How to write competitive Horizon Europe grant proposals?
Session 1.

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Course structure and learning outcomes

4 sessions – 4 topics

Big picture approach + practical information on details

1. No proposal is an island
   Context and dynamics

2. You can’t have one without the other
   Proposal structure

3. Horizon Europe mindset
   EC requirements

4. Substantiate
   Convincing content
dr. Borbála Schenk

- Advisor specialized in European research funding framework programmes (H2020, Horizon Europe)
- Proposal writing, development and quality assurance experience in various EU funding schemes (Widening Participation, Societal Challenges, MSCA ITN, MSCA RISE, FET-Open, Science with and for Society, COST, Erasmus+)
- In 2020 contributed to 3 winning projects and 1 with reserve list status, record of multiple impact sections with maximum scores
- Since 2018 trainings on research management and proposal writing in 5 countries for researchers and research managers
- Board-member of the European Association of Research Managers and Administrators, responsible for liaising with the European Commission
- Core Group Member of ERION network, a Europe-wide community for professionals in Research Ethics, Research Integrity and GDPR issues.
- Lawyer by degree, 15+ years of experience in research and university environments, having held management, lecturing and editorial positions

http://bschenk.hu
Tasks and questions ➔ slido.com

Joining as a participant?
No account needed.

# Enter event code ➔ 73922
Session 1. Slido #1

No proposal is an island.

List some adjectives that characterize the European research funding programmes (H2020, Horizon Europe) from your perspective:

- complicated
- complex
- fuzzy
- bureaucratic
- difficult
- oppressive
- time-consuming
- burdensome
- unmanageable
- burdening
- complex
- mobile
- time-consuming
- bureaucratic
No proposal is an island.

- Horizon Europe structure
- Policy context
- WP – Call – Topic
- Synergies with other projects
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1. No proposal is an island.

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Structure of Horizon Europe

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Bottom-up research grants

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Top-down research grants

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Structure of Horizon Europe

For the aim of this course

Horizon Europe proposal = Horizon Europe collaborative proposal
(Pillar II.)
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1. Horizon Europe structure
2. Policy context
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4. Synergies with other projects
The European Commission’s policy priorities

01 A European Green Deal
02 A Europe fit for the Digital Age;
03 An economy that works for people
04 A stronger Europe in the world;
05 Promoting our European way of life;
06 A new push for European democracy
UN Sustainable Development Goals

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

[Image of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals]

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Challenges and their Drivers: (examples)

- Reliance on imported key technologies and raw materials is compromising Europe’s autonomy.
- Plants not fit for a fully circular and climate neutral industry;
- Lack of scale-up and technology diffusion capacities
- Developments in industry and in enabling technologies have the potential to enhance social inclusion; at the same time, there is a growing risk of digital divides.

EU policy objectives (examples)

- Against this background, the overarching vision behind the proposed investments is a European industry with global leadership in key areas, fully respecting planetary boundaries, and resonant with societal needs – in line with the renewed EU Industrial Policy Strategy.
- In line with the priority of the Commission of an economy that works for people, industry will be providing one out of four jobs, having set the transition to climate-neutrality before 2050 on a solid ground.
- In line with the priority of the Commission of a Europe fit for the Digital Age, EU sovereignty will be pursued within key strategic value chains, by supporting digital, other key enabling and space technologies.
Interactive Technologies, including immersive technologies and language technologies, combined with AI, for example in virtual agents or accessibility automation tools, will support the human centric aspects of the Next Generation Internet and allow for a more inclusive, user-oriented/driven and innovative use of computers, machines and the Internet, bringing opportunities in many industrial and societal sectors, helping tackle sustainability challenges and ensuring that benefits of research and innovation are reaped equally by all members of society.

Combined with those advances, research and innovation will be also required for co-designing software, algorithms, programming models, simulations and tools for their integration in novel computing systems. These could be used for supporting the development of large-scale and industry-led pilot applications targeting key industry sectors, but also for public services like weather forecasting and climate modelling.

Design of circularity enabled products, implementation of circular supply chains and systematic cradle-to-cradle life cycle assessment both for new and existing products;

Product life extension through predictive maintenance, repair, re-use, and refurbishment leading to value loops at European scale;

Ensure that all citizens will experience the advantages of AI in daily life, such as traffic optimization and autonomous driving to reduce citizens everyday stress and drastically reduce the number of road accidents, to truly intuitive AI-based systems adapting to human needs, to support them in specific tasks, improving their working conditions, and making the technology easy to use by all, even the non-experts in AI.
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No proposal is an island.

1. Policy context
2. Horizon Europe pillars
3. WP – Call – Topic
4. Synergies with other projects
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Funding and Tenders portal - Topic page

Materials life cycle sustainability analysis

TOPIC ID: CE-NMBP-42-2020

- Specific challenge
- Scope
- Budget
- Expected impacts [changes in Horizon Europe]
- Type of Action
Pillar II. Main types of action

**Coordination and Support Action**
- Primarily accompanying measures: standardisation, discrimination, awareness-raising, strategic planning etc.
- Summoning knowledge

**Research and Innovation Action**
- Establish new knowledge, explore the feasibility of a new or improved technology or solution
- Establishing knowledge

**Innovation Action**
- Producing plans and arrangements for new products
- Upscaling, testing, piloting, showcasing innovative systemic solutions, operational environment
- Limited research activities
Types of actions - examples

Coordination and Support Action

Research and Innovation Action

Innovation Action

**ARCADE - Supporting the CAD Initiative**

ARCADE is a Coordination and Support Action funded by the European Commission's Horizon 2020 programme, aimed at building consensus across stakeholders from all sectors for a sound and harmonised deployment of Connected, Cooperative and Automated Driving (CAD) in Europe and beyond.

Programme in Costing, resource use measurement and outcome valuation for Use in multi-sectoral National and International health economic evaluations: PECUNIA aims to tackle the healthcare challenges of an ever-growing and rapidly ageing population in the EU by developing new standardized, harmonized and validated methods and tools for the assessment of costs and outcomes in European healthcare systems.

Comparing and exploiting data across different countries and sectors, PECUNIA aims to provide direct comparable solutions to improve chronic and mental healthcare in all EU health systems.

The project will advance the provision of cleaner and cost-effective geothermal energy across Europe and the World with reduced emissions of carbon and sulphur. The core of this project is the application of an innovative technology, recently developed and successfully demonstrated at a pilot-scale in Iceland, which can limit the emissions from geothermal plants by condensing and re-injecting gases in the subsurface, or turning them into commercial products.

GECO aims to increase public acceptance and generalise this novel approach. To that end, the re-injection method will be applied in four distinct geothermal systems in four European countries: 1) a high temperature basaltic reservoir in Iceland; 2) a high temperature gneiss reservoir in Italy; 3) a high temperature volcano-clastic reservoir in Turkey; and 4) a low temperature sedimentary reservoir in Germany.
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- Horizon Europe structure
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Always explore
- the policy context of the Topic (EU, UN SDG)
- the position of the Topic in the Horizon Europe structure
- the precise text of the Topic
- the synergies with other funded EU-projects related to the Topic
No proposal is an island.

1. What are the take-away messages for you from How to write competitive Horizon Europe proposals Session 1?

- Proposals are much more strictly defined by policy documents than I thought.
- Focus your research following the check on previously funded projects.
- Proposal should reflect the call indications.
- It takes an AWFUL lot of time, energy, attention, resolution to write a proposal.
- Complicate, take a lot of time.
- It is important that you check your connectedness, within the existing projects.
- Writing a proposal is akin to joining into a discussion (prior topics, as well as the broader themes matter).
- Give time for checking the environment (policy level, other proposals) of my proposal.
Session 1. Home assignment #1

- Find the currently open topic on circular economy
- Summarize the specific challenge of the topic
- Collect the European policy documents and initiatives the topic mentions
- What type of action does the topic support?
Session 1. Home assignment #2

No proposal is an island.

LC-GD-3-2 puts a special emphasis on how to effectively apply the circular economy concept beyond traditional resource recovery in waste and water sectors. Find at least 3 relevant funded projects in this subject area!
Q&A

Thank you for your attention!

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