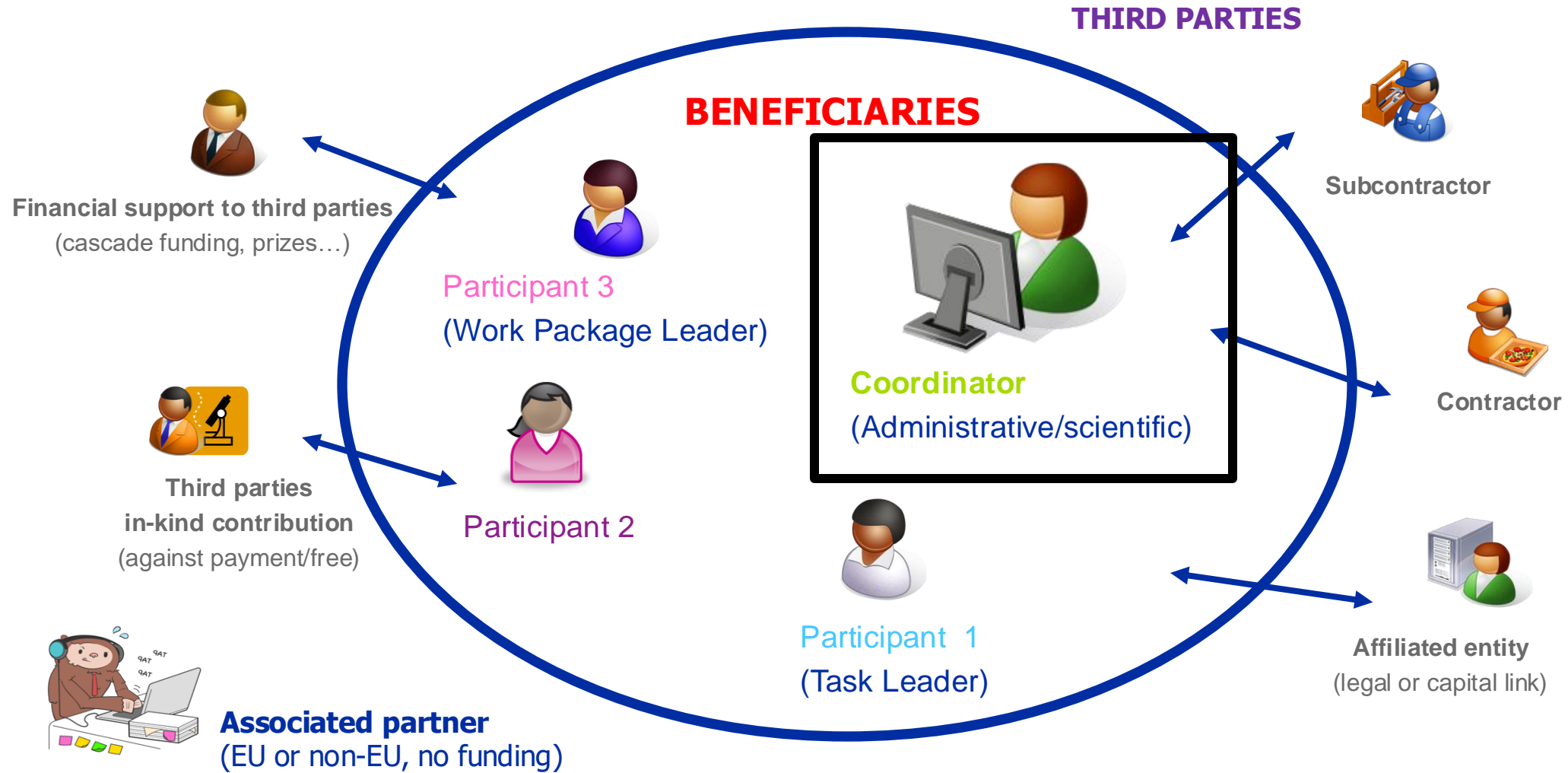
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Funding instrument	Funder	To whom?	In what form?	Funding percentage	What can I do?	The content of the project?
Tempo Funding	Business Finland	SMEs under 5 years of age	Grant	75% (max grant amount €60,000)	Pre-commercial and pre-production activities. For example: market research and product development critical for product testing.	Content to be defined by the applicant
Research & Development Funding	Business Finland	For individual actors, consortia (Co-Innovation)	Grant, Loan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grant for SMEs 50% Loan 50%, in special cases 70% 	<i>Grant:</i> Early-stage (TRL 2-5) R&D (research project) <i>Loan:</i> Later-stage (TRL 4-8) R&D (product development, piloting)	The applicant determines the content, objectives and work packages of the R&D project
Young Innovative Company (NIY)	Business Finland	Startups (in operation for < 5 years) with very high business potential	Grant, Equity	Funding in three stages (if criteria in the preceding rounds are met): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> First and second rounds: €250,000 grant Third round: €500,000 grant 	Developing growth strategy, processes and organization to support rapid business scalability and international growth; international business development	The undertakings are mutually defined upon each funding stage together with the recipient and Business Finland.
Horizon Europe (RIA)	European Commission (EU)	Consortia	Grant	100% for all types of participants	Early-stage (TRL 2-5) R&D	The Commission defines the scope of the project and the desired outcomes
Horizon Europe (IA)	European Commission (EU)	Consortia	Grant	70% for businesses (100% not-for-profit)	Later-stage (TRL 3-7) R&D	The Commission defines the scope of the project and the desired outcomes
Digital Europe Programme	European Commission (EU)	Consortia	Grant	50% (75% for SMEs in certain call topics)	Deployment of "mature"/finished technologies (NOT R&D)	The Commission defines the scope of the project and the desired outcomes
Eurostars	Business Finland & European Commission (EU)	Consortia, mainly targeted to SMEs but universities can also participate. Minimum requirement: 2 independent entities from 2 different countries.	Grant	To Finnish participants: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SMEs 50 % grant (open budget, no max) Midcaps 40 % (open budget, no max) Universities 80 %, maximum grant 80 000 euros 	Funding for R&D projects and activities, no strict requirements for the TRL. Usually, for example, between TRL 4-7.	Bottom-up programme so open to all thematic areas and companies.
EIC Accelerator	European Commission (EU)	Startups and SMEs	Grant, Equity	Max €2.5 M grant with 70 % funding rate. In addition, equity funding from the EIC Fund up to €10 M.	Grant funding targeted to finalizing R&D activities, between TRL 6-8. Equity funding to later commercialisation activities and scaling up.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EIC Accelerator is targeted to deep tech companies. Two tracks for applying: 1. Open category, no thematic requirements 2. Challenge topics defined by the European Commission

Different roles in a consortium



FUNDING FOR IPR? BUSINESS FINLAND TRACK

Within **Business Finland's R&D projects**, funding recipients may declare costs related to IPR protection.

→ Yes, IPR-related activities are funded 😊

“The costs of research, know-how or patents purchased or obtained on license from external sources on market terms, and the costs of consultation and similar services, may be approved as per the project plan and invoices **if these purchases have been used only in the project and nowhere else. Business Finland does not accept the allocation of purchases for a project as a percentage of the total sum of a purchase invoice, for example. // SMEs can include the costs of initial applications for intellectual property rights incurred during the project in the purchased service costs. The level of funding may be up to 50%. Costs are approved up to the granting of the intellectual property right, including the costs of responding to an interim decision.**

Business Finland will **not approve** costs related to maintenance (such as annual fees) or the patenting or international expansion of intellectual property rights of results achieved before the start of the project. Business Finland will not approve costs of opposition proceedings, appeals or infringement trials.”

FUNDING FOR IPR? EU TRACK

- Small and medium-sized enterprises, or SMEs, have the opportunity to receive financial support to protect and develop control over their intellectual property under the Ideas Powered for Business **SME Fund grant programme**.
- The SME Fund offers different **vouchers** that can be used to claim **reimbursement for various IP-related activities**. These include applications for trademarks, designs, patents, and plant varieties, and IP Scan services
- An SME established in the EU or a representative authorized to legally represent the SME can file a grant application. However, the grant is always paid directly to the company. Your company can apply for and receive a **grant irrespective of whether it has previously been granted financial support by the SME Fund**.



More info: PRH - About us - SME Fund – Grant Programme for SMEs (also in Finnish); [SME Fund 2025 - EUIPO](#)

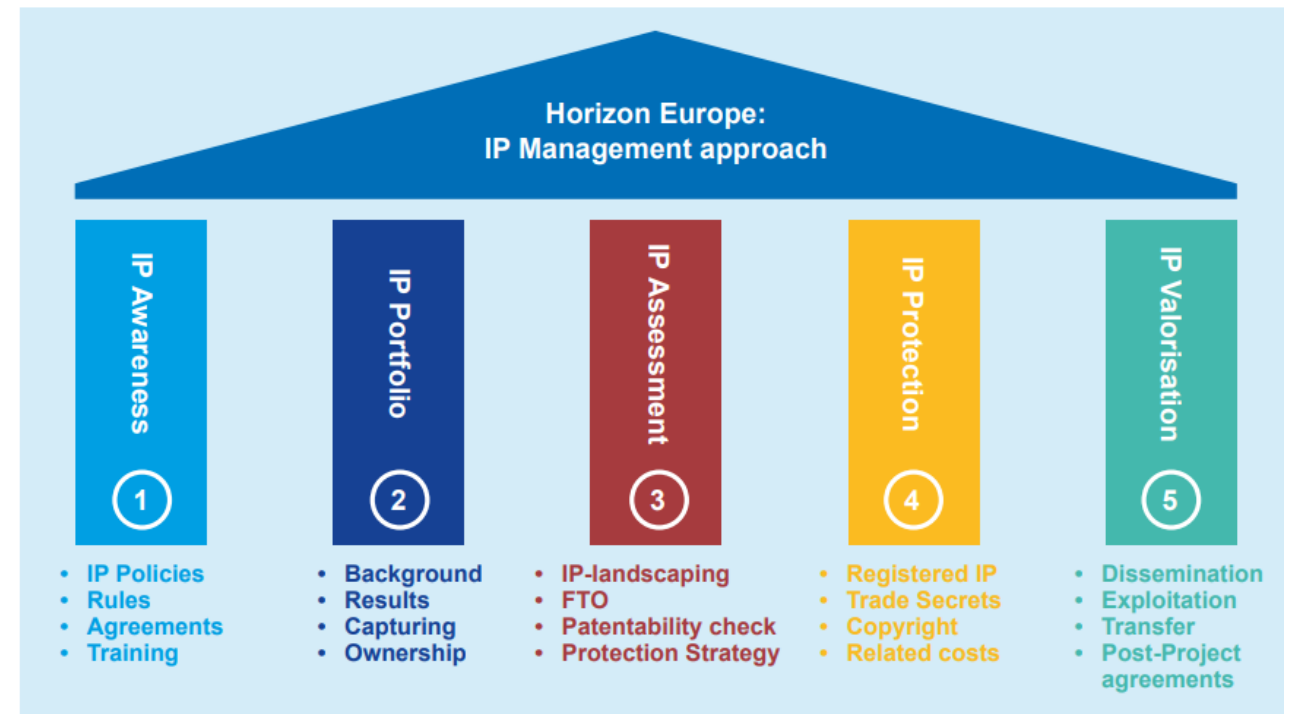
FUNDING FOR IPR? EU TRACK (CONT'D)

Horizon Europe has an increased focus on **Open Innovation** and **Open Science** practices in EU-funded collaborative projects, which introduces challenges in addressing appropriate and systematic management of the knowledge flows between partners, and the protection of the IP to support individual and shared business strategies.

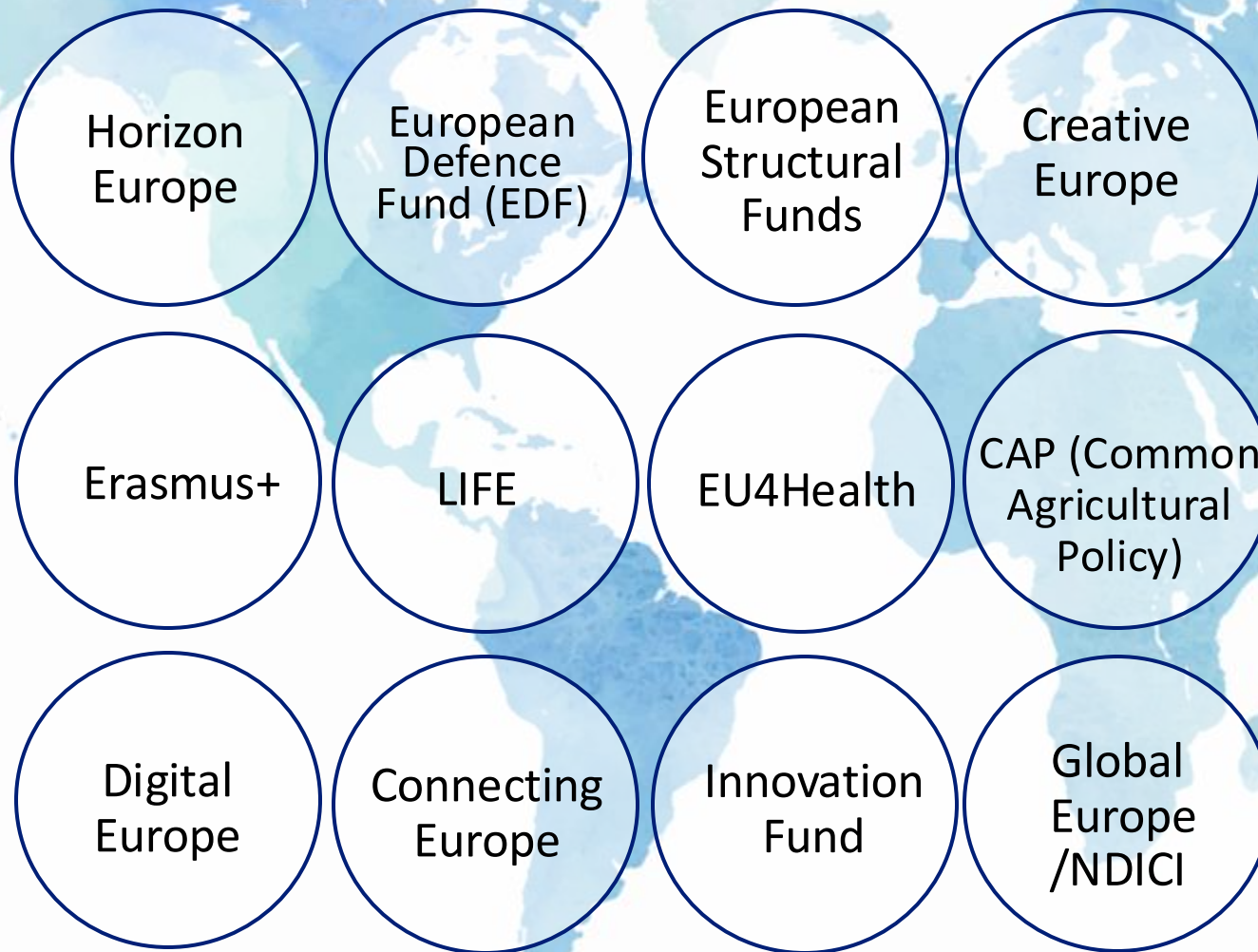
→ Key to **discuss, agree** and **plan ahead** with the consortium!



Start of the Project	During Project Implementation	After Project End
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Define existing IP that is brought into the R&I cooperation • Take a look at the patent landscape and/or other relevant IP rights • Look at opportunities and risks of sharing knowledge with consortium partners • Check whether default Horizon IP rules or other relevant default rules are suitable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider existing and potential knowledge creation and management tools • Discuss possible IP protection methods (e.g. patents, copyright, trade secrets, defensive publications, semiconductor topographies, etc.) and their pros and cons • Identify potential complementary IP protection methods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss and agree on (joint) exploitation strategies and pathways • Look at possible IP ownership arrangements and related responsibilities including the definition of relative contributions of joint-owners • Weigh potential (licensing) agreement and remuneration options linked to the use of IP resulting from the project and options for remuneration



EU FUNDING SPANS ACROSS MULTIPLE FUNDING PROGRAMS

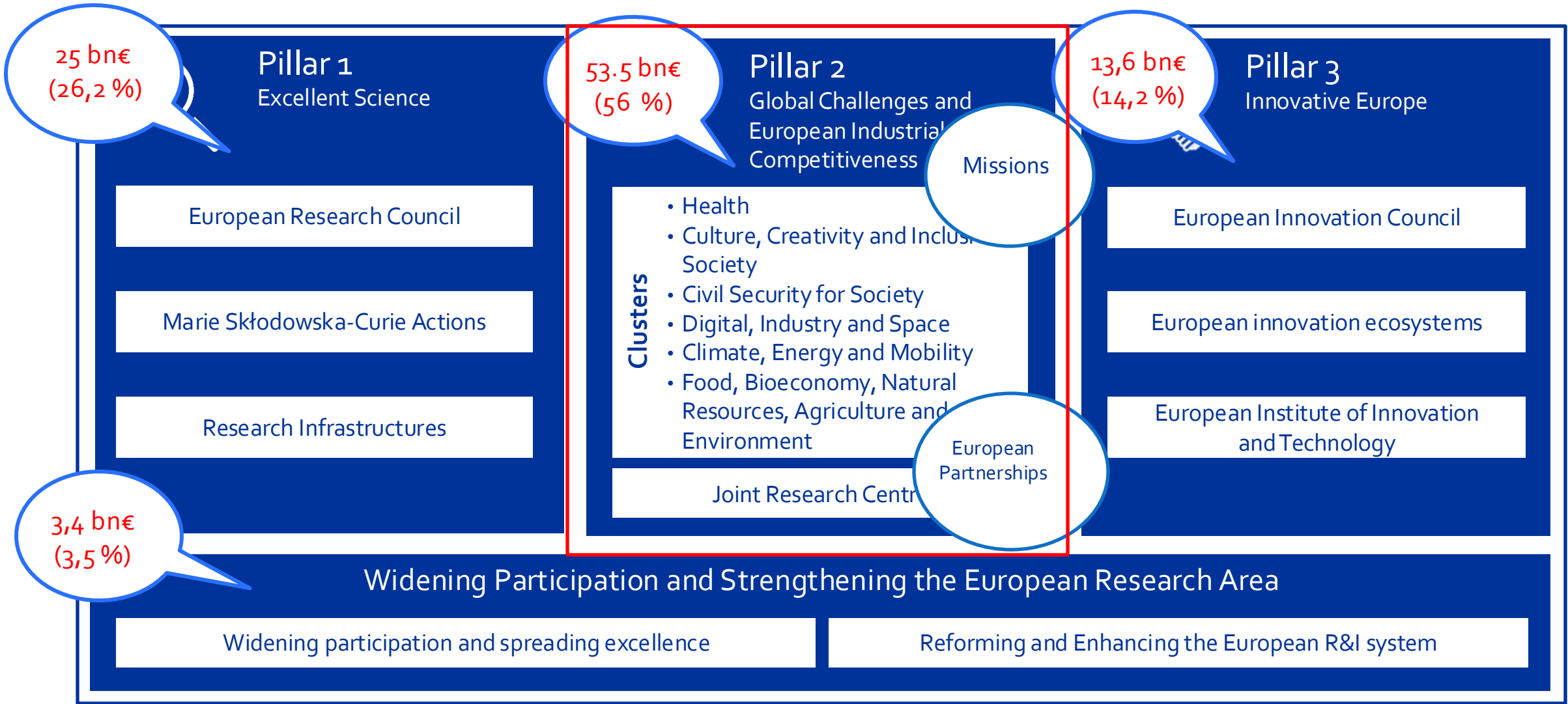


European Commission, its Directorates General (DGs) and Executive Agencies

Ministries and other national authorities

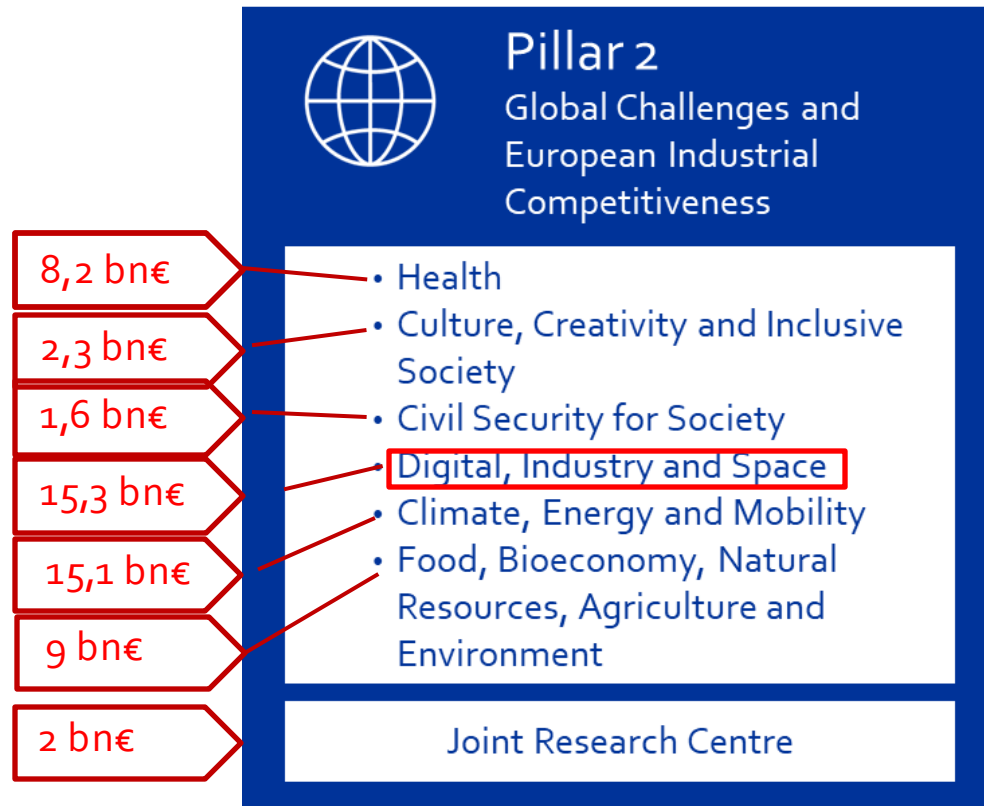
ELY Centers, Regional Councils and other regional actors

Horizon Europe 2021 – 2027, 95 bn€



Horizon Europe Pillar 2: innovation and collaboration

Budget: 53,5 bn€



- Companies, researchers, higher education institutions, RTOs, associations, foundations, official agencies etc.
- **For research and innovation collaboration**
- To find and develop solutions to vast Global Challenges
- Divided into six Clusters
- Research supporting EU's R&I policy arranged under the Joint Research Centre (JRC)
- Pillar 2 also includes the funding of *European Partnerships (such as SNS, Chips JU)*

HORIZON EUROPE CLUSTER 4: DIGITAL, INDUSTRY AND SPACE (15.3BN€)

The Work Programme and all its calls are grouped into six destinations:

1. **ACHIEVING GLOBAL LEADERSHIP IN CLIMATE-NEUTRAL, CIRCULAR AND DIGITISED INDUSTRIAL AND DIGITAL VALUE CHAINS**
2. **ACHIEVING TECHNOLOGICAL LEADERSHIP FOR EUROPE'S OPEN STRATEGIC AUTONOMY IN RAW MATERIALS, CHEMICALS AND INNOVATIVE MATERIALS**
3. **DEVELOPING AN AGILE AND SECURE SINGLE MARKET AND INFRASTRUCTURE FOR DATA-SERVICES AND TRUSTWORTHY ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE SERVICES**
4. **ACHIEVING OPEN STRATEGIC AUTONOMY IN DIGITAL AND EMERGING ENABLING TECHNOLOGIES**
5. **OPEN STRATEGIC AUTONOMY IN DEVELOPING, DEPLOYING AND USING GLOBAL SPACE-BASED INFRASTRUCTURE, SERVICES, APPLICATIONS AND DATA**
6. **DIGITAL AND INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGIES DRIVING HUMAN-CENTRIC INNOVATION**

Questions related to SPACE:
pauli.stigell@businessfinland.fi

HORIZON EUROPE CLUSTER 4: DIGITAL, INDUSTRY AND SPACE

This year's Work Programme will be launched in April 2025. You can find **all call topics** in the **Work Programme!**

The 2025 Work Programme hosts call topics in the volume of **500+M€** in Digital themes, such as:

- Utilization of Generative AI in different industrial applications and sectors; further development of LLMs
- Advanced multimodal sensor technologies; Quantum; Photonics
- Virtual Worlds and Web 4.0
- Cloud-edge computing, data spaces, etc.

IDEAL-IST project for CL4 Digital NCPs

IDEAL-IST project provides resources, information and events for ICT and Digital related topics under Cluster 4.

Services include:

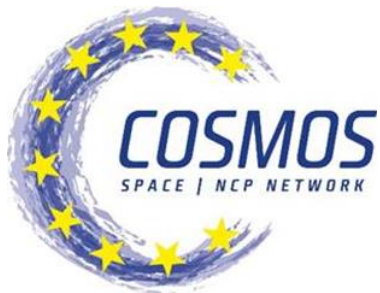
- [Topic Tree](#) to find relevant digital funding calls
- [Toolbox](#) to help you through the proposal writing
- [Pre-Proposal checks](#) done on a regular

Looking for partners? Look no further!
<https://www.ideal-ist.eu/partner-search-home>



Destination 5. Open Strategic Autonomy in Developing, Deploying and Using Global Space-Based Infrastructure, Services, Applications and Data

- HORIZON-CL4-SPACE-2025-01-21: "**ISOS** Pilot Mission Detailed Design – Servicing component" + 4 other topics on "Host and Logistics component", and "ISOS Pilot Mission Detailed Design" totalling 60 M€ (spacecraft project) - **In Space Maintenance** etc.
- European **Partnership** on Globally Competitive Space Systems starts:
 - HORIZON-CL4-SPACE-2025-01-31: Digital enablers and building blocks for **Earth Observation and Satellite telecommunication** for Space solutions, 5 M€
 - HORIZON-CL4-SPACE-2025-01-32: Preparing **demonstration missions** for collaborative Earth Observation and Satellite telecommunication for Space solutions, 11 M€
- **Copernicus Earth Observation research**: climate, atmosphere, CO2, Marine, use of AI/ML – 33 M€
- HORIZON-CL4-SPACE-2025-01-46: Innovative Earth observation services in support of **maritime litter detection** and ship source pollution policies, 5 M€
- Critical technologies : EEE and other, 20 M€
- Space Surveillance and Tracking : 19 M€ (limited competition)
- HORIZON-EUSPA-SPACE-2025-01-51: **Space Data Economy**, 10 M€
- HORIZON-CL4-EUSPA-2025-01-52: Innovative space-based applications enhancing capabilities for a resilient Europe, 5 M€



for networks, resources and information on events Space-related topics under Cluster 4

Questions related to SPACE topics:
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DIGITAL EUROPE PROGRAMME

The Digital Europe Programme (DEP) is a program running through 2021-2027, designed to **bridge the gap between digital technology research and market deployment**. Unlike the Horizon Europe Programme, the DEP does not fund R&D projects but rather focuses on **deployment** and **advancement** of digital technologies in Europe.

DEP is divided into 6 Specific Objectives

- 1) *High Performance Computing*
- 2) *Cloud, Data and Artificial Intelligence*
- 3) *Cybersecurity and Trust*
- 4) *Advanced Digital Skills*
- 5) *Deployment and Best Use of Digital Capacity and Interoperability*
- 6) *Semiconductors (funded through Chips JU)*

HOT TOPICS

- **Cloud to edge infrastructure and services:** Reference deployments of European cloud-edge services (industrial IoT Edge and Telco Edge developments)
- **Data:** Digital Product Passports, Data Spaces
- **Artificial Intelligence:** metaverse in urban environments (CitiVerse), EU AI Innovation Accelerator, Test and Experimentation Facilities, Large Language Models
- **Cybersecurity:** Post-Quantum Cryptography

The proposals funded through the Digital Europe Programme are typically consortium projects with several participants. The funding rate is typically 50% (in some cases, 75% for SMEs)

WHERE CAN I FIND THE CALLS?

The **Work Programme** is the basic document for the implementation of the Horizon Europe calls. In the Work Programme, the Commission declares all funding call topics to be funded through a specific time frame (usually 1-3 calendar years) in a specific theme (Cluster or Programme part, e.g. EIC Accelerator).

-> **Info days** about different calls usually helps to understand the calls and topics better!

In addition to the Work Programmes, all EU funding calls are published on the [Funding&Tenders portal](#) once published.

You can find all currently open and forthcoming calls through these links:

[Horizon Europe - Cluster 4 \(Digital, Industry and Space\)](#)

[Digital Europe Programme](#)

BUSINESS FINLAND

EU FUNDING ADVISORY SERVICE

We support Finnish organizations in utilizing EU funding by providing centralized information about relevant funding opportunities and project related advice together with our network.

In addition, we:

- Act as the first-point-of-contact and provide guidance about all EU R&D funding programs for companies
- Act as the national contact office for Horizon Europe Programme
- Host a team of NCPs (National Contact Points), who serve as subject-matter experts within different thematic areas of Horizon Europe
- Organize different events concerning EU funding
- Host a website with information about different EU funding programs (in Finnish): <https://www.eurahoitusneuvonta.fi/>
- Host the Finnish [Horizon Europe](#) website
- As a national contact office, produce statistics and data about Finnish participation in Horizon Europe Programme and coordinate the Finnish NCP network



Contact us!

www.eurahoitusneuvonta.fi (English version)

- eurahoitus@businessfinland.fi
- www.eurahoitusneuvonta.fi/yhteystiedot

www.horisonttieurooppa.fi (English version)

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- www.horisonttieurooppa.fi → Kuinka voimme auttaa?

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WHO TO CONTACT?

EU Collaboration

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