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Horizon Europe Cluster 4 – Digital Info Webinar for 2027 Call Topics

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Housekeeping & Agenda

- This webinar will be recorded.
- A copy of this recording, and the slides will be available on our website.
- If you have any questions, please share these in the Q&A tab.
- Feel free to introduce yourself in the chat.

Agenda	Speaker
Overview of Horizon Europe	Alexandra Leech-Gribben, Innovate UK Business Connect
Cluster 4 Digital and 2027 call topics	Viola Hay, Innovate UK
Top tips and support available	Viola Hay, Innovate UK
Q&A	-



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A Brief Introduction to Horizon Europe

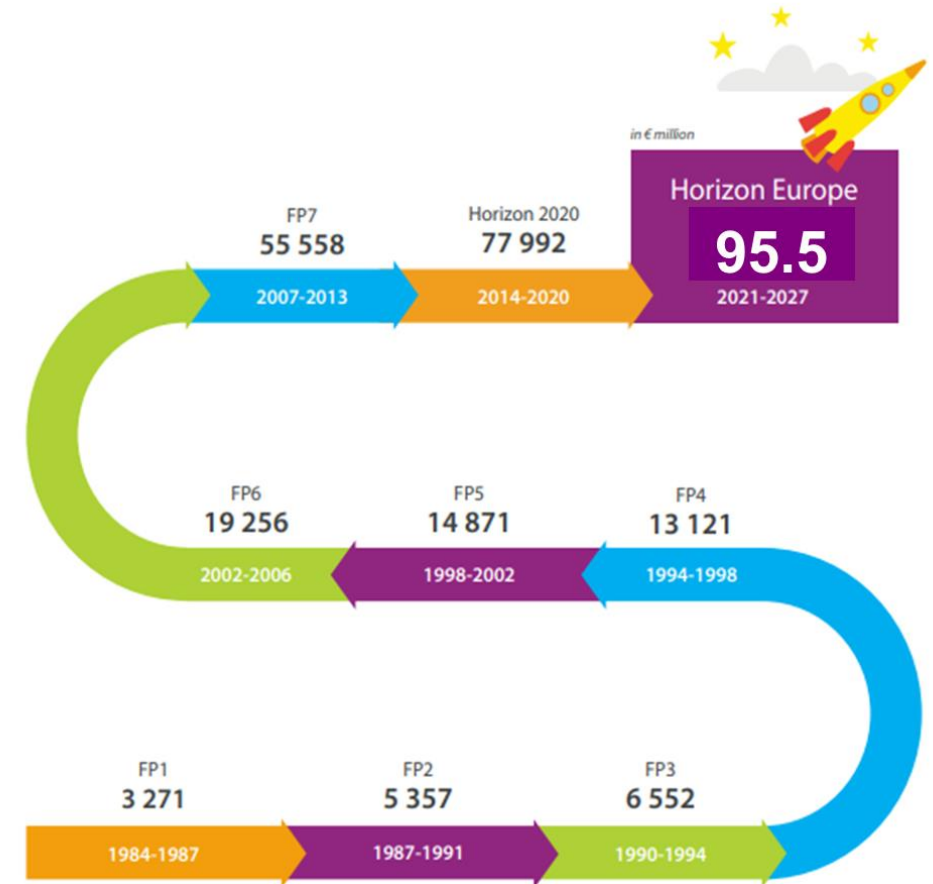


Alexandra Leech-Gribben

Knowledge Transfer Manager – Global Alliance

What is Horizon Europe?

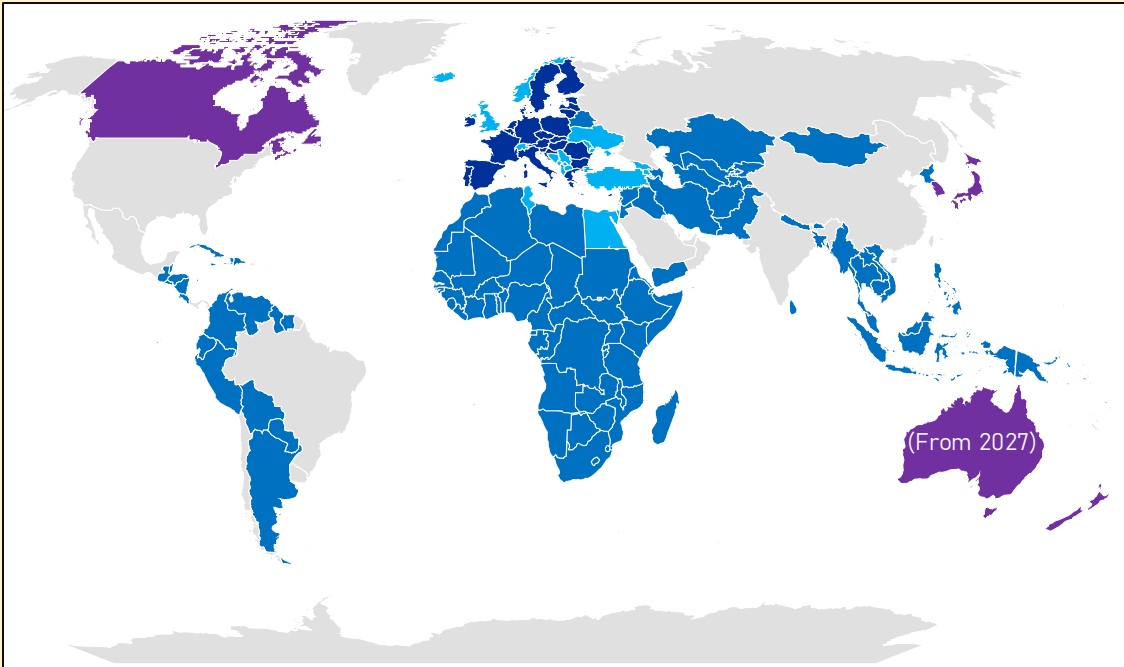
- The European Union's **flagship funding programme for research and innovation**.
- Framework Programme 9 - 2021-27.
- Budget of over €95.5 billion – associated countries add to this.
- Supports curiosity-driven and applied research, translation and commercialisation.
- Funding for 166 countries (167 in 2027!).



Types of Countries in Horizon Europe

Automatically eligible to receive Horizon Europe funding

- Low to Middle Income Country
- Associated Country
- Association to Pillar II Only
- European Union Countries



Can participate with own funding

(only funded by Horizon Europe in exceptional cases)



Third countries:

Developing economies

(Brazil, India, China**, Mexico, Chile,...)

and industrialised countries

(US*,...)

The Commission has concluded negotiations on the association of **Egypt** (all three pillars) from 2026.

Canada (Pillar II) and **New Zealand** (Pillar II) had associated in 2024 alongside the **UK** (all three pillars, except the EIC Fund, and **Switzerland** (all three pillars), **South Korea** (Pillar II) in 2025, and **Japan** in 2026 (Pillar II) and **Australia** (Select Pillar II) from 2027.

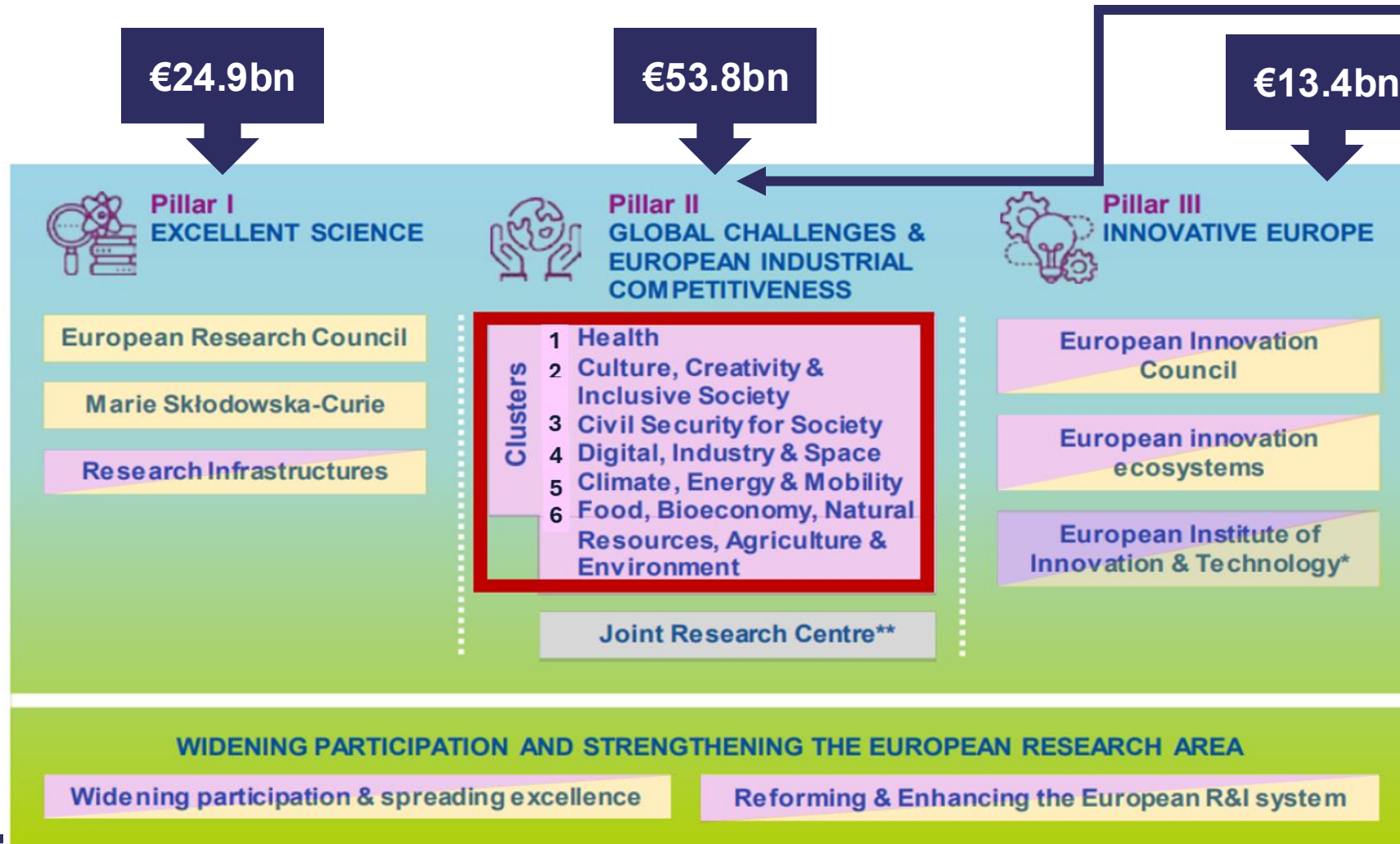
*US organisations

- *are eligible for automatic Horizon Europe funding in the main Health Work Programme calls only*
- *are not eligible for automatic Horizon Europe funding from IHI, the Cancer Mission and other parts of Horizon Europe*

**See [Work Programme 2026-27 General Annexes](#) for rules about China, Russia, Belarus and parts of Ukraine (p6-11)

[List of Participating Countries in Horizon Europe](#) contains information about countries eligible for funding.

FP9: Horizon Europe Structure



Missions:

- Climate Change
- Cancer
- Oceans and Water
- Smart Cities
- Soil
- New European Bauhaus

Key:

- Open to all research and innovation fields
- Challenge driven – must solve the problem posed – not bottom-up idea driven

Horizon Europe Pillar II



- **Challenge driven** – must solve the problem posed by the European Commission (presented in the call topics)
- Specific call topics listed, each with a recommended budget, scope and expected outcome
- Consortium projects with at least **3 legal entities** from different Member States and/or Associated Countries
 - Must include at least **1 Member State** (the MS does not have to lead)
- Consortium partners often very varied
 - it's about having the right people for the task, and from any type of legal entity
- Projects last between **2-5 years** (on average)

Background – Cluster 4 Digital

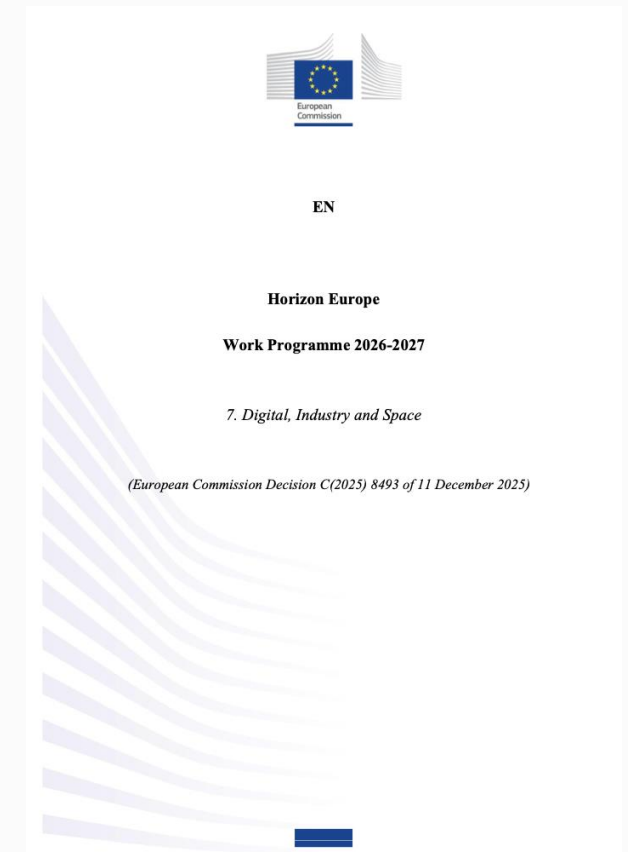
Horizon Europe Cluster 4 Digital covers the development of key digital technologies, supporting a **green and digital transformation** as well as a **human-centred ethical development of emerging digital technologies** for competitiveness and the European Green Deal. Key areas of intervention:

- key digital technologies including quantum technologies
- emerging enabling technologies
- artificial intelligence and robotics
- next generation internet
- advanced computing and Big Data

Cluster 4: Digital, Industry and Space

Five Destinations (within the Cluster 4 Work Programme)

- Leadership in materials and production for Europe
- Developing an agile and secure single market and infrastructure for data-services and trustworthy artificial intelligence services
- Achieving open strategic autonomy in digital and emerging enabling technologies
- Open Strategic Autonomy in Developing, Deploying and Using Global Space-Based Infrastructure, Services, Applications and Data
- Digital and industrial technologies driving human-centric innovation



PILLAR II - Global challenges & European industrial competitiveness

PILLAR III - Innovative Europe

CLUSTER 1: Health	CLUSTER 2: Culture, Creativity, Inclusive Societies	CLUSTER 4: Digital, Industry & Space	CLUSTER 5: Climate, Energy & Mobility	CLUSTER 6: Food, Bio-economy, Agriculture, Env...	EUROPEAN INNOVATION ECOSYSTEMS
Innovative Health Initiative	Resilient Cultural Heritage*	Chips (formerly KDT)	Clean Hydrogen	Circular Bio-based Europe	Innovative SMEs
Global Health Partnership	Social Transformations and Resilience*	Smart Networks & Services	Clean Aviation	R&I in the Mediterranean Area (Art. 185)	
Transformation of health systems		High Performance Computing	Single European Sky ATM Research 3	Biodiversa+	EIT
Chemicals risk assessment		European Metrology (Art. 185)	Europe's Rail	Climate Neutral, Sustainable & Productive Blue Economy	InnoEnergy
ERA for Health		AI-Data-Robotics	Connected and Automated Mobility	Water4All	Climate
Rare diseases		Photonics	Batt4EU	Animal Health & Welfare	Digital
One-Health Anti Microbial Resistance		Made in Europe	Zero-emission waterborne transport	Accelerating Farming Systems Transitions	Food
Personalised Medicine		Clean steel – low-carbon steelmaking	Zero-emission road transport	Agriculture of Data	Health
Pandemic Preparedness		Processes4Planet	Built4People	Safe and Sustainable Food System	Raw Materials
Brain Health*		Global competitive space systems	Solar Photovoltaics*	Forests and Forestry for sustainable Future*	Manufacturing
		Innovative Materials for EU*	Clean Energy Transition		Urban Mobility
		Virtual Worlds*	Driving Urban Transitions		Cultural and Creative Industries
		Textiles of the Future*			Water, Marine and Maritime Sectors and Ecosystem*
		Raw Materials for the Green and Digital Transition*			

■ Institutionalised partnerships (Art 185/7)

■ EIT KICs

■ Co-programmed

■ Co-funded

* Under preparation

CROSS-PILLARS I AND II

European Open Science Cloud

Partnerships relevant to Digital

Partnerships relevant to Digital

- [CHIPS Joint Undertaking \(JU\)](#)
- [EURO HPC JU](#)
- [SNS JU](#)

Funding calls published in separate
JU Work Programmes

- [ADRA \(AI, Data and Robotics\)](#)
- [Virtual Worlds](#)
- [Photonics21](#)

Funding calls published in the main Horizon
Europe Cluster 4 Work Programme



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2027 Industry Calls



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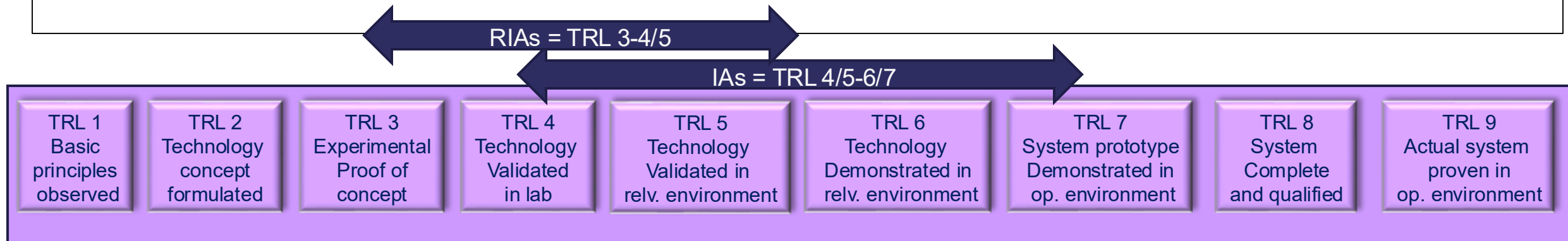
2027 Digital Calls



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Funding rates and main types of Action

- **Research and Innovation Actions (RIAs)** - establishes new knowledge and/or explores a new or improved technology, product, process, service or solution – **early-stage**, e.g. up to TRL2/3 – 5, **100% funding of eligible costs + 25% indirect costs**
- **Innovation Actions (IAs)** - produces plans or designs for new or improved products, processes or services including prototyping, testing, demonstrating, piloting, large-scale product validation and market replication – **mid to late-stage**, e.g. TRL3/4 to TRL7, **70% funding of eligible costs (100% funding for non-profit) + 25% indirect costs**
- **Coordination and Support Action (CSA)** - improves cooperation around, for example, standards, dissemination, policy dialogue, networking, mutual learning etc. – **100% funding eligible costs + 25% indirect costs**



Destination 2: Developing an agile and secure single market and infrastructure for data-services and trustworthy artificial intelligence services

Topic Number	Topic Name	Opening Date	Closing Date	Type of Action	TRL	Number of Projects	EU grant per project
<u>HORIZON-CL4-2027-04-DATA-03</u>	New approaches for decentralized, federated and sustainable AI data processing	17-11-2026	18-03-2027	RIA	TRL 3 – 6/7	2	Around €17.5m
<u>HORIZON-CL4-2027-04-DATA-08</u>	Demand-side 3C pilot demonstrators on converged Telco Edge Cloud Infrastructure	17-11-2026	18-03-2027	IA	TRL 6 – 8	2	Around €19.0m
<u>HORIZON-CL4-2027-04-DATA-09</u>	Energy efficiency and sustainability of AI data processing in Data Centres	17-11-2026	18-03-2027	IA	TRL 6 – 8	3	Around €10.0m

Destination 3: Achieving open strategic autonomy in digital and emerging enabling technologies

Topic Number	Topic Name	Opening Date	Closing Date	Type of Action	TRL	# of Projects	EU grant per project
HORIZON-CL4-2027-05-DIGITAL-EMERGING-03	Advanced integrated photonic devices for extended features and ultra-low power consumption (Photonics Partnership)	17-11-2026	18-03-2027	RIA	TRL 3 - 6	6	Around €3.0m to €5.0m
HORIZON-CL4-2027-04-DIGITAL-EMERGING-04	Apply AI: Challenge-Driven AI Innovation Booster in Apply AI prioritised sectors (Partnership in AI, Data and Robotics) – FSTP	17-11-2026	18-03-2027	RIA	TRL 2 - 5	3	Around €14.0m
HORIZON-CL4-2027-04-DIGITAL-EMERGING-05	Apply AI: AI-Driven Robotics for Industry: Enabling System Integration and Adoption (Partnership in AI, Data and Robotics)	17-11-2026	18-03-2027	IA	TRL 4 - 7	1	Around €18.0m
HORIZON-CL4-2027-04-DIGITAL-EMERGING-06	International cooperation in AI	17-11-2026	18-03-2027	IA	TRL 5 - 7	2	Around €1.5m
HORIZON-CL4-2027-04-DIGITAL-EMERGING-10	Horizon scanning and foresight in future enabling digital technologies	17-11-2026	18-03-2027	CSA	N/A	1	Around €4m
HORIZON-CL4-2027-04-DIGITAL-EMERGING-11	EU Frontier AI Initiative: Developing frontier AI solutions that are safe and computationally efficient within Apply AI	17-11-2026	18-03-2027	RIA	TRL 2 - 4	1	Around €44.0m

Destination 5: Digital and industrial technologies driving human-centric innovation

Topic Number	Topic Name	Opening Date	Closing Date	Type of Action	TRL	Number of Projects	EU grant per project
HORIZON-CL4-2027-04-HUMAN-01	Advanced and Innovative hardware components for Virtual Worlds (Virtual Worlds Partnership)	17-11-2026	18-03-2027	RIA	TRL 3 - 5	8	Around €4.8m to €5.6m
HORIZON-CL4-2027-04-HUMAN-02	Create a thriving and competitive Virtual Worlds and Web 4.0 ecosystem (Virtual Worlds Partnership)	17-11-2026	18-03-2027	CSA	N/A	1	Around €3.0m
HORIZON-CL4-2027-04-HUMAN-07	Facilitate the engagement of European stakeholders in international digital standardisation	17-11-2026	18-03-2027	CSA	N/A	1	Around €7.0m

Relevant Strategies

Apply AI Strategy: [Apply AI Strategy | Shaping Europe's digital future](#)

ADRA SRIDA: [SRIDA | Adra Association](#)

Photonics21 SRIA:

[Photonics_Strategic_Research_and_Innovation_Agenda_2028-2034_C1_1.pdf](#)

Virtual World SRIA: [VWA - New platform for the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda](#)

Restrictions relevant to Digital

Digital Europe
(UK not associated)

Art. 22.5 of
the Horizon
Europe
regulation

Ownership
Control
Assessment
(OCA)

China



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How to read a call topic



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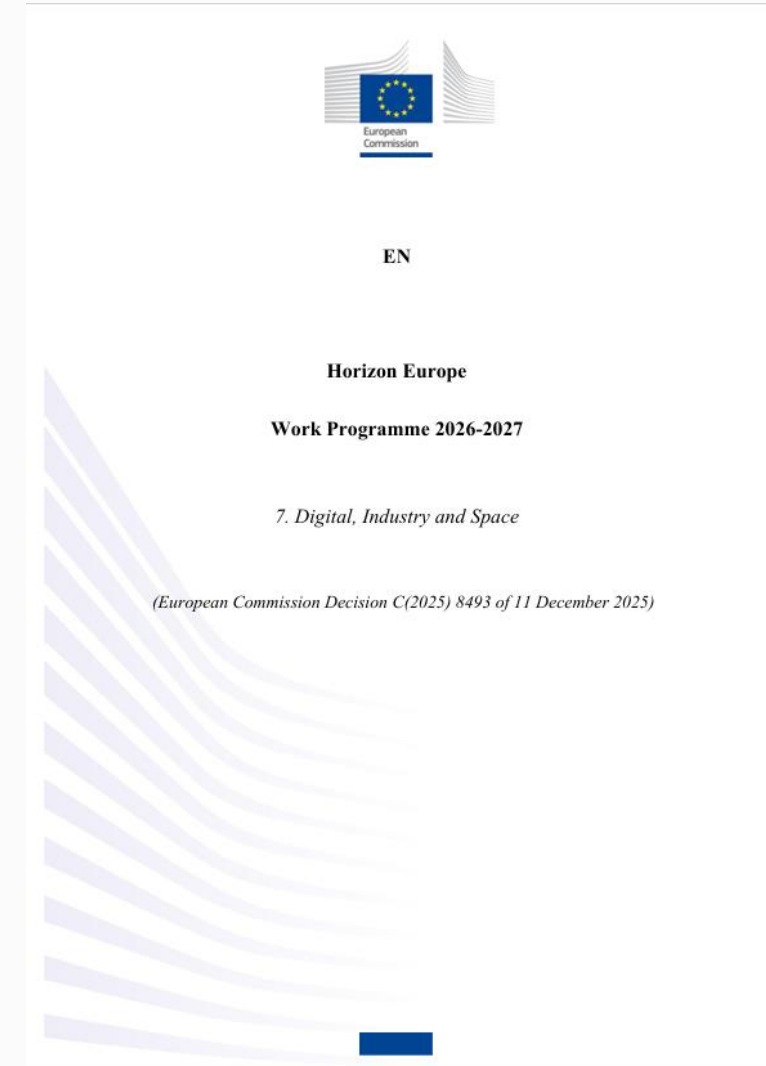
From Work Programme to topic detail...

Looking at a call

Familiarise yourself with calls, the conditions, eligibility criteria, possible grant amounts, terminology, and funding types.

- Eligibility Criteria
- Expected EU contributions and indicative budget
- Type of Action (RIA/IA/CSA)
- Deadline model (single, 2-stage)
- Funding type: [Lump Sum](#) (*"What you need to know"*)
- [Relevant EU policies](#) and [publications](#)
- Expected Impacts (destination)
- Expected Outcome (call topic)
- Scope
- Other conditions* (*e.g. cross-cutting themes; gender, clustering, others*)

[Cluster 4 Work Programme 2026-27](#)



Read the text carefully including the small print!

HORIZON-CL4-2027-04-DIGITAL-EMERGING-06: International cooperation in AI

- Establishment and support of Living Labs within local innovation hubs in low-income countries, fostering co-creation spaces where community members, researchers, entrepreneurs, and policymakers can collaboratively tailor, enhance, test, and iterate AI-driven solutions. These Living Labs will serve as platforms for experiential learning, inclusive participation, and sustainable technology adoption.
- Tailored and contextualized AI-based solutions developed through a bottom-up approach, driven by the specific needs of low-income communities. These solutions will be trained and adapted using local data sources, enabling meaningful knowledge transfer and empowering local stakeholders with relevant and actionable technologies.
- Contribution, where possible, to solving global sustainable development challenges, especially climate and agriculture, biodiversity, health and humanitarian needs, education.
- Fostering an enabling innovation environment with reinforced talent pipelines and technological transfer of AI algorithms and solutions to local innovation hub.
- Full testing and validation of the solutions in real-life with scenarios and initial support to large-scale deployment in low and middle-income countries.

Capitalise from existing EU initiatives like the call GenAI for Africa from HE WP25, the Global Gateway, and Smart Africa to up-scale the deployment of solutions in low-income countries.

Beneficiaries that intend to transfer ownership or grant an exclusive licence must formally notify the granting authority (i.e. DG-CNECT and HaDEA) before the intended transfer or licensing takes place and the granting authority may up to four years after the end of the action object to a transfer of ownership or the exclusive licensing of results.

Horizon Europe, under 'Simplified costs decisions' or through this link: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/guidance/simplified-costs-decisions_en.pdf

Expected Outcome: Project results are expected to contribute to one of the following outcomes:

- Faster uptake of tailored and enhanced AI solutions at **innovation hubs** in low- and middle-income countries by training and optimising them with local data and applied research.

General conditions

1. Admissibility Conditions: Proposal page limit and layout

described in [Annex A](#) and [Annex E](#) of the Horizon Europe Work Programme General Annexes.

Proposal page limits and layout: described in Part B of the Application Form available in the Submission System.

2. Eligible Countries

described in [Annex B](#) of the Work Programme General Annexes.

A number of non-EU/non-Associated Countries that are not automatically eligible for funding have made specific provisions for making funding available for their participants in Horizon Europe projects. See the information in the [Horizon Europe Programme Guide](#).

3. Other Eligible Conditions

Subject to restrictions for the protection of European communication networks.

Described in [Annex B](#) of the Work Programme General Annexes.

The proposals must support digital partnerships and international digital cooperation to promote an approach to AI that enhances human well-being and societal progress through:

- Support for gathering of and access to local data in line with EU's data strategy for the training and optimisation of existing AI algorithms developed in initiatives like AI for Public Good and GenAI for Africa.

121 <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52025JC0140>
122 <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52025DC0165>
123 <https://d4dhub.eu/>
124 <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/factpages/ai-public-good>



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What evaluators are looking for



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Evaluation Criteria and Scoring



Excellence



Impact



Quality and Efficiency
of the Implementation

ALL THREE CRITERIA ARE EQUALLY
IMPORTANT!

Scoring

Scoring must be in the range from 0-5. Half-marks may be given.

- 0 — The proposal fails to address the criterion or cannot be assessed due to missing or incomplete information.
- 1 — Poor. The criterion is inadequately addressed, or there are serious inherent weaknesses.
- 2 — Fair. The proposal broadly addresses the criterion, but there are significant weaknesses.
- 3 — Good. The proposal addresses the criterion well, but a number of shortcomings are present.
- 4 — Very Good. The proposal addresses the criterion very well, but a small number of shortcomings are present.
- 5 — Excellent. The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion. Any shortcomings are minor.

Thresholds & weighting:

- The threshold for the individual criteria is 3. The overall threshold, applying to the sum of the 3 individual scores, is 10 points.
- Scores are normally NOT weighted for Pillar 2 projects. (Weighting is only used for some types of actions — and only for the ranking (not to determine if the proposal passed the thresholds). **For Innovation Actions, the Impact criterion carries a 1.5 weighting for the ranking.**

Writing for Evaluators

- English is probably not their first language.
- Make it clear how you address all the criteria required by the call.
- They will be expert in some aspect of the call, not necessarily the exact things you are proposing.
- Maximise readability:
 - Clear headers aligned to evaluation criteria
 - Visuals, tables, diagrams, concept models
- Provide traceability: State of the Art → Gap → Objective
→ Method → Outcome

Common Weaknesses – feedback themes from evaluators

- “Objectives are too broad and lack measurable indicators.”
- “The innovation beyond the state of the art is not sufficiently justified.”
- “The methodology does not clearly describe the scientific techniques.”
- “Risks and mitigation measures are superficial.”
- “The SSH dimension is missing or underdeveloped.”
- “Unclear link between work and expected outcomes.”



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Hints and Tips



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Collaborative Projects – who does what?

Start here...

Beginner

Partner:

- Just responsible for your own tasks as described in the application/Grant Agreement
- Must meet your own deliverables on time (or clearly communicate any delays)
- Least admin but usually also least visibility

... gain experience...

Intermediate

Work Package (WP) Lead:

- Work Packages (WPs) are sub-projects that make up the EC project
- WP Leader monitors their WP, ensures WP partners submit their deliverables on time
- Must have good communication with Coordinator for the project to function well
- Good stepping stone to coordinating your own project

...(maybe) lead your own project

Expert

Coordinator:

- Submits application
- Project liaison with EC
- Project 'banker'
- (Usually) overall scientific leader of the project
- A lot of work. Needs experience of how projects function plus project management skills

The best way to create/join winning teams

Being an *effective networker* is much more useful than submitting a profile into a portal and awaiting contacts. Don't wait to be invited to the party, push yourself forward

- Use your existing professional networks – if you don't know who the sector leaders are in Europe then you should find out (LinkedIn is a great resource)
- Attend networking events such as conferences and workshops.
- **Join the relevant technology platforms, networks, associations and partnerships**
 - Be an *active* member – say 'hi' when you join the virtual room. Ask questions, support others' opinions, act as if you are already well known to all in the virtual room
 - Volunteer to draft working papers, take notes, send in useful information – be helpful
 - Speak up at workshops – demonstrate Thought Leadership
 - Show that you would be a valuable partner for collaborative projects and that without you they won't win – you have the secret sauce that is necessary for their success

Formal consortium building mechanisms

- **Participant portal** – Every topic on the EU Funding & Tenders Portal has a 'Partner Search' function where you can upload your profile and review others that have done so
- **Partner Search** – under the 'How to participate tab' on the EU Funding and Tenders Portal where you can also search for past projects and organisations
- **Online Brokerage Events** and tools – European Commission, Technology Platforms, Co-Programmed Partnerships, Joint Undertakings, Enterprise Europe Network, etc., will organise virtual events with e.g., Meeting Mojo, B2B and other tools such as



Searching the formal consortium building mechanisms is a bit like looking for a needle in a needlestack – they all look like needles so finding the ones for you can be difficult

How to find partners with a track record of success

Search [Cordis](#) using key words for relevant projects already underway

- E.g. searching for '3C' returns [5 projects](#)
- 1st listed is a project called 'EUROpean 3C Networks for Secure Telco-Cloud-Edge.'
- Gives project coordinator as TELEFONICA INNOVACION DIGITAL SL and **gives the opportunity to contact them and their partners**
- Contact is to the Project Participant, not just a central administrative function

TELEFONICA INNOVACION DIGITAL SL

Address

**RONDA DE LA COMUNICACION S/N EDIFICO CENTRAL
28050 MADRID**

Spain 

Region

Comunidad de Madrid > Comunidad de Madrid > Madrid

Activity type

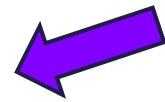
Private for-profit entities (excluding Higher or Secondary Education Establishments)

Links

[Contact the organisation](#) 

[Participation in EU R&I programmes](#) 

[HORIZON collaboration network](#) 



Contact relevant past or ongoing projects

- Most projects have websites. All projects have an obligation to 'communicate, disseminate and exploit'
- Check the website for 'contact us' – they often have original email addresses
- Check the website for events – they often have webinars, workshops, etc
- Contact them (via Cordis if no website or contact details given on it)
 - Tell them their project is really interesting
 - Get into a dialogue
 - Then ask what are they doing next
- Remember that these people know how to write a winning bid – they did it



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Support



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Horizon Europe National Contact Points (NCPs)

Team of national advisors, appointed by the Government, to support organisations to successfully participate in Horizon Europe by:

- Raising Awareness of the programme
- Helping you find the right Topic
- Identifying the best ways to find partners
- Navigating the [EU Funding & Tenders Portal](#) where all the competitions and supporting information can be found
- Developing the proposal
- Answering any other Horizon Europe related questions

Top Tip – get to know your NCP and [sign up to get their newsletters](#)



[Find National Contact Points from all participating countries](#)

Ideal-ist

- The Horizon Europe Cluster 4 Digital NCP Network - active since 1996.
- Offer free project idea and full proposal checks.
- Brokerage events, partner search support



[Home page | Ideal-ist](#)

Ideal-ist Topic Tree

The screenshot shows the Ideal-ist Topic Tree interface. At the top, there are navigation links for 'Calltopics', 'Ecosystem Bubbles', and 'Event Calendar', along with 'Log in' and 'Register' buttons. A search bar is present with the text 'Search call topic' and a 'reset all filters' link. Below the search bar, there are filter sections for 'CALL STATUS' (Open, Forthcoming, Closed), 'FRAMEWORK' (Digital in Horizon EU, Digital Europe, ICT topics in H2020), 'ACTION TYPE' (RIA, IA, CSA, Other types), and 'YEAR OF SUBMISSION DL' (All years). The main content area displays 15 results in a grid. Each result card includes a title, a brief description, and a 'HORIZON' label. The results are categorized by topic, such as 'DIGITAL-EMERGING-52-two-stage', 'DATA-03', 'DATA-08', 'DATA-09', 'DIGITAL-EMERGING-04', 'DIGITAL-EMERGING-05', 'DIGITAL-EMERGING-06', 'DIGITAL-EMERGING-10', 'DIGITAL-EMERGING-11', 'HUMAN-01', 'HUMAN-02', 'HUMAN-07', and 'DIGITAL-EMERGING-03'.

The screenshot shows the detailed view of a specific call topic. At the top, there are navigation links for 'Calltopics', 'Ecosystem Bubbles', and 'Event Calendar', along with 'Log in' and 'Register' buttons. The main title is 'Apply AI: Challenge-Driven AI Innovation Booster in Apply AI prioritised sectors (RIA) (Partnership in AI, Data and Robotics)'. Below the title, there are tabs for 'Call text', 'Linked topics', 'Info base', 'Events', 'Timing', 'Projects', and 'Bubbles'. The 'Call text' tab is selected. The content area displays the 'Call text (as on F&T portal)' and includes a 'View on F&T portal' link. The text describes the expected outcomes and project results of the challenge-driven AI innovation booster. On the right side, there is a 'Found 4 annotations in info base' section with a 'CLICK TO SEE' link. Below this, there is a 'CALL TOPIC DETAILS' section with information about the call status, opening and closing dates, procedure, budget, and expected grants. At the bottom, there is a 'NEWS FLASHES' section with a message about the call topic being appended 0 times by the EC with news. The 'CALL' section at the bottom lists the call topic and provides a brief description of the call.

Horizon Europe Cluster 4 Info Days

[Events | The research and innovation community platform](#)

The banner features a light blue header, a white central text box, and a green-to-blue gradient background. At the bottom, there are stylized illustrations of people walking and a computer monitor displaying a 3D model of a building.

COMING SOON

Horizon Europe info days—Cluster 4: Digital, Industry and Space

Learn more about funding opportunities in the Cluster 4 areas

📅 14 October 2026 - 15 October 2026 ⌚ 08:00 (GMT+01:00)

Online Brokerage Platform

[Horizon Europe Cluster 4 Digital Matchmaking Platform](#) [Home](#) [Our events and sessions](#) [Participants](#) [Marketplace](#) [Log in](#) [Register](#)



Horizon Europe Cluster 4 Digital Matchmaking Platform

[Register now](#)

Registration open until 31 Dec 2026

Welcome to the matchmaking platform for Horizon Europe Cluster 4 Digital Calls!

Find your collaboration partners for EU projects in the digital domain of Cluster 4 here!

This platform is your chance to connect with like-minded professionals, researchers, and innovators from across Europe. Whether you're actively seeking partners for Horizon Europe Cluster 4 calls or simply looking to expand your network in that community, our matchmaking sessions are designed to spark meaningful conversations and foster new collaborations.

Don't miss out on this opportunity to turn ideas into action! Register now and take the first step towards building your next big partnership!



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Generic, non-sector specific guidance



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Horizon Europe – Webinar Series for newbees

Introduction to Horizon Europe 2026

Join this one-hour webinar to gain an understanding of the opportunities offered by Horizon Europe and the basics about how to explore these opportunities further for yourself.

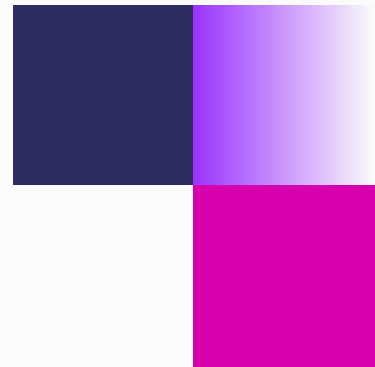
23 September, 29 October, 26 November & 16 December 2026

Useful Events for Horizon Europe applicants

[Horizon Implementation Day: Grant Agreement Preparation in Horizon Europe \(08 October 2026\)](#)

[Horizon Implementation Day: Grant Management in Horizon Europe \(15 October 2026\)](#)

[Lump Sum Funding in Horizon Europe: How does it work? How to write a proposal? \(12 November 2026\)](#)



Useful links and sources of information

- [EU Funding & Tenders portal](#) where all the open and forthcoming Topics that are formally published can be seen
- [Briefing that evaluators](#) are given to explain how they should evaluate proposals – you too should sign up to be an evaluator
- [Reference documents](#) that include templates, guides, General Annexes, full published Work Programmes, etc
- The EC has its own [YouTube channel](#) with videos explaining what makes a good proposal, how to calculate costs, etc.
- UKRI Horizon Europe Website (due September 2026)

Horizon Europe Glossary (pay attention – there may be a test 😊)

- **Associate (or Associated) Country (AC)** – country that has an agreement with the EU that organisations from that country are treated almost identically to those from the EU (only difference for 2ZERO is that an organisation from at least 1 EU Member State is needed in a consortium). Partners from ACs are funded by the EU and so are listed as Beneficiaries
- **Associate(d) Partner (AP)** – one that is NOT funded by the EU.
- **Beneficiary** – Partner that is funded by the EU for their portion of the grant
- **Cluster** – a group of common themes within Horizon Europe that all need a consortia to address. Cluster 5 is Climate, Energy & Mobility.
- **Coordinator** – the project leader, not always technical but administrative. Do NOT plan on being the Coordinator if you have never done a Horizon Europe project
- **Destination** – collection of Topics around a common theme.
- **Grant Agreement** – equivalent to the Innovate UK Grant Offer Letter. i.e. the contract between the consortium and the EC
- **Partner** – member of a consortium writing a proposal together or delivering a project
- **RIA, IA, CSA** – type of action (project) requested by EC. Determines TRL and funding rate
- **Topic** – specific competition with its own budget, expected outcome, scope, etc. Consortia write proposals at the Topic level. The EC decides what problem needs to be solved (top down) rather than asking for great ideas (bottom up)
- **Work Programme** – collection of all the Topics for the next two years (occasionally one year as Horizon Europe is a 7-year programme)



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Stats



Horizon Europe – overall success rates

Eligible and retained proposals by programme/thematic priority			...	×
Thematic Priority Descr	Retained Proposals	Non-Successful Eligible Proposals	Success Rate Proposals	
Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA)	8 443	50 572	14%	
European Research Council (ERC)	6 224	39 001	14%	
The European Innovation Council (EIC)	3 162	25 535	11%	
Climate, Energy and Mobility	1 519	7 735	16%	
Digital, Industry and Space	1 443	6 850	17%	
Widening participation and spreading excellence	1 208	5 376	18%	
Food, Bioeconomy Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment	1 029	4 482	19%	
Health	728	2 943	20%	
Culture, creativity and inclusive society	423	3 145	12%	
European innovation ecosystems	292	1 438	17%	
Research infrastructures	245	314	44%	
Civil Security for Society	243	2 084	10%	
Reforming and enhancing the European R&I System	159	467	25%	
The European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)	39	4	91%	

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Horizon Europe – top applying countries

Country/Territory Name	Eligible Proposals	Retained Proposals	Eligible EU Contribution (EUR)	Oversubscription Rate	Eligible Applications	Success Rate Proposals
Total	175 103	25 157	404 776 242 023 €	76%	825103	14,37%
Germany	46 525	7 785	49 511 579 226 €	75%	81848	16,73%
Spain	43 855	6 671	40 546 037 375 €	77%	89293	15,21%
Italy	43 017	6 286	37 972 002 147 €	77%	82878	14,61%
United Kingdom	39 296	6 091	32 651 052 614 €	83%	56717	15,50%
France	34 016	5 913	32 981 348 647 €	75%	60229	17,38%
Netherlands	27 306	5 031	25 062 266 662 €	73%	42474	18,42%
Belgium	24 022	4 481	18 479 134 869 €	74%	36926	18,65%
Greece	19 680	2 907	16 611 927 753 €	79%	42801	14,77%
Portugal	16 584	2 444	11 034 644 068 €	79%	26765	14,74%
Sweden	16 310	2 648	13 827 224 052 €	76%	22800	16,24%
Austria	15 310	2 572	11 721 998 442 €	76%	22410	16,80%
Switzerland	13 804	2 508	5 981 112 304 €	77%	18699	18,17%
Denmark	13 424	2 372	10 472 395 333 €	75%	18163	17,67%
Finland	12 372	2 064	11 152 499 544 €	75%	18182	16,68%
Poland	12 009	1 830	8 164 854 540 €	76%	16919	15,24%
Ireland	11 868	1 851	8 646 112 435 €	77%	15736	15,60%
Norway	10 979	1 956	10 133 537 352 €	74%	16117	17,82%
Czechia	8 222	1 335	4 916 119 703 €	76%	11060	16,24%

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Thank You!
Questions?