



LAUNCH OF HORIZON EUROPE

2 FEBRUARY 2021

Belem Cultural Centre - CCB, LISBON

(online event)

Background note

Mobilizing *Horizon Europe* and *Next Generation EU* for promoting green and digital transitions across Europe and preparing resilient recovery through a renewed *European Research Area*

Horizon Europe is the EU's most ambitious R&I framework programme ever and the largest transnational programme of its kind worldwide, with its 95.5 billion euro budget. This innovative programme provides new instruments, such as the *European Innovation Council*, *Research Missions* and *Partnerships* to boost the EU R&I landscape. It establishes a target of at least 35% of expenditure for climate objectives as well as reinforces the EU's commitment to facilitate R&I collaborative links in Europe and sets up a broader policy for the association of third countries to the programme in order to increase a global R&I cooperation. *Horizon Europe* – as its predecessor *Horizon 2020* - is firmly anchored in excellence with a deep commitment towards fundamental science.

The renewed *European Research Area* and the launch of *Horizon Europe* serve as unique opportunity to reaffirm the 3% EU GDP research and development investment target for 2030 and to recall the need to support all Member States in articulating research and innovation funding and conducting the necessary reforms. The launch of the programme marks the start of the *European Innovation Council* - a major new endeavor under *Horizon Europe* to accelerate innovations based on breakthrough technologies and game changing innovations and to scale up Europe's most promising start ups and SMEs into a new generation of world leading companies.

The new *Recovery and Resilience Facility*, core component of the *Next Generation EU* recovery package, represents a major chance for the Member States to get large-scale financial support for R&I investments and reforms. It is essential to exploit this in full **synergy** with *Horizon Europe*, in particular in the frame of its *Research Missions* and *Partnerships*. *Horizon Europe* through its powerful measures and new level of synergies with other EU programmes and instruments will pave the way out of the current crisis towards a fair, green and resilient future to everyone.

The Portuguese Presidency of the European Union follows up on the Trio programme and recommendations, the EC communication of September 30, 2020 and the Council conclusions of December 2020. The Presidency focuses on the three main issues crucial to provide the European Research Area with more coordination and to encourage Member States to create synergies between their R&I investment and *Horizon Europe*:

1. Firstly, **science-employment-resilience relationship** is key to foster recovery of Europe while including every single European region in these efforts. Science and technology create new services and markets. Citizens need to be better informed of the significance of research and innovation for creating jobs and improving working conditions, including in professions, businesses and markets that have been hit the hardest by the pandemic, while increasing the role of socially responsible industry and entrepreneurs. Synergies between national and European programmes are essential in the frame of the Recovery and Resilience Plans.

2. Secondly, **open and collaborative research needs to be fostered to break through the frontiers of knowledge**. Examples include cancer research, genetically improved food, the physics of the universe, advanced materials and nanoscience, or quantum physics, among many other disciplines. Human activity has an unbalanced influence on Earth, as shown by alarming signals such as climate change and zoonotic diseases. Both phenomena have been increasing due to the pressure that our societies and their economic development exert on nature (e.g., Human Development Report, 2020, UNDP, 15th December).

The eventual scientific demonstration of these relations with the pandemic, with which we now live, requires **new knowledge** to be able to ask more accurate and difficult questions to better understand the risks we run, as well as to guarantee that **Europe leads the scientific evolution in this new geological era of the “Anthropocene”**. The new knowledge across disciplines, institutional innovation across public and private institutions, and new observation methods making use of low-orbit satellite systems are needed to better guide our common future. In this respect, the role of philanthropy and private foundations is becoming more relevant in promoting European R&I and should be carefully articulated with national funding agencies, scientific organizations and the European Commission.

3. Thirdly, we need to **foster research careers and increase the professionalisation of research activities**, both in public and private sector, and make research careers more attractive for women and minorities in order to fully mobilise the R&I potential of the Union. **Europe needs more scientists** and must improve the conditions to attract talents and retain researchers. The European research ecosystem should promote transparent and coordinated recruitment procedures in R&I. Potential future avenues may consider joint recruitments schemes and joint career development across European Universities, as well as across research institutions in different EU Member States. The role of national funding agencies and their cooperation with the European Commission is crucial to ensure these synergies.

Main Topics for discussion:

Mobilizing in synergy “Horizon Europe” and “Next Generation EU” together with national public and private investments for promoting green and digital transitions across all EU regions in *the renewed European Research Area (ERA)*:

1. Strengthening **Science - Skilled Employment - Resilience relationships** through synergies between national and European programmes;
2. **Strengthening public and private investment in R&D in Europe**, including **investments** in emerging and strategic technologies, research spinouts and startups and the **role of private foundations** (philanthropy), together with promoting the **science of the Anthropocene**, towards a new equilibrium between economic activity, inclusive society and environmental ecosystems, integrating green advanced computing, IT processing methods and AI;
3. Breaking through **new frontiers for European science through open collaborative research, innovation and brain circulation.**

Preparing a resilient recovery through a renewed, cohesive and inclusive *European Research Area (ERA)*:

1. **Promoting Researchers for Europe in the public and private systems:** promoting attractive research careers across Europe, gender equality, joint institutional recruitment and better working conditions by promoting synergies between higher education, research and innovation (Knowledge Triangle).
2. Fostering **research careers in business, together with an increased level and scope of business R&D** through the application of the recently established **taxonomy** for sustainable financing, as developed in close articulation with the EU New Green Deal, in a way to promote innovative, sustainable and regenerative businesses and entrepreneurial activities.
3. Strengthening **science-society linkages**, through a renewed approach to *scientific culture in Europe*, including enhancing societal relevance through citizen engagement and gender mainstreaming in science.

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(Online Event, CET time)

PROGRAM

11h30-12h00 Session – 1: Opening remarks

Manuel Heitor, Minister for Science and Technology and Higher Education, Portugal

Mariya Gabriel, European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth

Cristian-Silviu Buşoi, Chair of the ITRE Committee, European Parliament

12h00-13h30 Session – 2 (Round Table): ***Mobilizing Horizon Europe and ‘Next Generation EU’ together with national public and private investments for promoting green and digital transitions across all EU regions in the context of a renewed European Research Area (ERA)***

Special address:

Richard Roberts, 1993 Nobel Laureate in Physiology or Medicine

Chief Scientific Officer, New England Biolabs

Key question: How Horizon Europe, national public and private investments can mobilise synergies to accelerate green and digital transitions in the context of a renewed ERA? How these synergies can be fostered in the frame of the Recovery and Resilience Plans?

Moderator: **Jean-Eric Paquet**, Director General, DG RTD

Brief interventions:

Christian Ehler, MEP, rapporteur for Horizon Europe Specific Programme

Mark Ferguson, Director General, Science Foundation Ireland and chair, European Innovation Council Advisory Board Chair

Teresa Czerwińska, Vice- President, European Investment Bank -EIB

Miguel Bello, CEO, Atlantic International Research Centre - AIR centre

Maria Teresa Fabregas Fernandez, Director, EC Recovery and Resilience Task Force

Pascal Lamy, Chair of the Mission Board “Healthy oceans, seas, coastal and inland waters”

Peter Carlsson, CEO, Northvolt

Brief interventions by research ministers and government representatives:

Frederique Vidal, Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation, France

Radovan Fuchs, Minister of Science and Education, Croatia

Owen Bonnici, Minister for Research & Innovation and the Coordination of the Post-Covid19 Strategy, Malta

Przemysław Czarnek, Minister of Education and Science, Poland

Kyriacos Kokkinos, Deputy Minister to the President of Cyprus for Research, Innovation and Digital Policy, Cyprus

Karina Angelieva, Deputy Minister of Education and Science, Bulgaria

Thomas Rachel, Parliamentary State Secretary to the Federal Minister of Education and Research Germany

Christos Dimas, Deputy Minister of Development and Investments, Greece

Aase Marthe Hørrigmo, State Secretary Ministry of Education and Science Norway

Ludovít Paulis, State Secretary of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sports, Slovak Republic

Rafael Rodrigo Montero, General Secretary for Research, Spain

13h30-14h00 Break

14h00- 15h30 Session – 3 (Round Table): ***Mobilizing Horizon Europe and ‘Next Generation EU’ together with national public and private investments for a healthy and resilient future***

Key question: How Horizon Europe, national public and private investments can be mobilised in full synergies for a *healthy and resilient future*, either in terms of **eradicating Covid-19 and preventing future pandemics**, or in addressing the issue of **advanced materials and biomedical systems**? How can these synergies be fostered in the frame of the Recovery and Resilience Plans?

Moderator: **Jean-Pierre Bourguignon**, President ad interim, European Research Council

Brief interventions by research ministers and government representatives:

Dan Nica, MEP, rapporteur for Horizon Europe Framework Programme

Uğur Şahin, President, BioNTech

Elvira Fortunato, ERC Grantee, NOVA University Lisbon, Former Chief Scientific Advisor of the EC

Lars Montellius, Director, International Iberian Nanotechnology Laboratory – INL

Peter Visser, SALD - Spatial Atom Layer Deposition

Kristina Edström, Uppsala University, Chairman of Battery 2030+ initiative

Jan-Eric Sundgren, Chairman of the The Swedish Association for Advanced Materials, Senior Adviser to the Swedish Association of Engineering Industries

Brief interventions by research ministers and government representatives:

Willy Borsus, Vice-President of Wallonia and Minister of Economy, Foreign Trade, Research and Innovation, Digital, Agriculture and Spatial Planning

Simon Harris, Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, Ireland

Ciprian-Sergiu Teleman, Minister of Research, Innovation and Digitalization, Romania
József Bódis, State Secretary for Higher Education, Innovation and Vocational Education, Hungary
Pavel Doleček, Deputy Minister for Higher Education, Science and Research, Czech Republic
Georges Tennes, Deputy Permanent Representative, Luxembourg

15h30- 15h45 Break

15h45- 17h00 Session 4 (Round Table): ***Mobilizing Horizon Europe and 'Next Generation EU' together with national public and private investments for an inclusive and democratic digital society***

Key question: How **artificial intelligence, quantum science and modern IT solutions** will support the twin digital and green transitions and help promoting sustainable industrial and socio-economic systems in Europe?

Moderator: **Daniela Braga**, DefinedCrowd

Brief interventions:

Graça Carvalho, MEP, Rapporteur for partnerships Horizon Europe
Cédric Villani, Chair of the 'Office Parlementaire pour l'Évaluation des Choix Scientifiques et Technologiques', France, 2010 Fields Medal, Former Chief Scientific Advisor of the EC
Célia Reis, Chair of the Altran Portugal Board of Directors & Deputy Managing, Director for Altran Engineering Centers
Martin Vechev, ERC Grantee, ETH Zurich
João Barros, CEO, Venian
Gioia Ghezzi, Chairperson Governing Board, European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)

Brief interventions by research ministers and government representatives:

Ilga Suplinska, Minister of Education and Science, Latvia
Ingrid van Engelshoven, Minister of Education, Culture and Science, Netherlands
Simona Kustec, Minister of Education, Science and Sport Slovenia
Martina Hirayama, State Secretary for Education, Research and Innovation, Switzerland
Kimmo Tiilikainen, State Secretary, Ministry for Economic Affairs and the Employment, Finland

17h00-17h20 Session 5: Closing session

Closing remarks:

Mariya Gabriel, European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth
Simona Kustec, Minister of Education, Science and Sport, Slovenia
Anja Karliczek, Federal Minister for Education and Research, Germany
Manuel Heitor, Minister for Science, Technology and Higher Education, Portugal

17.30 Press Conference

- **Manuel Heitor**, Minister for Science, Technology and Higher Education, Portugal
- **Mariya Gabriel**, European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth

